



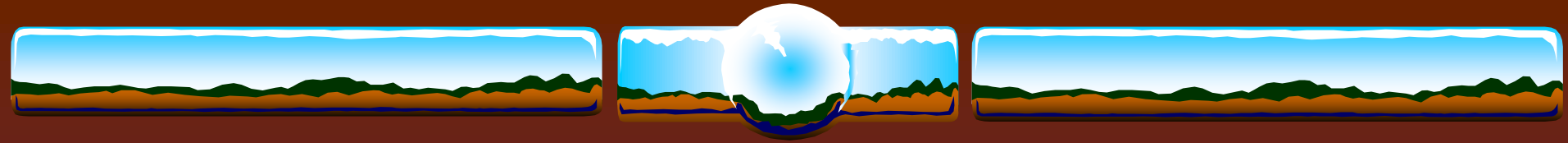
My story:

An Aboriginal Neuroscientist and Senator

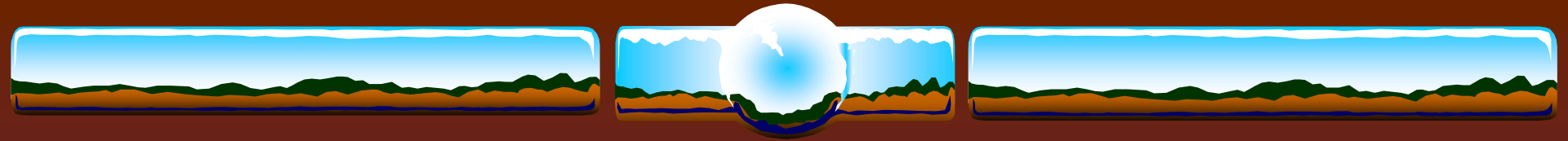
Lillian Eva [Quan] Dyck, PhD, DLitt

Senator

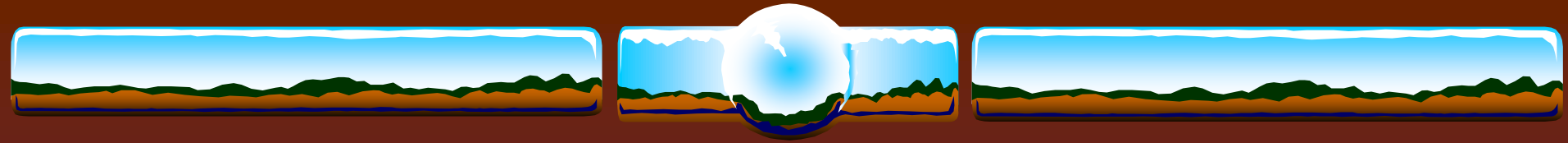
UofA, Edmonton April 2017



My family of origin

A decorative header at the top of the slide. It features a central white globe with blue and green details, set against a blue sky and green hills. This globe is flanked by two identical rectangular panels, each containing a stylized landscape with a blue sky, green hills, and a brown ground line. The entire header is set against a dark red background.

We lived in many small towns
in Saskatchewan and Alberta,
where my dad ran a Chinese café.



**Growing up WAITRESSING and doing other jobs:
the Regal café, Killam, Alberta**

The header consists of three horizontal panels. The left and right panels show a landscape with a blue sky, green hills, and brown ground. The middle panel features a white globe with blue oceans and green continents, centered over the landscape.

Mom's Tombstone in Killam, Alberta



Mom's message to Winston and me:

Pretend you're just Chinese.

Don't go back to the reserve.

The header consists of three horizontal panels. The left and right panels show a landscape with a blue sky, green hills, and brown ground. The middle panel features a white globe with blue oceans and green continents, positioned over the same landscape background.

Dad's Tombstone in Swift Current



Grade 12 Graduation, S.C.C.I., 1963

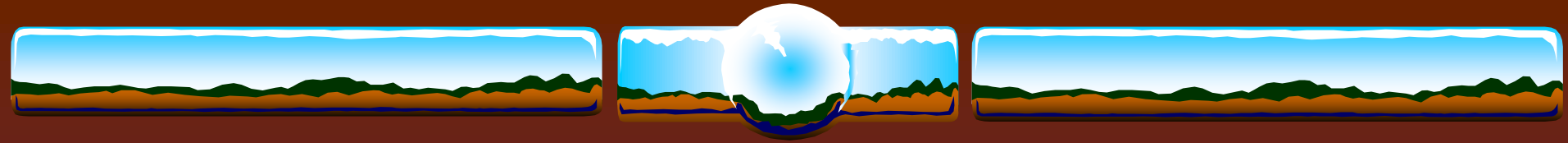
Clever & bright is Lillian Quan
In Biochemistry, she'll never go wrong



My chemistry teacher



Mr. J. A. Dyer, B.A., B.Ed.
Vice-Principal



Convocation, 1966, B.A., Chemistry



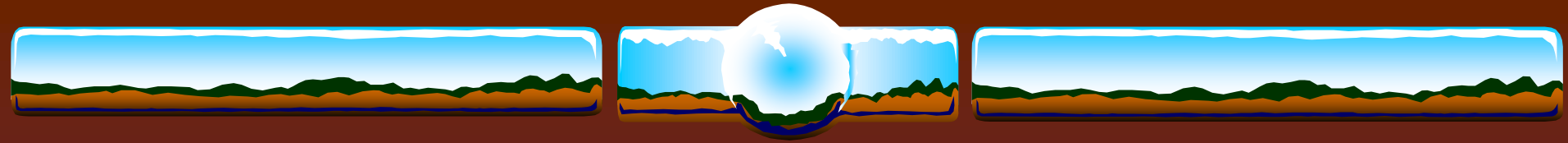
Why I majored in Biochem

- ❖ Biology was my favorite subject BUT I didn't like the way it was taught, so I went into biochemistry instead.
- ❖ The 1st year Biology class:
 - ❖ It was impossible to figure out what was important
 - ❖ The profs were disrespectful
 - ❖ The labs were awful
 - ❖ The class was huge

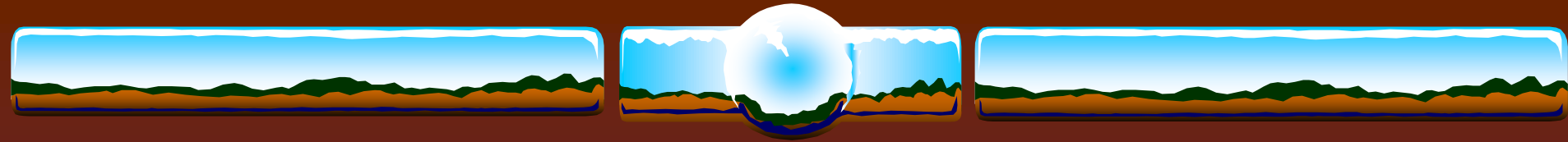


Neurochemistry

- ❖ Studying the chemistry of the brain
- ❖ Late 1960's Hippie era - 'tripping out' on drugs (LSD, marijuana)
- ❖ What makes our brain work? Or not work?



Convocation, 1981, PhD, Biol Psychiatry, U of S



**As the daughter of an IRS survivor, I inherited
the shame of being an Indian.
(this shame is reinforced by mainstream racism)**

Until 1981, I pretended that I was only Chinese.

I was ashamed to admit that I was an Indian!



The beginning: 36 yr old Dr. Dyck came out as an
Indian



Struggles

- ❖ Being told that “I’ve got it made” as a woman and a VM and later as an Aboriginal!
- ❖ When the opposite was my experience!
- ❖ Outright sexism

A decorative header at the top of the slide. It consists of three rounded rectangular panels. The left and right panels show a landscape with green hills and brown ground under a blue sky. The middle panel features a white globe with blue continents, centered between two smaller versions of the landscape panels.

The message from my dream:

Napekaso kasispowata

Who I am is fine



A decorative header at the top of the slide. It features a central white globe with a blue and white pattern, set against a background of a stylized landscape with green hills and brown ground. The globe is flanked by two identical rectangular panels, each containing the same stylized landscape. The entire header is set against a dark red background.

Dressing up as a Chinese princess
at the Summer Palace, Beijing, China

Good things began to happen! NAAF award 1999





**YWCA Woman of Distinction,
Science & Technology Award, 2003**





How did my Aboriginal ID affect my work as a scientist?

- ❖ Mostly it did not – at the time, it could not because of the culture of science. Most of my work was on neurochemical transmission, antidepressants and antipsychotics.
- ❖
- ❖ However, I did publish a couple of papers to debunk the popular myth that Indians are more susceptible to the effects of alcohol.



I did think about how my Aboriginal ID could have affected my science

- ❖ In 1996, my paper, *An Analysis of Western, Feminist and Aboriginal science using the Medicine Wheel of the Plains Indians*, was published.

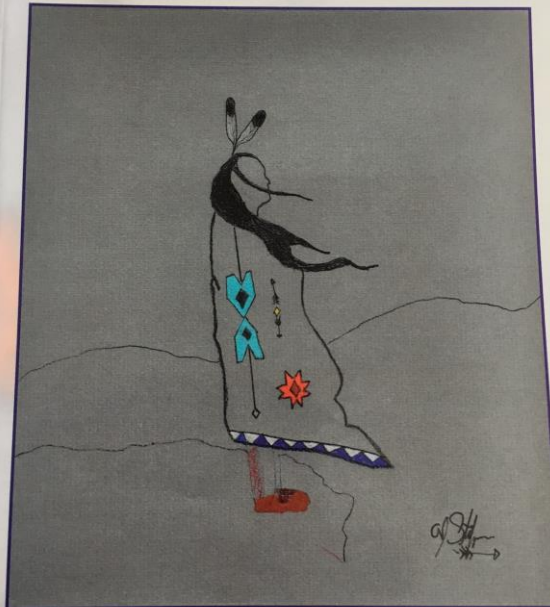
The Medicine Wheel and Western Science

NATIVE STUDIES REVIEW



VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2 1996

Aboriginal Pedagogy



Edited by

Lenore A. Stiffarm

AS211
The Medicine Wheel and Western Science
(Lillian E. Dyck)

EN
Education Network

www.a
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Annual Meeting

February 16-20, 2012 • Vancouver, BC

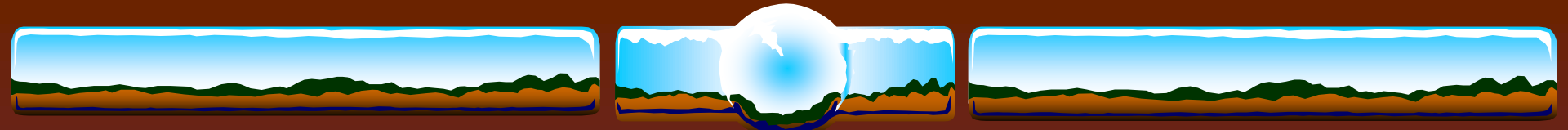
AAAS

ADVANCING SCIENCE. SERVING SOCIETY



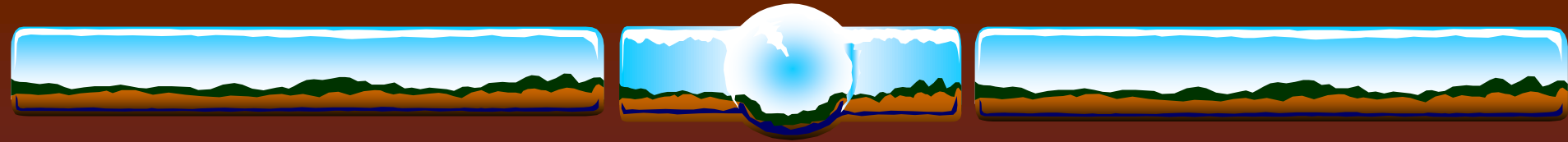
Now is an opportune time for Indigenous scientists

- ❖ After the TRC report, mainstream universities are seeing the value of Indigenous knowledge.
- ❖ Imagine the possibilities! Traditional medicines, environmental protection,

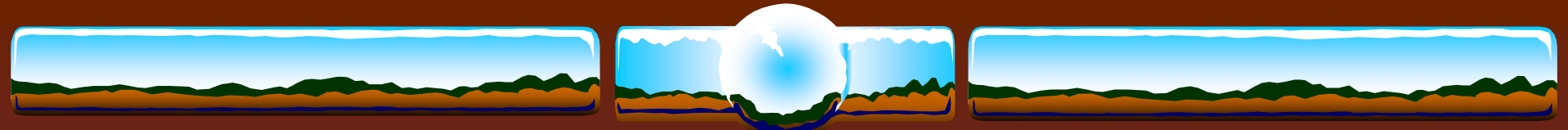
The header consists of three horizontal panels. The left and right panels show a landscape with green hills and a blue sky. The middle panel features a white globe with blue oceans and green continents, centered between the two landscape panels.

The Value addedness of Indigenous scientists

- ❖ Indigenous scientists would ask Q's from a different perspective than mainstream scientists.
- ❖ This enriches scientific inquiry – asking Q's and seeking the A's is the fundamental aspect of the scientific method.



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Recent example: oil spill into the N.
Saskatchewan river

- ❖ An Aboriginal engineer-company might not build a pipeline near a river or might have built the pipeline differently
 - ❖ More reinforced near water
 - ❖ More warning systems
 - ❖ Quicker response procedures
 - ❖ More attention to clean-up, containment

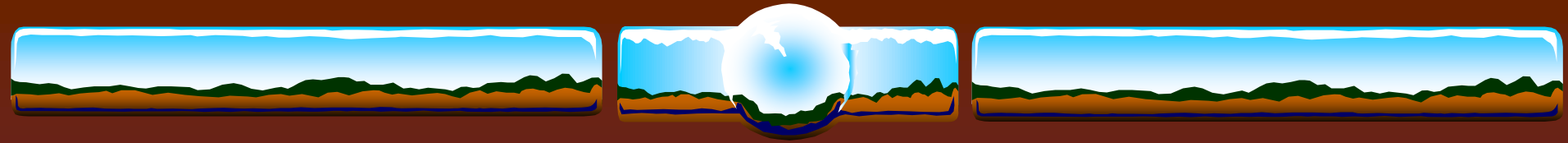
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**The phone call
from
Prime Minister Paul Martin.**



Being sworn in as a Senator, April 2005

Speaker Hays, me, Clerk Belisle



Being honored with an Eagle Feather,
U of S, June 2005

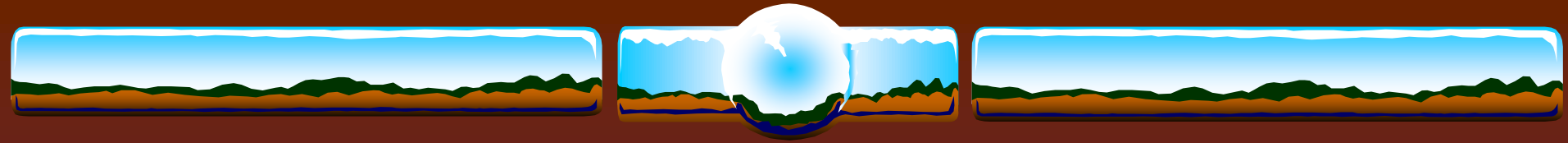
A decorative header consisting of three rectangular panels with rounded corners, each showing a landscape with green hills and brown ground under a blue sky. A white globe is positioned in the center, overlapping the middle panel.

WOW!! My new office in Ottawa

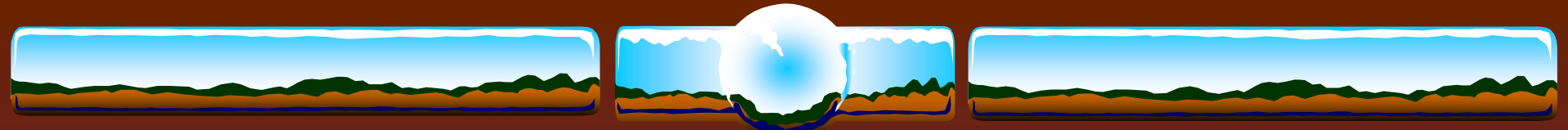


My top two priorities as a senator

- ❖ Missing and murdered Aboriginal women & girls
- ❖ Post-secondary Aboriginal Education equity



Speaking at an INM protest, Jan 2013

The header consists of three horizontal panels. The left and right panels show a landscape with green hills, brown earth, and a blue sky. The middle panel features a white globe with blue oceans and white clouds, centered over the landscape.

My bill S-215: amending the CC to strengthen
sentencing when the victim of violence is an
Aboriginal female



The creator has given each of us unique gifts.

*Like being good at science
or being good at sports.*

What are your special gifts?

Honor them

