I will share my personal journey into academia as an Anishinaabe scholar, and my commitment to, and motivations for, being here. Over a twenty-five year period, I have found a place of strength and belonging in Indigenous geography. But the journey is not been without challenges. Knowing how to navigate this place and to maintain my own wellness has meant navigating a careful balance between community needs and responsibilities (on various scales) and my own scholarship. I will use this space to talk about some of the strategies I have learned along the way, and of the important life lessons I continue to accumulate in this journey.