



CONSERVATION NETWORK GATHERING REPORT 2022

BREAKING TRAIL: BUILDING CAPACITY AND
RESILIENCE WITHIN THE CONSERVATION NETWORK

RAPPORT 2022 DU RASSEMBLEMENT DU RÉSEAU DE CONSERVATION

OUVRIR LA VOIE : RENFORCER LES CAPACITÉS ET LA
RÉSILIENCE DU RÉSEAU DE CONSERVATION

Le présent document contient la traduction française de l'introduction

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Introduction

On May 3-5, 2022, the GNWT's Conservation Planning and Implementation Unit (CPIU) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) hosted the second NWT Conservation Network Gathering (the Gathering) in Yellowknife. The Gathering brought together practitioners and researchers in conservation planning and management from across the NWT and elsewhere in Canada.

The theme for the 2022 Gathering was Breaking Trail: Building Capacity and Resilience within the Conservation Network and was focused on the implementation of establishment agreements for territorial protected areas. Many conservation partners are working hard to implement the vision and objectives from their Protected Area Establishment Agreements, while others are working towards agreements. There is a shared desire to make progress while federal financing is available, and to ensure there is funding and organizational capacity to sustain this work in the long-term. Conservation partners are focused on essential start-up activities including developing and strengthening organizational capacity and completing foundational work such as establishing Guardian programs and developing their first management plans. The urgency to respond to the changing climate makes resilience of people, the land, and animals - and our interconnected relationships - all the more necessary. The need to collaborate, work together, reconcile different interests, and take the best from different world views is essential to making progress and to collectively creating sustainable and resilient organizations.

The purpose of the Gathering was to learn from others and to share successes on protected areas establishment and implementation. The specific objectives of the event were to:

- Build partnerships and foster collaboration among NWT protected area partners
- Provide an opportunity for shared learning on topics of common interest
- Ensure meaningful participation and equitability in participants and presenters
- Empower youth to aspire to leadership and careers in conservation

This report provides an overview of the Gathering and summarizes participant feedback on the event.

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. (Healthy Land, Healthy People)

Introduction français

Du 3 au 5 mai 2022, le Service de la planification et de la mise en œuvre de la conservation du ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources naturelles (MERN) a organisé le Rassemblement du réseau de conservation des Territoires du Nord-Ouest à Yellowknife. Ce dernier a donné l'occasion à des praticiens et à des spécialistes de la planification et de la gestion de la conservation des TNO et du Canada de se rassembler.

Le thème de cette année était « Ouvrir la voie : Renforcer les capacités et la résilience du réseau de conservation ». Beaucoup de nos partenaires travaillent fort pour réaliser les objectifs des ententes de création d'aires protégées, d'autres travaillent à la conclusion d'ententes. Tant qu'un financement est disponible, nous souhaitons tous améliorer le réseau et renforcer sa capacité organisationnelle pour le soutenir à long terme. Nos partenaires se concentrent sur les activités essentielles de démarrage, comme le développement de la capacité organisationnelle et la réalisation de tâches indispensables (p. ex., mise en place de programmes de gardiens et élaboration de leurs premiers plans de gestion). L'urgence liée au changement climatique rend d'autant plus nécessaire la résilience des personnes, des terres, des animaux et des relations qui nous lient. Il est essentiel de collaborer, de concilier nos intérêts et de composer avec différentes visions du monde pour en tirer le meilleur, afin qu'ensemble nous puissions progresser et créer des organisations durables et résilientes.

L'objectif général de ce rassemblement était d'apprendre des autres et de partager nos succès. Plus précisément, l'événement avait pour but :

- d'établir des partenariats et de favoriser la collaboration entre les partenaires des aires protégées des TNO;
- de fournir une occasion d'apprentissage partagé sur des sujets d'intérêt commun;
- d'assurer une participation significative et l'équité entre les participants et les présentateurs;
- de permettre aux jeunes d'aspirer au leadership et à des carrières dans le domaine de la conservation.

Ce rapport donne un aperçu du rassemblement et résume les commentaires des participants sur ce dernier.

Un réseau de conservation regroupe des aires protégées et des aires de conservation de tailles différentes permettant de préserver, plus efficacement que si elles étaient isolées, l'intégrité des écosystèmes, la biodiversité ainsi que la stabilité écologique, économique et sociale. (Territoire en santé, population en santé).

1. Format of the Gathering

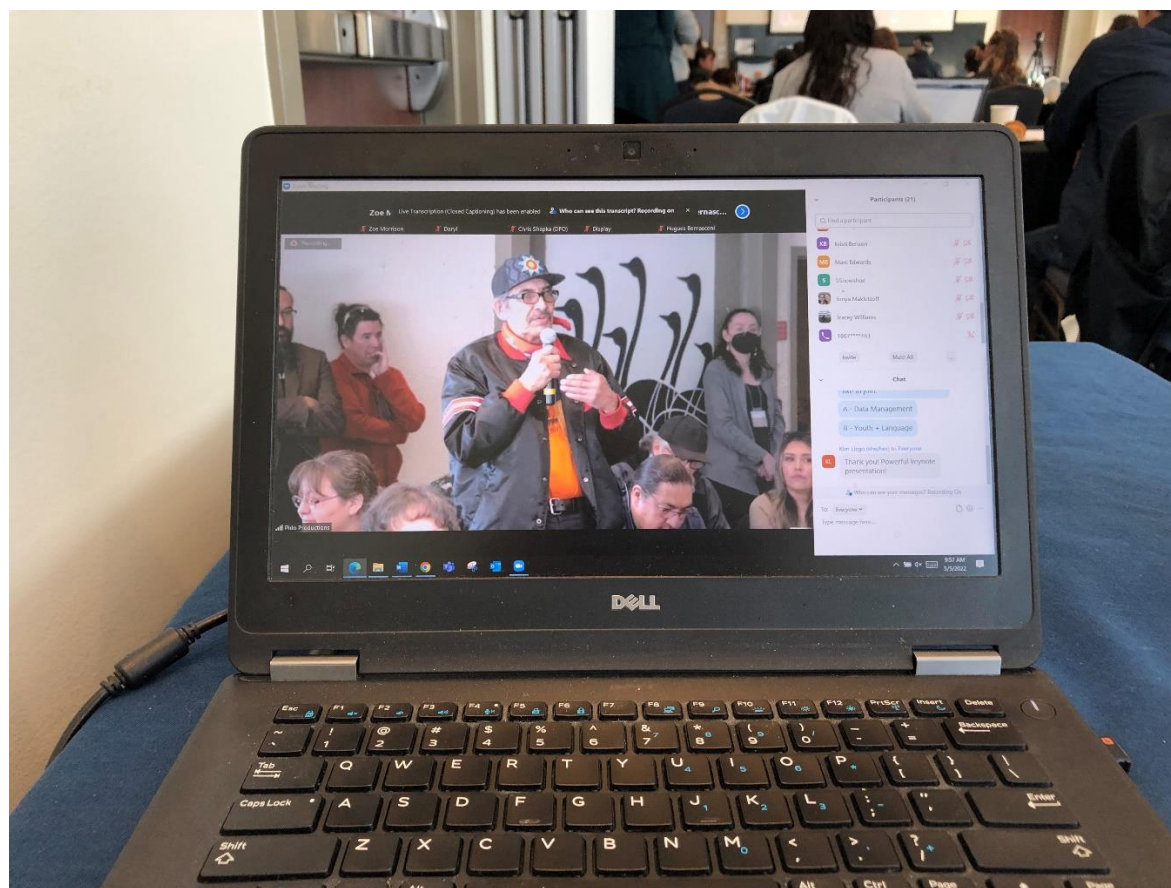
1.1 Agenda and Locations

The Gathering was held in Yellowknife at the Explorer Hotel and at Aurora Village, which is located at Cassidy Point approximately 23 kilometers from Yellowknife down the Ingraham Trail.

Day 1 of the Gathering (May 3rd) included two pre-registered workshops. The morning workshop (Creating Narratives and Connections) was held at the Explorer Hotel. The afternoon workshop (Well-being and Cultural Continuity) was held at Aurora Village, with plenary sessions at the Dining Hall and breakout group sessions in the Aurora Village Teepees. Participants were offered transportation to and from the workshop by bus.

Days 2 and 3 of the Gathering (May 4th and 5th) were held at the Explorer Hotel. The format was a mix of both plenary and concurrent sessions. Plenary sessions were held in Katimavik C, D and E. concurrent sessions were held in Katimavik C and Katimavik D and E combined.

Participants and presenters were able to participate virtually for some of the sessions via Zoom. Virtual participation was offered to accommodate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which made travel and in person participation difficult for some.



Agenda Wednesday May 4

9:00	Welcome & Prayer
9:30	Keynote: Gonaowo
10:30	Break
11:00	Gwaii Haanas Management Planning
12:00	Lunch and Video Screening: KÒK'ETÌ: WALKING WITH CARIBOU
1:00 Kat C	Sharing circle: management planning and Indigenous law
Kat D	Sharing circle: guardians and climate change
4:00	Short Break
4:10	Wrap Up

Figure 1 shows the summary Agenda for Day 1 and Day 2 of the Gathering. The official detailed Agenda is included in Appendix A of the Gathering Report. A summary of each of these sessions is located in Section 3 of the Gathering Report.

Thursday May 5 - Morning

9:00	Welcome Back
9:05	Keynote: Land relationship and planetary well-being
9:30	Break
9:40 Concurrent A Kat C	Community-centred Data Management, Stewardship and Sharing
9:40 Concurrent B Kat D	Indigenous Youth On the Land/Water Programming in Schools and Community
10:30	Break
11:00 Concurrent B Kat D	Inspiration for language revitalization through the conservation network
12:00	Lunch and Recorded Presentation: Gwichi'in Goonanh'kak Googwandak

Thursday May 5 - Afternoon

1:00 Concurrent A Kat C	Place name map gallery walk
1:00 Concurrent B Kat D	Strengthening partnerships: network planning and financing
2:00	Break
2:30	Workshop: Building a Community of Practice
4:00	Closing and Prayer



1.2 Gathering Planning Partners

Planning for the Conservation Network Gathering was done in collaboration with an informal advisory group made up of representatives from various organizations, including Indigenous organizations and governments and Protected Area Management Boards. The advisory group for the 2022 Gathering included: Alexa Scully, Ashley Menicoche, Heidi Wiebe, Jessica Smart, Mark Poskitt, Phoebe Rabesca, Natisha Drygeese, and Steve Ellis. The advisory group met virtually three times between October and December 2021. The advisory group provided input on session topics and formats, potential speakers, venue options, and who to invite to the gathering.

1.3 Gathering Participants, Speakers, and Facilitation Team

A total of 99 people registered in advance for the Gathering and approximately 90 attended at least some of the event either in-person or online. A total of 52 people attended the Creating Narratives and Connections Workshop and 42 people attended the Cultural Continuity and Well-being Workshop. One of the objectives of the organizing committee was to ensure equitability in participants and speakers in terms of gender or region.

- Of 29 speakers, 10 (35%) were male and 19 (65%) were female
- Of 29 speakers, 9 (31%) were from Yellowknife, 6 (21%) were from the NWT outside of Yellowknife, and 14 (48%) were from outside of the NWT.

Participants were offered the opportunity to participate via Zoom for most sessions on Day 2 and Day 3 of the Gathering. The Gathering agenda specified which sessions were accessible via Zoom. The number of virtual participants varied throughout the Gathering. Sixteen people participated online on May 4th, eighteen people in the morning of May 5th, and forty-two people joined the Indigenous Youth On the Land/Water Programming in Schools and Community on the afternoon of May 5th.

A full list of participants and speakers can be found in Appendix B of this report.

The Gathering was co-facilitated by a team comprised of independent consultants Dëneze Nakehk'ó and Darha Phillpot (both from Yellowknife), along with Zoe Morrison and Jamie Davignon from Stantec's Whitehorse office. Technical support was provided by PIDO Productions.

1.4 Gathering Documentation

In addition to this Gathering Report, video recordings and copies of the PowerPoint presentations are available upon request.

2.0 Summary of Presentations and Discussions at the Gathering

2.1 Workshop – Communication Techniques (Creating Narratives and Connections)

Dēneze Nakehk’o and Kaila Jefferd-Moore, teamed up to provide participants with a three-hour interactive journalism workshop intended to empower storytellers to share what is important about their conservation projects. The workshop was based on a philosophy of Narrative Sovereignty, which is the ability to tell your own stories, and to define your own worldview. Drawing on personal experience, and insightful reflections, Dēneze and Kaila guided Gathering participants through the basics of creating narratives including:

- What we want to share and how we want to share it.
- What is important for people to know?
- Who is it important to share with?
- What is the best way to tell the story?

The workshop covered tools and techniques including interviewer/ interviewee techniques, photography, videography, audio recording, and writing tips. The workshop empowered participants to take control of their stories and to develop skills that they need to support storytelling about important conservation projects taking place across the NWT.



2.2 Workshop – Wellbeing and Cultural Continuity (Supporting Culture & Wellbeing in Land Stewardship)

The purpose of this workshop was to bring people together to discuss how protected areas may contribute to cultural continuity and human well-being. The workshop agenda was developed by: Dr. Brenda Parlee (University of Alberta), Dr. Faisal Moola (University of Guelph) and Dr. Jeff Wall (Cornell University) all of whom are affiliated with the Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership (CRP), Joanne Barnaby (consultant), and Lauren King (CPIU). This workshop was one component of a larger project on this topic. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, only Dr. Brenda was able to travel to Yellowknife for the workshop. The workshop was moderated by Joanne Barnaby, Dr. Peter Pulsifer (Carlton University) and Dēneze Nakehk'o provided facilitation support in the breakout groups.

The workshop started and ended in plenary sessions. Three separate breakout groups met in teepees where participants explored the following questions:

- How has being on the land contributed to your own, your family's and your community's well-being?
- Can you share some examples from your own experience how protected areas contribute to wellbeing?
- What are some of the recommendations for tracking how land and protected areas contribute to well-being?



2.3 Gathering Welcome and Opening Remarks

The day started with an opening address from Yellowknives Dene Chief, Edward Sangris, followed by a drum song from the Yellowknives Dene Drummers, moving then to an opening prayer from Elder Jonas Sangris. Chief Sangris shared words about the traditional travel of Indigenous people

connecting with sacred ancestral sites through prayer and spending time on the land in sacred practice. He spoke on the struggles of Indigenous peoples' over the last 100 years to protect their land and contemporary issues that continue today over areas such as White Beach Point. Chief Sangris spoke about breaking new trail towards an approach to conservation that involves working together to protect important areas.

ENR Deputy Minister, Erin Kelly, participated via Zoom to welcome everyone to the Gathering. Dr. Kelly noted that communities are at the heart of conservation planning in the NWT. She recognized people's connection to the land and a shared commitment amongst participants to keep the land healthy. Dr. Kelly encouraged people to take advantage of the Gathering to connect and look for new opportunities to collaborate into the future.

2.4 Keynote Address - Gonaowo

John B. Zoe provided the keynote address on Day 1. Using a simple and compelling drawing to illustrate his words, John B. Zoe shared a traditional worldview story as he drew (see Figure 3). He explained that land is like a book and traditional place names tell a story about things that happened, such as Yamoza's travels, and important harvesting activities tied to areas. With colonization, traditional place names were replaced with names associated with trade, the church, and after the treaties, with exploration and mining. John spoke about the strengthening exercise of Indigenous people today, when young people spend time on the land learning traditional stories and ways of life. Treaty implementation, conservation agreements, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the United Nations Rights of Indigenous People are all tools to strengthen two ways of thinking. John B. Zoe finished by reminding participants of the language of treaty "as long as the sun rises and the river flows, we will not be restricted from our way of life".

Figure 2:
John B. Zoe Keynote Illustration



2.5 Gwaii Haanas Management Planning

Joining the Gathering by Zoom, the Gwaii Haanas Achipelago Management Board (AMB) was represented by Cindy Boyko (Co-Chair, Council of the Haida Nation), Ernie Gladstone (Park Superintendent, Gwaii Haanas Parks Canada) and Colin Masson (Department of Fisheries and Oceans). The presenters first provided context about Gwaii Haanas, an archipelago encompassing 1,500 square kilometers of land and 35,000 square kilometers of sea, cooperatively managed by the Haida Nation and Parks Canada, and designated a Haida Heritage Site, National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Their presentation touched on key milestones that led to the establishment of Gwaii Haanas and the approval of the current Land-Sea-People Management Plan. They described the intent, governance structure and function of the AMB, where decisions are made by a court-tested consensus decision-making process.

The AMB successfully developed the Gina ‘Waadluxan KilGuhlGa Land-Sea-People Management Plan in 2018. The development of the Management Plan was supported by a technical team with a full-time person from each of the parties (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Haida Nation, and Parks Canada) and also guided by an Advisory Committee made up of people with specialized knowledge. The Management Plan is guided by principles grounded in Haida Law and sets seven goals and associate targets. The presenters shared insights into some of the difficult dynamics – in particular around commercial fisheries – and explained that developing relationships was key to finding solutions.

The final component of the presentation focused on the evolution of the Haida Guardians program, which was established in the 1980’s. Cindy Boyko, who previously managed the Guardian Program, described the program, its importance to visitor experience, and its value for Haida people to reconnect with land and culture by spending time in these important areas.

The questions and discussion following the presentation focused on the court-tested consensus decision making,¹ and other tools and techniques for dispute resolution. The AMB described the dispute resolution clauses in the agreements and emphasized that efforts need to be made at all levels to achieve consensus, including building relationship and shared understanding about Haida people and culture.

2.6 Management Planning and Indigenous Law Sharing Circle

People gathered in a circle to share their perspectives and experiences related to Management Planning and Indigenous Law. Larry Innes, OKT Law and Jonathan Tsetso, A/Director of Conservation Programs were invited to act as guides for the circle. The discussion was heart-felt and wide ranging with many others contributed personal stories. Three main areas of discussion are summarized on the next page:

¹ [2006 FCA 144 \(CanLII\) | Moresby Explorers Ltd. v. Canada \(Attorney General\) | CanLII](#)

Understanding Dene Law in relation to Canadian law:

Some non-Dene people expressed lack of understanding of Dene Law, how it relates to Canadian concepts of law, in particular rules and enforcement. Larry Innes said that in the Canadian perspective, law is concerned with the following questions: What is the law for? Who does it apply to? Where does it apply? What does the law say is the right thing to do? In that sense it is similar to Dene Law, which can answer these questions. Canada is unique, with layers of legal orders. Canada has favored English/common law as being one law, but with recognition of civil law, and Indigenous laws – our treaties wouldn't have been possible. In the Canadian law tradition, two laws might apply to the same place at same time, this is called conflict of laws, and there are rules about how to resolve any conflict that may arise when both laws apply in the same place. Modern treaties are about detailing what laws will apply in what areas. Conservation management that draws on both Canadian and Dene Laws requires these kinds of conversations.

Dene Law as a worldview:

Many Dene people in the circle spoke about how Dene Law is a world view - Dene Nawo. Dene Law is a way of life built around connections and relationships; and with relationships comes responsibility. Responsibility is between people and also with the animals, sky, and everything in between. The Dene way of life is learned through observation and practice. Many anecdotes and stories were provided in the sharing circle, and the following two stories are provided as examples:

- The practice of Drum Dance. If someone comes around out in the bush, that person becomes a guest. People stop what they were doing and get ready, put on their best clothes, and start a drum dance. They may dance for 50 songs. On the forty-ninth dance they repeat then sing closing song. It is protocol or law to complete the circle.
- The Dene Love Song. When someone sings a Dene Love Song there is a responsibility to listen and respond, to seek to understand what gives rise to the song, and to determine if there is something that needs to be done in response.

Dene Law requires that you look after the land 'Ne ho nit', watch the land, respect the land, and pay the land by making an offering.

Dene Law and management planning:

People in the circle who had experience working on Management Plans grounded in Dene Law shared these points:

- Management planning is a regulation under a legislation and can be seen as a "gray area" of law where there are opportunities to incorporate Dene Law.
- Parks Canada is working on how to recognize Indigenous law in regulations, however this work will take time.
- For Edézhíé, bringing Dene world view into the management planning process has led to a community-based approach where all decisions start and end in communities. Strong community coordinators are essential in this kind of a process.
- Management Plans should reflect the community through photos and language. Efforts are being made to bring about change within the bureaucracies of governments.



2.7 Guardians and Climate Change Sharing Circle

People gathered in a circle to share their perspectives and experiences about the impacts of climate change and how communities are responding. The group included people from the South Slave, Tłıchǫ, Sahtu, Dehcho and outside of the NWT. People described the changes they were observing including:

- Changes in water levels, including increased flooding on the Liard and Mackenzie rivers, changes in currents, and wetness in the bush on trails that used to be dry
- Changes in ice formation and melt, and snow levels, including a lack of summer snow
- Permafrost melt leading to riverbank sloughing, drainage of lakes
- Changes in location, abundance and health of animals – increased muskox, fewer ducks and rabbits, increased beaver, less herring, shifting migration times for animals and unhealthy fish
- Unusual weather i.e., thunderstorm in Tuyeta

People also discussed impacts from other sources besides a changing climate, such as noise attributed to development and fires left to burn leading to impacts on lichen. Some people also commented on the changes in peoples' behaviour as a result of the changes of the physical environment. People expressed sadness about the changes, for example one participant told a story about going out berry-picking to a favorite location only to discover there were no more berries.

Many people spoke with pride of their work on the land on behalf of their communities. They spoke about how important it is to spend time out on the land, observing and gathering data with their conservation partners. One person noted that climate change impacts are occurring around the world and that people world-wide are worried about the land, water, and animals. People need to come together to raise our voices. Participants were happy and grateful for the time to come together and share stories from across the NWT and beyond.



2.8 Keynote Address - Land Relationships and Planetary Well-being

Dr. Nicole Redvers provided the keynote address for Day Two of the Gathering speaking to Gathering participants in plenary. Dr. Redvers spoke passionately about how Indigenous Peoples are resilient peoples who have honorably carried deep ecological knowledge over thousands of years. With wider planetary health movements taking hold, Dr. Redvers emphasized the importance of ensuring a grounding in the stewardship practices, the relation building, and the innate sense of reciprocity embodied in traditional Indigenous knowledges around the globe. This presentation discussed Indigenous perspectives on planetary health and greater conservation movements through a determinants of planetary health lens. Planetary health as a 'field' is primarily a Western construct as Indigenous Traditional Knowledge systems have no clear separation between the health of the planet and the health of self or that of the community and ecosystem at large. The meaning and applications of planetary health are directly rooted in community values based on protocols for living in harmony with all that have existed for thousands of years. Methods are rooted in stories; relationships rooted in interconnectivity. Dr. Redvers inspired the group to "speak with people behind you, giving you strength that you are not alone."

Discussions that followed Dr. Redvers' presentation focused on the important role of Indigenous People's knowledge for planetary wellbeing and the ethics involved in sharing traditional knowledge in a good way. Dr. Redvers noted that Indigenous people will be called on more and more and there is a need to be mindful of how traditional knowledge will be used. Indigenous knowledge cannot and should not be separated from the person that holds it.

2.9 Community-centred Data Management, Stewardship and Sharing: Protocols, Practices and Tools for Guardians Programs

Dr. Peter Pulsifer, associate professor from Carleton University, provided a session geared to Guardians, project and program managers. Information and data management are becoming increasingly important activities within community conservation and monitoring programs. Dr. Pulsifer began the session with discussions about fundamental concepts of Indigenous data sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous Nations to control data both from and about their communities. Using inspiring projects as examples to illustrate success, Dr. Pulsifer engaged participants in collaborative discussion about understanding information needs for Guardians programs and how these needs can be used to help choose appropriate methods and tools for digital data and information management.

Dr Pulsifer presented on the Eloka Protocol model that uses frames to support data management project design and implementation, all grounded in the principle of Indigenous data sovereignty (Figure 4). The protocol model is intended to support communities to take control of what they want and what they need and has been developed using lessons learned from others in projects that have come before.

Participants were engaged in discussion throughout the session. Areas of interest to participants included: how to build collaboration between communities, in particular around data sharing; how to resolve data management conflicts in areas of overlapping territories; opportunities and risks associated with emerging GPC real-time technology; and education and training for local Guardians and sustainable financing with the challenge of project-based funding.

The Protocol Model



Figure 3:
Eloka Protocol Model

2.10 Engaging Youth for Durable Conservation: On the Land & Water Learning About Territory, Culture and Community

This session focused on Indigenous Youth on the land/water programming in the NWT and British Columbia (BC). Tracey Williams (Nature United NWT Program Director) presented via Zoom from Yellowknife, and Zahra Remtulla, (Nature United On the Land Coordinator), Roberta Duncan (Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewardship Program (SEAS) participant), and Deanna Duncan (Kitasoo Community School SEAS Coordinator) travelled from BC for the session to present in person.

The presenters shared examples of NWT and BC programming aimed at empowering youth to be stewards of their territories by rekindling the connection between young people and their lands, waters, cultures and communities. Tracey described a Northern Youth Leadership – Arctic Research Foundation partnership through which five students ages 13-19 from Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Łutsël K'édé Dene First Nation participated in a research expedition to Christie Bay (2019,) and seven NWT youth, ages 14-16 from Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Smith, Behchokq̓, Ndilq̓ and Yellowknife participated in year two of program (2020). The program was followed by a Science Inquiry Mentorship with a 14-year-old Yellowknife youth.

Zahra and Deanna described the SEAS program - a youth on the land and water program partnership between BC coastal nations and Nature United. The program is run in three Nations: Klemtu, Bella Bella and Bella Coola. While unique in each location, the program generally includes school-based programming and summer internship programs. Roberta Duncan shared her perspective based on participation in the intern program for four years. She spoke with pride about her accomplishments including protection of an area.

The presenters hoped that Gathering participants would gain insights from the program to apply similar ideas in their own contexts and territories within the structure of their own education and youth development systems, based on the unique identities and needs of their own communities.

2.11 Inspiration for Language Revitalization Through the Conservation Network

Walter Bezha (Délıne ʔq̓hda K'aowe Ke, Elders Representative) and Tammy Steinwand (Tłıchq̓ Government) participated in a panel presentation moderated by Dēneze Nakehk'ó. The panelists were asked to respond to these questions:

- Tell us about yourself and the story of your relationship to your language?
- From your perspective, why is language revitalization important?
- How is language revitalization connected to conservation?
- From your experience, what can be done to recover, reclaim, and maintain Indigenous language?
- What can people and organizations do to support language revitalization in protected areas?

The following are some of the highlights from the discussion.

Walter described his journey growing up within the residential school system and his connection to his grandfather. His grandfather taught him that he had to learn things on the land and to be part of western economy. After pursuing post secondary education, Walter spent a year in Délı̨ne, stepped back from his job and spent time reconnecting to the land. He learned then that language is a tie to the land. Language is a practice and that to learn well, immersion is essential. Walter explained that “when you do this, you think like your grandfather. You think in a different way, you use your other world view. You can’t jump back and forth; you can’t compare these two ways of thinking.” Walter encouraged people to be creative in their learning, to not be afraid to speak. He emphasized that language is about connection: language is learned through connections to people. “If you learn your language and culture, you will be practicing conservation.”

Tammy Steinwand shared that she is not a language expert. She learned the Tlicho language from her mother and grandmother and from friends on the playground at school. Tammy spoke about the passion she has for language and culture, she said “when I do anything related to language, I feel a natural high. [It’s] even stronger when I am out on the land learning from Elders.” She told participants that language and culture should be the base of who we are; those of us running programs need to include it in all our programming. Tammy described how the Tlicho language has a richness that is lost through translation, “When we speak in our language, we speak on a different level, we have more richness to share. When translated, things get watered down and left out.” Tammy spoke about the responsibility of parents to ensure that young people are learning Indigenous languages now. She also recommended that when we do conservation work, we need to involve Elders but also document the work to capture how things are pronounced and where words come from. Tammy spoke about how language and cultural revitalization is on an upswing, and that we are in a time when it is cool to be Indigenous, to know Indigenous language, and culture. She spoke about the importance of positivity and support. “If you don’t feel good enough, focus on the good points, areas where you are strong. Find and work with your support network. Find people who agree with you. There are lots of Elders who want to help!”

2.12 Place Names Map Gallery Walk

The place names gallery walk session was an opportunity for Gathering participants to highlight mapping projects and to share information about how the maps were developed and how they have been used, in an interactive way. In this session the maps became a focal point through which participants spoke passionately about the lands that they are working to protect.

Laura Jane Michel, Doris Enzoe, and Addie Jonasson shared information about the lands within and around Thaidene Nëné Indigenous protected area, territorial protected area, and national park reserve. Laura described the boundaries associated with the Indigenous, national, and territorial areas and sacred places and trails including Lady of the Falls, Artillery Lake, and Pikes Portage. Doris shared some information about Indigenous place names and the stories associated with them.

Sara Woodman, GNWT, provided information about the cultural places program and projects. The group discussed processes and policies associated with changing colonial names back to traditional names and examples of how this has happened.

The session ended with a presentation and discussion with Innu Nation Delegates (Jack Penashue, Jodi Ashinni, Jonathan Feldgajer, and Gioia Montevecchi) on the topic of mapping projects for Akami-Uapishk. Some highlights from this discussion were the application of the maps to children's programming, involvement of local artists in illustrating the maps and some of the challenges associated with renewing and revitalizing mapping projects from decades earlier.



2.13 Strengthening Partnerships: Network Planning and Financing

This session included two presentations about NWT-wide initiatives intended to advance conservation planning across the NWT.

Michelle Swallow, Manager of Conservation Planning and Implementation Unit, was the first presenter for this session speaking about the GNWT's draft Healthy Land Healthy People 2022-2027. ENR is leading the GNWT's engagement program on developing a renewed Healthy Land Healthy People (HLHP). This work began in 2021 with a public survey. ENR has used the information collected through the survey, as well as an evaluation of accomplishments achieved through the first HLHP, to draft a new five-year HLHP work plan. Draft objectives include:

- Support capacity building
- Support effective and equitable management of the network
- Increase innovation across the network
- Continue to develop the network
- Evaluate the network

A draft HLHP 2022-2027 has been shared with Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations and with stakeholders for their review in February 2022, and comments will be received until September 1st. ENR's goal is to finalize the document by Winter 2022. Michelle explained that, as has been the case since devolution, any new protected areas should be identified in the final Healthy Land, Healthy People work plan or nominated through the *Protected Areas Act*.

Dahti Tsetso, Deputy Director, Indigenous Leadership Initiative, shared information about opportunities for sustainable financing with the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) opportunity.

Dahti explained that Indigenous Leadership Initiative has partnered with the Pew Charitable Trusts to support and champion the initiative. PFPs are initiatives designed to substantially finance locally-designed conservation systems over the long-term. There are successful PFPs in several countries around the world, including Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia, showing how PFPs can create healthier lands, communities, and economies. PFPs bring multiple partners together around a shared vision. Partners work together to develop a plan that outlines key activities and outcomes - like paddling together to move the canoe forward. Potential NWT PFP partners include: the Government of Canada; Government of the NWT; Private Donors; and Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations. To date, there has been initial engagement with potential partners including discussion about needs and priorities. An all-Partner Leadership Roundtable was held May 25th & 26th, to launch the NWT PFP Working Group (Spring 2022-2023). The goal is to have an agreement in place by middle of next year.

2.14 Workshop - Building a Community of Practice

The final workshop of the three-day Gathering explored the idea of a community of practice for the NWT Conservation Network. Before breaking into smaller groups for discussion, the workshop facilitators presented basic information about communities of practice. A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. Communities of practice can:

- Create opportunities for learning, building capability, sharing knowledge and reducing duplication of work.
- Support people working together towards achieving specific goals
- Provide a way for practitioners to share tips and best practices, ask questions of their colleagues, and provide support for each other.

In small groups, participants were asked: *What are your needs and how can a community of practice help?* Participants were invited to write their thoughts on sticky notes, to post them and to sort them into themes. Participants reported needs in these thematic areas: information exchange; education and resources; human resources; funding; strategic planning at the community level; land-based activities; support to connect across



regions and the NWT; research; land and culture revitalization; infrastructure; youth programs; and making connection and building trust.

Workshop participants then engaged in small group discussion with the objective of identifying actions to develop a community of practice. The groups discussed: *What can you do? How can others support you? What should happen next?*



The responses from the seven groups were varied. Some of the common actions identified include establishing channels of communication, supporting and asking for support through informal communication methods, and more Gatherings both virtual and in person. Some practical next steps that could be considered for the next Gathering include making space for short updates from each group to share what they worked on over the year and an advance survey with results shared before the Gathering to help with networking.



Detailed notes from the break-out groups' tables are included in Appendix C of this report.

2.15 Video Screenings

Three videos were screened during the Gathering lunch breaks: KÒK'ETÌ: Walking with Caribou by Tłı̨chǫ Government https://vimeo.com/567896073?ref=em-share&fbclid=IwAR1cTly1eGDX5vR4xo8s5BExspwzK6XMgAct3Isc4cju2H_2FYPAxtRhyyI

Gwichi'in Goonanh'kak Googwandak: Gwich'in Place Names, Stories and Maps a pre-recorded presentation by Ingrid Kritch, Alestine Andre, Kristi Benson, Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Culture and Heritage.

K'ahsho Got'ine Guardians and the Land Needs Guardians Storytellers Program

<https://landneedsguardians.ca/videos/elders-youth-land>

3.0 Gathering Evaluation Through Participant Feedback

Workshop participants were asked to provide their feedback on the Gathering using a SLIDO survey. The survey link was shared with participants at lunch and the afternoon break on the second day and via email afterwards. Response rate to the participant feedback was low with only ten surveys completed. The following is a summary of feedback. The participant feedback survey is in Appendix D of this report.

All survey respondents rated their overall experience at the Gathering as 'very good' or 'excellent'. When asked what they liked about the Gathering, the most common response was networking and sharing of experiences and stories. When asked what they disliked, some participants suggested improvements could be made to time management for presenters, more focused sharing circles, and more structured networking to support mingling between organizations. Community Centred Data Management, the Place Name Mapping Gallery Walk, and Guardians and Climate Change Sharing Circle were identified as the top three most helpful topics at the Gathering.

When asked to reflect on the length of the Gathering and preferences for formats there was no strong consensus on one format over another. Over half of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that next year the Gathering should have more smaller group discussions, more panel discussions, panel presentations, and workshop options. Exactly half of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that next year the Gathering should have more sharing circles, more time for questions and answers. When asked to reflect on the length of the Gathering, half of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Gathering should be longer, while half neither agreed nor disagreed and disagreed. The following topics were suggested for the next Gathering:

- Respectful engagement practices for contacting and working with communities (breaking barriers of engagement)
- How to apply for funding for your community project
- Current opportunities in funding through collaborative approaches
- GNWT to share observations on conservation in the NWT and how they support it
- More focus on progress re: implementation of Establishment Agreements
- Addressing barriers to conservation
- Sharing progress re: building the conservation network itself.

APPENDIX A:

Gathering Agenda

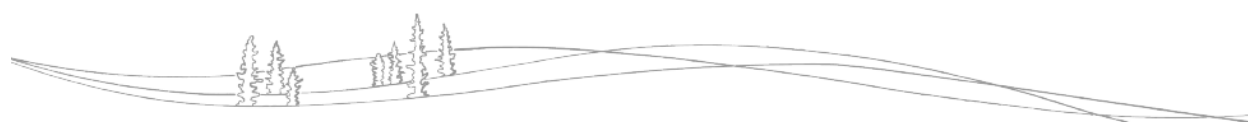


Government of
Northwest Territories

Conservation Network Gathering

Agenda – May 3, 4, 5, 2022

Tuesday, May 3	9:00-12:00	Communication techniques workshop: Creative Narratives and Connections
	2:00-5:00	Well-being and cultural continuity workshop: Our Next Steps Towards Human Wellbeing, Cultural Continuity & Conservation - A Partnership for the Protected and Conserved Areas Network of the Northwest Territories
Wednesday May 4	8:30-9:00	Arrival
	9:00-9:30	Welcome
	9:30-10:30	Keynote Speaker: The fish net weaving tool and reconciliation
	11:00-12:00	Panel: Gwaii Haanas Management Planning
	1:00-4:00	Sharing Circle: Management planning and Indigenous law sharing circle
	or	Sharing Circle: Guardians and climate change sharing circle
	4:10-4:40	Panel: Recap of Day 1
Thursday May 5	5:30-8:00	Evening Event
	8:30-9:00	Arrival
	9:00-9:05	Welcome and overview of Day 2
	9:05-9:30	Keynote Speaker: Stories of Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta
	9:40-12:00	Presentation/Workshop: Community-centred data management
	or	
	9:40-10:30	Presentation: Inspiring youth to careers in conservation
	11:00-12:00	Panel: Inspiration for language revitalization through the conservation network
	1:00-2:00	Gallery Walk: Place name maps gallery walk
	or	Presentation: Strengthening partnerships: network planning and financing
	2:30-4:00	Workshop: Building a Community of Practice
	4:00-4:15	Closing and Prayer



APPENDIX B:

List of Presenters and Participants

Anusa Sivalingam	ECCC	Protected Areas Specialist
Kaila Jefferd-Moore	Kaila JM Consulting	Principal Consultant
Paul Andrew	Knowledge Holder	
Walter Bezha	Lead Délı̨nę ʔǫhda K'aowe Ke (Elders Council)	K'aowe
Laani Uunila	Parks Canada	Implementation Manager, Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve
Deanna Duncan	Kitasoo Community School	SEAS Coordinator
Roberta Duncan	Kitasoo Community School / Kitasoo Xai'xais Resource Stewardship	SEAS Intern
John B Zoe	Consulting	
Wilbert Kochon	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation	Grand Chief, Sahtu Dene Council; Chief, Behdzi Ahda; Director, KGF
Lauren King	GNWT-ENR Conservation Planning	Protected Areas Management Planner
Heather Chang	GNWT-ENR Conservation Planning	Conservation Finance Coordinator
Kelly Stein	GNWT-ENR Conservation Planning	Conservation Areas Management Planner
Claudia Haas	GNWT-ENR Conservation Planning	Protected Areas Biologist
Michelle Swallow	GNWT-ENR Conservation Planning	Manager, CPIU
Kris Brekke	CPAWSNWT	Director
Bob Overvold	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation	Director
Jacey Firth-Hagen	Gwich'in Language Revival Campaign #SpeakGwichinToMe	Chit nilii (Team Lead)
Smart, Jessica	North Slave Metis Alliance	Lead Conservation Planner
Gioia Montevecchi	Innu Nation	Planner - Akamiu-Uapishku
Mary Ann Nui	Innu Nation	Deputy Grand Chief
Jack Penashue	Innu Nation	Innu Superintendent Akamiu-Uapishku
Jodie Ashini	Innu Nation	Cultural Guardian
David Nui	Innu Nation	Knowledge Holder
Sebastian Piwas	Innu Nation	Guardian
Jon Feldgajer	Innu Nation	Strategic Advisor
Twyla Edgi-Masuzumi	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation	Guardians Coordinator
Déneze Nakehk'o	Dene Nahjo	Facilitator
Gina Bayha	Deline Gotine Government	Director, LRE
Angelina Mackeinzo	Deline Gotine Government	Assistant Director, LRE
Jared Ellenor	Parks Canada	Ecosystem Scientist
Larry Innes	OKT LLP	Partner
Zahra Remtulla	Nature United	On the Land Programs Coordinator
Glen MacKay	ECE-GNWT	Territorial Archaeologist
Edna Tobac	Tuyeta Management Board	Management Board Member
John Tobac	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation	Guardian
Brie O'Keefe	Indigenous Leadership Initiative	Policy Specialist
Johnnie Storr	Inuvialuit Game Council	Vice-Chair

Barrett Lenoir	Ducks Unlimited Canada	Manager, NWT
Louie Constant	Edehzhie Boardmember	Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation
Trisha Landry	Edehzhie	Community Coordinator
Arial Sanguéz	Deh Cho First Nation	Edehzhie Community Coordinator
Joanne Barnaby	Consultant	
Ashley Menicoche	Dehcho First Nations	Edehzhie Regional Coordinator
Heidi Wiebe	Edehzhie Management Board	Planner / Board Support
Rose Moses	Edehzhie	Wrigley Community Coordinator
Tim Lennie	Edehzhie Management Board	EMB Member
Jim Antoine	Edehzhie Management Board	EMB Member
James Tsetso	Edehzhie	Liidlíi Kue Community Coordinator
Herb Norwegian	Edehzhie Management Board	EMB member
Minnie Whimp	Deninu Kue First Nation	Lands Coordinator
Hanna Catholique	Parks Canada	Engagement Coordinator
Natisha Drygeese	Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Parks Project coordinator
Faisal Moola	University of Guelph	Associate Professor
Dave Pierrot	Deninu Kue First Nation	Sub Chief/Councillor
LauraJane Michel	Lutselke Dene first nation	Traditional knowledge
Sarah Woodman	GNWT ECE- Cultural Places Program	Cultural Places Officer
Brenda	University of Alberta	Professor
Peter Pulsifer	Carleton University	Associate Professor
Alexa Scully	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation/Indigenous Leadership Initiative	Operations Director/Consultant
Danny Masuzumi	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation	Executive Director
Phoebe Rabesca	Tlicho Government	Lands Administrative Officer
Bethany Apples	Tlicho Government	Land Use Planner Intern
Joseph Tobac	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation & Tuyeta Management Board	Guardians Coordinator and Tuyeta Management Board Member
Buddy Gully	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation	Guardian
Darcy Edgi	K'ahsho Got'ine Foundation	Vice-President, Board of Directors
Addie Jonasson	Lutsel K'e Dene FN	TDN Board Member
Paul Harrington	NWT Metis Nation	TDN Board Member
Earl Evans	NWT Metis Nation	TDN Board Member
Arthur Beck	NWT Metis Nation	TDN Board Member
Shannon E Ward	Thaidene Nëné Xá Dá Yáłı	Independent Facilitator
Taylor Fraser	Tulit'a IPCA and Guardians Coordinator	Guardians Coordinator
Ramona Pearson	Edézhíé Management Board - Dehcho First Nations	Edézhíé Management Board Dehcho First Nations Representative / Dehcho First Nations Communications Coordinator
Sharon Snowshoe	Gwich'in Tribal Council	Director, Dept. of Culture & Heritage
Jessica Jumbo	Sambaa K'e First Nation	Environment Coordinator

APPENDIX C:

Building a Community of Practice Workshop Notes

Response to question: What are your needs and how can a community of practice help?		
Information exchange (processes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bouncing ideas off other practitioners – Annual lessons learned (success and failures – and why!) – Brainstorming sessions – Dedicated / informed group – People to call – Community meeting updates – Involve Elders – Innovation & Inspiration – Connection between initiatives i.e. IPCA 	Education and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dene History – Land Use Planning – Strategic Management Planning (design concepts, innovative ideas, lessons learned) – Program exchanges (e.g., Guardians), – Resources to teach youth – Traditional trails – Integrating new technology – Tools for Guardian start-up 	Human Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Loyalty and retention – Mentoring – All our people to return home when Their education is finished – Guardian apprenticeship – Standards for Guardian qualification (Elders and Academic)
Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assistance to know where funding sources exist – Grant & proposal writing – Flow structure for funding – To keep initiatives going 	Strategic planning at community level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Help to set priorities at community level – Templates for Strat planning – Need to know what are communities' goals/desires – Community economic development 	Land-based activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gatherings on the land – A place of learning on the land – Build into NWT curriculum – Pilot project: families on the land
Support to connect across regions and the NWT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Confederation of Indigenous Nations – Regional gatherings – Connecting with family in other communities – Indigenous-only gatherings 	Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weather prediction – Names of rocks – Food sovereignty and security 	Land and Culture revitalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cultural preservation – Dene language facilitators – Support to live a good life – Connect to the land – Language revitalization – Seasonal harvesting practices – Be a grandfather/grandmother – Healing camps – TK legislation – Elder Youth interaction – Harvesting programming
Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cabins – Research equipment – New buildings – Better Internet Service – Secure databases 	Youth programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Outdoor education in schools – Youth and Elders – Support youth at risk – Traditional education in schools 	Making Connections and building trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Relationships between organization – Between communities – connection with Elders & programs – Between Elders & youth

Identified actions towards a community of practice			
Table	What can you do?	How can others support you?	What should happen next?
Table 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Building (teepee) for Tuyeta cultural work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Share examples of where this (building) has been done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Start planning for the teepee
Table 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish a channel for communication – using an existing accessible platform like facebook – Identify and facilitate exchanges of knowledge – More regular Gatherings and presentations – maybe some virtually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tap into Conservation Through Reconciliation email list ‘virtual campfire’ 	
Table 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More exchanges, more gathering, keep communicating with each other – Keep building each other up and support each other – Learn from youth – Elders guiding and mentoring youth on all things culture – Language programs – More time on the land – Build on cross-cultural relationships, maintain laughter and a good sense of humour, laugh at yourself – Be positive, keep positivity alive in your work 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hold gatherings in communities, try to plan ways to teach courses on practical things like financing, budgeting, mortgages, etc.
Table 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We can host meetings, mobilize your community, small and large group talks – Lobby for better internet to allow others to join – Keep in simple, use you leadership, board members, Elders, land users – Language and culture camps, learning about life on the land, – Mentorship, guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Seek input from technical advisors and Elders Meetings with all parties involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Open discussions on implementation – Plans, meeting, commitments, information gathering and sharing, getting the work done – Keep trying
Table 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Passing on knowledge – Developing cultural programming for our communities, ideally in the education system – Identify targets, goals, objectives for conservation – Online networks – Learn how to tell stories, pass information to youth 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use collaborative approaches, inter-governmental approaches, help families get on the land – Put politics aside, we get stuck in this – Need to meet basic food security and housing for all first – Look for renewable energy options – Language mentoring programs 		
Table 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We can help others. – People to call when we need support or advice – we can be this and receive this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Email distribution list would be very helpful – How to adapt approaches to suit local context – New ideas that we might not have thought of – Learning from others – people are at different stages – but we can still work together – Learning from other agencies and groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Network gatherings every year – would be helpful to have little updates from each group to know what they worked on over the year. – Comparative table of what everyone is doing – advance survey before the gathering that you get before the conference – would be helpful to focus when you are in person
Table 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deciding where to focus energy and then figure out where funding might come from. – Community strategic planning process – More informational gatherings on the land – Language used in public spaces and in meetings like this – Look for money and tools from communication – Building capacity in HR – Ways to increase loyalty – Tech skills training – Sharing planning practices – Encourage newcomers to get involved in the community and get to know people – Confederation of Indigenous Nations – Be adaptable 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release to this whole country to let people know what we have done, let people know about the meat of the discussion

Appendix D: Gathering Evaluation Questions

What did you like about the gathering?

Open ended

What did you dislike about the gathering?

Open ended

What topics did you find the most helpful? (select all that apply)

List sessions topics

What topics would you suggest for next year?

Open ended

Please tell us if you disagree or agree with the following statements.

(1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neither agree nor disagree; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly agree.

Next year, the gathering should have more small group discussion

Next year, the gathering should have more panel discussions

Next year, the gathering should have more presentations

Next year, the gathering should have more time for Questions/Answers

Next year, the gathering should have more sharing circles

Next year, the gathering should have more workshop options

Next year, the gathering should be longer

Next year, the gathering should be shorter

Do you have additional recommendations or advice for the next gathering?

Open ended