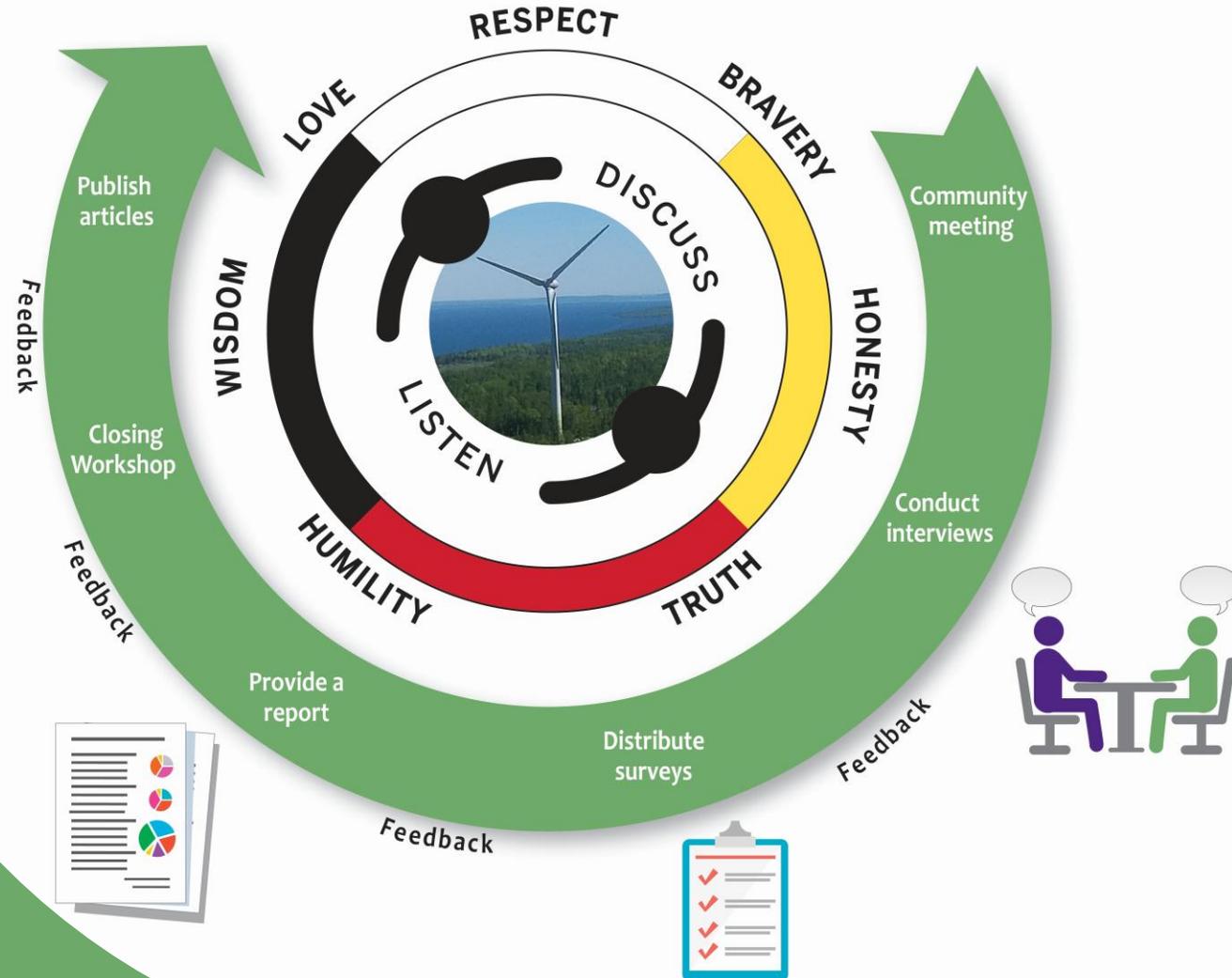




WIND ENERGY STUDY PARTNERSHIP

M'Chigeeng First Nations and Western University



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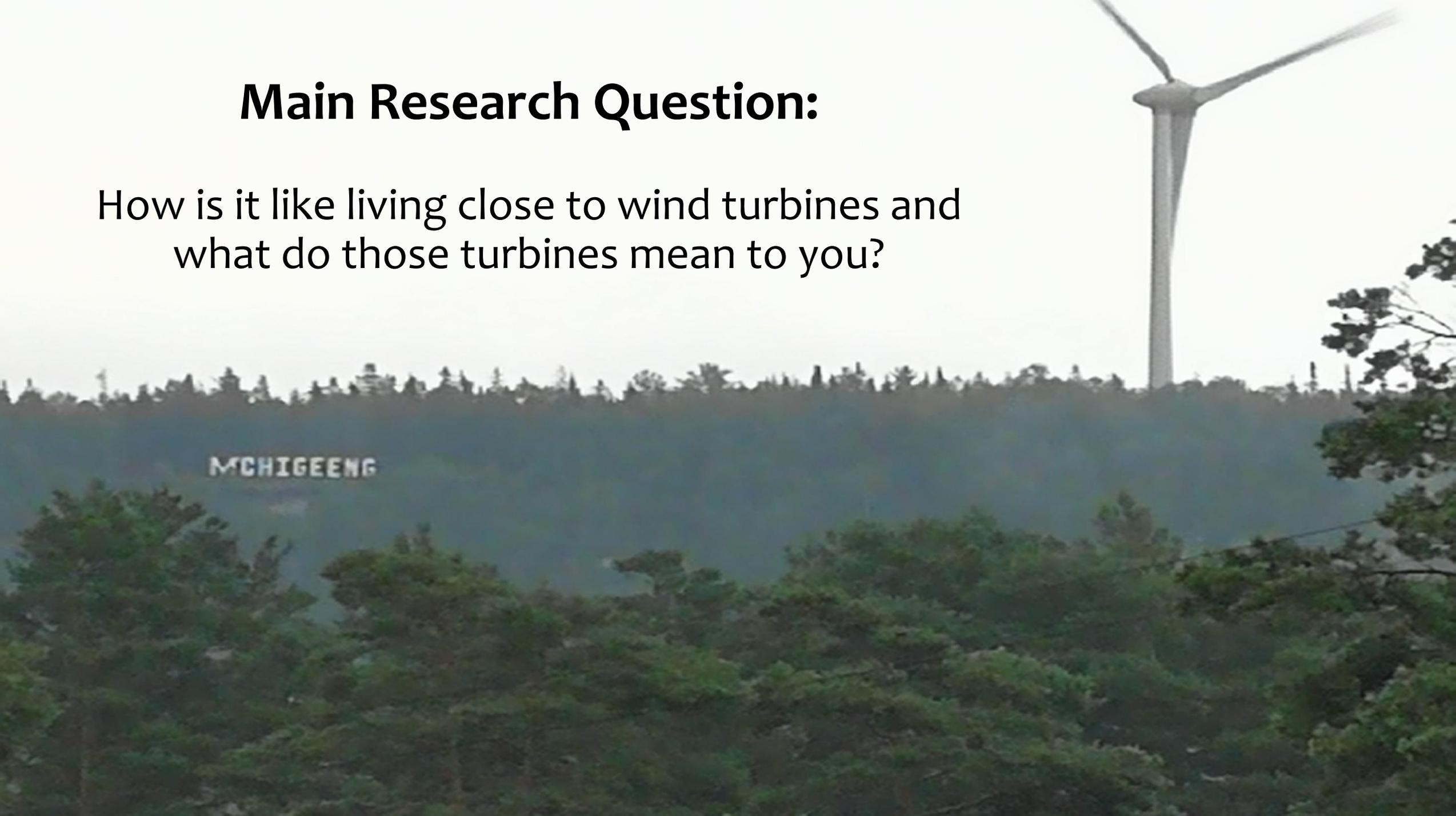


The purpose of this document is to provide preliminary findings on the wind energy study that you kindly participated in. At the end of the document, we ask for your feedback about whether our interpretation of the interviews reflect your perceptions on the wind turbines.

We are very grateful for your participation. **Chi miigwech**

Main Research Question:

How is it like living close to wind turbines and what do those turbines mean to you?



BACKGROUND

Participants

32 INTERVIEWS

between August and October 2019
with M'Chigeeng residents,
including:

BAND MEMBERS

2 couples

15 female

11 male

RESIDENTS NON-MEMBERS

1 female

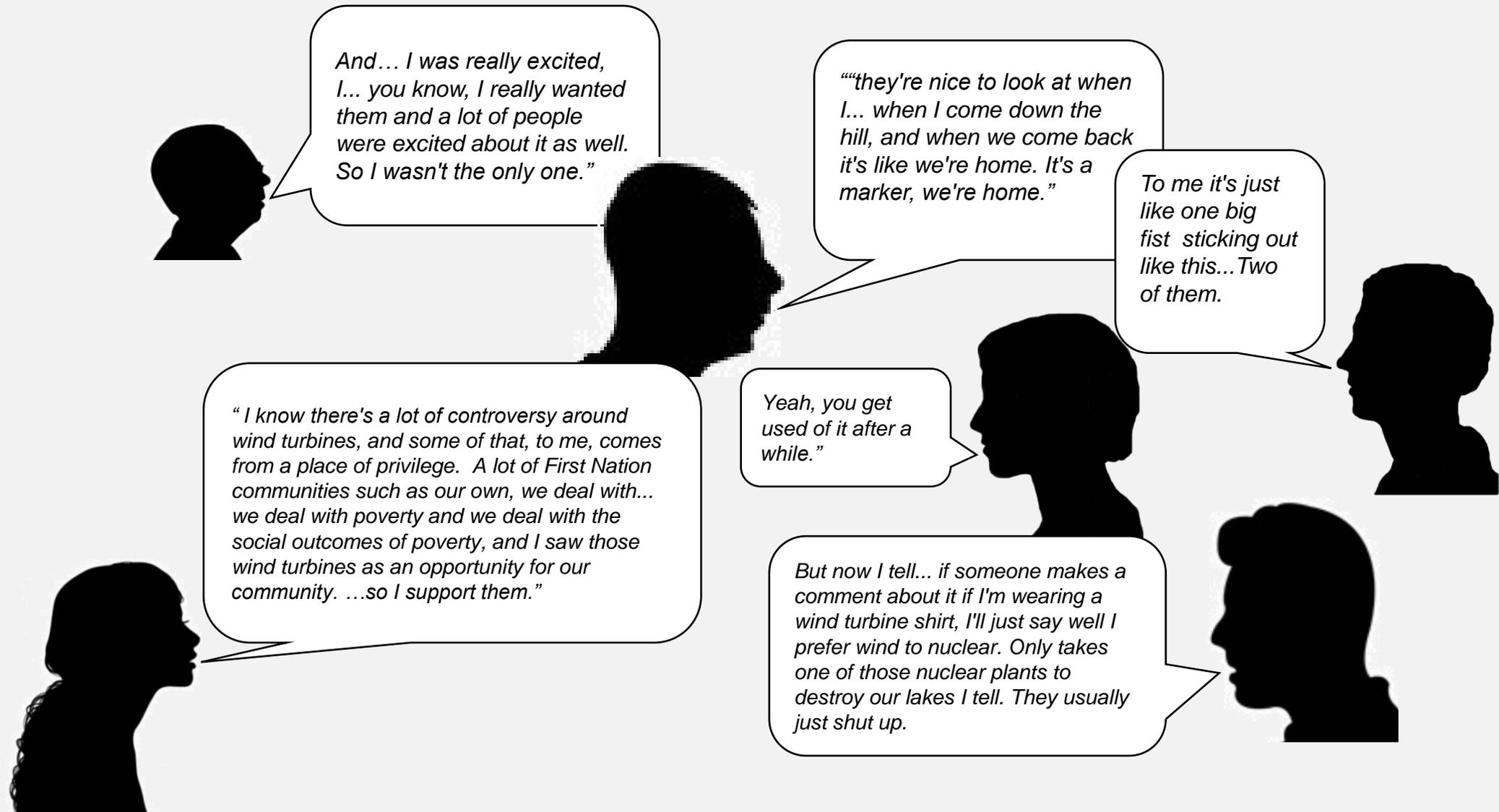
3 male

Summary of findings

The people Carelle spoke with did not seem very **opposed** to the wind turbines. While there are several themes in the interviews the focus here is on **four core themes** from the interview conversations:

1. In general, these community members **accept** the turbines, with some rather supportive and others simply willing to live with them.
2. A core issue is project-related **communication** both before the installation of the turbines and since they started operating.
3. The **ownership** of the turbines is an element that generally binds the community around the turbines, it is a reason for pride.
4. Turbine ownership for M'Chigeeng First Nation must be understood in the context of the **relationship** between Indigenous nations and settler institutions, legacy of **colonization**.

THEME 1 - Acceptance: in general, these community members accept the turbines, with some rather supportive and others simply willing to live with them.



THEME 2 - Communication: these residents would like open and culturally-appropriate communication about the wind project; some residents recall that, while information was available before the installation of the turbines, it was not always straightforward and effective for the community.

BEFORE



Some meetings took place but I never attended for lack of interest. I keep to myself... The information about the WT did not match cultural communication codes, which are oral and hands-on . It did not build trust

I think a lot of people in our community thought they're going to go up and we're going to start receiving dividend cheques, and that's not how.. it wasn't presented that way, I think a lot of people were just bringing that... that belief, or maybe that hope that that's how it was going to look.



In retrospect I think we needed to put all of our playing cards out in the open for everybody to ensure that we didn't get into the political posturing "I'm going to give you free hydro." We could have avoided that



NOW



"I don't see any positive impacts, unless someone explains to me The responsibility for communication falls on the promoters of the MERE project who put it there."

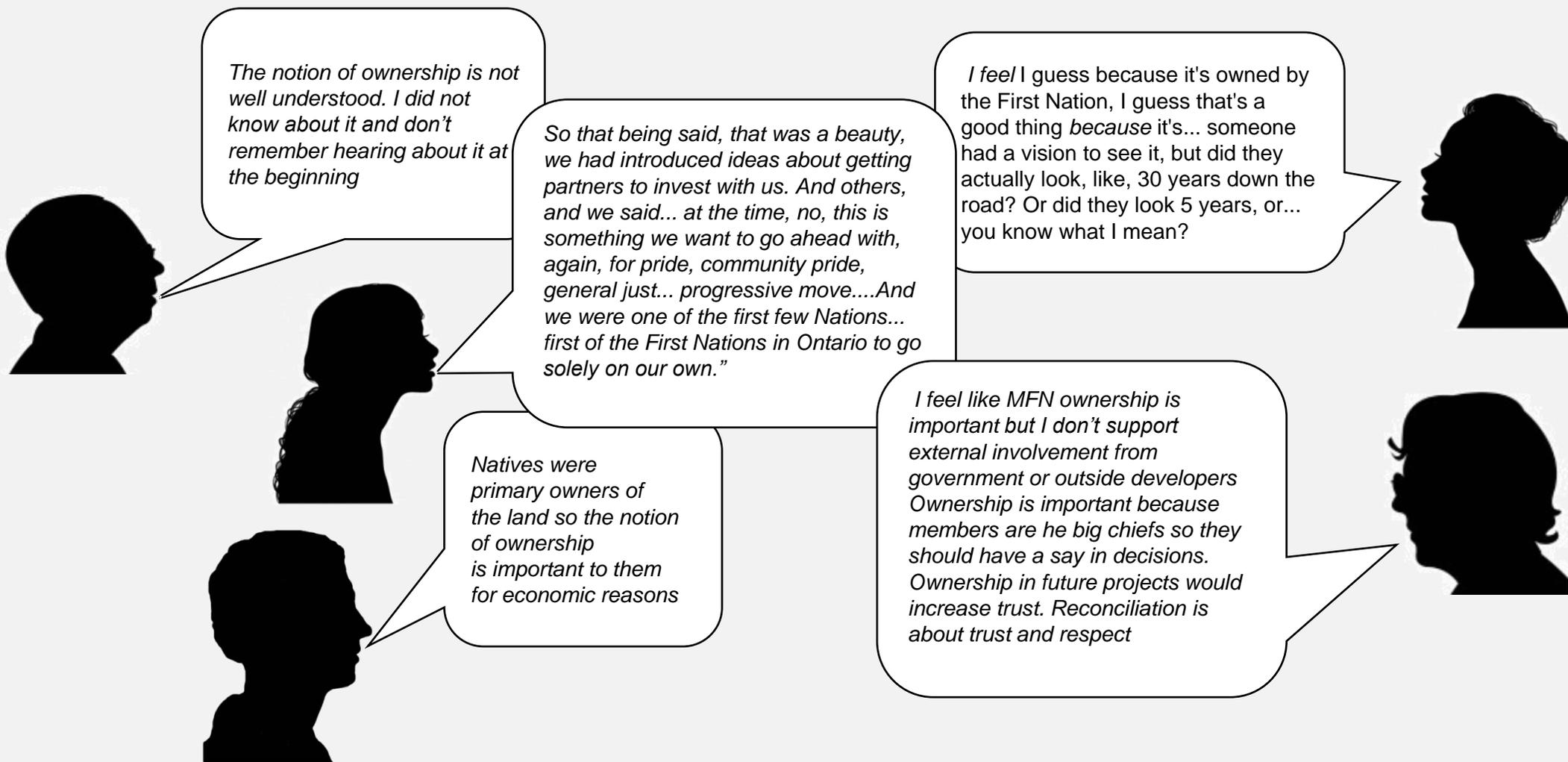
"they should have an open book policy, or, like, a transparent book... keeping documenting all the wattages and equivalent to money going out and coming in, and what it's bringing in, you know?"



The Band, they don't tell people nothing, eh? Don't tell people anything at all. Maybe that's another reason why people don't... not interested.... They don't let nobody know anything you know? It's like maybe just to their closest immediate family.



THEME 3 – Pride of Ownership: The ownership of the turbines is an element that generally binds the community around the turbines, it is a reason for pride.



THEME 4 – Relationships with non-Indigenous people: Economic development for M'Chigeeng First Nation must be understood considering the colonial legacy, with First Nations, deprived from their socio-economic independence, striving to assert their autonomy.

