

Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Miigwech (Thank you)

Host (voiceover):

We live in a connected universe of ecosystems: land, sea, air. These biologically diverse ecosystems include plants, animals, microorganisms; and the deserts, rainforests, and coral reefs. To sustain and survive we must all rely on a critical and elegant relationship between productivity, diversity, disturbance, and resilience.

The coral reef, for instance, is one of the oldest, most important and diverse ecosystems on earth. It endures because of an abundant population of diverse species that are crucial for its survival. Productivity or growth of these species is critical because of the countless ways they use the resources of the coral reef. And disturbance - like a storm, for instance - is also a necessary part of this system because it stimulates regrowth. And regrowth balances disturbance through resilience. Resilience is the capacity of an ecosystem to rebound and recover. This is a delicate balance; a sensitive dance; a connection between all these elements that cannot survive one without the other. We are connected to the world beyond our own backyards, to the land, sea, and air. We affect. We are affected.

So what about our own human ecosystem? Are the same relationships essential for our sustainability? Is diversity critical for growth? Is resilience connected to resolving differences? And how much difference exists between us? So much that we can afford to look the other way? We are connected.