

**Telling my story:  
from Neuroscience research  
to the Senate of Canada**

**Lillian Eva [Quan] Dyck, PhD**

**Senator**

**and Professor emerita**

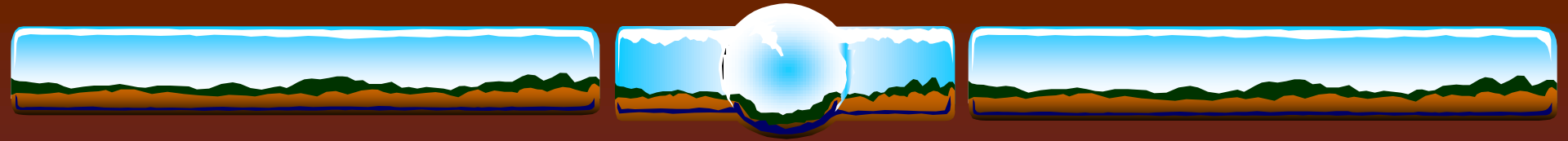
**University of Saskatchewan**

**MFNERC, Sci Fair, Winnipeg March 2014**

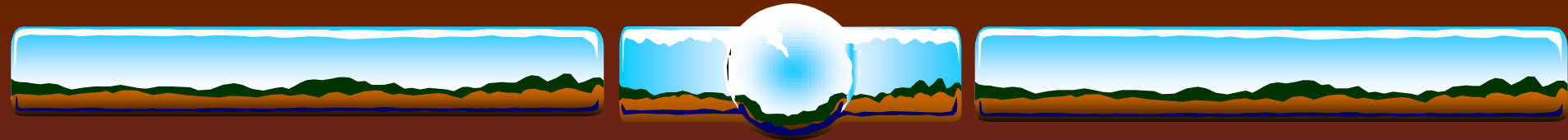
A decorative header at the top of the slide. It features a central white globe with a blue and green landscape below it. The globe is flanked by two rectangular panels, each containing a blue sky and a green and brown landscape. The entire header is set against a dark red background.

# My family of origin

(Please note: Photographs removed from all sides)

A decorative header at the top of the slide features a central globe with a blue and white color scheme. The globe is flanked by two rectangular panels, each containing a stylized landscape with green hills, brown ground, and a blue sky. 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**

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 oceans and green continents, set against a similar landscape background.

# 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.

# Dad's Tombstone in Swift Current



風  
灣  
鄉  
西  
盛  
里

關 勳 紹

廣  
東  
省  
閩  
平  
縣

YOCK CHUN QUAN  
1893 — 1962



S.C.C.I.

Swift Current Collegiate Institute





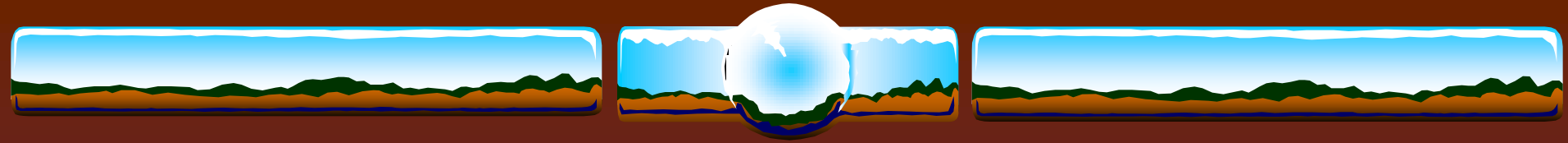
# My high school teachers were excellent

- ❖ I got a solid foundation in a wide range of subjects
- ❖ I was actively encouraged to go to University
- ❖ Scholarships

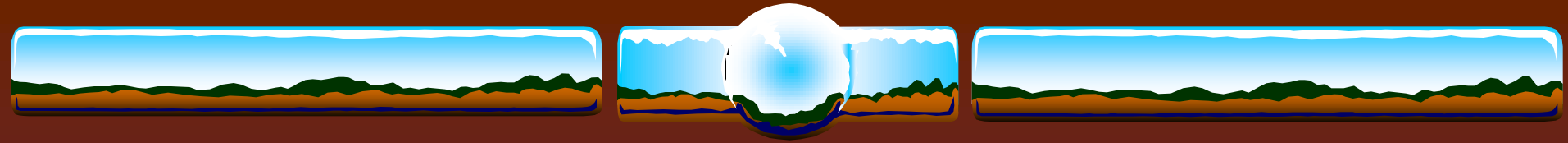


# Grade 12 Graduation, S.C.C.I., 1963

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



# My chemistry teacher

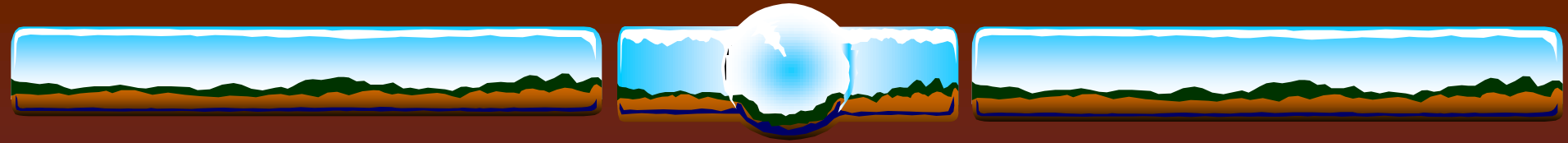


Convocation, 1966, B.A., Chemistry



# Why I studied neurochemistry

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



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

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# I was ashamed of who I was

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





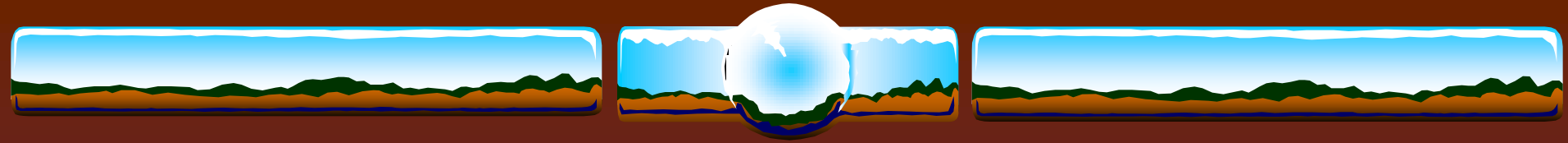
# Struggles

- ❖ 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!

A decorative header at the top of the slide. It features a central white globe with a blue and green landscape (mountains and water) reflected on its surface. This globe is flanked by two identical rectangular panels, each containing a stylized landscape with green hills, brown ground, and a blue sky.

The message from my dream:

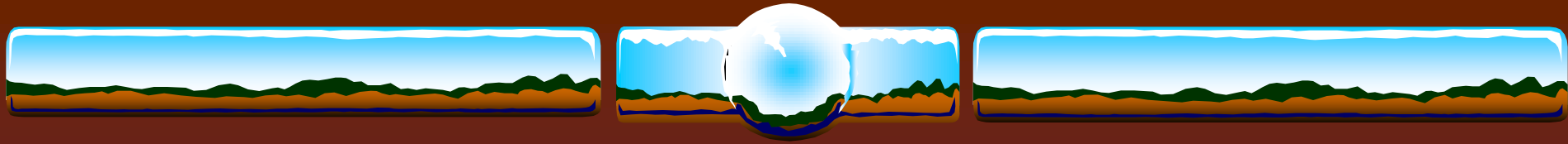
Napekaso kasispowata



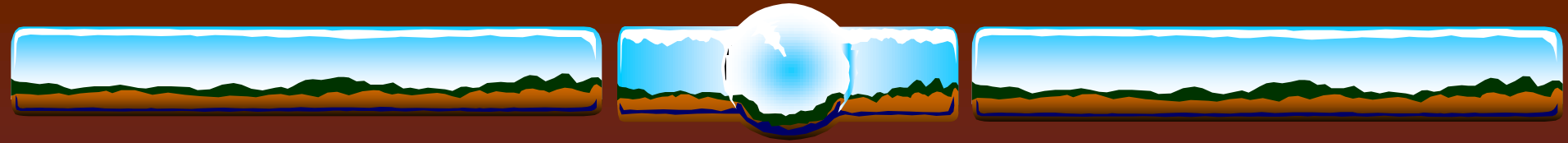
Who I am is fine

A decorative header at the top of the slide. It features a central white globe with a blue shadow, set against a background of a stylized landscape with green hills and brown ground. The entire header is framed by a blue border with rounded corners.

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**



# What is Aboriginal Science?

- ❖ A1. Traditional or Ancestral Knowledge of astronomy, agriculture, medicine – past knowledge
- ❖ A2. Traditional or Ancestral ways of Knowing
  - ❖ The process of gaining knowledge
  - ❖ Observational skills (listening)
  - ❖ Oral tradition
  - ❖ Elders
  - ❖ Holistic world view



# Holistic world view

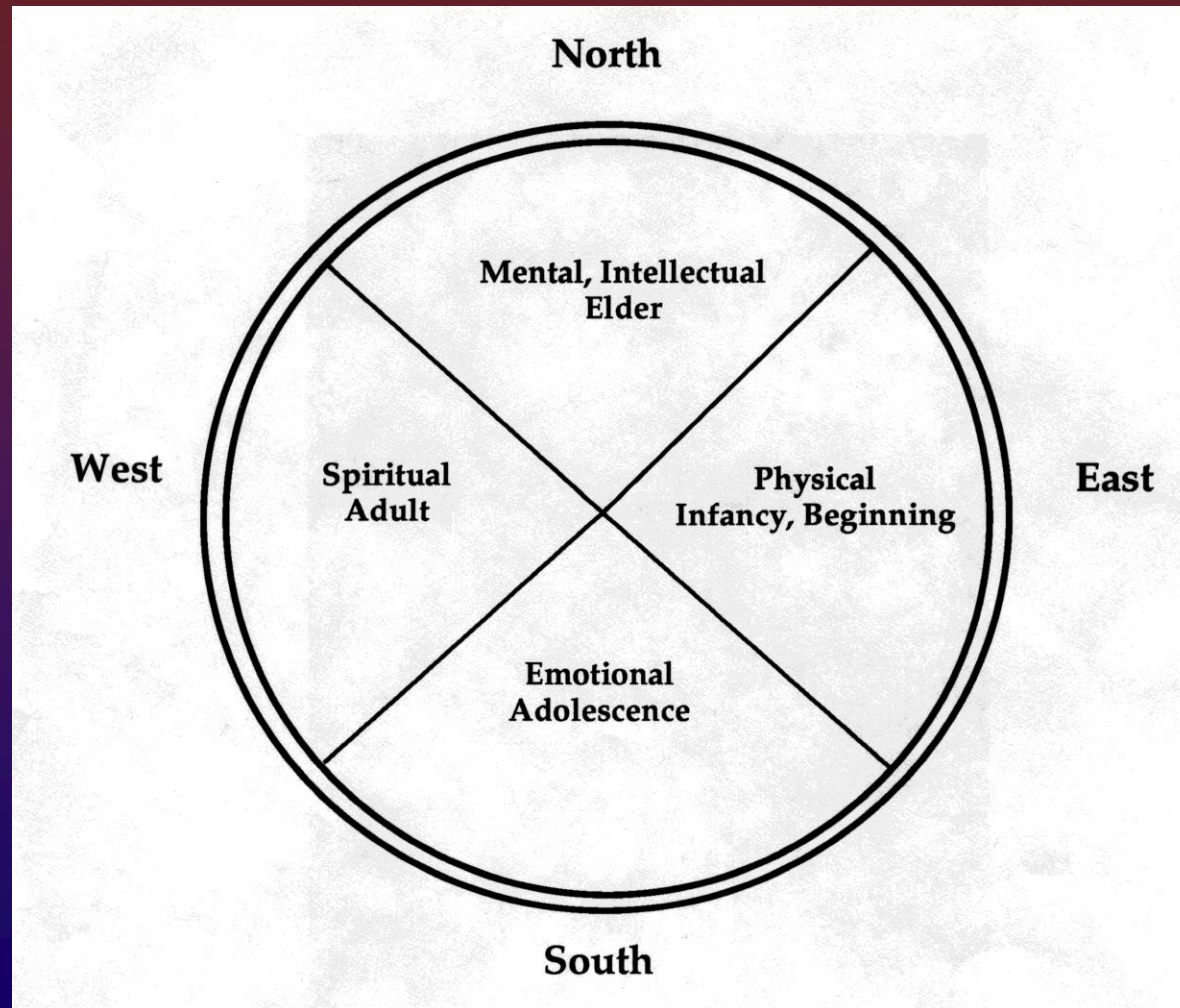
❖ Chief Seattle, 1854:

“All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”



adapted from:

**Dyck LE , Native Studies Review 11: 89-102 (1996)**



A decorative header at the top of the slide. It features a central white globe with a blue and green landscape (mountains and water) visible through it. The globe is flanked by two identical rectangular panels, each containing a blue sky and a green landscape with brown ground. The entire header is set against a dark red background.

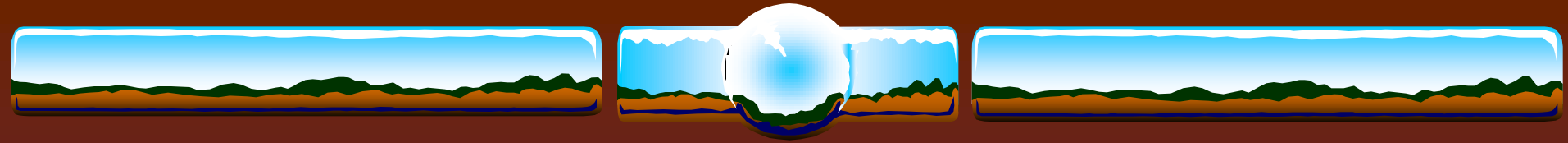
**The phone call  
from  
Prime Minister Paul Martin.**



# Being sworn in as a Senator, April 2005

Speaker Hays, me, Clerk Belisle

Nathan, me, Winston



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

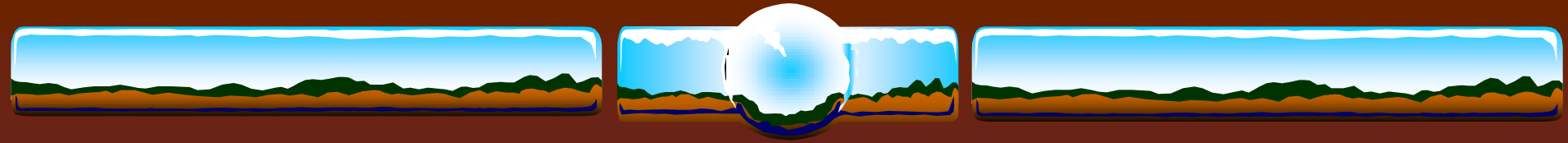
A decorative header at the top of the slide. It features a central white globe with a blue shadow, set against a background of a stylized landscape with green hills and brown ground. The globe is flanked by two identical rectangular panels, each containing the same stylized landscape. The entire header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

WOW!! My new office in Ottawa



# My priorities as a senator

- ❖ Aboriginal and Chinese Canadian issues
  - ❖ Egs: MMAW, Head tax
- ❖ Education equity – WIS, Aboriginal



Speaking at an INM protest, Jan 2013



*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*