

# The Manomin Project's 2023 Winter Solstice Newsletter

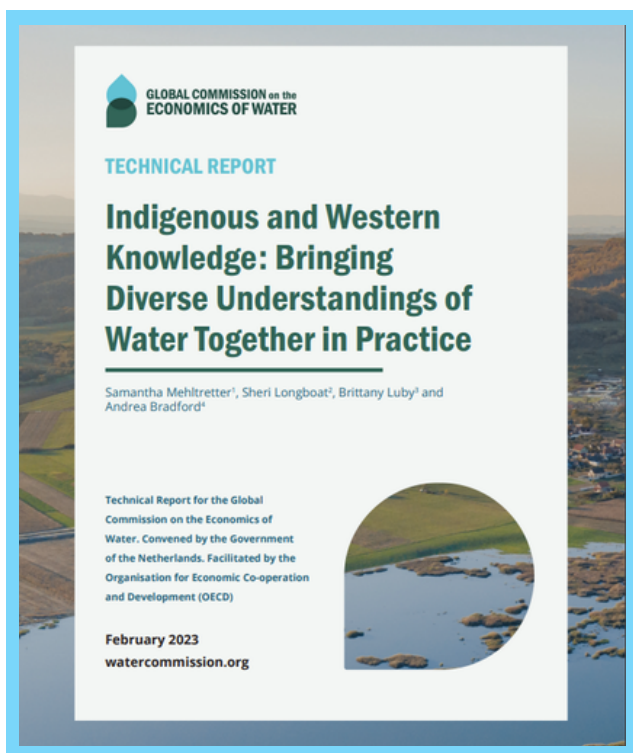
## *Biboon! It is Winter!*

We've had a year full of opportunities to learn, connect and share. We're very grateful for this and your continued partnership. Let's reflect on our work throughout the seasons!

## A year in review: The Manomin Project's 2023 activity summary & reflection

### Ziigwan Spring

#### Global Commission on the Economics of Water engages Manomin Project members to write report on knowledge weaving



This report identifies that 'EAUX' Principles - Equity, Access, Usability and eXchange - must be activated in the braiding of Indigenous and Western knowledge systems.

#### Learned from & shared at the National Native Seed Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Manomin Project was represented at this gathering of environmental professionals and individuals involved in restoration work. Communications Coordinator Laura Legzdins shared about Manomin and the Project in the Tribal Partnerships in Restoration session.

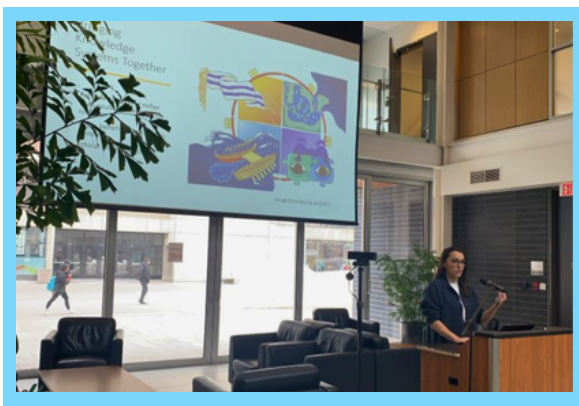
#### What we learned: Key themes from speakers

##### Principles for restoration and partnerships

- **Have humility. Listen.** You'll always have more to learn.
- **Engage in reciprocity.** Prioritize relationships and communities.

##### Insights on reseeded: How we may gather seed to ensure sustainability

- Gather seed from **multiple local populations**. This maintains **genetic diversity** (associated with healthier populations) and **local adaptability** (local seeds often know how to survive best).
- Gather seed from plants growing in **similar environmental conditions**, including similar **environmental difficulties** - they may be more **resilient** and survive the challenges of the areas we plant them in. This also maintains genetic diversity and local adaptability.
- **Think ahead** - predict future ecosystem conditions and make decisions to increase better survival down the road. Think with the **Seven Generations Principle**.



PhD Candidate Samantha Mehlretter shared these principles at the University of Guelph's World Water Day event on March 22. Photo by Morwick G360 Groundwater Research Institute.

**We'll learn:** **The Case Study**

- An integral native crop and its role upholding Anishinaabeg lifeways and freshwater ecosystems
- Historical and cultural context: Manomin care and Manomin loss

**We'll learn:** **The Big Picture**

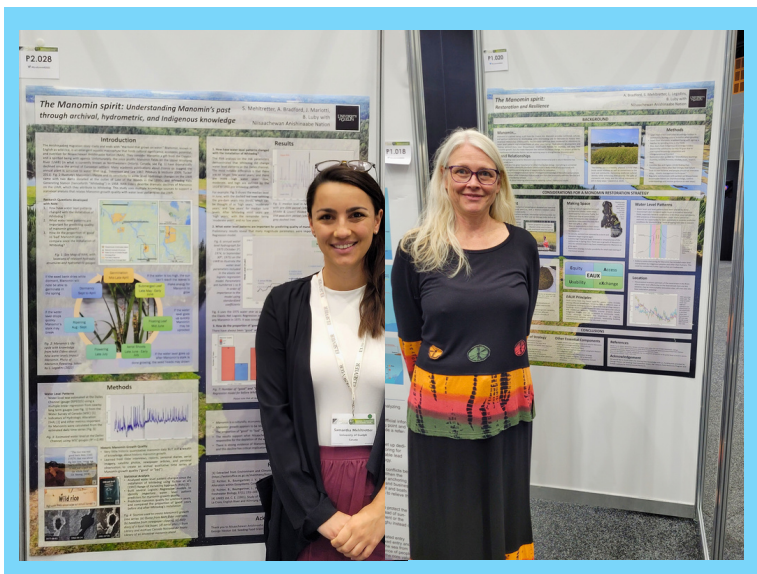
- Considerations for partnerships in restoration between institutions and Indigenous nations
- Restoration strategies which weave traditional care & scientific knowledge to inform seed decisions

**What we shared:** Key points from 'Restoring Crops and Cultures: Caring for Manomin in Anishinaabe-Aki'

## Niibin Summer

### Manomin research shared at the 6th International EcoSummit in Australia

In June, Dr. Andrea Bradford and Samantha Mehlretter shared a talk and two posters on historical Manomin conditions and principles for future Manomin restoration. The conference brought scientists across the globe together to advance environmental work in the face of 'a changing land and sea-scape', this year's theme.



Samantha Mehlretter and Dr. Andrea Bradford stand with posters displaying how knowledge weaving informs our understanding of current Manomin conditions and potential future restoration strategies.

### Field work completed & annual data gathered

In August, Elder Guy Henry and Jane Mariotti visited the Manomin fields in the upper Winnipeg River. They assessed Manomin along the river by canoe and gathered aerial images by drone. This data was compiled in a comprehensive report.



A dragonfly checks data collected from a Manomin quadrat.

## Dagwaagin Fall

### Mnoomin Maan'gowing release & book tour

*Mnoomin Maan'gowing*, 'The Gift of Mnoomin' by Brittany Luby hit shelves in October. Book readings and engaging discussions with audiences were held twice, at the Telling Tales Festival in Hamilton, ON and the Toronto International Festival of Authors. Both events saw children and adults take interest in Manomin and all the relations it connects to.



Laura Legzdins, Brittany Luby and Tee Duke share *Mnoomin Maan'gowing* at the Toronto International Festival of Authors.



Laura Legzdins, Brittany Luby and Cheyanne Herder answer questions at the Telling Tales Festival.



Elder Guy Henry looks out onto the Manomin fields.

Additionally, two CBC radio broadcasts shared *Mnomin Maan'gowing* on-air on October 8 & 16. Links can be found in our fall newsletter.

### Indigenous Language Rights retained for Manomin Anthology and Treaty article

Both upcoming Manomin resources will be available for Anishinaabemowin speakers to translate and circulate.

### Dissertation chapters and summary drafted

PhD candidate Samantha Mehlretter has drafted a summary and chapters of her dissertation which have been shared with Chief and Council at Niisaachewan for review.



Green Manomin seeds lay in Elder Guy Henry's hand.

### Food for Thought

“On this day, the sun is at its lowest point in the sky, traveling across the sky world above us in a short stride, resulting in the shortest day and the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. (...) In its period of darkness, the winter solstice is an opportunity to go inward with deep intention, to care for our spiritual selves, our bodies and minds, our loved ones and families, and to prepare for the longer days ahead”.

- Sarah Sunshine Manning, NDN Collective Director of Communications, citizen of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Idaho and Nevada, and Chippewa-Cree of Rocky Boy, Montana.

**The Manomin Project is a cooperative research program led by the University of Guelph and Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation. This newsletter reflects our responsibility and commitment to knowledge sharing.**