

# LEADERSHIP LESSONS

**How to apply Great  
Law Principles to  
governing ourselves**

**“Our laws don't include jails with degrees of punishments, but rather concentrate on individual freedom to conduct oneself in acceptable behaviors with positive values. This self-regulation we call 'using the Good Mind.'”**

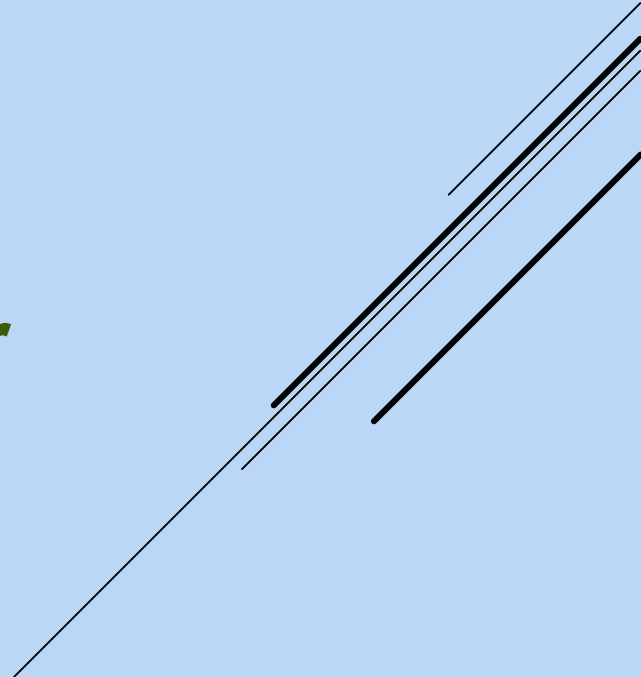
**Wendy Gonyea, Onondaga Clan Mother**

# GREAT LAW TEACHINGS

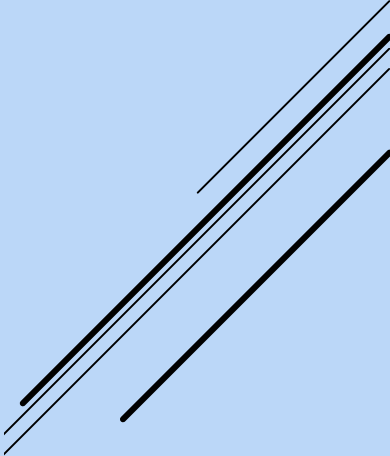
“Our Ancestors taught that the Power of the Good Mind can be amplified by having groups of people search for common interests. They knew that clear thinking was the highest human potential, and that it was best achieved by stable extended family relationships that accepted the value of all members equally.”

► John Mohawk, Seneca Historian (1945–2006)

# HAUDENOSAUNEE FLUENCY

- ▶ What kind of thinking did our ancestors use to navigate their relationships?
  - ▶ How is that thinking different from what rattles around in our heads today?
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**“In making any law, our chiefs must always consider three things: the effect of their decision on peace; the effect on the natural world; and the effect on seven generations in the future. We believe that all lawmakers should be required to think this way, that all constitutions should contain these rules.”**



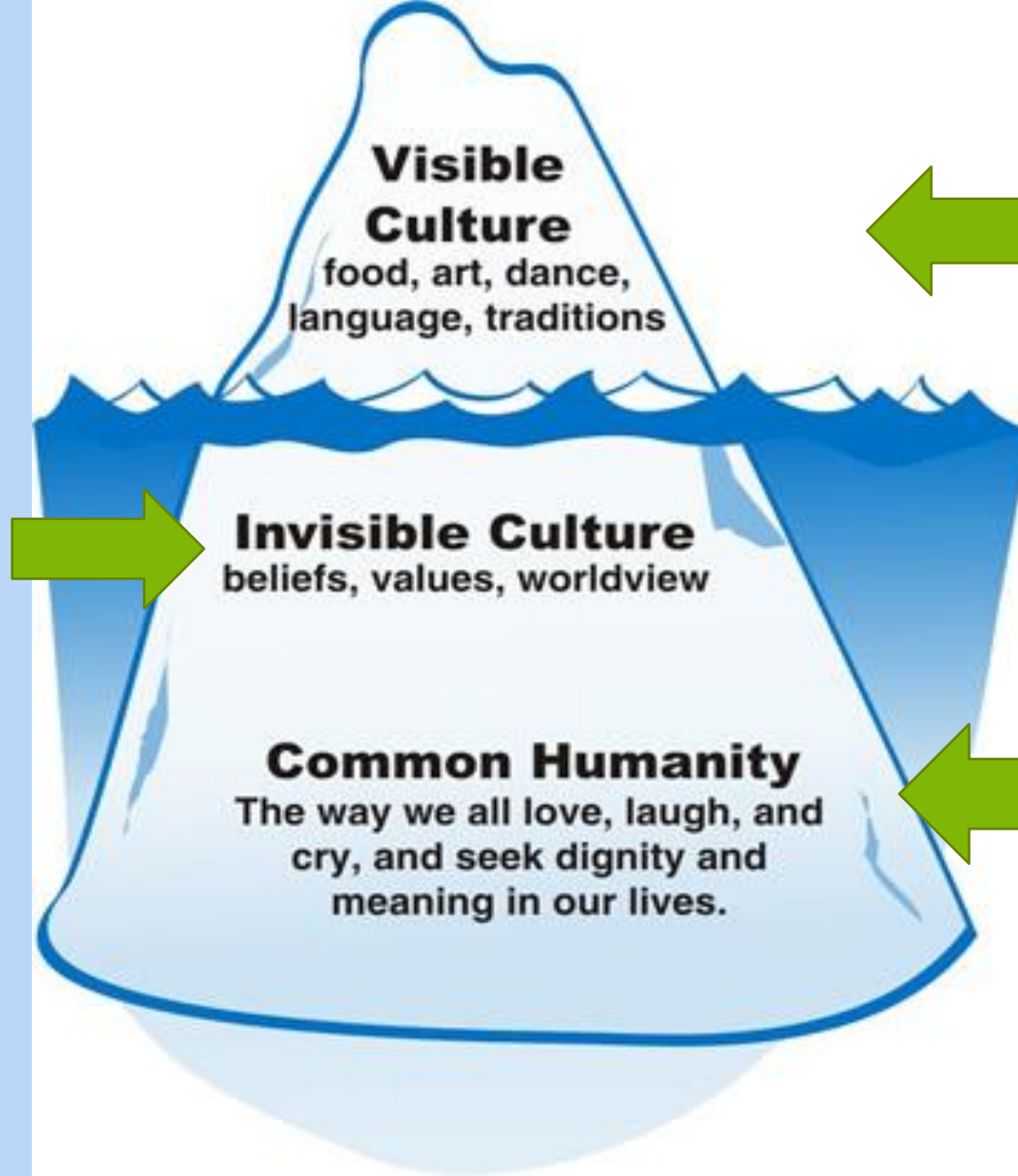
CAROL JACOBS, CAYUGA BEAR CLAN MOTHER  
PRESENTATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS JULY 18, 1995

**What helps people to be more pro-social than anti-social, more virtuous than criminal?**

**What could keep someone who's having trouble from continuing to get in more trouble?**



Takes more homework and practice, but requires a shift in your beliefs.



The fun, easy stuff, except for learning your language!

The Sweet Spot, where true peace can be found

# WHAT ARE VALUES?

Beliefs about the nature of the physical world.

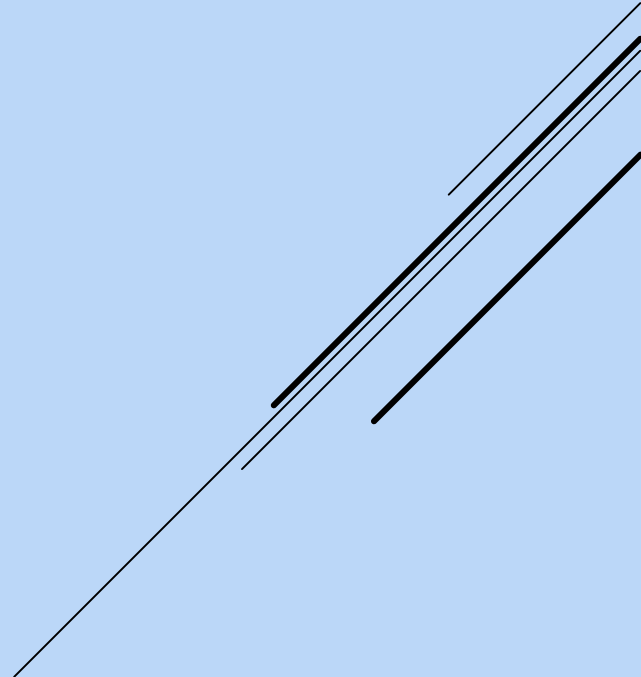
Beliefs about social order & appropriate behavior.

Beliefs about human nature & solving problems.





# WHAT ARE OUR VALUES?

- ▶ **Dedwadadrihwanohkwa:k**  
(Respecting One Another)
  - ▶ **Adenidaohsra'**  
(Compassion and Kindness)
  - ▶ **Oihwadogehsra'**  
(Being Truthful and Consistent)
  - ▶ **Gaihwaedahgoh**  
(Taking Responsibility)
- 

# WHAT ARE OUR VALUES?

- ▶ **Gasgyao:nyok**  
(Encouragement)
  - ▶ **Gasasdenhsra**  
(Strength/Supportive of One Another)
  - ▶ **Degayenawa'ko:ngye**  
(Working Together)
- 

**“The Founders of the League believed one of the great causes of conflict was *injustice*, that injustice must be abolished before conditions would exist which could promote peace. Thus peace was not simply viewed as the absence of conflict but rather the product of sincere and informed negotiations which sought *justice* as a precondition to true peace.”**

John Mohawk, Seneca Historian



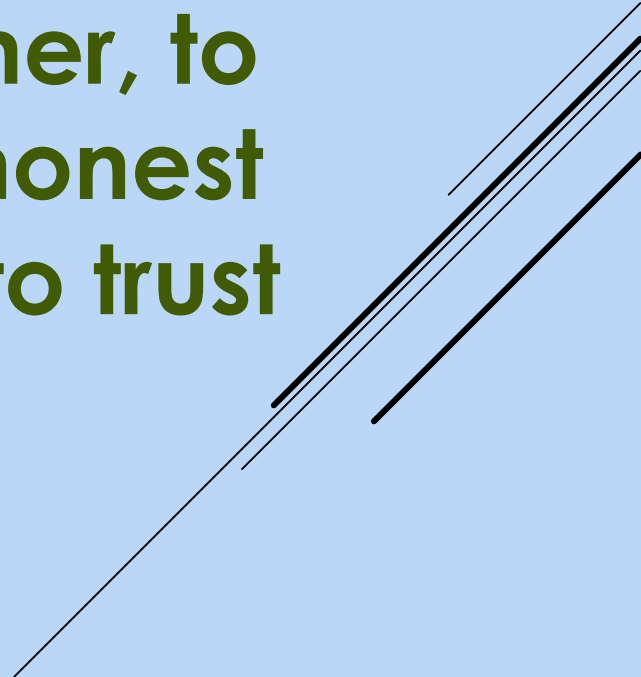
**“Peacemaking does not mean passivity.**

**It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evil doer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice.”**

A COMMON PRAYER: A LITURGY FOR ORDINARY RADICALS

# UNDERLYING VALUES OF THE GOOD MIND

The Good Mind is a set of principles and practices that you adopt personally which requires you to think well of each other, to respect all people, and be fair and honest with all people so that you will learn to trust and depend upon each other.

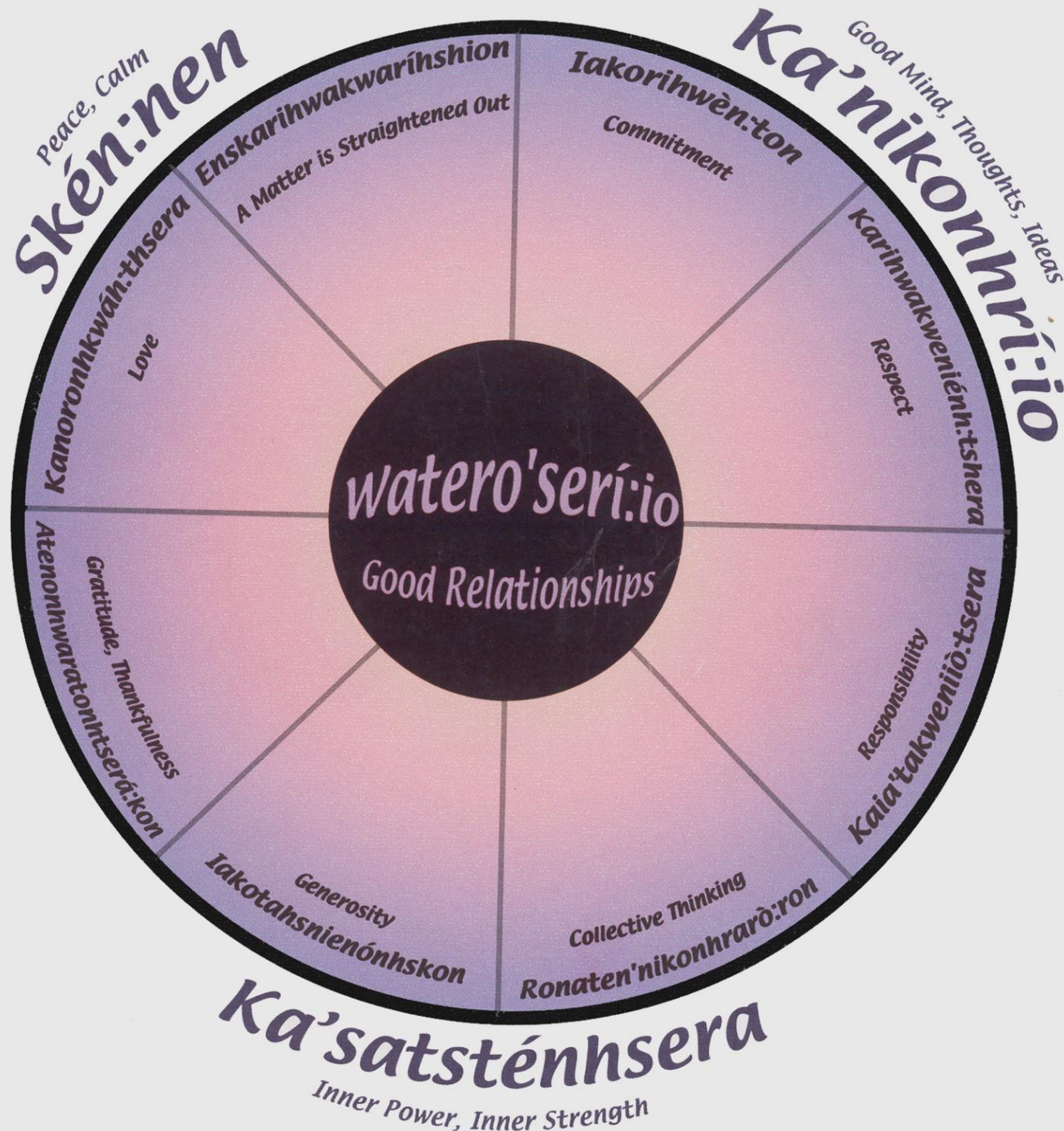


# Strength through Gentleness

“I myself have no power. It's the people behind me who have the power. Real power comes only from the Creator. It's in His hands. But if you're asking about strength, not power, then I can say that the greatest strength is gentleness.”

--Todadaho Leon Shenandoah





## Good Relationships: Mohawk Style

- Commitment
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Collective Thinking
- Generosity
- Gratitude/Thankfulness
- Love



**Tsionkwatkwatakohakie – Ability to Heal**

**Sakwenionhakie – Ability to Cope**

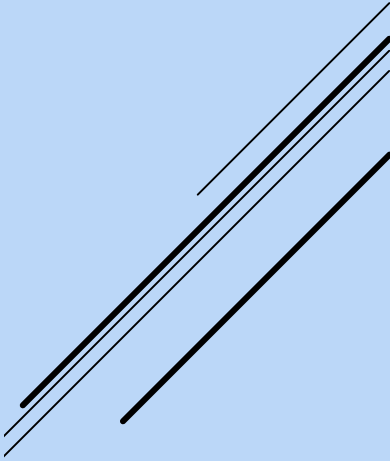
**Tekaiatorehton – Ability to Problem Solve**

**Sanikonhrowanen – Ability to be Creative**

**Enskarihwakwaríhshion - A Matter is Straighten Out**

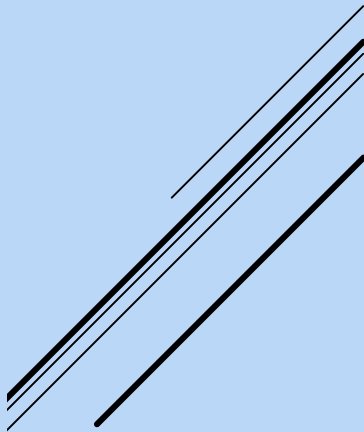
# HOW ARE MY RIGHTS PROTECTED?

- ▶ First, there has to be an agreement in principle on the nature of those rights within the context of the Great Law of Peace.
- ▶ Second, all rights come with responsibilities, which must be clearly understood and agreed upon.



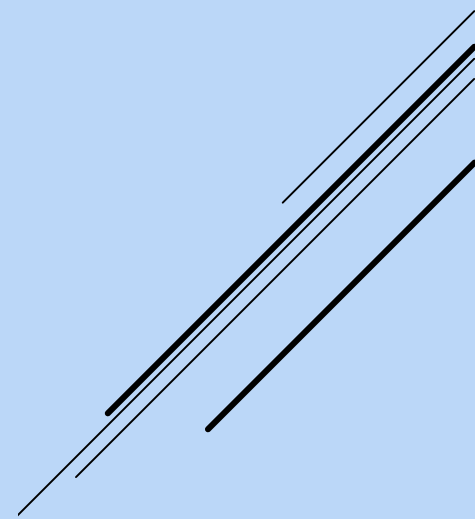
# HOW ARE MY RIGHTS PROTECTED?

- ▶ Third, your leaders have a moral obligation to look after the interests of all people.
- ▶ Fourth, you have to trust your leaders.
- ▶ Fifth, there needs to be a civil way in which breaches of trust are resolved peacefully.



**"Because we have to share this planet with other people, we have to have some way of getting along together. We call that ethics. Ethics is about relationships, and justice is necessary in order to preserve those relationships."**


**Steve Johnson, Director of Character Education, Ethics Center, Santa Clara, CA**



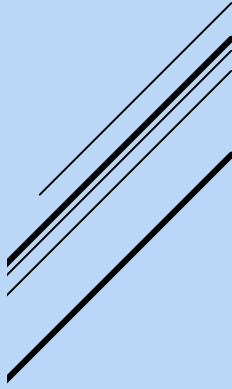
# OUR ETHICS – MORAL PHILOSOPHY

To be generous  
To share  
To show respect  
To honor others  
To love your family  
To live in peace  
To be honest  
To feed others

To ignore evil or idle talk  
To be thankful  
To be hospitable  
To be kind  
To be cooperative  
To live in harmony



# COVERING THE GRAVE RECONCILIATION

- ❖ Perpetrator has to acknowledge the harm done and apologize for causing it.
  - ❖ Family of perpetrator takes the responsibility for restorative justice.
  - ❖ Family of victim accepts the “payment” of restitution as adequate.
  - ❖ The issue is laid to rest and never discussed again. We move on.
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# BACK TO THE BASICS

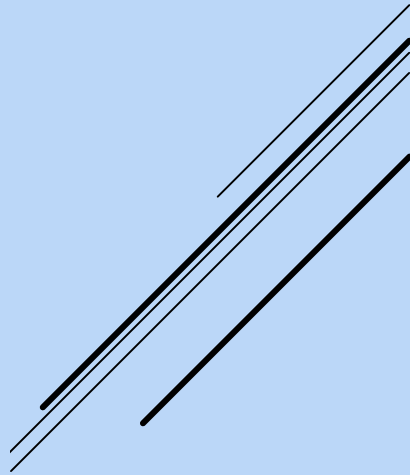
K A I N I K O N H R I I O

K A H S A T S T E N H S E R A

S K E N N E N

# RECOVERY FROM COLONIZATION

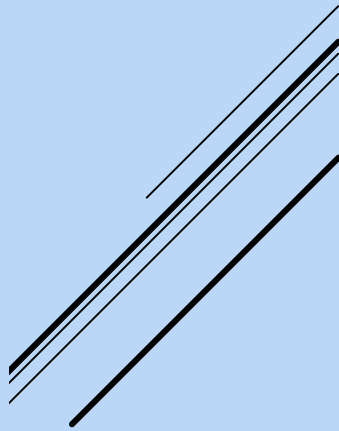
- 1) Recognize the forces of change: What do we have to learn about to understand how we got in the situation we are in today?
- 2) Decide what you want to keep: What is valuable to you? What aspects of our culture need to remain no matter what else?
- 3) Rebuild community institutions that serve the community, not the individual.
- 5) Be open to new ideas, new skills, new ways of doing things.





## RECOVERY FROM COLONIZATION II

- 6) Decision makers must be impacted by their decisions.
- 8) Consider the long haul, not short-term profit.
- 9) Keep the cultural values intact and practice them within your community institutions.
- 10) Gain problem solving skills to address real change for the good of the community.
- 11) Think of Principles, not law. We need to understand the principles of constructive criticism and consensus building.



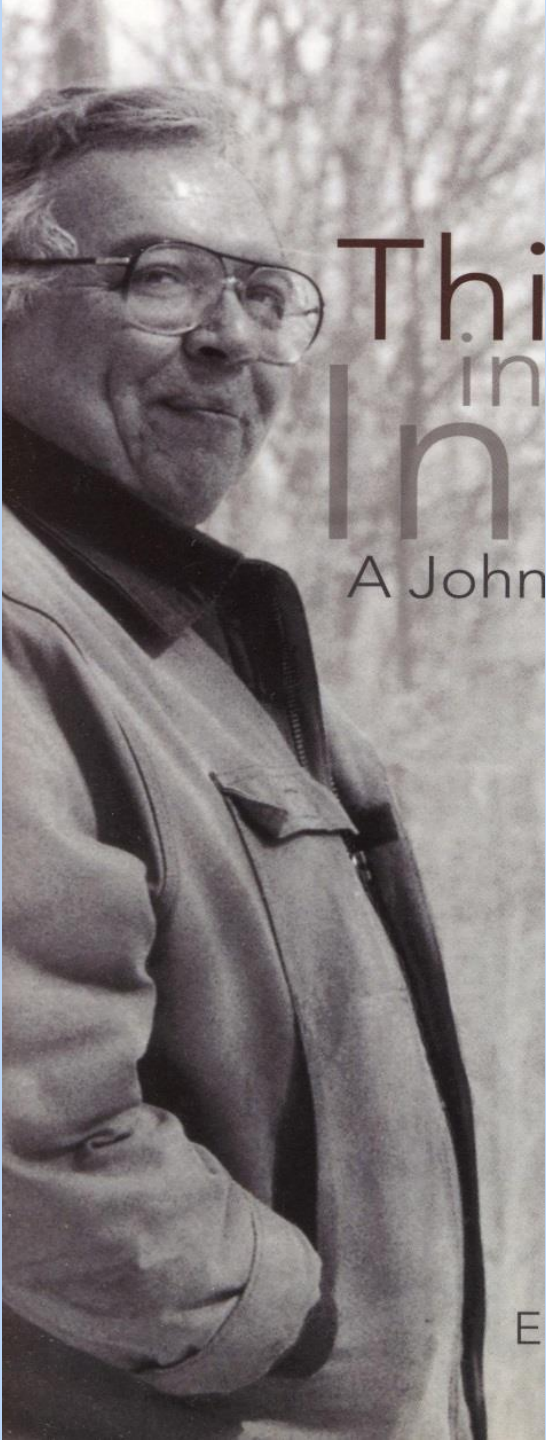
# BEING POSITIVE

“It is the way of our people that we are to be glad for our people if they have many gifts. We were never to be jealous or have hard feelings of someone who stands before us and possesses many gifts.

“It is our way that we look for positive things, the good things in our people.”

Jake Thomas, Cayuga Chief





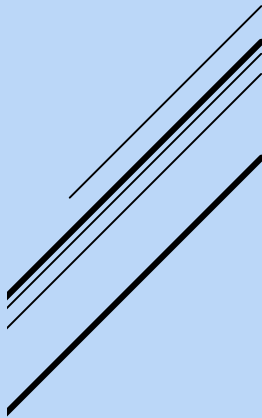
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# HEALTHY MINDS

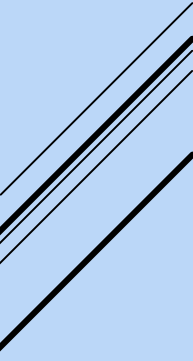
"All people whose minds are healthy can desire peace, and there is an ability within all people, especially the young, to grasp and hold strongly to the principles of righteousness.

"Those principles demand that all thoughts of prejudice, privilege, or superiority be swept away, and that recognition be given to the reality that the Creation is intended for the benefit of all equally."

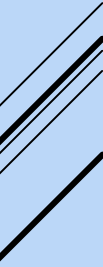
John Mohawk, Seneca Historian



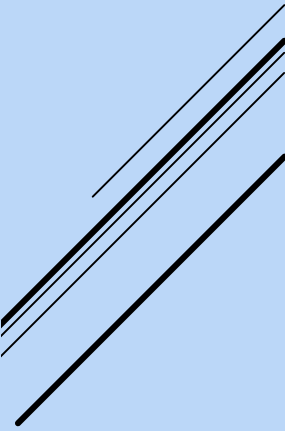
- ▶ **First, cause no more harm - a truce is not peace, but it is a small step in that direction.**
- ▶ **The parties acknowledge each other's humanity and the losses, sacrifices or injuries that each has suffered.**
- ▶ **Clean off all the stuff that shows that you've been in a war or involved in a dispute.**
- ▶ **Make their seat clean and ready to release the pressure they feel in their chest.**



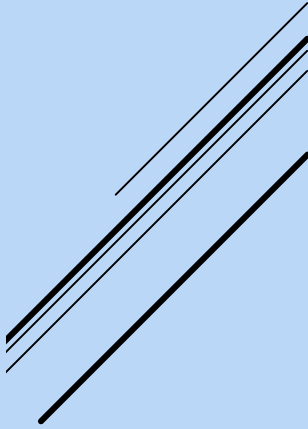
- ▶ **Second Step: We are now going to put our minds together to create peace, and address the conditions that can extend the truce.**
- ▶ **Focus on a desirable outcome that benefits everyone.**
- ▶ **Negotiate the steps to go from here to the outcome that you want.**



- ▶ **Reach a place where you can work on resolving conflicts by trusting each other.**
- ▶ **Find out why the parties continue to have conflict and try to remove those irritants that have caused trouble.**

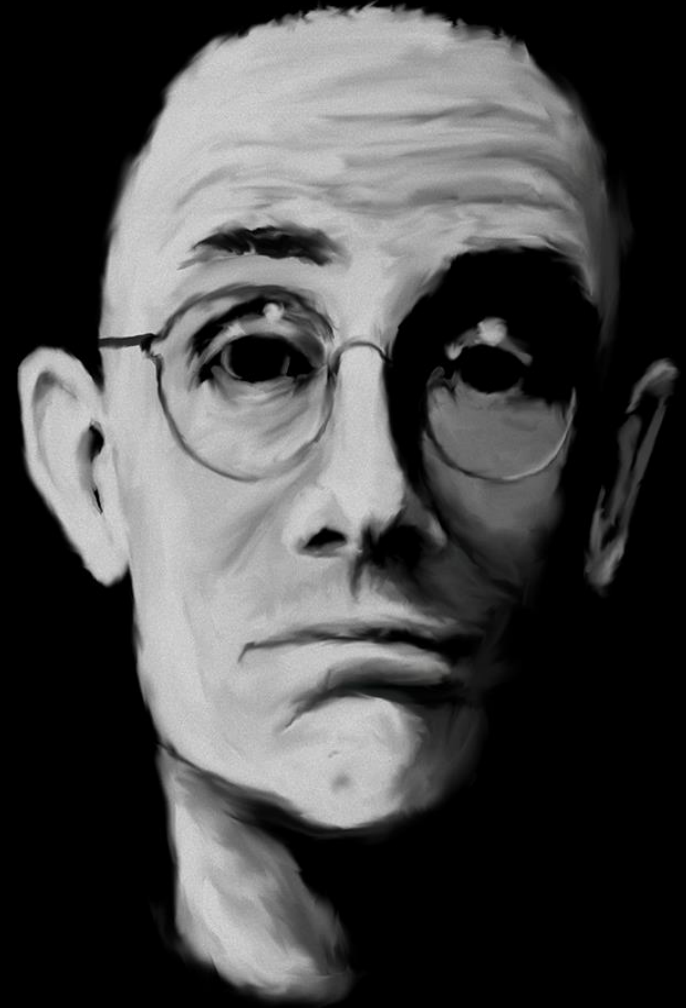


- ▶ Reach enough of an agreement where thinking can replace violence/anger, and where the conversation about peace is ongoing.
- ▶ The hope is that the process of thinking and talking continues until it becomes normal.
- ▶ But remember that there is never an end to it.





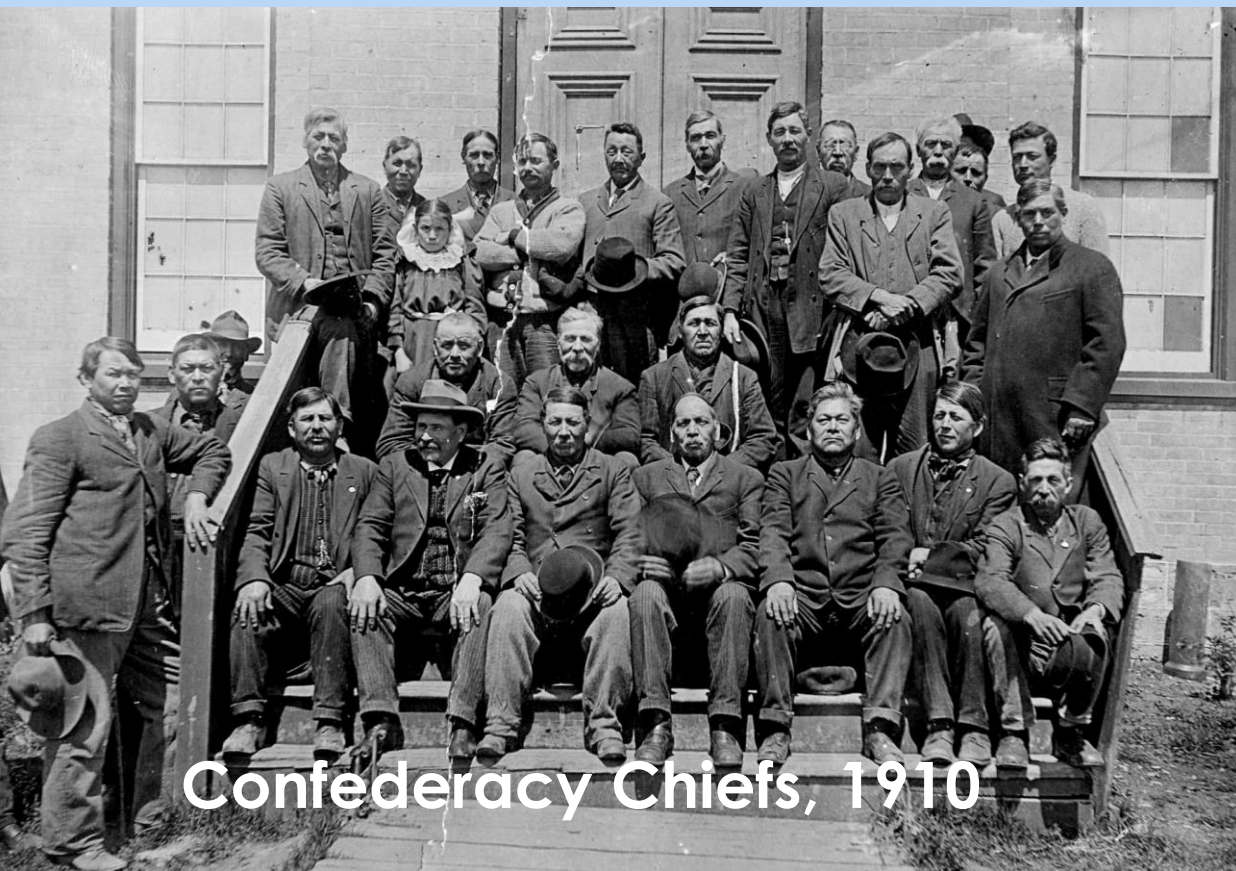
“BEFORE YOU  
DIAGNOSE YOURSELF  
WITH DEPRESSION OR  
LOW SELF-ESTEEM,  
FIRST MAKE SURE YOU  
ARE NOT, IN FACT, JUST  
SURROUNDED BY  
ASSHOLES.”

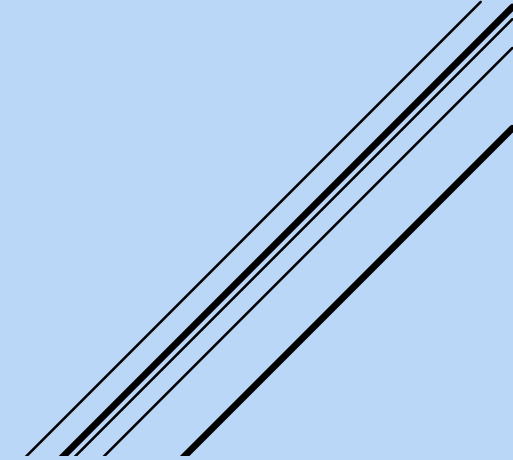


**William Ford Gibson, American-Canadian novelist, "noir prophet"  
of the cyberpunk subgenre.**

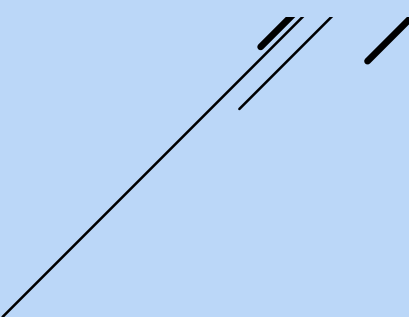


# How do you tell the difference between Indigenous law and governance, and colonized law and governance?





**WHAT PERSONAL BEHAVIORS WOULD  
YOU CHANGE IN YOURSELF IN ORDER  
TO PROMOTE THE VALUES OF THE  
GREAT LAW OF PEACE?**



- ▶ How do you tell the difference between Indigenous law and governance, and colonized law and governance?
  - ▶ What personal behaviors would you change in yourself in order to promote the values of the Great Law of Peace?
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