

# FOUNDATIONS OVERVIEW

## LAND, CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND MISCONCEPTIONS

### General Summary

The content in the Foundations learning experiences lay the conceptual groundwork for the learning and exploration that occurs in later levels. It is here in Foundations that learners will engage with primary concepts such as Mi'kmaw worldviews, values, governance, and relationships to Mi'kma'ki, which are embedded in the subsequent content.

This content provides a basis for understanding Mi'kmaw decision-making—the cultural logic behind treaty-making decisions, how communities weathered and negotiated the brutal treaty denial period, and the leadership and decisions that led to the current treaty renewal period. It will be difficult to understand why *netukulimk* is a common priority in the treaty making process if learners do not understand what *netukulimk* is. Similarly, the treaty-signing and ratification process may be confusing if learners do not understand the autonomy of Mi'kmaw communities along with the concept of consensus and the role it has played in Mi'kmaw decision-making. This material is worth revisiting with older learners to ensure they have the foundation they need.

As a reminder, an introduction to each of the themed sections below can be found at the start of each section. Teachers who feel the need to learn additional content prior to sharing these learning experiences should find the necessary information within these section introductions.

### Mi'kma'ki

These learning experiences are designed to build student comprehension about:

- the nature and extent of Mi'kma'ki;
- the worldview of Mi'kmaq and their relationship to Mi'kma'ki;
- the cultural practices that sustained these worldviews and relationships.

### Family, Culture and Community

In this section, learners explore key aspects of Mi'kmaw culture, including:

- cultural values such as consensus, humility, sharing and respect for everyone;
- oral history and traditions;

- the nature of reciprocity and sharing within and among Mi'kmaw communities.

### Leadership

The learning experiences in this section bring together the three spheres of decision-making that sustain Mi'kmaw leadership: the family, the community, and the Santè Mawio'mi. It is important scaffolding for understanding the treaty-making process as well as other content. And like other Foundations content, learning experiences found in this leadership section is required in the Treaties and Renewal Learning Experiences.

## LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Here, you'll find the Foundations Learning Experiences that are available in the pilot version of Roots of Reconciliation. Stay tuned for many more when the full version is released in 2024!

- Netukulimk and Ms'it No'kmaq (F4)
- Oral Traditions: Memory-Making as Individuals and Groups (F10)
- Decision-Making Through Mi'kmaw Worldviews (F14)

**Note:** The “Misconceptions” section is not included in the pilot. Teachers interested in exploring this topic with their students can visit the **Mi'kmawe'l Tan-Teli-ki-na'muemk: Teaching About the Mi'kmaq** resource at: <https://www.mikmaweydebert.ca/sharing-our-stories/education-and-outreach/school-curriculum/>