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Ancestral.science.podcast



Ancestral Science Podcast

The Ancestral Science Podcast explores scientific topics through conversations between Knowledge Keepers and Scientists, while *experiencing* the origins and depth of science on and with “the Land”. Join us as science COMES ALIVE when knowledges are shared alongside ancestor plants, rocks, animals, and rivers, creating connections between personal, Indigenous, and global science. The Ancestral Science podcast is a place for *everyone* to see themselves in science, to be inspired by the SCIENCE that is all around them and expand the definitions of both *ancestor* and *science*.

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## SEASON 2 : Episode 22 (audio/video) with **TCHADAS LEO** “Telling Indigenous Stories: from pre-colonization science to difficult truths”

The Ancestral Science Podcast was grateful to speak with **TCHADAS LEO**, from Xwemalhkwa and Stillaguamish Nations, a journalist and tv and podcast host (check out his pod "[Our Native Land](#)"). We chatted about his passion for being an Indigenous journalist and how he balances time constraints with protocols, his dream story to cover, the courage needed to "tell the truth," and artifact/ancestor repatriation. We heard more about his SOON TO BE LAUNCHED graphic novel named "[Xwémalhkwa Hero Stories: A Graphic Novel](#)", that shares stories of his Ancestral lands before and after colonization. We dug into the science within these stories, from food preservation and sensory hunting to clam digging in relation to moon cycles and sand stories.

Hand to Heart to [Indigenous Screen Office](#) and [Bespoke Productions Hub](#).

Please like, share, follow, and rate the pod, it goes a long way to share this knowledge.

Remember, you can support the pod and rock some unique Indigenous Science merch at [www.relationalsciencecircle.com/shop](http://www.relationalsciencecircle.com/shop), all proceeds go towards Knowledge Keeper honoraria, following protocols, and keeping the pod going.

### **SHOWNOTES:**

#### **-What is science to you?**

- the pursuit of finding “definitive answers”
- what is reality?

#### **-Inspiration:**

- the Indigenous plant garden at Royal Roads University
- “[The Farm @ RRU](#)”- food-forward leadership in designing small-scale food production systems towards increased food security.

-“[Tour of the Indigenous Medicine Garden at RRU](#)”- a haven for Indigenous plants and medicines and their teachings.

-“[A Powerful Space: Indigenous Medicine Garden grows more than food](#)”

### **-Truth & Journalism**

- difficulty in sharing Indigenous stories in short 2 ½ - 3 minute timeslots
- ability to use his podcast “[Our Native Land](#)” to expand on these stories when appropriate.
- stories with us, not about us

### **-Protocols and Sharing Stories**

- how do you creatively tell a story while being authentic to the story/Nation/Land?

### **-Repatriating Rematriating Artifacts Ancestors**

-this is Tchadas’ dream story, to follow the journey of these artifacts/ancestors back home

-Like these stories:

-“**Stolen totem pole** formally welcomed home to Nisga'a territory after nearly a century in Scottish museum.” (BBC) article [link](#), [YouTube](#)

-“**Repatriated** 200-year-old Indigenous **headdress** to go on display in northern B.C. museum” (CBC) [link](#)

-**Seal Hunting** off Vancouver Island

-“Seal is served: How coastal First Nations are reclaiming their roots by bringing back the hunt” (article [here](#))

-“West Coast Seal Hunt to save Salmon Population” (article [here](#))

\*Relevant post-episode add-on\*

-“HBC plans historical **artifact auction**, First Nations call for immediate halt” (Winnipeg Sun article) [here](#).

-“**Hudson's Bay artifacts**, including royal charter, can go up for auction, court rules” (CBC article) [here](#).

### **-Xwémalhkwa Hero Stories: A Graphic Novel**

-based on recordings from Homalco Elders from the 90s telling pre and post colonization stories of the Coast Salish peoples and lands.

“[Remember: Stories of our Elders](#)”

-pre-purchase the novel [here](#)

-“Graphic novel brings Xwémalhkwa (Homalco) Elders’ voices to a new generation” ([UBC Article](#))

-“Xwémalhkwa Hero Stories: Dr. Nijdam Celebrates Community-Engaged Storytelling with the Homalco Nation” ([UBC Article](#))

-“Hero Stories: How an Island First Nation's stories became a graphic novel” ([Goldstream News Gazette](#))

-“XWÉMALHKWU HERO STORIES: A GRAPHIC NOVEL” BOOK LAUNCH ([Education without Borders](#))

### **-Pre-Colonization Science within Xwémalhkwa Hero Stories**

- travelling over long distances to trave fish/moose
- Clam digging

- moon/tide/sun/sand tell you when to dig clams and where, also when it is safe to eat the clams (so not to get sick)
- Food preservation
  - preparing for different seasons through preservation with salt and temperature (caves)
- hunting and senses
  - depth of knowledges your senses (beyond your eyes) can tell you.
    - smell or hearing
  - these are super senses!
  - it's like "feeling the Land"

**-Additional Links:**

- “Graphic novel brings Xwémalkwu (Homalco) Elders’ voices to a new generation.” Article from UBC. Link [here](#).
- “Decolonizing Journalism through an Indigenous Perspective.” Article from Cultural Survival, [here](#)
- “Our Native Land” [podcast](#)
  - on [CHEK news](#)
- “ Uncovering the Wisdom of Our Native Land with Tchadas Leo” (on the [Bigger Than Me Podcast](#))
- Indigenous Films/Shows to check out
  - “[Sweet Summer Pow Wow](#)”
  - “[Acting Good](#)”
  - “[North of 60](#)”

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Want more Indigenous Science Resources? Check out [Relational Science Circle](#).

Want to learn more about Indigenous Science, Indigenous Science/Mathematics Teacher PD sessions, or have an idea for a guest or topic for the Ancestral Science Podcast, email [relational.science@gmail.com](mailto:relational.science@gmail.com)

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