

Our Sacred Teachings

Okimâw Ahpô Onîkânêw (the Chief and Council), as representatives of the Nation and members, must, whenever conducting the Council's business, or providing testimony, uphold a standard of **Iyinihkêwin**, conduct that adheres to **Nêhiyaw** culture, embodied in the **Sacred Teachings**:

- **Tapwewin** (Truth) – **Akisow** (being accountable) and speaking only **Kihci Pikiskwewin** (Truth), ensuring **Kintohpahtatin** (justice)ⁱ and **Kwayaskosowin** (fairness);
- **Kistêyihtamowin** (Respect)ⁱⁱ – **Kihceyihtakosowin** (the act of showing respect by maintaining a calm and controlled demeanor);
- **Sohkeyimowin** (Courage)ⁱⁱⁱ – Acting in the Nation's best interests, even during difficult circumstances.
- **Kwayaskwâtisiwin** (Honesty)^{iv} – Upholding honesty in all actions and words.
- **Tapahteyimisiwin** (Humility)^v – Appreciating that diverse viewpoints contribute to the collective good.
- **Iyiniisiwin** (Wisdom)^{vi} – Making ethical decisions based on the teachings.
- **Sâkhitowin** (Love)^{vii} – Demonstrating love and commitment to the Council and the community it serves.

Asotamakowin (While taking an oath), we use the feather of **Kihew apoh mikisiw** (the Eagle), the animal who flies closest to the Creator, symbolizing **Âniskômohcikewia** (connection) to **Kihcikîsik** (the spiritual realm), a deeply respected **Nêhiyaw** tradition, rooted in the Sacred Teachings.

ⁱ There is no concept of “justice” in Cree culture. The nearest word is **Kintohpatatin**, which loosely translates to “You've been listened to.” But **Kintohpatatin** is much richer than “justice” - really it means you've been listened to by someone who is compassionate and fair, and your needs will be taken seriously.

ⁱⁱ Respect is mutual and reciprocal in nature.

ⁱⁱⁱ The act of having strength, courage, or bravery.

^{iv} Being honest in your words and actions.

^v We are no better than anyone. We are no less than anyone.

^{vi} Knowledge, wisdom, or intelligence.

^{vii} Demonstrating a mutual love for one another and for the community.