



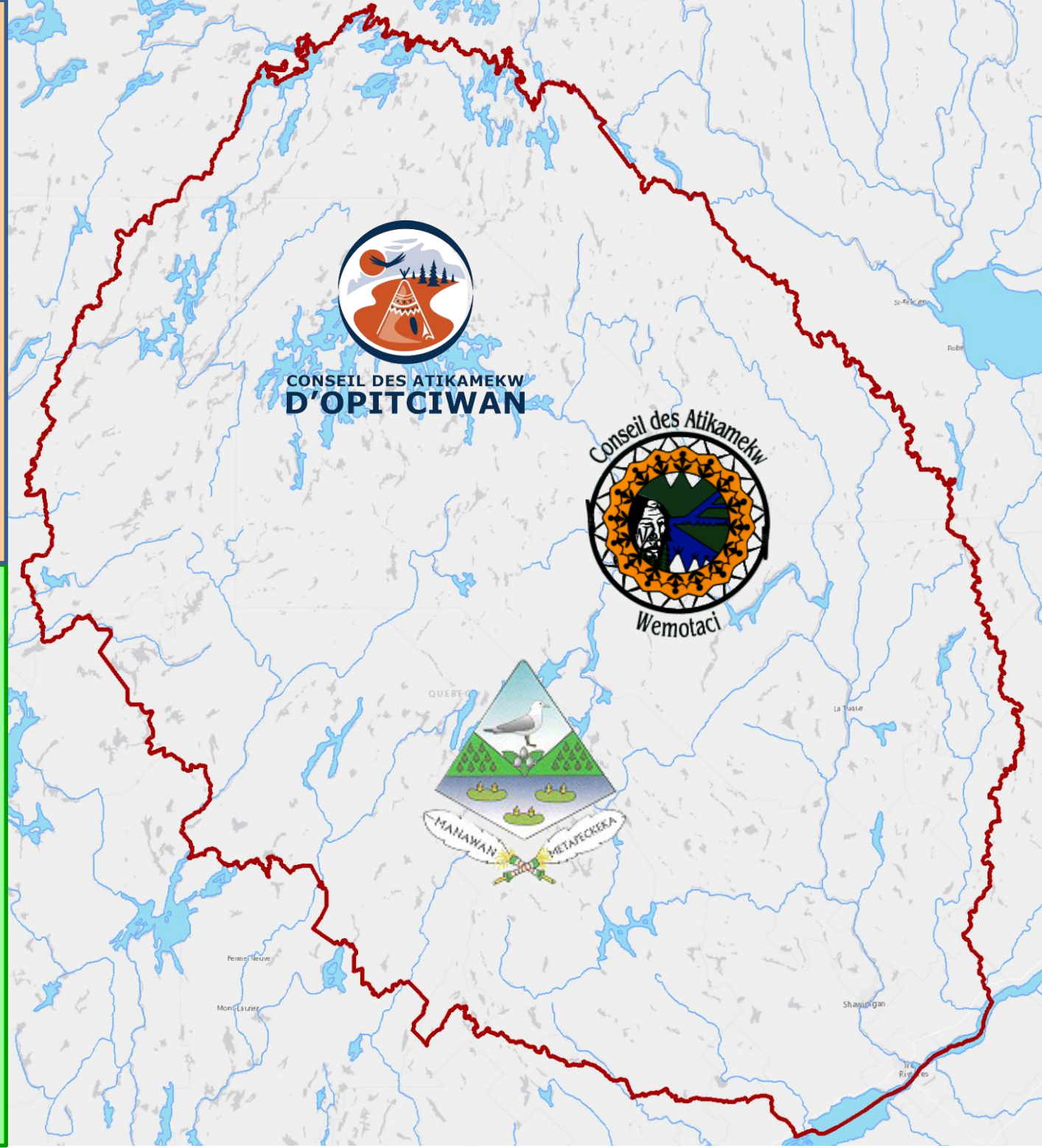
## CCA Project

Climate change  
adaptation

## The Atikamekw Project

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# Atikamekw - Nehirowisiw

- One Nation, one Social Project
- Three communities :  
Manawan – Opitciwan – Wemotaci
- Around 8 000 Atikamekw
- 98% are speaking Atikamekw in daily life
- A dozen clan chiefs
- A hundred territory chiefs
- A hundred family chiefs



# Presentation Content

1. Our objective
2. The original project
3. Our observations
4. The adaptation project
5. What do you think ?



# Where are you from?

1. British-Colombia
2. Prairies
3. Northwest Territories
4. Ontario
5. Quebec
6. Maritimes



# Our objective



Implementing  
a climate change adaptation process  
right at the heart of the  
Atikamekw communities and Nation  
decision-making

# The original project



# The original project

- **Year 1 – Problem assessment**
  - Define communities profile
  - Identify actual climate changes impacts
  - Project potential climate changes impacts
  - Identify and describe the community vulnerabilities
- **Year 2 – Adaptation plan development**
  - Results presentation
  - Risk assessment
  - Identification of adaptation and mitigation measures
- **Year 3 – Promotion and deployment of the adaptation plan**
  - Cost-benefit analysis
  - Formalization of the adaptation plan
  - Presentation of the adaptation plan to the communities





# Characteristics of the initial project

Assumptions that end up being false :

1. An adaptation plan can be found that could be applied.
2. The Atikamekw have the necessary knowledge to develop this adaptation plan.
3. Scientists outside the territory have the knowledge to develop the plan.
4. The Atikamekw understand their social system sufficiently to identify their vulnerabilities



# Our observations





There are **two** worldviews.

# The biosphere



**Holistic  
frame of reference  
of Native  
cultures**

# The sociosphere



**Reductionistic  
frame of reference  
of Western  
cultures**



# The Biosphere

## Native Culture Characteristics

- **Holistic** perspective
- **Oral** transmission of **experiments**
- Deals with **perceptions**
- Processes **movements**
- **Systemic** worldview
- Master the **complex**

Complex = Includes perceptions

# The Sociosphere

## Western culture Characteristics

- **Reductionistic** perspective
- **Written** transmission of **knowledge**
- Deal with **facts**
- Processes **results**
- **Analytical** worldview
- Master the **complicated**

Complicated = Excludes perceptions



**And there are two  
Atikamekw societies**



# The Biosphere

## The Traditional Society

Shapes the ways of life on the territory.

Rely mostly on Atikamekw language.

The Atikamekw language contains the right words to describe the boreal forest, communicate and act in the biosphere.

# The Sociosphere

## The Contemporary Society

Shapes ways of life and order on the communities.

Integrate multiple French words.

Unlike the Atikamekw, French easily expresses the concepts that describe the mechanisms of the sociosphere.





# The native holistic perspective:

- Designed to describe the state and movements of the biosphere
- Ideal for describing adaptation to climate change
- Efficient to identify the transformations of ecosystems due to climate change

Using this perspective for this purpose is an essential and urgent gesture.

# Human hives come alive.

- The sociosphere's ecosystems behave more and more like living systems
- **Like in the biosphere,** they self-regulate
- The reductionist perspective can no longer control the sociosphere
- **Westerners will have to adopt a holistic perspective to manage this sociosphere becoming alive**

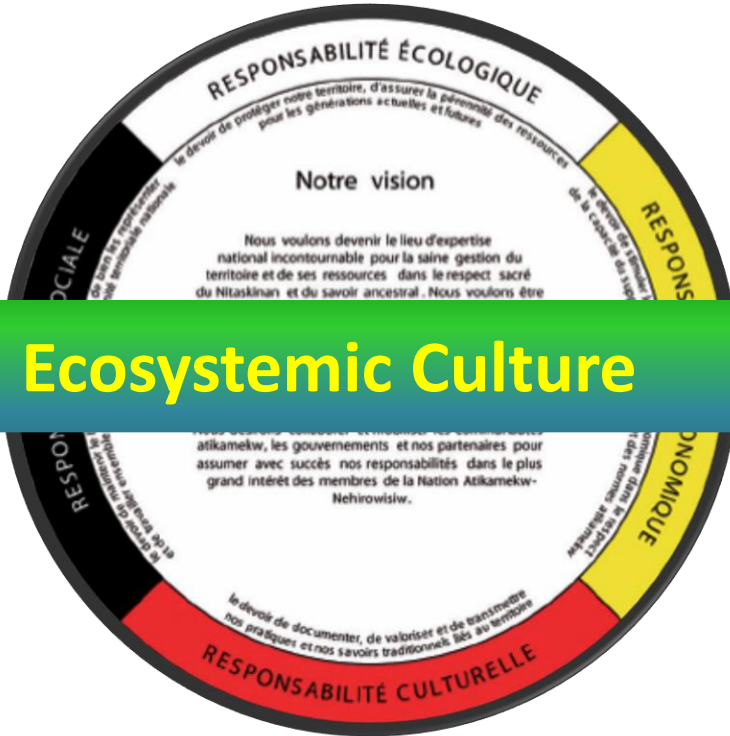
# The adaptation project





## Biosphere

Systemic nomadic culture



Ecosystemic Culture

Analytical sedentary culture

## Sociosphere



# **A project in three sub-projects**

# The biosphere

## A-1

**Build a dynamic representation of the boreal ecosystem**

**Use it to communicate the impacts of climate change to sociosphere's scientists**

## B

**Building a Web space to disseminate information gathered by observers to all citizens**

**Help to make everyone realize the urgency to act facing of the intensity of climate change**

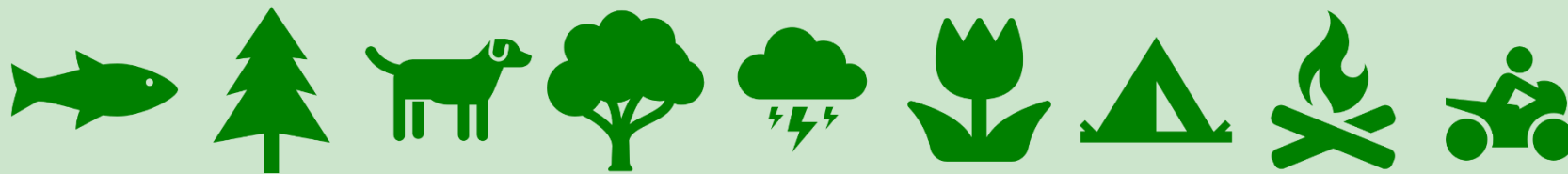
# The sociosphere

## A-2

**Building a holistic representation of Atikamekw communities and Nation**

**Use it to design and build an Atikamekw ecosystem in the sociosphere**





## Biosphere

Systemic nomadic culture

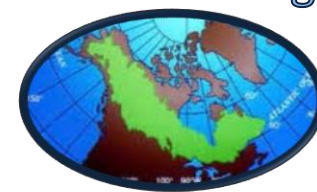
Tipashikan



Ka aitciparik askik

**Nomadic + analytical culture**  
**Sedentary + systemic culture**

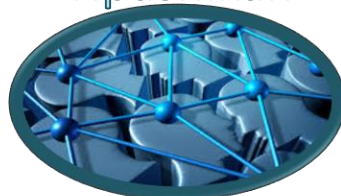
Climate Change



Boreal Observatory

Analytical sedentary culture

Tipashikan



Waska Matisiwin

## Sociosphere





# A-1 Putting Nitaskinan under close surveillance

Tipashikan



Network of territories guardians  
Network of sociosphere scientists  
Community members

Ka aitciparik askik

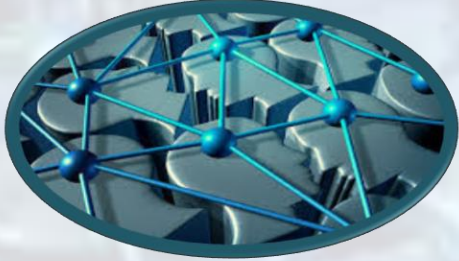
- **Develop a holistic coding system for boreal forest ecosystems**
- **Use it to describe the impact of climate change on the boreal forest**
- **Research, record and collect impact examples of these changes on Aski**
- **Identify and test change indicators at all levels of ecosystems to enrich the simulation models of sociosphere scientists**





# A-2 Multiply community agility for action

Tipashikan



Waska Matisiwin

Inform band councils and communities with:

- Perceptions of community members
- Perceptions of community operators

- **Provide a holistic representation of the interaction of communities with the sociosphere**
- **Bring to live a holistic representation of the sociosphere's dynamics that are important for Atikamekw future**
- **Collectively identify and monitor the evolution of community issues and the events that affect them**
- **Develop operating codes with the sociosphere as good as those guiding the interactions with the biosphere**

# B - Share our knowledge of boreal forest's suffering

Boreal Observatory



Climate Change

Monitor the effects of climate change on Aski

- Enriched by the guardians of Aski
- Enriched by community members

- **Provide a constant flow of photos, videos and information on the impacts of climate change on boreal forest ecosystems**
- **Offer Westerners a Web space that will allow them to follow the suffering and adaptation attempts of the boreal forest**
- **Animate a continuous exchanges dynamic with the inhabitants of the sociosphere around the long-term implications of the boreal forest transformations**



# What do you think?



# Could you now imagine how first nations can become leaders in climate change adaptation?

1. Yes, of course
2. Yes, possibly
3. Maybe
4. No, I don't think so
5. No way



# Would you like to take part in this innovative development project?

1. Yes, of course
2. Yes, possibly
3. Maybe
4. No, I don't think so
5. No way



If we erased the errors of our past, we would erase the wisdom of our present. For our future, let's not be afraid of not getting there and have the courage to try to change things.

*Mikwetc!*

