

Hope, Love and Nujikkoqija'tiketew
Paul Strome - March 25, 2024

Earth has been sending mankind subtle signals about her health and well being for a very long time and most Indigenous people have been picking up those signals. The other group of people who have been aware of those signals are scientists, meteorologists, elders and activists just to name a few. The general public has been advised of what is taking place and millions around the world have suffered the manmade consequences of a changing world. We might call this “The Great Unravelling” as Joanna Macy puts it. We know the cause of climate change yet those of us who live in the global north and other highly developed areas of the world are so comfortable in our rapacious lifestyle that we are reticent to acknowledge and adjust our way of living. As Mi'kmaq Elder Dr. Albert Marshall so eloquently puts it “We need more warriors but not warriors in the sense of taking up arms but rather warriors in the sense of Nujikkoqija'tiketew which translates into ‘one who will bring everything back to balance’”.

Humanity desperately needs more Nujikkoqija'tiketew at every level of business, education and government because, sadly, we don't have near enough of them right now. Greta Thunberg, Naomi Klein, Bill McKibben, Maude Barlow, David Suzuki, Christiana Figueres, Al Gore, David Attenborough, Seth Klein, Jane Goodall, Wangari Maathai and Berta Cáceres have all been the harbingers of our future destinies and we should be taking them seriously. I sincerely hope humanity comes together in time to make the best decisions regarding our environment for all of us.