

Mi'kmaq: First Nation people

Mi'kmaq identity

John Jeddore Junior:

The idea of this wealth accumulation whether it be money or animals, meat. It doesn't have any bearing in our culture I think. It almost goes back to a competition, this idea of competition, which is also a foreign idea of wanting to be better at something. And wealth is basically the outcome of being better at something, whether it's hunting or trading. No one would be hungry in the community because if you had meat you'd share it with the community.

And it's only been lately that this idea of wealth has kind of come in to play in our community.

Patrick Augustine:

Well I think it's still in wider society that capitalism isn't the main objective, it doesn't have to be the main objective in life. Accumulation doesn't have to be the main focus in life. That there can be appreciation for other life, there can be appreciation for the moment that we live now and not to worry so much about the future.

It's a more comprehensive outlook. You're not just thinking about yourself anymore, you're thinking about your family you think about your community, you're thinking about the region in general. You're not even focused on your own species, you're looking at animal life, you're looking at plant life, you're looking at the condition of water. You're even concerned about the planet itself. The sustainability of the planet.

I find you don't receive that in a Western knowledge or a Western focus, but a lot of indigenous people, not just in Canada, but around the world, they have that type of focus, they have a broader focus on life.