



Land Based Learning in Teetl'it Zheh

Ganahghootr'onatan - Teaching Us

Community Newsletter - February 2019

PROJECT UPDATE

With the new year in front of us we are excited to be getting into the planning stages for the camp. We have a lot on our plate yet but we are looking forward to the ongoing work with community. We are pleased to announce that the project has been receiving funding for program delivery for the pilot run in July 2019! We are appreciative and thankful for the support from project The Firelight Group, the Office of the Provost at the University of Alberta, and Northern Exposures Contaminants Research Group. Hài Choo!

In the Fall 2018, several of the project team members at the U of A met to start developing an introductory University 101 course for students attending the camp. From this session, we are finalizing a course outline and each team member will be asked to contribute a day or two worth of teaching based on their expertise and research experience. The introduction course has been tentatively named: *Teetl'it Gwich'in Land-Based Governance*. We will continue to develop this course and will update project members as we move along in the planning process.

The project received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council connections grant, which will enable a group of individuals from across Canada: community members, academic researchers, land-based educators to come together for a symposium on land-based learning at the University of Alberta. This will provide opportunities to network, to share experiences, and to learn of other land-based learning initiatives. We have tentatively booked off Spring 2019 for this with room for a few community representatives to take part.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR UPDATE

Since starting my role in October, I have been *establishing relationships, receiving input* and *building stamina* within our community of Tetlit Zheh for the Ganahghootr'onatan project.

To connect with the people, I have been giving updates through the local CBQM radio station as well as through social media. My favorite task that I have had so far is to meet with elders to receive their support and input to ensure that the camp is run in a manner that they approve of. I have had the privilege of meeting with elders Emma & Percy Kay, Robert & Dorothy Alexie, Abe Koe and Bertha Francis.

Each of these elders has welcomed me into their homes, given me a cup of tea and sometimes bannock, and they've so generously offered their suggestions and opinions. The elders have spoken and they would like to see the project teach things like: backing and setting a net, cutting and preparing fish, learning about the land & it's resources as well as the Gwich'in language. Two main suggestions that kept coming up: to have knowledgeable Gwich'in people prepare the camp and teach the traditional aspect of the course and to have the elders attend to share their knowledge as well.

It is so reassuring to have the support of the elders behind us in this project. Each elder has expressed their satisfaction in the fact that both contemporary and Gwich'in knowledge will be taught – we need both to survive in today's world.

I am truly looking forward to talking with more elders and further connecting with the community for the sake of the Ganahghootr'onatan project. I truly stand behind this project and can't wait to see it through and I'm looking forward to the positive changes to come along with it. This is the start of something incredible... I just know it!

If anyone has any questions/comments you can contact Shayla at snowshoe@ualberta.ca

NEXT STEPS

- * We will continue with fundraising efforts
- * Begin planning for the two-week camp logistics for July pilot program
- * Finalize High School and University courses for the pilot program
- * Start thinking about post pilot project student/community tour at the University of Alberta

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