

Climate Change Adaptation: Indigenous Food Security in the North

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Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research
For Northern Health and Well-Being
YUKON, CANADA



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[a](http://www.aicbr.c)

About Us

- AICBR is an independent, non-profit research organization
- Established in 2007
- Our only sources of funding have been project-based and achieved through competitive processes
- Our **mission** is:
*To facilitate, promote and conduct **community-based, Northern-led** research aimed at improving the lives of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Northerners and the health of Northern environments.*



Priorities

- **Food Security & Food Sovereignty**
 - Community Strategy Development
 - Climate Change Adaptation
- **Healthy Lifestyles**
 - Active Living
 - Healthy Eating
- **Youth Engagement & Mental Health**
- **Chronic Disease Prevention**





Jody Butler Walker
Co-Founder, Co-Director



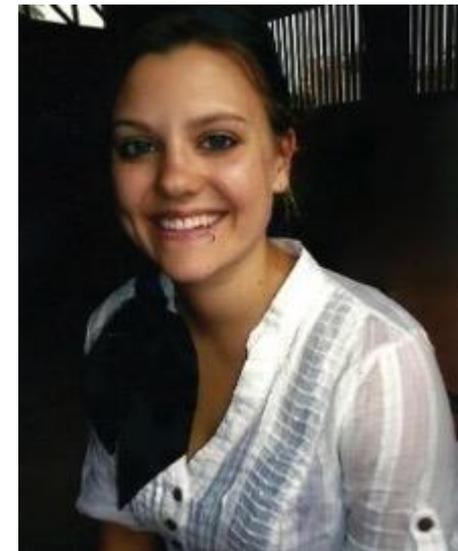
Norma Kassi
Co-Founder,
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Katelyn Friendship
Co-Director



Marilyn Van Bibber
Research Associate



Molly Pratt
Communications &
Research Coordinator

Principles of Community-Based Research

- Community members are *actively involved* in all stages of the research project.
- The relationship between researchers and community members is built on *respect, relevance, responsibility* & *reciprocity* and learning with and from each other by developing trust.
- Research *benefits* and serves the community directly, including capacity building and education, addresses their priorities and interests, and adheres to local research protocols.
- Research *builds on* and *contributes* to the strengths, skills, and resources of the community.

How do we do our research?

Process of Engagement:

- Collaborative proposal development in partnership with the community
- Community Steering/Advisory Committee and local coordinator
- Follow local and cultural research protocols when approaching a community
- Elder Guidance
- Incorporation of ancient traditional cultural practices and knowledge sharing between youth and Elders.
- Participation in community events
- Significant time spent in the community
- Ongoing communications
- Verification of results with communities.
- Knowledge Translation: Photovoice, DVDs, Community and Technical Reports

Community Food Security Strategies



08/25/2014

Community Food Security Strategies

What are community food security strategies?

- An overall plan for a community about how they will sustain themselves now and in the future;
- It is based on the traditional knowledge of Elders and the wisdom of the community, with extensive and ongoing community engagement;
- Youth learning from their Elders about past traditional food security practices and how they need to be implemented is a key part of the process;
- Community members are interviewed & data analyzed, summarized and verified by the community, resulting in recommendations that comprise the strategy.

Community Food Security Strategies

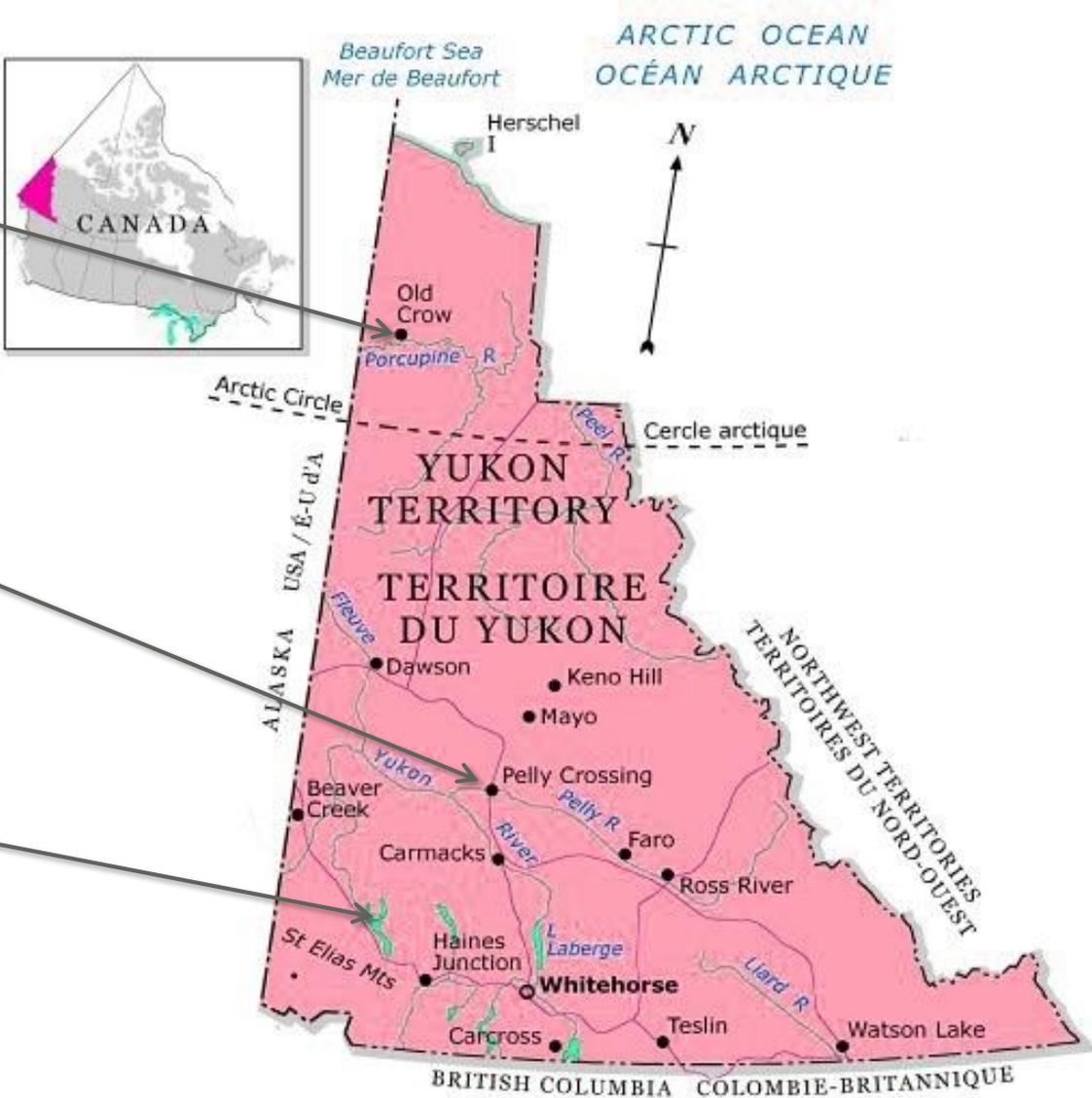
Why are community food security strategies important?

- In the face of a rapidly changing environment, northerner's health and wellbeing are at risk.
- For Indigenous peoples, traditional foods are central to cultural health and wellbeing.
- Climate change, overharvesting and other factors have impacted the traditional food systems of northern Indigenous peoples across Canada.
- In Yukon, over 6000 people are food insecure (17%), the majority of which are Yukon First Nations.
- Clear evidence exists that food insecurity has negative implications for human health, including increased risk for chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes, and mental health.
- ***Communities need to develop their own strategies, which are grounded in their traditional knowledge, and are relevant, empower, and lead to actions to be more food secure.***

Old Crow

Pelly Crossing

Burwash Landing



© 2000. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Natural Resources Canada.
Sa Majesté la Reine du chef du Canada, Ressources naturelles Canada.



NOURISHING OUR FUTURE:

An Adaptive Food Security Strategy to Ensure the Cultural and Physical Well-Being of the Kluane First Nation Against the Impacts of Climate Change in the Yukon

Produced by: Kluane First Nation
September 2014



Adapting to Climate Change and Keeping Our Traditions



BY: SELKIRK FIRST NATION, YUKON TERRITORY in collaboration with THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

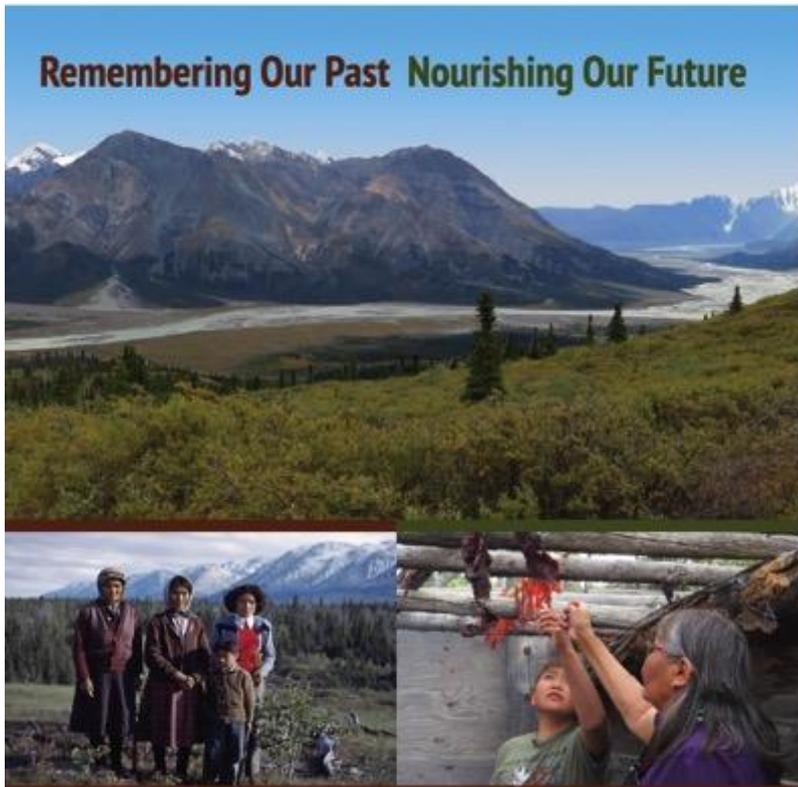
MARCH 2016

Vuntut Gwitchin Climate Change and Health Research in Northern Yukon:

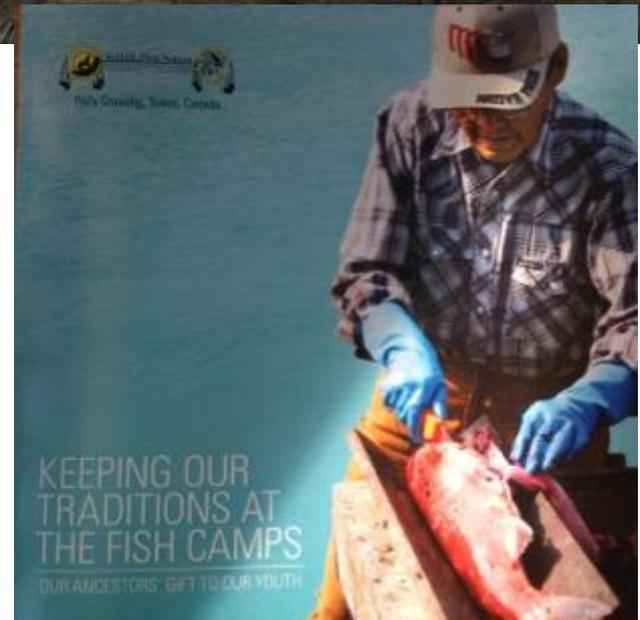
What do our Changing Homelands mean for our Health?
Phase 2: Knowledge into Action



AHRN-YT 2010



<http://www.aicbr.ca/projects-current/>





Nourishing Our Future



Kluane First Nation
Food Security Project
2013-2016



Arctic Institute of
Community-Based Research
For Northern Health and Well-Being



Overall Goal:

For Kluane First Nation to develop a **sustainable food security strategy** for its citizens.

This includes the need for adaptive strategies, awareness, and education to continuously evolve as changes to the environment and declining food sources take place.

Areas of focus included:

Strategizing to enhance the long-term availability of traditional foods;

Looking into agricultural opportunities, such as animal husbandry;

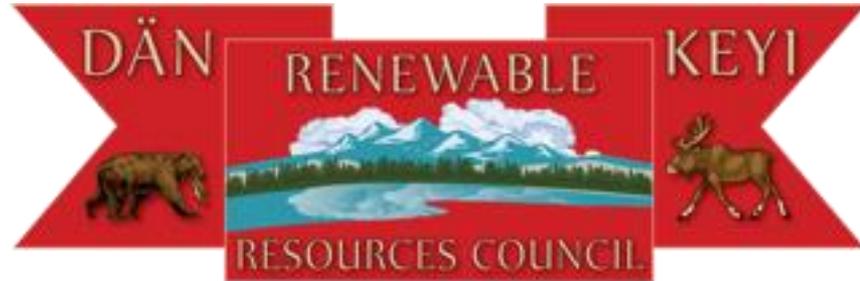
Exploring possibilities of using geothermal technology to heat a greenhouse;

Community gardening.

Funders & Partners



Health
Canada Santé
Canada



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada

Key Recommendations

1. Climate Change: Protecting Our Homelands
2. Sharing
3. Community Hunts and Fishing
4. Ancient Methods of Conservation
5. Outfitting Concessions in KFN Territory
6. Youth Empowerment and Mentorship
7. Healthy Eating
8. A Community Garden & 9. A Community Greenhouse
10. Agricultural Projects
11. Community Store and Storage
12. Community Celebrations and Get-togethers

Exploring Fish Health in Kluane Lake



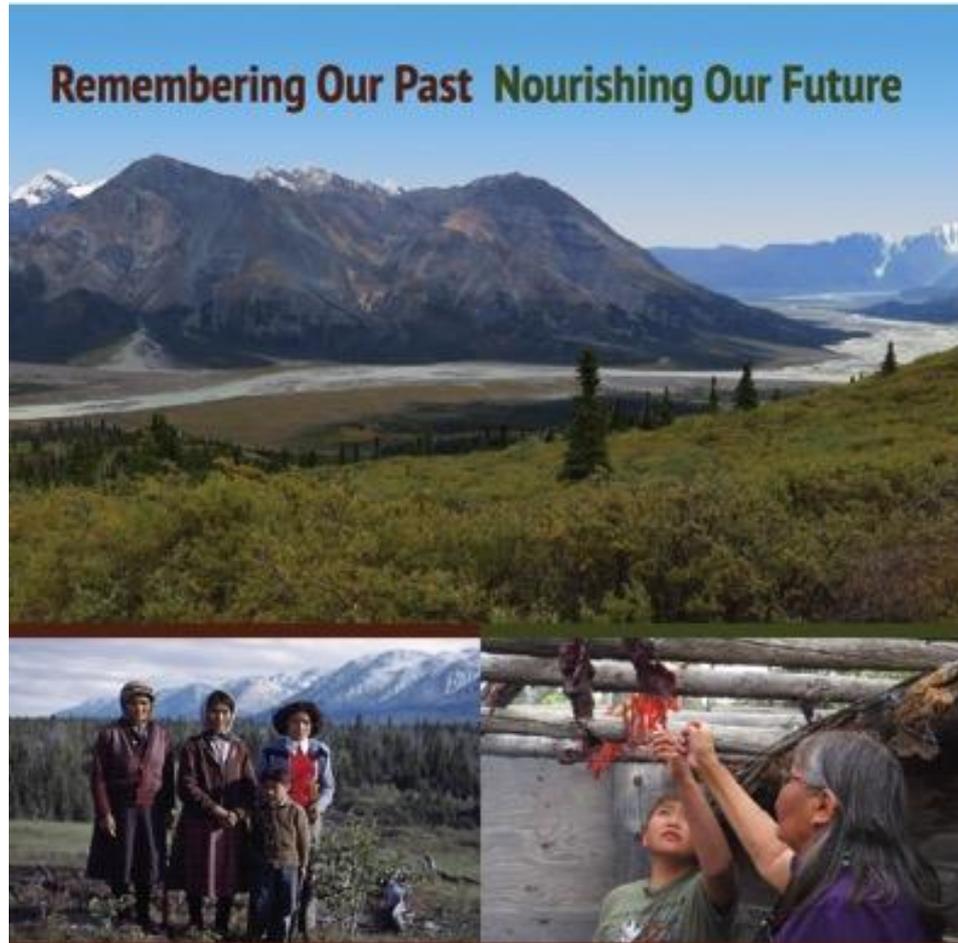
Community Food Security Strategies

“By developing our own local food security strategy, we now have a useful tool and plan to be better prepared for changing times and to be a more resilient, self sufficient community. Every community in the Yukon should go through this process.”

- Empowering
- Engaging
- Community-Based

Chief Mathieya Alatini

Remembering Our Past, Nourishing Our Future





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Selkirk First Nation

Keeping Our Traditions

What do we do at fish camp when there is no fish?

2015-2016



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Context

- Salmon on decline
- Fishing bans and reduced allowable harvest
- Fish camps empty
- Flying fish
- Fish camps are at the heart of passing traditional knowledge from Elders to youth



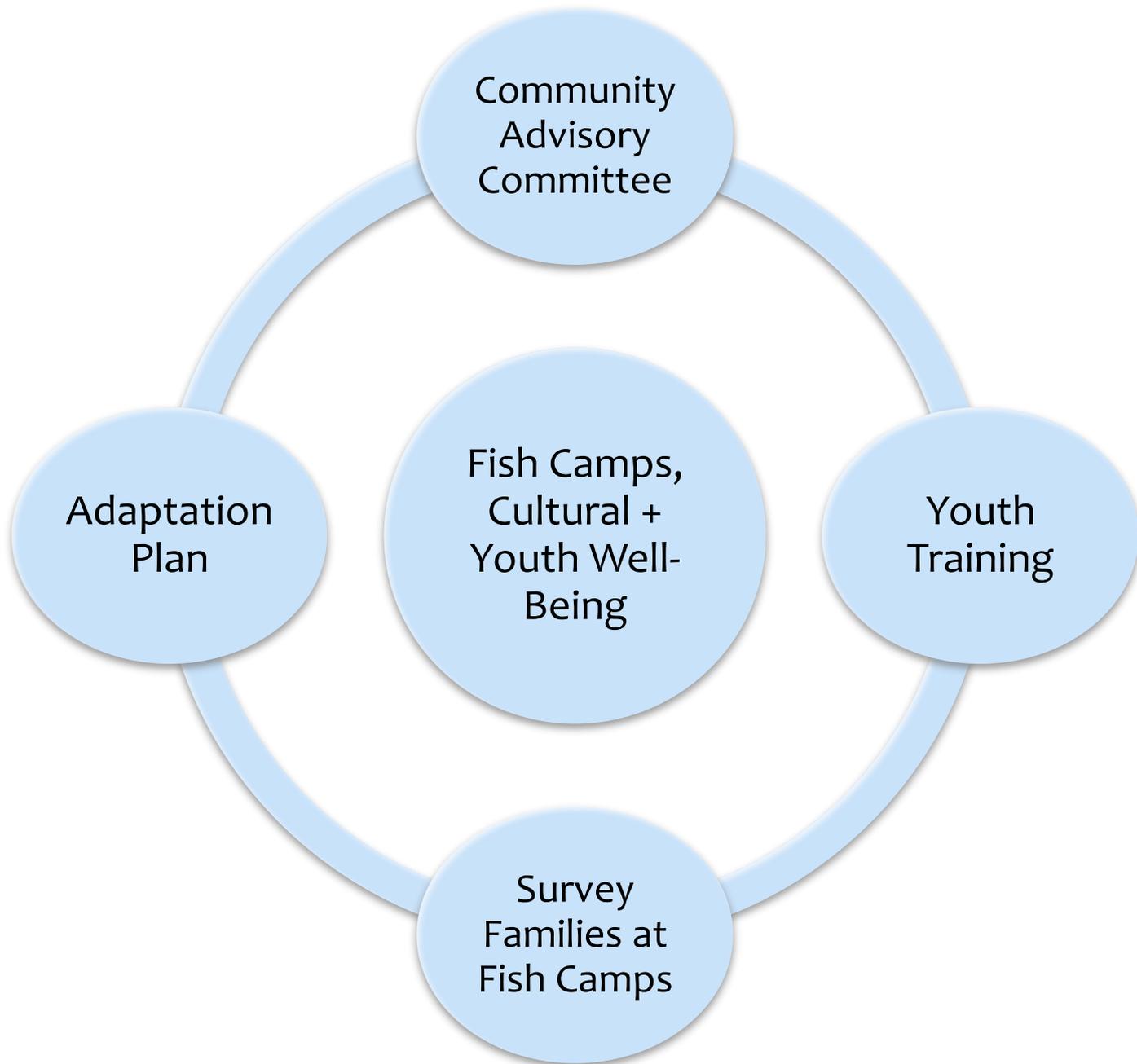
Objectives

LONG-TERM

- To seek direction and a plan of action from Selkirk people on how to keep traditions strong in the face of climate change.
- To help raise the voice of Selkirk people on issues of health, food security, and climate change while protecting traditional lifestyles.
- To contribute to youth leadership on issues important to the community.

Project Benefits

- Plan for continuing cultural practice of going to fish camps, even if the fishing is closed.
- Build resilience in times of change.
- Involvement and agency of youth to promote their own mental health.
- Strengthen cultural connections amongst youth.
- Raise awareness and action on climate change.



Research Activities

- Advisory committee
- Fish camp survey
- Community input for promoting youth involvement
- Elder community meetings
- Youth training
- Winter fish camp
- Fish camp photographic guidebook

Creating Action from Research



Fish Camp Guidebook



Purpose of Guide Book

- Selkirk Elders have recommended that any research should result in **action** and not a report that sits on a shelf. It will be used to help to pass traditional and practical knowledge about how to run a fish camp.
- This guidebook can be used at each fish camp as well as through the school to promote stories and teaching for youth.



Winter Fish Camp



Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Timing and start of project (funding)
- Community rhythm and interruptions
(*SFN: 5 + deaths in community and in neighbouring communities during course of project*)
- Contingency planning and flexibility in budget
- Capacity in community
- Knowledge translation at the community level
- Self governing First Nations and accountability
- * In order to have successful project and be responsive to a CBR approach, flexibility and the acknowledgement of the time and resources it can require is essential. *

Indigenous peoples have always lived off the land and therefore we can adapt to the challenges that face us with climate change.

Our people are knowledgeable and resilient and will continue to protect our homelands for future generations.



Thank you!

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