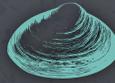


HISTORY:

When Europeans arrived in Haudenosaunee territory, a place that is now commonly known as the Great Lakes region, Haudenosaunee leaders dispatched a delegation to meet and talk with the newcomers. The two groups discussed how they might best live together in the area, thus entering into a treaty relationship. The Dutch, based on their colonial worldview, envisioned themselves in a paternalistic role, with the Haudenosaunee calling them "father". Staying true to their own worldview, based on respect and reciprocity, the Haudenosaunee asserted a more equitable relationship, where the two parties would refer to one another as "brother". The Haudenosaunee already had a long history of diplomacy and negotiation of treaty relationships with other First Nations. They documented these agreements through wampum belts long before European contact. As a result, the Two Row Wampum belt was created to represent and document the relationship and agreement between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch. The principles of the Two Row Wampum remain relevant and foundational to all treaty relationships to this day.

THE TWO ROW WAMPUM

Negotiated in 1613 as a treaty between the Dutch and the Haudenosaunee, the Two Row Wampum is recognized as the oldest treaty between the First Peoples of Turtle Island and European settlers who arrived on their lands more than four centuries ago.



MATERIALS: Wampum belts are made up of beads carved from purple and white mollusk shells, some of which are found on the shores of lakes and rivers. Quahog clam shells are a marine species commonly used for their purple colour. They can only be found on the East Coast of Turtle Island, which is the most easterly edge of Haudenosaunee territory.



PURPLE ROWS: The two purple rows represent two vessels travelling down the same river, a Dutch ship and a Haudenosaunee canoe. The two rows are of equal width and run parallel to one another, symbolizing that each nation has their own laws, customs and ways of knowing and being that are equally valid..



WHITE ROWS: The three rows of white beads symbolize a river that the two vessels are travelling on. The middle band of white separates the two purple rows, signifying that as the two nations travel down the same river, they will respect each other's autonomy and won't interfere in one another's affairs. The colour white represents peace, friendship and respect.

