



Presentation Session: Reconciliation in Rural and Northern Regions

DATE:

Wednesday, November 16th, 2022

TIME:

3:00-4:30 PM

FORMAT:

Four 15-minute oral presentations followed by a 30-minute discussion

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This session presents different research, case studies, and stories on rural reconciliation in Northern Ontario or other rural, remote, northern, and island communities. It touches on themes such as truth, meaningful engagement, reciprocal relationship building, decolonization, and others. It also provides participants with the opportunity to join the discussion, give their input, and share their knowledge, best practices, or stories with the other participants.



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Presentations:

Presentation 1

Time: 3:00–3:15 PM

Title: Planning Community Needs Assessments for Recreation in Three Inuit Communities

Authors: Leila Kelleher (Parsons School of Design, USA and Humber College, Toronto, ON), Sherri Branscombe (Humber College, Toronto, ON), Dawn Currie (Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut), and Thalia Wright (LUG Sports, Toronto, ON)

Abstract: The Hamlets of Arviat (pop. 2657), Kangiqtuqaapik/Clyde River (pop. 1053), and Sanikiluaq (pop. 882) are Inuit, fly in communities in Nunavut with heavily youth-skewed populations. In partnership with Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut, we completed community-based consultations for recreation in these communities. Using principles of Participatory Action Research, we developed a needs assessment process that included whole community events, school visits, recreation staff interviews and program reviews, and focus groups to ensure there was input from all stakeholders in each community. The process we designed captured input from community members including Elders, Youth, Parents, the Hamlet Council, and Recreation staff members. From this process, we developed a recreation strategic plan for each community with the goal of developing sustainable recreation built on the unique needs of the community. By amplifying these diverse user groups, we were able to address the challenges for recreation in remote rural Inuit communities while promoting cultural identity and honouring the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit Traditional Knowledge). We will present our model for community needs assessments developed specifically for small Indigenous communities. This model could be adapted and applied to other rural settings.

Presentation 2

Time: 3:15–3:30 PM

Title: Indigenous and Settler Collaborations- Genuine Relationship Building

Authors: Kathleen Kevany (Dalhousie University) and Greg Peters (Delaware First Nation, Moraviantown, Ontario)

Abstract: This session hopes to convey the dialogue about ways to advance reconciliation. Genuine reconciliation is grounded in the truth about the historical adversity Indigenous communities have faced and the ways these hardships may manifest today as well as the demonstration of courage, resiliency, self-respect, and decency. True reconciliation calls for listening, learning, loving, and healing. It is about building relationships and sharing truths and burdens. Insights from Former Chief Greg Peters may be shared, as he reveals some of his story, his ideas, and his call to action and kindness for us all.



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Presentation 3

Time: 3:30–3:45 PM

Title: "Being Good Neighbors": Methods of Indigenous Consultation for Resource-based Research - Moving from tokenism to relationship building in the 'duty to consult' for resource based developments, a case study of tourism in Northern Ontario

Project Team: Kevin Eshkawkogan (Indigenous Tourism Ontario [Co - PI]), Rhonda Koster (Lakehead University [Co - PI]), Steve Antoine (Sheshegwaning First Nation), Jeremy Capay (Lac Seul First Nation), Neil Debassige (Island Sunrise Cottages), Laurie Marcil (Nature & Outdoor Tourism Ontario), David MacLachlan (Destination Northern Ontario), and Brian McLaren (Lakehead University).

Participants & Contributors: William Antoine (Sheshegwaning First Nation), Jocelyn Bebamikawe (Wiikwemkoong Development Corporation), Laurie Brownlee (Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport), Al Errington (Errington's Wilderness Islands), Marty Kalagian (Destination Northern Ontario), Shelba Millette (Manitoulin Tourism Association), Tanya Panamick (Indigenous Tourism Ontario), Hazel Recollet (United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnisig), Rod Raycroft (Northeastern Ontario Tourism), Sandra Taibossigai (Indigenous Tourism Ontario), and Margaret Watson (Sudbury Aviation)

Abstract: The title of our proposed project was "Methods of Indigenous Consultation for Resource-based Research: Moving from tokenism to relationship building in the 'duty to consult' for resource-based developments, a case study of tourism in Northern Ontario." While we have used a central and common issue in their source-based tourism sector to bring us together and as a point of conversation, our main focus is to determine appropriate ways to foster mutually respectful relationships between both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people so that we can develop best practices for addressing issues of common concern in a good way, ultimately to create and mobilize knowledge and partnerships that will lead to reconciliation. Our report begins with the context and summary of relevant academic literature, followed by the process and organization of our gathering, explaining the intent behind its design. In the third section, a summary of our discussion is provided, which resulted in recommended best practices for appropriate engagement with Indigenous communities, whether it is for research or consultations, as presented in the fourth and concluding section. We focused on Northern, rural communities and gathered perspectives of residents and tour operators.



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Presentation 4

Time: 3:45–4:00 PM

Title: A Collaborative Systematic Review of Indigenous Community-Based Assessment Tools

Authors: Alexandria Ireland, Wayne Kelly (Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, The University of Winnipeg; Function Four Ltd. Director Community-Based Research & Development), Amaanat Gill, Bryanne Lamoureux, Bruce Hardy, and Ryan Bullock (Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, The University of Winnipeg)

Abstract: Indigenous communities are focusing on development that builds sovereignty in areas like economy and food. However, to map out appropriate paths and opportunities, more local data and context is often needed. The Environment & Society Research Group and Canada Research Chair in Human-Environment Interactions at The University of Winnipeg have partnered with Function Four Ltd., an Indigenous digital technology company, to evolve the company's digital-readiness Index into a more comprehensive tool for community assessment. This tool will assess areas of critical infrastructure, food security, health, and sovereign wealth creation for Indigenous rural and remote communities. To inform the evolution of the tool, this collaborative team initiated a systematic literature review to find other Indigenous community-based assessment tools within Canadian and Australian academic literature since the 2007 adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly. We developed a participatory community engagement process that informs and guides the tool development, ensuring that the knowledge and priorities of Indigenous communities lead the development of the assessment tool. Results of the review highlight key engagement and evaluative process and design considerations, as well as principles, wise practices and criteria for completing positive assessments of outcomes.



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