



# Indigenous Science at Environment and Climate Change Canada

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Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

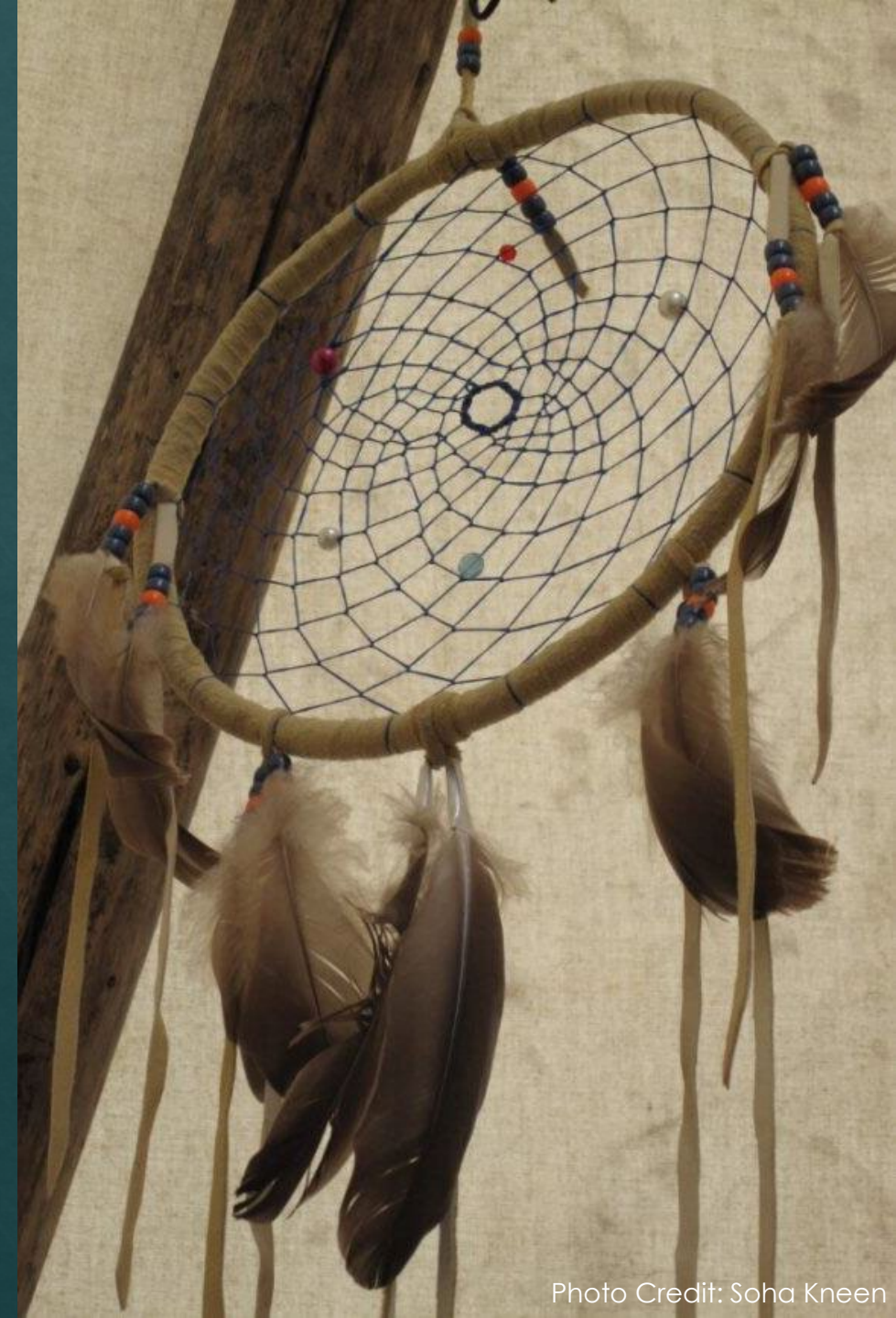
# What is Indigenous Science?

- ▶ Indigenous science is a distinct, time-tested, and methodological knowledge system that can enhance and complement western science. Indigenous science is about the knowledge of the environment and knowledge of the ecosystem that Indigenous Peoples have.
- ▶ Indigenous Science (IS) differs from Traditional Knowledge (TK) in that Indigenous Science represents the modern continuation of TK. IS builds on TK when applied to climate change impacts and adaptations, prevention of wildfires, land stewardship, wildlife protection, and species at risk, for example.



# ECCE's Indigenous Science Division (ISD)

- ▶ The new Indigenous Science Division (ISD) at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCE) is an Indigenous-led division created in January 2022 to advance reconciliation in ECCE's science and research activities.





# Indigenous Science Division - Mandate

The mandate of this division is to bridge, braid, and weave Indigenous science with western science approaches to inform and enhance decision-making.

These efforts are guided by the importance of Indigenous science indicators and perspectives such as Repatriation, Reconciliation, Renewal, Respect, Reciprocity, Responsibility and Relationships.

The specific objective of the division is to develop and apply an Indigenous lens to ECCC's science, policy, and program activities.



Photo Credit: Gavin Woodburn

# Indigenous Science Lens

- ▶ ECCC has committed to making space for and supporting Indigenous leadership and innovation in science by sustaining knowledge mobilization, exchange, and transfer, respectful and reciprocal partnerships, and capacity building within and beyond the Department.



# Bridging

- ▶ Bridging is about fostering awareness, understanding, and recognition of Indigenous science as a distinct and equal science to western science approaches.



Photo Credit: Soha Kneen



# Braiding



Photo Credit: Soha Kneen

- ▶ Braiding is about bringing together different ways of knowing and being.
- ▶ For the ISD team, this refers to the braiding of Indigenous science and western science systems to achieve a holistic understanding of the environment while maintaining the integrity of each knowledge system.



# Weaving

- ▶ Weaving involves appreciating and applying Indigenous science tools to inform approaches to environmental issues and species management in ways that align with the approaches specified by Indigenous Nations, governments, specific communities and international instruments such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.







# Indigenous Science Capacity and Indigenous Leadership

- ▶ Building Indigenous Science capacity within ECCC is one of the priorities for our division.
- ▶ Strengthening equity across knowledge systems also involves ongoing support for Indigenous Science leadership and networks and building capacity in Indigenous local / regional place-based science and knowledge practice.
- ▶ Aligning science planning and knowledge materials that aid cultural and language revitalization.



# Applying and Co-Appling Indigenous-Science to Freshwater Management

- ▶ The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of freshwater to Indigenous communities and is supporting Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous governance, ensuring the inclusion and consideration of Indigenous Science and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge woven with Western Science to guide and enhance decision-making regarding regulatory decisions, research, policy and project development.
- ▶ ISD strives to improve “how”



Photo Credit: Soha Kneen



- ▶ Miigwetch! Wela'lin!  
Merci! Egosi! Nià:wen! Nakummek! N  
akurmik! Ma'na! Qujannamiik! Marse  
e! Migwetc! Tshinashkumitin! Wli Wni  
! Tiawenhk! Mahsi Choo!  
Gracias! Chaltu may! Thank you!  
Merci!
- ▶ Q&A

