Paroles de Gratitude

Ohenton Kariwatekwen

Property of Otsi’tsaken:ra (Charles Patton) and Niioie:ren (Eileen Sawyer Patton)
The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people (our elders) have taught us that, whenever people gather for any occasion, the first thing that we acknowledge are the forces that have given us life at this time and continue to support us into the future. This ceremony has been done since the beginning of time and it’s purpose is to remind all those listening to never forget to be thankful for all that is in place to help us accomplish the work at hand using a good mind.

So, with this in mind, we use these “words that come before all things” and turn our greetings to all of the natural world. We put our minds together as one as we offer greetings to our Creator, because all is put before us on the Earth and in the Universe:
We gather today and bring our minds together as one to give greetings and thanksgiving to all the people of the world because we can see that the cycles of life continue.

Now our minds are one.
Nous sommes reconnaissants envers notre Mère, la Terre. Elle tient à nous et s’assure de fournir tout ce qui est nécessaire à la vie. Lorsque nous foulons son sol, elle nous supporte.

Nous honorons notre Terre-Mère en lui adressant notre gratitude.

Nos esprits ne font qu’un.

We are thankful for the Earth, our Mother, for the care she gives us in providing all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk upon her.

To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.
We turn our minds to the all the Fish life in the water. Though they struggle to survive in water that is filled with pollution, they continue to do as they were instructed, to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

Il est d’ailleurs plus aisé de marcher sur la Terre-Mère grâce au monde des Racines. À tous, le monde des Racines donne aussi la nourriture et les remèdes qui guérissent.

Nos esprits réunis honorent le monde des Racines et nous lui adressons notre gratitude.

Nos esprits ne font qu’un.
Now we acknowledge the many Insects which populate the world. Insects sustain many forms of life and we remember when they saved our people from starvation so long ago.

We put our minds together to give thanks and greetings to the Insect life.

Now our minds are one.
Now we acknowledge the many fields and forms of Plant life. Plants sustain many forms of life.

We put our minds together to give thanks and greetings to the Plant life.

Now our minds are one
With one mind, we offer our thanks to all the Food Plants we harvest from the gardens and fields.

We Haudenosaunee people have been given a special gift of 3 Sisters: Corn, Beans and Squash that has provided good health.

We acknowledge all the forms of Food to send them our greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.
There is another, we send greetings to all the many types of Fruit that grow upon the Earth offering nutrition to all people, bugs, fish, birds and animals.

The leader of the Fruit is the Strawberry which is the first fruit that ripens each year in fields and gardens. It awakens all other plants, bushes and trees to do their work producing fruit.

And so, to the Fruits, we offer our thanks and gratefulness for bringing the joy of its sweetness to our lives.

Now our minds are one.
Now we consider all the Medicines of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to help us in our sickness. They always are ready and waiting to help us.

With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.

Now our minds are one.
We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to the Animal life in the world. We have only to watch them and we will learn much. They offer their lives so we may be nourished. They are all sizes and forms and live among us and in the forests.

The leader of the Animals is the Deer, a role model for its peaceful nature and strength.

Now our minds are one
Tournons maintenant nos pensées vers les Arbres qui nous fournissent abri et ombre, oxygène et nourriture, beauté et chaleur. L’Arbre est un symbole de paix et de vigueur. Le chef des Arbres est l’Érable puisque c’est le premier qui, à la fin de l’hiver, nous offre sa sève nourrissante et annonciatrice d’un cycle nouveau. C’est un aliment parfait qui donne force et douceur lorsque les réserves s’amenuisent.

Réunissons nos esprits afin d’honorer et d’adresser notre gratitude à tous les Arbres.

Nos esprits ne font qu’un

We now turn our minds to the Trees who provide us with shelter and shade, oxygen, nourishment, beauty and warmth. The Tree is a symbol of peace and strength. The leader of the Trees is the Maple – the first to wake in late winter offering sap to the people which is their first nourishing drink in the new cycle. It is a perfect food giving strength and sweetness when food supplies are low.

With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.

Now our minds are one.
We put our minds together as one and thank all the Bird life. The Creator gave them beautiful songs to remind us each day to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader.

To all the Birds—from the smallest to the largest—we send our greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.
Nous offrons notre gratitude à la puissance que forment les Quatre Vents. Ils purifient l’air que nous respirons, ils dissipent les maladies et ils prennent part au changement des saisons.

Réunissons nos esprits afin d’honorer et d’adresser notre gratitude aux Quatre Vents.

Nos esprits ne font qu’un.

We offer thanks to the powers we know as the Four Winds. They purify the air we breathe, take away sickness and help to bring the change of seasons.

With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

Now our minds are one.
Now we turn our minds to the west where our grandfathers, the Thunder Beings, live. They bring the water that renews life. The lightning strikes to keep those evil things made by Shawiskara underground.

We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers.

Now our minds are one.
We put our minds together to give thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the nighttime sky. She watches over the women’s cycle over the arrival of children here on Earth. She governs the movement of the ocean tides.

With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.

Now our minds are one.
We now send greetings and thanks to our elder Brother, the Daytime light. He works with the male life and each day travels the sky from east to west, bringing warmth, strength and the light of a new day.

With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

Now our minds are one.
Nous offrons notre gratitude aux jolies étoiles qui parsèment le ciel la nuit venue. Au cœur de la noirceur, elles apportent réconfort et fournissent aux jardins la rosée nécessaire pour que pousse la vie. Les Étoiles nous indiquent où se trouve notre maison et elles nous avertissent du moment où nous devons partir à la chasse, mais aussi lorsque nous devons rentrer pour participer aux cérémonies. Bien que nous ayons presque tout oublié d’elles, elles nous connaissent et, dans leur mouvement, nous protègent.

Réunissons nos esprits afin d’honorer et d’adresser notre gratitude aux Étoiles.

Nos esprits ne font qu’un.

We give thanks to the Stars, the beautiful nighttime lights in the sky. They bring comfort in the darkness and dew to the gardens and growing things. They guide us home and message us of times when we should hunt and return home for ceremony. We have forgotten much about them but they know us and protect us in their movement.

With our minds gathered together as one, we send greetings and thanks to the Stars.

Now our minds are one.
We gather our minds to greet and thank the Teachers who have come to help through times of hardship. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people.

With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

Now our minds are one.
Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, the Great Natural Strength, and send greetings and thanks for all these gifts. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

Of all the beauty that we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.