

## Intergenerational Memory of Seeds

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At Mawachitotaak 2024, while Sherry Farrell Racette shared her talk, I connected with her stories and teachings. When we listen to storytellers, what gets birthed through our inspiration from their stories is a sort of co-creation. This co-creative process generates community and connection. We may not have full awareness of that interconnectedness, but the web it creates with spirit through us is rooted in who we are, and *how* we are with knowledge, each other, and the land. As a neurodivergent person, I synthesize knowledge, and my environment differently. One way that expresses itself is through movement. I can make that movement small. As small as moving my hands or fingers. Sometimes it translates into making art. This movement is always connected to the environment I am in, as well as to what I am hearing and how it feels in my body. During Racette's talk, what echoed over and over for me, was the phrase "seeded and re-seeded in community". It connected me to all of the different ways we seed ourselves in communities with our ideas, care, presence, art, songs and all of who we are. It connected me to the land through feeling into the ways that our plant kin seed and re-seed themselves. How their ancestors knew our ancestors too, and how the currents of the land share ancestral memories with us through "seeding and re-seeding our communities" with the connections we cultivate. Intergenerational memories germinate when I tune into my body and allow myself to process knowledge and life in this way, instead of the way I am "supposed" to.

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## Biography

Aimée-Mihkokwaniy McGillis ᐱᐢᐅᐱᐢ ᐱᐢᐅᐱᐢ ᐱᐢᐅᐱᐢ (They/Them) is a pitoteyihtam (autistic, adhd, ptsd), and 2Spirit citizen of the Red River Métis Nation (MMF). They are a parent, Sundancer, writer, artist, regenerative farmer, and seed keeper. Aimée is graduating from their undergraduate degree in Indigenous Studies at the University of Manitoba in April 2025. They are currently a fellow in the Office of Equity Transformation, a student researcher, and a project coordinator at Ongomiizwin – Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing. Aimée comes from a long line of storytellers, intergenerational polylingual language speakers, and knowledge keepers from the Michif community of Willowbunch, SK, with ancestral ties to Rocky Boys and Turtle Mountain.