



**Kokum**  
**Tipiskâwi-Pîsim**  
*(Grandmother Moon)*  
**Framework**  
*for* **Ethical Spaces**  
*and* **Collaboration**

Designed by Paulina Johnson  
with Nehiyawak Teachings  
and Philosophy

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The circular framework above references the drum that holds Nehiyawak knowledges embedded in stories, teachings, and principles as well as our connections to land and water.

Relationality is at the heart of the framework of braiding Nehiyawak ontology and philosophy within natural and applied sciences at the University of Alberta. Within our connections and commitments as researchers, we build meaningful relationships with the Nations we learn from.

Grounding relationality in the Nations' cultural protocols honours where stories, teachings, dreams, visions, and other forms of knowledge originate. Following protocol also guides us in bridging different worldviews with respect, accountability, and reciprocity.

The full moon represents Nehiyawak Natural Law and the new moon depicts settler conceptions of

society based on the Scientific Method. Though 2D, this model should be viewed as a sphere with various interconnections as settlers work through cycles of learning and growing. There will be times when Indigenous ways of knowing will lead, and other times that settler knowledge and methods can be used for the benefit of Indigenous Nations. They are not set up to compete, but rather to create new ways of understanding. This view honours Indigenous knowledge systems and encourages conversations with settlers about challenges and disconnects, as well as strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

The framework is rooted in relationality and protocol and its underlying foundation is ceremony. Therefore, it will always prioritize the needs of Indigenous Nations and connected Worlds.

**Cover Design**

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**Moon Graphic**

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