

## **Project Reflection**

**David Gill**

The goal of this project was to create a meal that was entirely outside of business associations as discussed in this course. I began thinking that I would make a meal that contained nothing from a corporation, but that seemed unsatisfying, and I soon realized that what really bothered me was the mediating effect of money on human relationships, particularly when it came to food. I had just finished the Kawaskimon Moot, and I was struck by the Mi'kmaq legal concept of *netikulimk* – ‘avoiding not having enough’, or sustainability. The concept encompassed not only sustainable harvest practices, but sustainable relationships and communities. I realized that the Mi'kmaq concept of land law was not private law; in fact, it was constitutional law. It was fundamentally tied up in what it meant to have families, relationships and societies. *Netikulimk* was the opposite of a limited liability corporation. It was a legal form in which responsibility is paramount, and where everyone has to think of the effects, both direct and indirect, that their lives have on other people, plants, animals and the land. I realized that this concept was a radical extension of the principles of community economics and responsible consumerism in *Take Back the Economy*. I wanted to embody this in my project, and I did so by creating a meal that required me to connect with the source of each ingredient beyond its status as a commodity. I decided to write a poem to express my relationship to the most important ingredients.

I feel like the project was a success. I know this meal more intimately than any I have made before. It cost me no money, but it was hard work, both physical, intellectual and emotional, to make the connections necessary to gather the pieces. The final product feels like an extension of myself, rather than an object that I acquired and manipulated, and I had no choice to face up to the impacts of gathering each of the elements from my environment. The experience was one of absolute liability, and thus a welcome inversion of the philosophy of business.