



WHY **PROGRESS** REQUIRES **FRIENDSHIP**

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ABOUT

- Jessica Webber (they/she)
- Third-year undergraduate student at Saint Mary's University, Kjipuktuk (Halifax), Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia).
- 2SLGBTQIA+ person of Acadien / Irish descent.
- With a passion for storytelling and preservation, their goal is to combine a past in server database management and graphic design, to foster authentic narratives, one relationship at a time.

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- **I like thinking**
(Framing the discussions)
- **But I don't like struggling**
(What I was doing)
- **So I stopped asking questions**
(What I found out)
- **And we should reconsider what we are asking**
(Why these insights matter)
- **So we can rebuild that friendship**
(Why you should care)

I LIKE THINKING

(FRAMING THE DISCUSSIONS)

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(FRAMING THE DISCUSSIONS)

“If you pay attention, people are only talking about reconciliation. Truth is not there.”

- Pamela Glode-Desrochers

I LIKE THINKING

(FRAMING THE DISCUSSIONS)

Meditative Question:

**If someone you trusted repeatedly hurt you,
how quickly would you entertain their apology?**

BUT I DON'T LIKE STRUGGLING

(WHAT I WAS DOING)

BUT I DON'T LIKE STRUGGLING

(WHAT I WAS DOING)

- Research analyzing archival collections

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(WHAT I WAS DOING)

- Research analyzing archival collections
- Personal research on a local site of interest

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- Research analyzing archival collections
 - Collections analysis extrapolated from tens of thousands of surveyed objects that approximately ten percent of objects had any connection to an Indigenous community
- Personal research on a local site of interest

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 - Collections analysis extrapolated from tens of thousands of surveyed objects that approximately ten percent of objects had any connection to an Indigenous community
- Personal research on a local site of interest
 - Majority of data was found to be held behind paywalls or in offline collections requiring in-person permissions to view
 - Very few community members held knowledge or insights

SO I STOPPED ASKING QUESTIONS

(WHAT I FOUND OUT)

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(WHAT I FOUND OUT)

Think back to the earlier meditative prompt...

SO I STOPPED ASKING QUESTIONS

(WHAT I FOUND OUT)

We are (mostly)
doing this wrong.

SO I STOPPED ASKING QUESTIONS

(WHAT I FOUND OUT)

- Less questions, more solid outcomes.

SO I STOPPED ASKING QUESTIONS

(WHAT I FOUND OUT)

- Less questions, more solid outcomes.
- Peace and Reconciliation.

SO I STOPPED ASKING QUESTIONS

(WHAT I FOUND OUT)

- Less questions, more solid outcomes.
- Peace and **Friendship**; Truth and **Reconciliation**.

**AND WE SHOULD RECONSIDER WHAT WE
ARE ASKING**
(WHY THESE INSIGHTS MATTER)

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AND WE SHOULD RECONSIDER WHAT WE ARE ASKING

(WHY THESE INSIGHTS MATTER)

- Once I stopped engaging with an agenda, both information and doors opened.
- Communities want engagement, and they also want respect.
- Communities want friendship, and they also want time.

SO WE CAN REBUILD THAT FRIENDSHIP
(WHY YOU SHOULD CARE)

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(WHY YOU SHOULD CARE)

- We, as allies, are inherently committed to the Treaties of Peace and Friendship.

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- We, as allies, are inherently committed to the Treaties of Peace and Friendship.
- The word friendship means exactly what you think it means.

SO WE CAN REBUILD THAT FRIENDSHIP

(WHY YOU SHOULD CARE)

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- Friendships grow over time.

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(WHY YOU SHOULD CARE)

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- Friendships grow over time.
- Damaged friendships take intention and time to repair.

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- New friendships do not start with a bombardment of questions.

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(WHY YOU SHOULD CARE)

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- The word friendship means exactly what you think it means.
- Friendships grow over time.
- Damaged friendships take intention and time to repair.
- New friendships do not start with a bombardment of deeply personal questions.
- Some friendships may be irreparably damaged – and still require effort to foster trust.

SO WE CAN REBUILD THAT FRIENDSHIP

(WHY YOU SHOULD CARE)

When I began my research, I was met with silence and inaccessible pages.

Currently, I am developing deeper community friendships so that I am no longer researching a topic of my own interest but providing my services to the community on projects that interest them.

I no longer research based on what I am interested in, and we should no longer maintain our collections the way we think they should be maintained.

SO WE CAN REBUILD THAT FRIENDSHIP

(WHY YOU SHOULD CARE)

The communities know what they want from us.

The communities know what they need from us.

The communities have repeatedly told us what we need to do next.

Are you engaging with your community as a friend, or as a librarian?



THANK YOU.

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