

The Otter Narrated by: Joan Tenasco, Anishinabe (Algonquin) Kitigan Zibi, Quebec

These are the words that were given by a knowledge keeper who has since passed on. Written by: Rene Tenasco Ashkàbewis. Council member, 1993, Kitigàn Zìbì Anishinàbeg.

The Otter It is said when the Great Spirit created the earth, he called a meeting with all the spirits. The Great Spirit discussed his intention to put human beings on the earth and they would play an important role in his creation. He asked the spirits how they wanted to help the people. Each spirit came forward and counselled with the Great Spirit on the ways they could and would help the people. Among these was the guardian spirit of the Otter. He went before the Great Spirit and said, "Because of my character and nature, I will help the people to work together in your creation. When they want to live in harmony with themselves and your creation, I will educate and instruct the people in teachings to protect their family and group. When they need me I will show the people the direction to unity. I will serve this purpose." The Great Spirit approved of the Otter's request and chose the Otter to be the guardian of unity for the Anishinàbeg.