

Elder Teachings – All People are Gifts to the Community

Teaching

Speaker: Elder Blu Waters

When we talk about all people being gifts to community, we are talking about everyone being included, being valued, being respected, and coming together with our different understandings. It is not about seeing some people as superior and saying there is only one way of doing things or understanding things. It is about hearing everyone and then coming to one mind. We must make sure that we are respectful to those differences of opinions, so that no one feels unheard, no one feels excluded. There are so many cultures that exist within society, coming from many nations and many places, and when we see one another as gifts and as sacred, we benefit from one another's knowledge and insight. To live life together in a good way means to hear what other's perspectives are. I may not follow the same understanding that you do, but I respect your choice to follow that understanding and to see that it is just as important as my way of seeing things. Coming back again to the circle, everyone is respected, everyone is honoured for the gifts that they bring, as another valued human being.