

## CELEBRATING SIWKW (spring)

It's finally that time where SiwkW, spring, is here on the land. March 20<sup>th</sup> (6:01am) is the official spring equinox this year and we are looking to find ways to celebrate as a community.

**Activities:** There will be ceremonial fires in the evening times, and the cookhouse will be available for games, storytelling, and sharing of food. This is a community-oriented event and people are welcome to bring their cultural medicines and gifts (drumming, dancing, storytelling, etc). And if you would like to offer a workshop related to spring or nature, please let shalan know and we'll post that information to update community.

**Games:** Waltes and Mi'kmaw language-based games will be available in the cookhouse.

**Storytelling:** Come bring your favourite story to share! Think of your big fish stories! (There might be a prize for audience choice of "best story" on our first evening!)

**Fire:** There is a provincial fire ban that begins March 15<sup>th</sup>. Fires are restricted from 8am-2pm. We will be relighting a ceremonial fire for the evenings, but there will always be smudge available in the wi'kuom during the day for people to give offerings and be in ceremony.

We will need fire keepers during the evenings (3pm until about 10pm) to take care of the ceremonial fire in the wi'kuom. There will be a sign-up in the cookhouse. Wela'lioq!

**Giveaway Blanket:** We welcome anyone who wishes to participate in the giveaway to bring a small gift to share (eg. can be a jar of food you canned, something you made, etc). Everyone will place a small item on the blanket and when we're ready, each taking a turn around the circle each participant will pick up an item from the blanket. This gift exchange is a great way to share what you might have extras of, and be able to accept an offering from someone else in the community.

**Language:** Come join us and practice what you know, and also learn new words and phrases in our language! Beginners of all stages are welcome!

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Wed, March 19	Thur, March 20	Fri, March 21	Sat, March 22
	6am is official equinox		
	<p><b>8am</b> Morning ceremony (wi'kuom behind cookhouse)</p> <p><b>8:30-10am</b> Community breakfast</p>		<p><b>10am:</b> Seed exchange Bring your seeds to share with others and talk gardening! (cookhouse)</p> <p><b>Noon:</b> Potluck Lunch (cookhouse)</p> <p><b>Afternoon:</b> time TBA Archery along the medicine trail (will meet behind cookhouse)</p>
<p><b>3pm</b> Lighting of the Ceremonial Fire (wi'kuom behind cookhouse)</p>	<p><b>3pm</b> Re-lighting of the Ceremonial Fire (wi'kuom behind cookhouse)</p>	<p><b>3pm</b> Re-lighting of the Ceremonial Fire (wi'kuom behind cookhouse)</p>	<p><b>3pm-5pm Ceremonies at fire</b> (wi'kuom behind cookhouse)</p> <p>Cultural celebration activities in wi'kuom and outside - Round Dance, etc..</p>
<p><b>5pm</b> Potluck Supper (cookhouse)</p> <p><b>7pm</b> Storytelling Open-Mic. (cookhouse)</p>	<p><b>6pm</b> Walk the medicine trail and wintergreen tea-making (meet at cookhouse)</p>	<p><b>7pm</b> Movie screening: <b>Winter Moons</b> - video of Mi'kmaw dance theatre performance (cookhouse)</p>	<p><b>5pm</b> Potluck Supper (cookhouse)</p> <p>Giveaway Blanket <i>(after supper)</i></p>