



NWT CONSERVATION NETWORK GATHERING February 26 – 27, 2020

**RASSEMBLEMENT DU RÉSEAU DE CONSERVATION
DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST** Les 26 et 27 février 2020

Gathering Report | Rapport sur rassemblement



Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Le présent document contient la traduction française de l'introduction du rapport.

Table Contents

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 1 | Introduction | 2 |
| 1 | Introduction en français | 3 |
| 2 | Format of the Gathering | 4 |
| 2.1 | Agenda and Location..... | 4 |
| 2.2 | Gathering Participants and Speakers..... | 4 |
| 2.3 | Networking and Entertainment | 5 |
| 2.4 | Recording/Documentation of the Gathering..... | 6 |
| 2.5 | Participant Questions and Feedback | 6 |
| 3 | Summary of Presentations and Discussions at the Gathering..... | 6 |
| 3.1 | Introductory Session | 6 |
| 3.2 | Indigenous-led Approaches to Protected Area Management and Monitoring..... | 9 |
| 3.3 | Sustaining Indigenous-led Stewardship | 12 |
| 3.4 | Innovations in Research | 15 |
| 3.5 | Graphic Recording Summary of the Gathering..... | 18 |
| 4 | Gathering Highlights and Participant Feedback..... | 20 |
| 4.1 | Overall Experience of Participants..... | 20 |
| 4.2 | Participant Feedback on Topics Discussed at the Gathering | 20 |
| 4.3 | Participant Feedback on the Format of the Gathering | 22 |
| 4.4 | Participant Feedback on the Event Location, Entertainment and Facilitation | 23 |
| 5 | Next Steps | 24 |
| | APPENDIX A: Gathering Agenda..... | 25 |

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) published a document entitled *Healthy Land, Healthy People – Priorities for the Advancement of Conservation Network Planning – 2016-2021*¹. Progress on the priorities outlined in *Healthy Land, Healthy People* since 2016 include the completion of the *NWT Protected Areas Act*, the establishment of three protected areas in the Northwest Territories (NWT), and much work on other candidate conservation or protected areas across the territory. This progress was achieved through the combined efforts of the GNWT, Indigenous governments and organizations as well as other partners in conservation planning.

On February 26-27, 2020, the GNWT's Conservation Planning and Implementation Unit (CPIU) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) hosted the NWT Conservation Network Gathering (the Gathering) in Yellowknife. The Gathering brought NWT partners in conservation planning together with people and organizations from across Canada that have experience with Indigenous-led conservation planning. The objectives of the Gathering were to:

- build partnerships and foster collaboration among new protected area managers, guardian programs, academia, government support staff and funders;
- provide a consistent knowledge base for participants on the themes of conservation financing and management planning; and,
- ensure meaningful participation and exchange of information and build knowledge and partnerships to strengthen the conservation network.

In addition, organizers hoped to ensure equitability in participants and presenters (e.g., gender and region) as well as empower youth to aspire to leadership and careers in conservation. The Gathering was undertaken with financial support from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Funds.

This report provides an overview of the Gathering, summarizes participant feedback on the event, and provides recommendations for the organizers of subsequent Gatherings.

Definitions from *Healthy Land, Healthy People*:

Conservation areas: Conservation areas protect various natural and cultural values, and contribute to the conservation network by providing complementary, but less restrictive protection than protected areas.

Conservation Network: A conservation network includes protected areas and conservation areas at various scales that collectively contribute more effectively to maintaining the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity, and contributing to ecological, economic and social stability than individual sites could alone.

Partners: Responsibility for the management of NWT land is shared among a number of parties – Aboriginal governments, federal and territorial governments, NWT communities, resource management and land use planning boards, private landowners, and regional non-governmental industry and environmental organizations. Roles and responsibilities are defined and guided by legislation and agreements

Protected areas: Protected areas are the backbone or core of a conservation network as they are ecologically intact and have the highest level of protection, including prohibitions on industrial development. Protected areas are permanent, resilient and are effectively managed and monitored.

¹ Environment and Natural Resources, 2016. [Healthy Land, Healthy People: Government of the Northwest Territories Priorities for Advancement of Conservation Network Planning 2016-2021](#). 2016. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, NT. 20pp

1 INTRODUCTION

En 2016, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) a publié un document intitulé *Territoire en santé, population en santé : Priorités du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour la planification du réseau de conservation de 2016 à 2021*. Depuis 2016, les progrès réalisés en lien avec les priorités décrites dans ce document comprennent l'achèvement de la *Loi sur les aires protégées* (TNO), la mise en place de trois aires protégées aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) et beaucoup de travail sur d'autres aires de conservation ou aires protégées potentielles dans l'ensemble des TNO. Ces progrès ont été réalisés grâce aux efforts conjoints du GTNO, des gouvernements et des organisations autochtones et d'autres partenaires de la planification de la conservation.

Les 26 et 27 février 2020, la section de la planification et de la mise en œuvre de la conservation du ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources naturelles (MERN) a accueilli le Rassemblement du réseau de conservation des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (le Rassemblement) à Yellowknife. Le Rassemblement a permis de réunir les partenaires de la conservation des TNO et des gens et des organisations de partout au Canada qui connaissent bien les efforts de planification dirigés par les Autochtones. Les objectifs du Rassemblement étaient les suivants :

- Développer des partenariats et favoriser la collaboration entre les gestionnaires des aires protégées, les responsables des programmes de gardiens, les chercheurs, les intervenants gouvernementaux et les bailleurs de fonds;
- Offrir une base de connaissances cohérente aux participants sur les thèmes du financement de la conservation et de la planification de la gestion;
- Assurer la participation et l'échange d'information, et développer le savoir et les partenariats pour renforcer le réseau de conservation.

De plus, les organisateurs souhaitaient avoir la parité chez les participants et les présentateurs (p. ex. genre et région), en plus d'inspirer aux jeunes le goût d'entreprendre une carrière dans le domaine de la conservation et de devenir des leaders. Le Rassemblement a été organisé avec le soutien financier du Fonds de la nature d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada.

Ce rapport donne un aperçu du Rassemblement, résume les commentaires des participants sur l'événement et formule des recommandations pour les prochains rassemblements.

2 FORMAT OF THE GATHERING

2.1 Agenda and Location

The Gathering was held in Yellowknife at the Explorer Hotel. Presentations to the plenary were held in Katamavik B as either individual presentations or in a panel format. In the case of the panels, moderators were appointed to guide presentations and questions. There were no break-out groups; all presentations and discussions were done in plenary.

Meeting objectives and topics were set by a working group made of up representatives from various organizations, the GNWT and Indigenous governments (see text box). The committee met several times by teleconference to discuss ideas for agenda items, speakers and general content. The final agenda, which can be found in Appendix A, was made up of four sessions:

1. Introductory Session
2. Indigenous-led Approaches to Protected Area Management and Monitoring
3. Sustaining Indigenous-led Stewardship
4. Innovations in Research

Acknowledgement of the Gathering's planning partners:

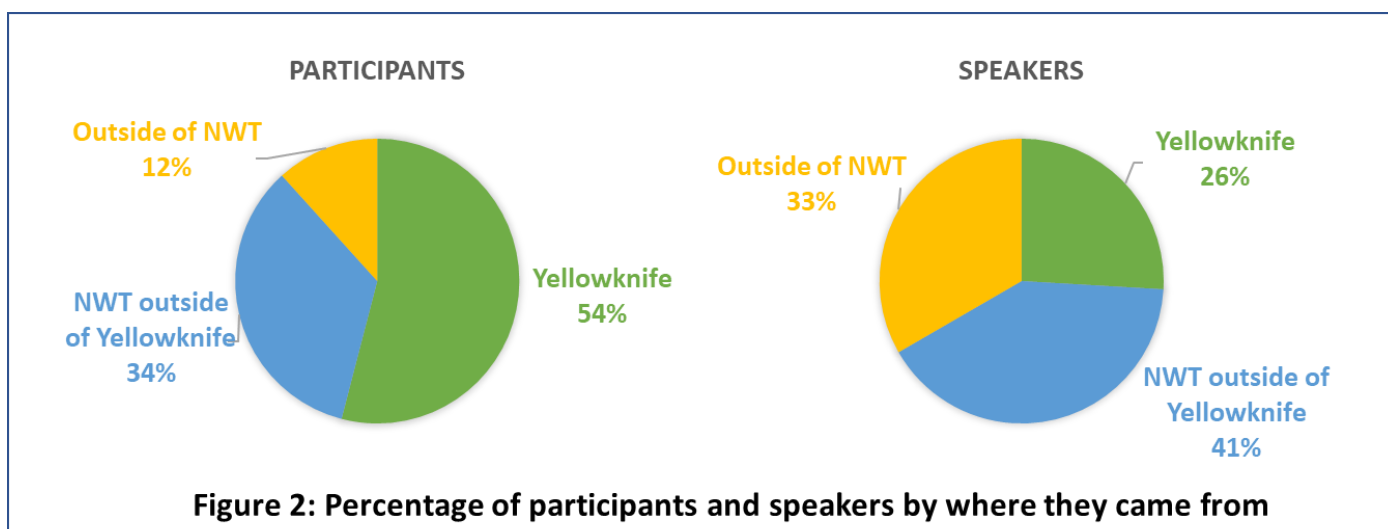
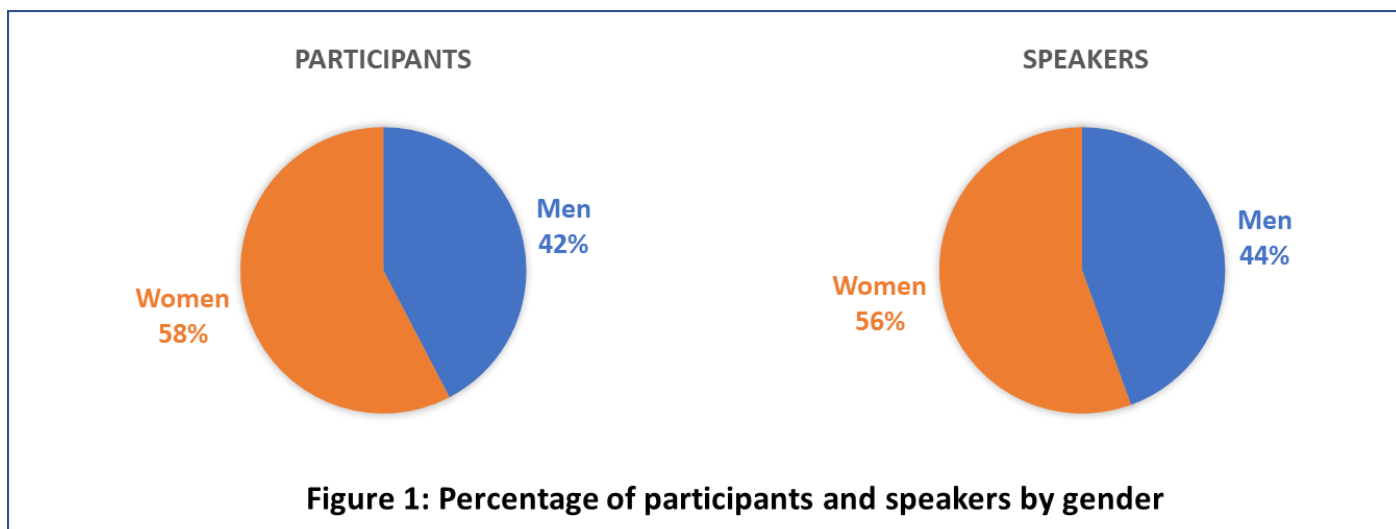
- Tłıchǫ Government, Department of Culture and Lands Protection: Phoebe Rabesca, Trena Weyallon, Ambe Chenemu
- Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Tides Canada: Steve Ellis and Larry Innes
- North Slave Métis Alliance: Cat Fauvelle
- Hotłı ts'eeda: Jessica Simpson and Debbie Delancey
- Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership: Steven Nitah and Robin Roth

A summary of talks and notes from each of these sessions can be found in Section 3 of this report.

2.2 Gathering Participants and Speakers

A total of 120 people registered in advance for the Gathering and 111 people attended. One of the objectives of the organizing committee was to ensure equitability in participants and speakers in terms of gender or region. Figure 1 shows that there was a slightly higher percentage of women than men both with respect to speakers and participants.

Figure 2 gives a breakdown of speakers and participants by the region they came from. Interestingly, although there were more participants from Yellowknife, the percentage of speakers from outside of Yellowknife was higher.



2.3 Networking and Entertainment

This year, all Gathering presentations were given in plenary. Opportunities for networking occurred during breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks as well as an evening event on February 26. All refreshment breaks were held in Katamavik D at the Explorer; since it was a different room than that for presentations, participants were able to continue meeting in the break room as needed.

Efforts were made to advertise a poster session for researchers. Only one group, Ducks Unlimited Canada, put up a poster in the break room (Katamavik D) during the Gathering. In the future, we would like to have a more substantial poster session as part of the gathering, by using a call for proposals and wider distribution.

On February 26, 2020, Gathering participants were invited to dinner at the Flavour Trader restaurant followed by live performers at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center. Traditional fares of bison and fish were served on the dinner menu and performers included Dene and Metis performers such as Leela Gilday, Lee Mandeville and Karen Wright Fraser’s fiddle dancers.

2.4 Recording/Documentation of the Gathering

The entire meeting was filmed by Cabin Productions; the recording has been posted to the NWT Conservation Network Gathering website at <https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/conservation-network-planning/2020-nwt-conservation-network-gathering>.

A graphic recorder, Melaw Nakehk'o, also provided a visual summary of the presentations from each day. Pictures of the graphic recording are included in section 3.5 below and will also be made available on the website.

2.5 Participant Questions and Feedback

After each presentation or panel, questions from Gathering participants were encouraged by the facilitator or panel moderator. Additional feedback on the Gathering was solicited through surveys given during and at the end of the meeting using a web-based service called SLIDO². Gathering participants were given instructions on how to give their feedback through SLIDO throughout the meeting. For the final Gathering Survey, participants were given the option of answering questions through SLIDO or through a paper-version of the survey. Survey responses are summarized in Section 4 of this report.

3 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS AT THE GATHERING

3.1 Introductory Session

Opening Remarks:

The meeting started with a opening drum song of the Yellowknives Dene Drummers followed by a prayer and opening address from Yellowknives Dene Chief Edward Sangris. Chief Sangris spoke about how “we all needed to work together to achieve something together for our people.” He talked about how we now walk a fine line between the environment and the economy; that we are here to find ways to live on and enjoy the land the way our ancestors did. He shared wisdom from his grandfather who noted that we relate to and must respect the animals we rely on. He hoped we would set aside areas of land that we enjoy the most and need for future generations.

ENR Deputy Minister Erin Kelly then welcomed everyone to the Gathering in her opening comments. She confirmed that the GNWT was committed to creating a strong and resilient conservation network in partnership with Indigenous Governments – implementing the new *Protected Areas Act* together.

² The SLIDO service is web-based (see <https://www.sli.do/>) and was administered by the facilitator.

Inspiring Innovation in Conservation - Opening Keynote Addresses:

The objective of this part of the agenda was to acknowledge the achievements of NWT's conservation planning partners over the past several years and to set the tone for the Gathering as a whole. There were two keynote speakers: Danika Littlechild, an Assistant Professor of Law at Carlton University, and Steven Nitah, a leader from Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and an advisor at the Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI). Some key themes expressed by the speakers included:

- Danika Littlechild talked about how creating an ethical space for conservation of biodiversity is more important than ever. Encompassed in the term 'ethical spaces' is acknowledgement that diverse indigenous knowledge systems are vital for all systems. She pointed out the Climate Change degradation facing indigenous communities right now and said that our saving grace is our working partnerships – on a scale no one imagined. She felt that our success will generate multiple benefits for everyone and Mother Earth. She also felt that there is huge potential within Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas where Indigenous leaders are the catalyst. Lastly, she saw interconnections as the focus, making room for Indigenous worldviews instead of solely traditional science which has consciously excluded spirituality to operate with "objectivity". This has opened the door to be able to determine social determinants of health and well-being from an indigenous lens.
- Steven Nitah spoke about the fact that worldwide Indigenous people represent 5% of population and 80 % of biodiversity is on Indigenous territory, demonstrating leadership in protecting biodiversity. The NWT could be a leader in providing Indigenous conservation solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises faced by the world. He noted that NWT has already been doing some great things including establishing new Indigenous protected areas, co-developing conservation legislation with Indigenous and public governments, and developing Guardian programs. Going forward he felt that the NWT also has opportunities to build an economy from our natural and cultural capital. Overall, his message was that carbon and biodiversity stewardship within the new Indigenous protected areas being established in the NWT present an opportunity to build new economic opportunities to recognize and market the value of carbon and biodiversity protection that is being achieved.

Diverse Stories of Protected Area Establishment in the NWT:

In the last few years, three Indigenous Protected Areas were established in the NWT. Representatives of each area presented a summary of their area's establishment, unique features and plans for implementation. Some of the key facts presented for each area are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Key facts about the three recently established Indigenous Protected Areas in the NWT

| Edézhíe | Thaidene Nënë | Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area encompasses the Horn Plateau in the Dehcho region of the NWT. Negotiations for protecting this area took about 20 years; the highest level of protection sought. Elder committees are supported by the agreement to provide a process to engage land users and knowledge holders in management plan. Designated, in October 2018, as a National Wildlife Area (<i>Canada Wildlife Act</i>) and as a Dehcho Protected Area (<i>Dehcho Dene Law</i>). The Edézhíe Management Board has been appointed and staff hired. An Edézhíe Management Plan is due in October 2023. Edézhíe Guardians and a training program is planned for Spring 2020. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area is around the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, northeast of Łutsel K'e. Described as a spectacular ecological area with the deepest water in the NWT, home to the barren ground caribou and an important cultural landscape. Interest in protecting the TDN area began in the 1970's. Formal Discussions with Indigenous Governments were initiated in early 2000's. Multiple Indigenous governments were engaged in discussions. Designated, in August 2019, as a Territorial Protected Area (<i>NWT Protected Areas Act</i>), National Park Reserve (<i>Canadian National Parks Act</i>), and as an Indigenous Protected Area. Management structures will involve multiple Indigenous and public governments. There are two management entities: a management board focused on day to day operations and a regional management board made up of the same appointees who will work on federal and territorial areas as interchangeably. Guardian Program continues to operate and will work collaboratively with GNWT and Parks Canada. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area is in the Ramparts River watershed and close to Fort Good Hope within the Sahtú region. Discussions about protecting the area began in the early 2000's. Elders wanted to protect the area. The Sahtú Land Use plan was not complete at the time. Chiefs and Metis Leaders wanted to be involved in decision making. Started with 15,000 km and settled on 10,000 km. Designated, in November 2019, as a Territorial Protected Area (<i>Protected Areas Act</i>), and as an Indigenous Protected Area. Local people will be empowered to look after the land, water, plants and animals of the area. |

3.2 Indigenous-led Approaches to Protected Area Management and Monitoring

The goal of this session was to share information, with examples, to support the development of management, monitoring, and cultural continuity practices for conservation areas.

Advice from the field: Collaborative Governance and Consensus-based Decision-making

Two speakers, both with extensive experience in collaborative governance and consensus-based decision-making for conservation areas, shared their experiences and offered advice to participants. The first speaker was Tom Nesbitt, Chair of the Tuktut Nogait National Park Board and Co-chair of Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site Board. The second speaker was Herb Norwegian, former Grand Chief of Dehcho First Nations, who spoke about his experience with Parks Canada's collaborative governance model as it was set up with - Nah?à Dehé - Nahanni National Park Reserve. Some key themes expressed by the speakers included:

- From Tom Nesbitt's perspective, consensus decision-making is built upon fairness and shared purposes/visions and rarely do things have to be brought to a dispute resolution mechanism.
- He described a holistic method used to support/facilitate the consensus process through the following steps: 1) identify issues; 2) identify underlying interests of the parties; 3) understand the facts; 4) identify decision options; and 5) assess underlying interests against the possible decisions. He believes that it is important to have a facilitator or chairperson to impartially listen and facilitate the discussion. He spoke about the importance of leaving space for reflection and respect rather just focusing on reactions.
- Herb Norwegian told us that, for the Nah?à Dehé - Nahanni National Park Reserve, elders participating in traditional knowledge (TK) studies identified water as the highest priority so the original park boundary was expanded from 4760 km² to 30,000 km² to include almost the entire watershed. A collaborative management board was set up for the area to develop a management plan, review Parks Canada studies, make recommendations on permits for tourists or other park uses, and work on the development of Indigenous-based harvester protocols for visitor information and safety.

Innovation in Indigenous-led Management Planning

Kathy Racher, of KRacher Consulting, and Phoebe Rabasca, a Lands Administrative Officer from the Tłıchq Government, gave a presentation describing the use of a method called Healthy Country Planning to develop a management and monitoring plan for a candidate protected area in the NWT called Dinàgà Wek'èhodì. Some key themes expressed by the speakers included:

- Originally developed in Australia, the Healthy Country Planning process is already proving very useful in the development of management and monitoring plans for conservation areas in the NWT.
- The main benefits of Healthy Country Planning include:
 - Ensuring Indigenous knowledge and community values drive conservation planning.
 - Allowing everyone's ideas to be shared, understood and then prioritized.
 - Accommodation of diverse participants - all ages, different types of expertise, other stakeholders.
 - Building relationships during the planning process – will help with plan implementation.

- For an example, the Indigenous perspective is a driving force in the Dinàgà Wek'èhodì management planning. Using the Healthy Country Planning process, it was determined that the health of Dinàgà Wek'èhodì depends on the transmission of knowledge between elders and youth as a priority to develop management activities around.
- The GNWT is considering providing training in the method in 2020; participants interested in the training were encouraged to put their names on a sign-up sheet.

Experience and Inspiration: The Role of Guardian Programs in Monitoring and Managing Protected Areas

Information about existing Guardian Programs both in the NWT and in other regions of Canada was shared through a panel moderated by Steven Nitah, an Advisor for the Indigenous Leadership Initiative. Each panel speaker summarized their Guardian program and highlighted the relevance or relationship to protected areas. Some key themes expressed by the speakers included:

- The panel moderators spoke about how the National Guardians program was set up as a way to make elders decision-makers again and increase Indigenous leadership in conservation.
- Dana Holtby described how the Coastal Stewardship Network seeks to increase the authority and capacity of the Coastal First Nations in British Columbia (BC). Guardians are hired by their nations as technicians to be out on the land to do research, monitor, restore, and educate. Through a partnership with the Vancouver Island University they deliver the technician training program which not only has certified 100 students, increasing their employability but has also contributed to the wellbeing of the participants and helped them to rediscover a sense of identity and family that was lost through residential school impacts. Their regional monitoring system utilizes tablets such as Coast Tracker, which allows the data to be owned and governed by the local First Nations to use for decision making.
- Doug Neasloss spoke about the Coastal Guardian Watchmen established by his community to patrol a large area of the BC coast; this program has been successful at stopping the negative impacts caused by tourism, illegal fishing, illegal forestry, poaching and trophy hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest. The success of the program has come from having an active presence on the land and water. This program has provided additional social benefits such as on-going cultural and language learning opportunities. They have developed policies and procedures, outreach materials (e.g., uniforms, brochures) and are collecting data, using a custom-built app, to inform stewardship decision-making. The Watchmen are supported by the Coast Funds and by the sustainability fee they charge users of the area; they have developed collaborative relationships with BC Parks and industry (including tourism, sport fisheries and forestry). Additionally, looking into traditional laws training.
- Dahti Tsetso and Mike Low described how, in the Dehcho, the Guardians program grew out of conversations with elders who were saying “we need to be who we are”. The program is currently interested in finding coordinator training and more structured courses. The program built on the success of the Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management (AAROM) and water monitoring programs (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and more recently with funding secured through environmental management agreements with

Guardian Panel Members

- Doug Neasloss, Kitasoo/Xai'xais Spirit Bear Conservancy Monitoring Program
- Dana Holtby, Coastal Stewardship Network a program of Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative, First Nations along BC's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii
- Dahti Tsetso (Dehcho First Nations) and Mike Low (AAROM) Dehcho K'èhodi- Taking Care of the Dehcho in Dehcho Dene Zhatìé. The Dehcho K'èhodi Stewardship program
- Prairie Desjarlais, Ni Hat'Ni Dene Łutsël K'é's Indigenous guardian program

Enbridge, ENR and seed funding from the Indigenous Leadership Initiative, and TIDES. The success of the AAROM program was to hire knowledgeable TK holders and increase the scientific knowledge and skills of these monitors, while building the number of environmental monitoring measures in place to ensure food security. Public education has been important to help increase traditional food knowledge and skills. Recent regional planning with Edehzhie Management Board on Guardians program will help to determine next steps.

- Prairie Desjarlais spoke about the Ni Hat Ni Dene program (“Caribou Watchers”) which has been set up to protect Thaidene Nene. They have rangers on the land between December and April to monitor caribou and to make sure hunting protocols are being followed. They work with ENR officers and they record observations using technology developed by Trailmark consultants. They also monitor ice conditions, cabins, important cultural and spiritual sites such as Lady of the Falls, and provide visitor interpretation. Another benefit of the program is a food sharing program that has contributed to food security through the program. The program is expected to grow with the creation of Thaidene Nene. They are looking into using traditional restorative forms of justice and have set up a Caribou Disciplinary Board, made up of elders.

Cultural Continuity Panel

Part of the stated purpose of the NWT Protected Areas Act is to support and promote cultural continuity³ in the NWT. The Cultural Continuity Panel, moderated by Mandee McDonald, co-founder and Managing Director for Dene Nahjo, discussed what makes a successful on-the-land education/wellness program able to help revitalize Indigenous cultural practices and food systems, Indigenous value systems, Indigenous language, and the community’s connection to the land. Some key themes expressed by the speakers included:

- Kelsey Wrightson described the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning as a land-based post-secondary education program. Students can earn credits with the University of Alberta and/or a certificate from the University of British Columbia certificate in Land and Community Based Research. They encourage family-inclusive learning teaching a variety of land-based skills and Dene knowledge in different regions of the NWT.
- Tony Rabesca described how the Tłjchq have been using animation projects as part of the school curriculum to revive their language, culture and way of life. For example, they researched a story about Edzo and Akaitcho making peace and then turned the story into a short, animated film. Not only does the film document the history, many community members acted and produced artwork used in the film helping the knowledge to be passed on to the youth through art and film mediums. He talked about culture coming from healing within the self. The film story is about forgiveness- we took people back to the location where the historical story took place and it was very emotional.

Cultural Continuity Panel Members

- Melaw Nakehk’o - Moosehide Tanning Programs with Dene Nahjo
- Chloe Dragon Smith - Bushkids On-the-Land Learning Initiative
- Frank Brown - ILI Senior Leader, Initiator of and lead coordinator for the Tribal Canoe Journey to Bella Bella
- Kelsey Wrightson - Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning
- Tony Rabesca Cultural Practices, Manager Tłjchq Government – Edzo & Akaitcho Making Peace – Reviving Our Language, Culture and Way of Life through Animation Short Film

³ "cultural continuity" means the evolving linkages and ongoing relationship between Indigenous culture and the natural environment, see definitions in the [Protected Areas Act S.N.W.T 2019, c.11, June 20, 2019](#).

- Melaw Nakehk'o spoke about how sharing or teaching cultural practices like moose hide tanning build both cultural and economic capacity in Indigenous communities. Carrying out these traditional practices teaches discipline and respect for the knowledge and laws passed down through time. She noted how important it is for communities to support Indigenous artists as the Traditional economy is an important way to sustain these communities. Just by practicing our culture we are protecting our areas because we are using the resources. Ensuring the programs are multigenerational is key to the teachings being passed down.
- Chloe Dragon Smith said that during her time as a youth representative among the Indigenous Circle of Experts she learned that an Indigenous worldview exists on its own, it can't be thrust into a western paradigm. The concept of "ethical spaces" is the foundation of the BushKids program. They focus on food from the land and the learning comes from that experience as cultural continuity is a process that needs to be experienced and not extracted. It's about developing a relationship with the land and each other. BushKids connects as many kids as possible to nature, recognizing that the process of cultural continuity requires hands-on experience. Communities who are engaged with the land are the ones who will become conservationists.
- Frank Brown has a lot of experience implementing cultural continuity programs. In the 1980's, he started the Sacred Journey by canoe as well as Rediscovery programs for youth that combined science and cultural teaching but most of his time was spent fundraising. Later, he tried eco-tourism to create sustainable cultural experiences. Currently, he is sharing research he worked on with Coastal First Nations elders on the 'fundamental truths' or the core values and laws of their people. He described society as being at a cross-roads: the colonial values about extraction at all costs versus a system of Indigenous conservation laws. He has experienced his own and witnessed others resiliency and coping aspects that being connected to the ocean brings.
- Mande MacDonal spoke about Indigenous arts being practiced are a tool for conservation. Helping facilitate a strong relationship to land can be a true measure of success. What makes people want to conserve the land is being together on the land eating the good food available from the land.

3.3 Sustaining Indigenous-led Stewardship

In this session, participants were introduced to different ways of ensuring long-term funding for conservation areas. During this session, four different speakers presented different ideas for funding or financing conservation areas, drawing on examples from Canada and around the world. At the end of the talks, the speakers participated in a panel discussion to bring the information together and understand what might be most applicable to the NWT.

Covering the Costs of Conservation: a Survey of Tools with International Examples

Eddy Niesten, a Senior Consultant with Ecoadvisors, introduced the topic of conservation financing to participants and described a range of tools used internationally. Some key themes from his presentation included:

- Set-up Cost vs. Recurring Cost: Important to remember that it is usually easier to obtain set-up costs – the reason being that everyone likes to contribute to things like a new building, new uniforms for Guardians, new initiatives etc. But it is harder for funders to see the value in recurring costs of managing areas in the long-term.

- The main types of financing are:
 - Philanthropic – donations, grants or trust funds from private individuals or corporations.
 - Government – grants, tax deductions, trust funds.
 - Private/market – fees for using the area, tourism, environmental credits (i.e., payments for not developing an area), offsets and green bonds.
- Examples of each were given using international examples, including relative benefits and challenges.

Carbon Offsets and Climate Finance - Funding Conservation by Reducing Emissions

Joseph Pallant, Director of Climate Innovation for Ecotrust Canada, described the basics of carbon offsets and climate financing. Some key themes from his presentation include:

- A carbon offset is a proactive, project-based emissions reduction that wouldn't have happened without the project. For example, in the case of protected areas, the case would have to be made that if the area was not protected, then developments would occur in the area that would add to greenhouse gas emissions. Some fundamentals for making carbon offsets:
 - Must be “real”, meaning it has to reduce or remove a tonne of CO₂ equivalent.
 - Must be quantifiable (must be able to count the benefit).
 - Should be permanent or at least last 100 years.
 - Must be verified by having better carbon outcomes than without so that it presents as an offset.
- Additionality: another concept that considers, for example, if an additional carbon benefit can be created by work in a conservation area (e.g., if the work of Guardian Programs helps limit forest fires which, in turn provides a carbon benefit).
- Currently uncertain if northern communities can use carbon offsets to fund management and Indigenous guardian programs in Indigenous Protected Areas – more work is needed.

Public/Private Financing of Indigenous-led Conservation in Canada's North

Brie O'Keefe, a Policy Specialist for the International Boreal Conservation Campaign (IBCC), delivered a presentation originally developed by Steve Kallick, Director of IBCC, but who was unable to attend. The presentation gave an overview of the current situation, highlighting public/private partnership opportunities for advancing Indigenous-led conservation in Canada's North. Some key themes from the presentation include:

- Canada is increasingly recognizing and supporting Indigenous-led conservation.
- The concept of conservation is being redefined to include, support, and even celebrate traditional uses of the land as well as Indigenous culture and values.
- Land use plans and negotiated government to government agreements are being forged to bridge difficult, long-term issues of land zoning, ownership, and control.
- In other countries like Australia, long term government funding of Indigenous conservation and Guardians is the largest, most stable source of revenue and jobs.
- Endowments or trust funds for areas like Thaidene Nënë or Great Bear Rainforest are rare.
- Indigenous leaders should look to create government, foundation, and corporate partnerships to provide the most stable, diverse set of donors.

- Protected areas could be NWT's "green gold".
- NWT and its Indigenous peoples possess a wealth of increasingly valuable and rare resources: abundant wildlife, healthy forests, waters and wetlands. As those resources become scarcer, governments, foundations, corporations and others will increasingly invest money in protecting them.
- Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas provide well-paid, stable Guardian jobs in remote communities – honouring and continuing Indigenous culture and traditions.

Case Study – The Success of the Spirit Bear Lodge

Doug Neasloss, the Stewardship Director for the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation in British Columbia (B.C.), described a successful Indigenous business model for conservation-based ecotourism. Specifically, he described how the creation of the Spirit Bear Lodge has helped strengthen economic, conservation and cultural well-being in the community of Klemtu, B.C. Some key themes from his presentation included:

- Klemtu is a community of 330 people, located in a remote inlet on the West coast of mainland British Columbia.
- In the 1990's the community was at 90 % unemployment. Suicide rates were high. When the Great Bear Rainforest was protected, there were no more forestry jobs, so Klemtu people had a long debate about whether to enter the tourism business.
- There was uncertainty about tourism and many ethical discussions about how to proceed. In the end, they took a community vote and went ahead.
- Started with small kayak tour company called Klemtu Tourism. Then hired a consultant who made recommendations to triple capacity and the required investment of time and effort into the business.
- Although it didn't start out too well, they hired a marketing specialist and a branding company who renamed them 'Spirit Bear Lodge' – as a way of appealing to older people who actually had the money to travel to these areas! Now they coordinate the tour groups to utilize other local businesses as well.
- It took a few years, but now they have 40 people working for them, they just broke \$2.5 million, and they are sold out years in advance.
- Klemtu has a 95% employment rate now. Tourism has enabled the economy to scale down on extractive activities and invest in the communities strengths.
- Spirit Bear has a business case that shows social and economic benefits derived from tourism which demonstrates equitable benefits that are tangible, such as sustainable jobs that come from the land.

Conservation Financing Panel

This panel brought together the information presented from the previous session talks to answer questions about what financing options might be most promising for conservation areas in the NWT. The plenary discussion focused on measuring benefits of different kinds of offsets, the challenges and benefits of developing a tourism industry, and additional information on carbon markets/offsets.

In addition to the four speakers that gave presentations in the session, Dave Poulton, Director of the Alberta Land Institute and specialist in biodiversity offsets. Biodiversity offsets are market-based and come with an obligation to protect or restore habitats. They are meant to be permanent offsets much like for carbon offsets.

3.4 Innovations in Research

The last session of the Gathering focussed on the relationship between research and conservation areas. The session began with an opening presentation that described the relationship between research and reconciliation followed by two research-related panel discussions.

The Promises and Perils of Research for Conservation and Reconciliation

The session was opened with a talk by Robin Roth, an Associate Professor at the University of Guelph and a Principal Investigator of the Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership. Her presentation discussed how research can promote reconciliation and implementation of Indigenous rights, highlighting the following ideas:

- Key research principle: ‘Nothing about us, without us’
 - Reciprocity – co-learning, co-production, co-benefits.
 - Respect – for different ways of knowing (Two-Eyed Seeing).
 - Reverence – knowledge is sacred and must be treated with integrity.
 - Reconciliation – an on-going process for maintaining relationships with humanity and nation, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, Indigenous and Crown Governments.
- The objectives of the Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership are:
 - Creating a lasting network for conservation through reconciliation.
 - Ensuring ethical and collaborative learning and research in support of Indigenous-led conservation.
 - Increasing capacity amongst Indigenous Nations and communities, the conservation sector and the general public; support existing Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas.
- The Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership has university affiliations and research funding.

Panel: Experiences in the Co-Production of Knowledge

Robin Roth moderated a panel that shared stories about research projects where Indigenous communities have built positive relationships with researchers and thereby increased community capacity to realize community research goals. Some key themes expressed by the speakers included:

- Petter Jacobsen described how the Tłıchq Caribou Monitoring program was set up to find out why the caribou were declining. The Caribou Monitoring Program takes a holistic approach to monitoring – watching not just the caribou themselves but also habitat, predators, climate change, industrial disturbance and cultural influences. They have learned that community-based monitoring should ensure wildlife monitoring is done using the perspective of a traditional hunter. Also, that it is important to involve youth and use elder advisors to guide the work, bring people out on the land and to always create space for TK in management and decision-making.

Co-Production of Knowledge – Panel Members

- Petter Jacobsen - Ekwò Nàxoède K'è: Boots on the Ground/Tłıchq Government
- Shari Fox - Ph.D. National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder
- Frank Brown –Adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University’s Resource and Environmental Management Department. He recently received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Vancouver Island University.
- Dieter Cazon, Liidlii Kue First Nation Lands and Resources & Dehcho Collaborative on Permafrost (DCoP) with Wilfred Laurier University

- Shari Fox conducts research at the Clyde River Research Centre. The goal of the research is to improve weather knowledge by focusing on human observations of what local people find to be relevant and usable information. By evaluating terminology in Inuit, researchers have a broader understanding of weather since the Indigenous language has more terms than English does for describing weather. The research approach used at this Centre builds relationships, provides a service to the community, helps transfer knowledge between elders and youth, transfers ownership of over the research project to local people, and helps with knowledge exchange between east and west, north and south.
- Frank Brown has negotiated with universities in the Vancouver area to be inclusive of Indigenous world views in their curricula. For example, research done by students working with our communities were required to contribute to the Indigenous Conservation Network. Research coordinators were used to handle all research surveys when they recognized how many communities experience ‘research fatigue’ when various researchers keep coming to them to gather baseline data. It was acknowledged that reconciliation means that Indigenous people drive the research agenda. Lastly, he described how research was combined with teaching culture, stories, and songs to Indigenous youth through canoe journeys like the Ocean Going Canoe project; that research also resulted in education products such as a feature length documentary, online exhibits and travelling exhibits.
- Dieter Cazon talked about how, in response to observations of thawing permafrost and its effects on local residents, the Dehcho First Nations collaborated with researchers at the Scotty Creek Research Station to create the Dehcho Collaborative on Permafrost (DCoP). The initiative is Dehcho-wide, using both scientific and Indigenous knowledge to co-develop new predictive decision support tools and risk management strategies to manage permafrost and adapt to permafrost thaw. The program engages the Guardians from Edézhíe to help measure the impacts of cut lines and other man-made disturbances that affect permafrost melt. Key to the success of this program is that scientists and Indigenous knowledge holders learn from each other.

Panel: Doing Research in a Good Way

The last panel of the session discussed how to recognize Indigenous community rights and interests in research in the aspects of data collection and storage, credit/ownership and sharing of information. Panel members discussed how to ensure that research is conducted with the intention of benefitting Indigenous people or communities. The panel was moderated by Debbie DeLancey who is a consultant, researcher and advisor to Hotii Ts’eeda. Some key themes expressed by the speakers included:

- Research done “in a good way” needs to be relevant (occurs when the research is beneficial to the community), respectful (for who they are), relational, and reciprocal (reciprocal trust in the relationship).

Doing Research in a Good Way – Panel Members

- Jessica Simpson, Research Advisor, Hotii Ts’eeda – National standards as well as made-in-the-NWT research protocols
- Jessica Dutton, Manager, Research Ethics & Regional Programs, Aurora Research Institute
- Alestine Andre, MES (Ethnobotany) from the University of Victoria, former Heritage Researcher with the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute

- Jessica Simpson described how the Tłıchǫ, the Gwich'in and the Dehcho First Nations all have traditional knowledge protocols and/or policies to guide ethical research in their regions. She introduced the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession). The First Nations principles of OCAP® are a set of standards that establish how First Nations data should be collected, protected, used, or shared. It's good to follow OCAP Principals, with the caveat that they don't speak for all Indigenous people. These policies and protocols define how knowledge can be collected (e.g., informed consent, agreements, collaborations) and stored. Main Values to consider:
 - Ownership and control of Indigenous knowledge by rights holders.
 - Research can be a tool for social equity.
 - Ethical ways of how knowledge is documented, used, and distributed.
 - Consider use by future generations.
 - Traditional Knowledge in equal standing with Western scientific knowledge.
- Alestine Andre spoke about how the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute have developed research protocols to ensure the stories and traditional knowledge of elders is collected in an ethical and respectful way. Their TK Policy, approved in 2004, further emphasizes the ethical collection, management and release of Gwich'in TK, acknowledging the Gwich'in as its holders. They have learned the importance of relationship building and that it takes time, respect, and trust.
- Jessica Dutton described how, in the NWT, people wishing to do research must follow the NWT Scientist's Act (which requires getting a research license) and go through a formal Research Ethics Review process.

Panel Discussion focused on the importance of documenting traditional knowledge for future generations. In the NWT, several regional Indigenous governments and the Aurora College Arctic Research Institute (ARI) have excellent ethical research procedures in place to conduct ethical research that benefits northern communities. They are set up to ensure protective and inclusive protocols are followed and consent is given by the people being impacted by the research. It was mentioned that ENR's CIMP program provides funds to help carry out TK research. There is GNWT legislation for artefact protection. Finally, it was recommended that one improvement to ARI's research procedures in future would be to ensure there is an effective way for northerners to connect with southern researchers at the beginning of their projects on the initial research questions. This would benefit northern research significantly by making it more relevant to northerners.

3.5 Graphic Recording Summary of the Gathering

Melaw Nakehk'o recorded the meeting graphically, with one image for each day. See Figures 3 and 4.

DAY 1
2-26
2020

Northwest Territories Conservation Gathering

Chief Drygeese
Territory with in
Akatcho



Steve Nitah
Potential
Caribou
Economy

WE IN THE NORTH

Are
WORLD LEADERS
IN
INDIGENOUS LED
CONSERVATION

COMBINING
Indigenous Knowledge Systems
The Best of Western Science

INNOVATIONS
in Indigenous-Led Management

youth involvement
ancestral sites
Healthy
Country
Planning

Dinàgà
Wek'ehodi
Kathy Racher
Phoebe Rabesca

Doug Neasloss
Kitasoo/Xai'xais
Spirit Bear
Monitoring
Program

GUARDIANS



Dana Holtby
Coastal Stewardship

DENE
K'ehodi
Dehcho AAROM

NI HAT NI
Dene Monitoring
Caribou
Watchers



Chloe Dragon Smith
Bush Kids
Frank Brown
Tribal Canoe Journey
Kelsey Wrightson
Pechita

Tony Rabesca
Tchico Cultural Manage
Melaw Naken'io
Dene Nanjo

Cultural Continuity



CONSENSUS
agreements

Collaborative
Governance
-Herb Norwegian
Nah'q Dehe

-Torn Nesbitt



PROTECTED
AREAS

WE ARE RELATED
WE SURVIVE ON
The Animals

Danika
Littlechild

H-A
Working
Group
Bio-
Diversity

We Rise
Together

Recognize
Indigenous Systems

language, culture, ways of Being



Ts'udé Niline Tuyeta
-Edwin Erutse

Thaidene Nënë
-Iris Catholique

Edézhie
-Dakti
Dehcho First Nations

Sahtu Dene

Kutsel K'ie

Tsetso

Dehcho First Nations



Figure 3: Graphic Recording of Day 1 of the Gathering

The Northwest Territories Conservation Gathering

Day 2 - February 27, 2020

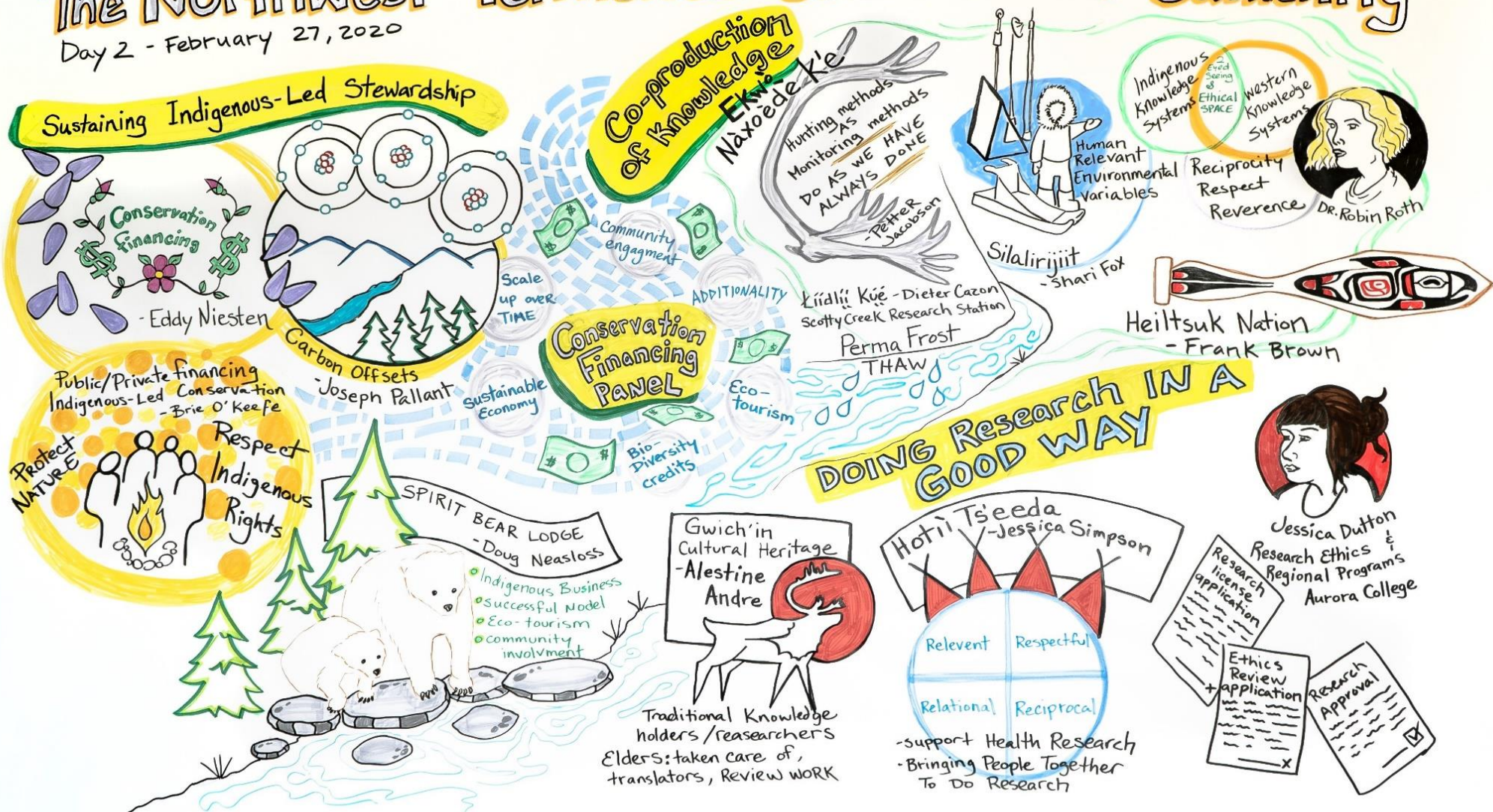


Figure 4: Graphic Recording of Day 2 of the Gathering

4 GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS AND PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

At the end of the Gathering, participants were asked to fill out a survey to share their thoughts about the event. Approximately 50 people responded to the survey. This section presents a summary of the completed survey.

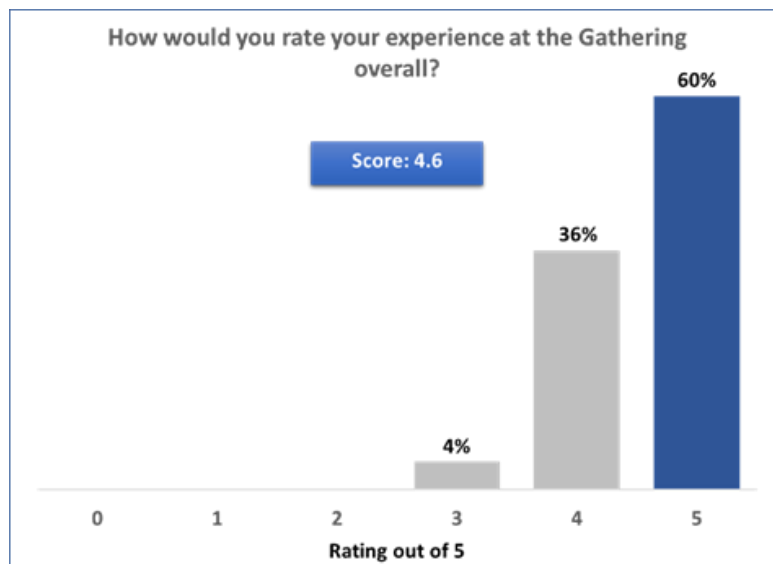
4.1 Overall Experience of Participants

Participants rated their overall experience of the Gathering very highly – with an average score of 4.6 out of 5 on the survey. Several participants left comments of appreciation and 98% of survey respondents said they would want to attend the Gathering again if it were held again next year.

The following points summarize what participants said they liked most about the Gathering⁴:

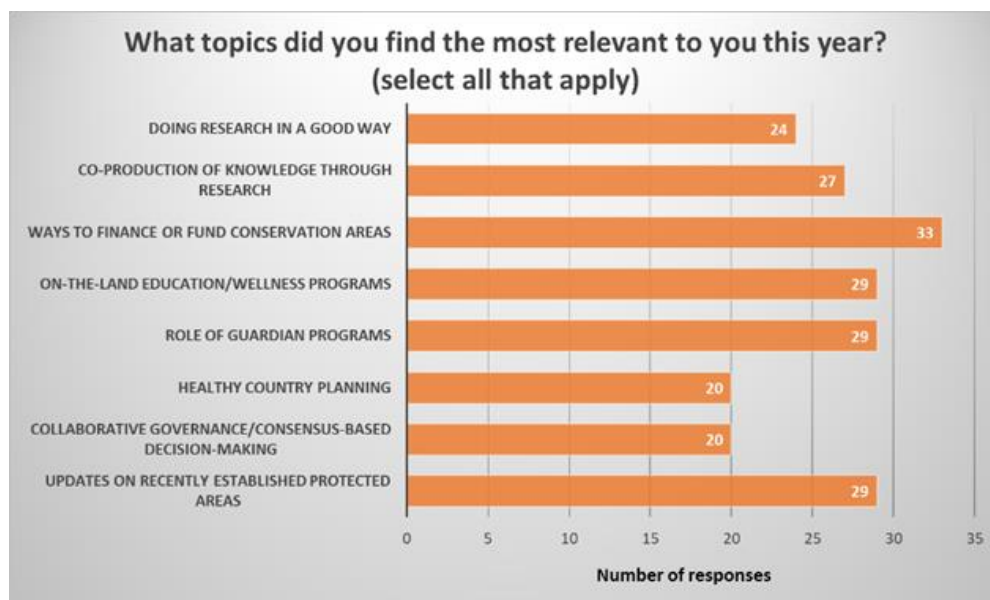
- The diversity and relevance of both topics and perspectives.
- The quality of the speakers, their presentations, and the information shared.
- Sharing with others, from both inside and outside the NWT, that are committed to Indigenous-led conservation.
- Connecting with others who have a shared interest in conservation.

Other more specific comments from the survey have been captured in the subsections below.



4.2 Participant Feedback on Topics Discussed at the Gathering

According to the survey responses, the most relevant topic to Gathering participants this year was about financing conservation areas; however other topics were also rated highly (see chart below). In addition to rating the topics discussed, some participants specifically mentioned how motivated they were by the speakers from British Columbia who shared their experiences with building up their Guardian programs, collaborative research and tourism operations.



⁴ The themes listed here are summarized from the detailed information presented in Appendix B.

Participants' biggest learning/takeaway:

In response to a question about participants' biggest learning or takeaway from the Gathering, the following themes emerged:

- It is important to find financing opportunities for conservation areas; there are a number of mechanisms to do this.
- The land is both a teacher and a healer.
- Guardian programs can be especially useful in different ways.
- Conservation efforts need to involve multiple generations.
- There is a lot to be learned from folks outside of the NWT.
- The NWT is a leader in conservation practices and groups should continue to support each other.
- Collaborative research processes are important.

Suggested topics for next year:

When asked about suggested topics for next year's Gathering, the following responses were received in the survey:

- Several requests for more on financing in general plus the following specific requests:
 - More on the socio-economic side of conservation and what it can mean for communities over time.
 - More gritty details on funding reality and paths being followed up to keep it coming.
 - Funding sources to assist communities and people.
- Community wellness through conservation
- Several requests for more on guardian programs:
 - Guardianship training and success stories.
 - How to integrate guardian programs into the schools.
- Collaborations:
 - Collaboration opportunities between IGO.
 - Developing indigenous protocols.
 - Scope for larger joint efforts combining forces of multiple First Nations.
- Training, job descriptions, and organization design to support Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
- Land claims, co-management, and the role of government in the NWT.
- Several requests for more on monitoring and research in general as well as:
 - Northern monitoring.
 - Working with industry.
 - How to find researchers who can address community research questions.
 - More in depth discussions on research.
- Integration with land use planning and other mechanisms for conservation
- Several requests related to climate change:
 - Present climate monitoring data...what are you finding?

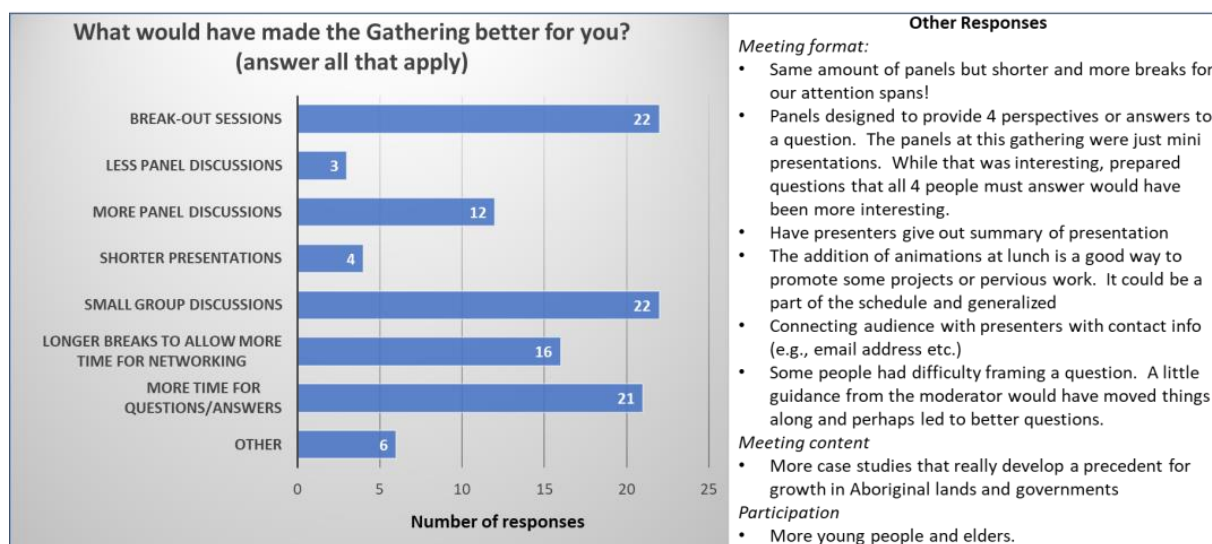
- More topics around other areas in the NWT.
- Healthy eating, traditional medicine, policies and laws.
- Harvester work.
- A few more international examples, possibly some freshwater or marine examples as well.

4.3 Participant Feedback on the Format of the Gathering

With respect to the format of the Gathering, participants made the following comments about what they liked⁵:

- The agenda was full but didn't seem rushed.
- Very smooth, enjoyable conference flow.
- Photos/video/visual.
- The Case Studies and all the examples of economic growth done in respectful manner.
- Question and Answer periods.
- The variety of topics and the panelists that came from different phases of their projects.
- Having both speakers and panels was really interesting.
- The interactive sessions.
- The panelists and the topics covered.
- Graphic recording of event.

The chart below shows responses to the question of what participants said would have made the Gathering better for them. In general, it appears that participants would have appreciated more time for break-out sessions, small group discussions and longer breaks to allow for more time for networking. Another more minor suggestion received elsewhere in the survey was to end each day 4 pm.



⁵ Note that these are verbatim replies from the survey

4.4 Participant Feedback on the Event Location, Entertainment and Facilitation

Event Location:

The following two charts show the participant's rating of the event location (i.e., the Explorer Hotel) and the dinner/entertainment event at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center on February 26, 2020. A few comments were received about the good quality of the hotel accommodation, good food and great entertainment at the social event.

Although the event location got a good rating from participants, the following suggestions were also received⁶:

- With respect to the space:
 - The event space was a bit dark.
 - It would be good to get out on the land a bit more.
 - Would be good to have windows in the conference room.
 - Bigger space next year.
- With respect to refreshments:
 - Healthy eats were so-so and could have been better. Not everyone likes that overly healthy food.
 - Provide traditional food

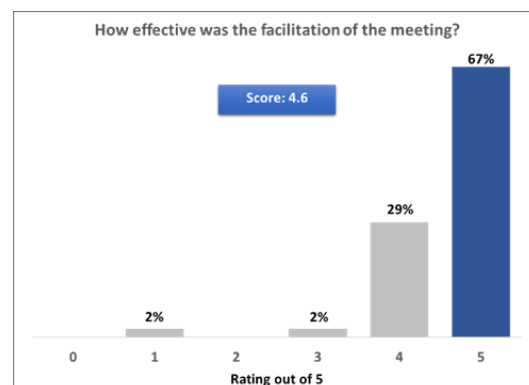
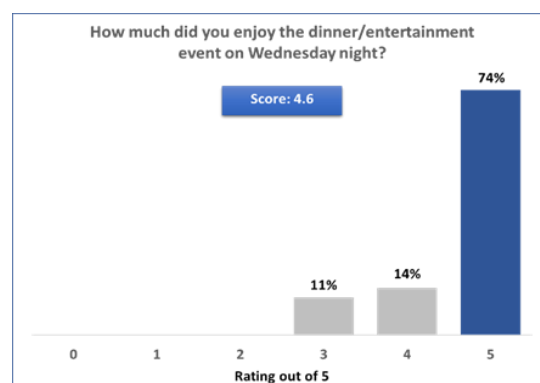
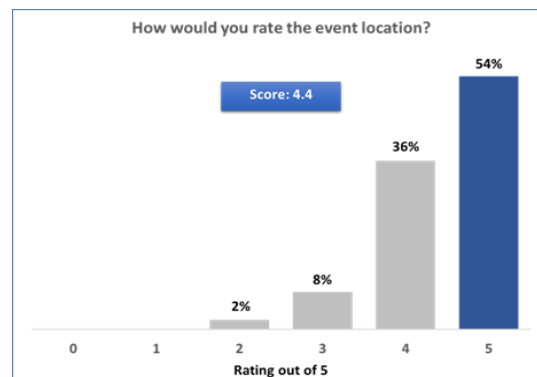
Entertainment:

The only suggestion received with respect to entertainment was to have a drum dance and a handgames demonstration next year.

Facilitation:

The effectiveness of the meeting facilitation was rated as 4.6 out of 5 by participants. A few suggestions to consider with respect to facilitation included⁷:

- Some sort of facilitation tool that would eliminate the distraction and disrespect of some attendees would have been appreciated (no taking phone calls, loud ringers, talking...).
- The facilitators could have connected with presenters a little bit more so that the flow of presentations went more smoothly.
- A livelier MC would have helped to keep energy up.



⁶ Note that these are verbatim replies from the survey

⁷ Note that these are verbatim replies from the survey

5 NEXT STEPS

Responses from the survey clearly indicate that the Gathering was a big success, that people learned a lot, they made connections with others in their field, and that they would like to participate in another Gathering next year. In addition to meeting the objectives of the Gathering (see adjacent text box), the goal of ensuring equitability in presenters and participants was also met (see Section 2.2).

At this time, the possibility of having another such Gathering next year is uncertain; however, if it is possible, the future organizers will be able to use the survey results, as summarized in Section 3, to guide development of an agenda.

The objectives of the Gathering were to:

- ✓ build partnerships and foster collaboration among new protected area managers, guardian programs, academia, government support staff and funders;
- ✓ provide a consistent knowledge base for participants on the themes of conservation financing and management planning; and,
- ✓ ensure meaningful participation and exchange of information and builds knowledge and partnerships to strengthen the conservation network.

APPENDIX A: GATHERING AGENDA

| Wednesday February 26 | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 8:00 - 9:00am | Registration 8:00-9:30am Breakfast 8:00-8:45am | Katimavik Rooms D&E |
| Introductory Session | | Katimavik Room B |
| 9:00am | Welcome: Opening Prayer | |
| 9:15 - 9:30am | Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome from Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Chief Edward Sangris ○ Introduction to the Gathering – Facilitator Kathy Racher | |
| 9:30 - 10:30am | Inspiring Innovation In Conservation – Opening Keynotes (Open to Media) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Danika Littlechild, Vice - President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO ○ Steven Nitah, Advisor -Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI) | |
| Break | | Katimavik Rooms D&E |
| 10:45am - 11:15pm | Diverse Stories of Protected Area Establishment in the Northwest Territories, including: Thaidene Nënë, Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta, and Edézhíé <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An introduction to each area's ecological and cultural values, a brief history on the areas establishment process and an update on where each site is at in establishment and management. | |
| 11:15 – 11:45pm | Advice from the Field: Collaborative Governance & Consensus-based Decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tom Nesbitt- Chair of the Tuktut Nogait National Park Board and Co-chair of Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site Board will speak to his experience with collaborative governance consensus decision making models - the practical application ○ Herb Norwegian, former Grand Chief of Dehcho First Nations will speak to his experience with Parks Canada's collaborative governance model as it was set up with - Nah?ą Dehé - Nahanni National Park Reserve | |
| 12:45 – 12:00pm | Plenary Session/Discussion on Morning Sessions | |
| Luncheon | | Katimavik Rooms D&E |
| Indigenous-led Approaches to Protected Area Management and Monitoring | | Katimavik Room B |
| 1:00 - 1:10pm | Introduction The afternoon sessions to share a range of planning methods to guide development of management, monitoring and cultural continuity aspects of operations with the recently established protected areas and support the development of the conservation network guardian programs. | |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1:10 - 1:35pm | Innovation in Indigenous led Management Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kathy Racher & Phoebe Rabesca ○ Case study of Dinàgà Wek'èhodi candidate protected area Healthy Country Planning experience. |
| 1:35 - 2:45pm | Experience and Inspiration: The Role of Guardian Programs in Monitoring and Managing Protected Areas Panel Speakers will introduce their Guardian programs, highlighting the relevance or relationship to protected areas. Moderated by Steven Nitah, Advisor- Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doug Neasloss, Kitasoo/Xai'xais Spirit Bear Conservancy Monitoring Program ○ Dana Holtby, Coastal Stewardship Network a program of Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative, provides programming and support to Coastal Guardian Watchmen, and the stewardship offices of the nine-member alliance of First Nations along BC's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii ○ Dahti Tsetso (Dehcho First nations) and Mike Low (AAROM) Dehcho K'èhodi- Taking Care of the Dehcho in Dehcho Dene Zhatié. The Dehcho K'èhodi Stewardship Program is a regional on-the-land program being built in collaboration with all DFN member communities. ○ Prairie Desjarlais, Ni Hat'Ni Dene Łutsël K'é's Indigenous guardian program |
| Break | Katimavik Rooms D&E |
| 3:00 - 4:30pm | Cultural Continuity Panel Panel members will focus on what makes a successful on-the-land education/wellness program able to help to revitalize Indigenous cultural practices and food systems, Indigenous value systems, Indigenous language, and the community's connection to the land. Moderated by Mande McDonald, co-founder and the Managing Director for Dene Nahjo, an Indigenous innovation collective that strives to foster Indigenous leadership skills and values through cultural resurgence initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melaw Nakehk'o - Moosehide Tanning Programs with Dene Nahjo ○ Chloe Dragon Smith - Bushkids On-the-Land Learning Initiative ○ Frank Brown - ILI Senior Leader, Initiator of and lead coordinator for the Tribal Canoe Journey to Bella Bella ○ Kelsey Wrightson - Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning ○ Tony Rabesca Cultural Practises, Manager Behchokò Office Tłıchų Government - Retracing Our Path Through Eyes Of Our Elders– Tli'cho On the Land Youth and Elder Program |
| 4:30 - 4:45pm | Wrap Up |
| 6:00 - 9:00pm | Evening Dinner and Performances: Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flavour Trader open at 6:00 pm - Dinner starts at 6:30 pm (limited capacity- check with organizers) ○ Performances in the Auditorium at 7:30pm. Join us for a variety of performers to showcase various Denendeh cultures. This evening is about celebrating the vitality of Indigenous Cultural expression as an important aspect of cultural continuity, inspired by the diverse landscape of the NWT. <p><i>Featured artists: Leela Gilday, Lee Mandeville Band, Karen Wright-Fraser and Drummers.</i></p> |

Thursday February 27

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------------|
| 8:00 - 9:00am | Registration 8:00-9:30am Breakfast 8:00-9:00am | Katimavik Rooms D&E |
| Room B | Sustaining Indigenous-Led Stewardship | Katimavik |
| 9:00 - 9:10am | Welcome back & Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome back ○ Opening Remarks from Minister Thompson, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Northwest Territories | |
| 9:10 - 9:35am | Covering the Costs of Conservation: a “survey of tools” with international examples - Eddy Niesten, Ecoadvisors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This presentation will introduce the topic of how to finance conservation areas by introducing a range of tools used internationally. | |
| 9:35 – 10:00am | Carbon Offsets and Climate Finance – Payment for Reducing Greenhouse Gases. - Joseph Pallant, Director of Climate Innovation, Ecotrust Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring new (ish) tools to finance climate outcomes from conservation, tackling issues of “Additionality” where the land has been protected, but management & protection funds drop off and a proposed new tool in development by Ecotrust Canada – the Forest Carbon Economy Fund. | |
| 10:00 - 10:25am | Public-Private Financing of Indigenous-led Conservation in Canada’s North - Steve Kallick, Director of International Boreal Conservation Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This presentation will give an overview of the current situation and highlight public-private partnership opportunities for advancing Indigenous-led conservation in Canada’s North. | |
| Break | Katimavik Rooms D&E | |
| 10:45 - 11:05am | Case Study – The Success of the Spirit Bear Lodge- Doug Neasloss Stewardship Director or the Kitasoo/Xai’xais First Nation BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A successful Indigenous business model for conservation-based ecotourism arising from the conservation network and supported through Conservation financing such as Coast Funds. The Lodge has helped strengthen economic, conservation, and cultural well-being in the community of Klemtu. | |
| 11:05 -12:00pm | Conservation Financing Panel - This panel will bring together the information presented from the morning talks and discuss what financing options might be most promising for conservation areas in the NWT. Moderated by Steve Kallick, Director of International Boreal Conservation Campaign. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eddy Niesten, Ecoadvisors ○ Joseph Pallant, Director of Climate Innovation, Ecotrust Canada. ○ Doug Neasloss, Kitasoo/Xai’xais First Nation ○ Dave Poulton, Alberta Land Institute and Alberta Association for Conservation Offsets | |
| Luncheon | Katimavik Rooms D&E | |

| B | Innovations in Research | Katimavik Room |
|---------------|--|----------------|
| 1:00 – 1:20pm | Opening Remarks on how research can promote reconciliation and implementation of Indigenous rights. Dr. Robin Roth, Associate Professor, University of Guelph and a Principal Investigator of the Conservation Through Reconciliation (CRP) | |
| 1:20 – 2:40pm | Experiences in the Co-Production of Knowledge Panel - Stories on research projects where Indigenous communities have built positive relationships with researchers and thereby increased community capacity to realize community research goals. Panel moderated by Robin Roth Associate Professor – University of Guelph. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Petter Jacobsen - Ekwò Nàxoède K'è: Boots on the Ground/Tłtchq Government ○ Shari Fox - Ph.D. National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder ○ Frank Brown –Adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University’s Resource and Environmental Management Department. He recently received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Vancouver Island University. ○ Dieter Cazon, Liidlí Kue First Nation Lands and Resources & Dehcho Collaborative on Permafrost (DCoP) with Wilfred Laurier University | |
| Break | | |
| 2:50 – 4:00pm | Doing Research in a Good Way Panel – A discussion on how to recognize Indigenous community rights and interests in research in the aspects of data storage, collection, credit/ownership and sharing of information. How to ensure that research is conducted with the intention of benefiting First Nations people or communities. A panel moderated by Debbie DeLancey, consultant, researcher and advisor to Hotì Ts'eeda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Simpson, Research Advisor, Hotì Ts'eeda – will speak to OCAP as well as made-in-the-NWT research protocols ○ Jessica Dutton, Manager, Research Ethics & Regional Programs, Aurora Research Institute ○ Alestine Andre, MES (Ethnobotany) from the University of Victoria, former Heritage Researcher with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute | |
| Wrapping Up | | |
| 4:00 - 4:30pm | Highlights & Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survey for next year’s meeting ○ Check in/out from each participant ○ Closing Remarks | |