



## **Fostering Ethical Space within collaborative research and monitoring of moose in central Ontario**

Various frameworks provide theoretical guidance on how to meaningfully bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners together when discussing shared concerns, such as moose. The Two Row Wampum reflects an original treaty agreement between Indigenous Peoples and European settlers that is grounded in a nation-to-nation agreement of respectful co-existence. In 2004, Two-Eyed Seeing, or *Etuaptmumk*, was described by Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall as "seeing from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous Knowledges and ways of knowing and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing and using both these eyes together for the benefit of all". More recently, Elder Willie Ermine, Elder Reg Crowshoe, and Danika Littlechild explain Ethical Space as the space among worldviews that invites multiple perspectives to co-exist and deepen our shared understanding of the world. Collectively, each of these frameworks outline how to elevate and honour the strengths of both Indigenous and Western knowledges through a values-based approach. Core values create the foundation of each partnership, making them unique to the context, geographic region, and partners involved. We hope to explore what values are most important in fostering Ethical Space and how they may look and feel when discussing moose in the central Ontario region.

To better our understanding of Ethical Space within this context, we hope to engage in semi-structured interviews with First Nation communities, Crown government staff, and scientific researchers. Interviews will involve a series of questions on the following themes: 1) what values are important for ethical collaboration among Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners when discussing moose, 2) how these values may look and feel when bringing partners together, and 3) how these values can be fostered in future collaborative moose initiatives.

Knowledge shared during interviews will be applied to bring participants together to create Ethical Space and discuss moose concerns in central Ontario. This network of people will represent the foundation of a new Moose Knowledge Network that embraces Indigenous and Western perspectives in a meaningful way. Further, this research will outline best practices and recommendations for fostering Ethical Space within cross-cultural collaborations, providing tools for students, researchers, and decision-makers who wish to engage in respectful partnerships with Indigenous communities.

This research has been approved by the Research Ethics Board at the University of Guelph (REB# 20-10-014).