

Elder Teachings – One Mind Teaching and Decolonizing our Minds

Speaker: Elder Blu Waters

When we speak of one mind, we are talking about coming to an agreement. It is about listening to two multiple perspectives and concluding or forming an understanding. This brings us back to the Circle Teaching and the importance of everyone being consulted. This consultation takes as long as it takes for everyone to be heard. All people's input in decision-making is central to being of one mind. Discussion continues until everyone is satisfied and happy with the outcome. To truly do this today involves decolonizing our minds. For our minds to be one we need to free ourselves of those concepts and understandings that perpetuate the oppressive hierarchical ways of seeing things that are not part of the Original Instructions given to us by Creator. We need to be willing to let go of some things that are so familiar that we are scared to let go because we don't know what is going to come next. This is what decolonizing work looks like. It involves doing the work to look at things from a different perspective with a different understanding and saying if only I would have known about this before I would have done things differently. Decolonizing means moving forward in such a way that we will never repeat the same oppressions and colonial ways that have impacted our relationships up to now. We agree to stand up and come together as one mind.