

Exploring climate change and health in FWFN using arts-integrated methods

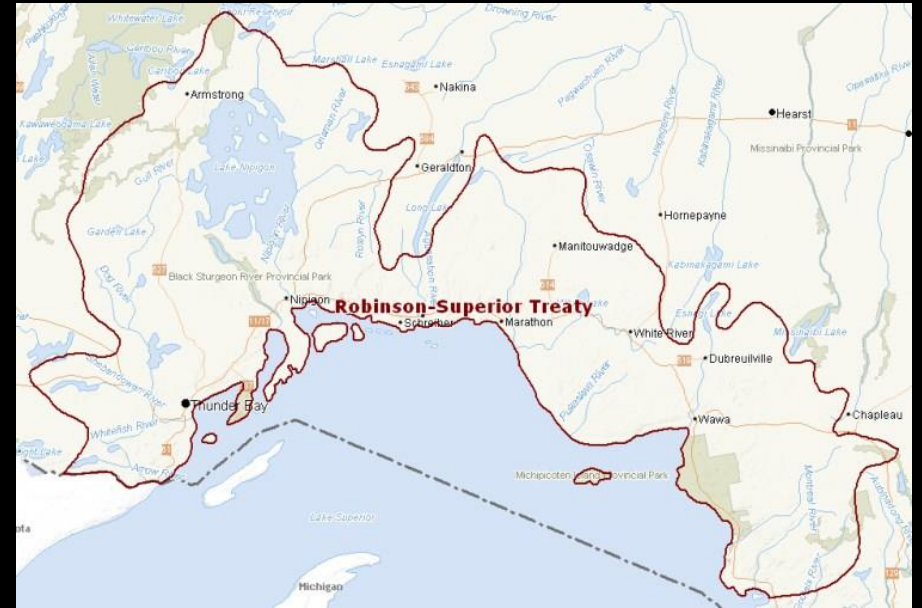
Liz Esquega (Fort William First Nation)

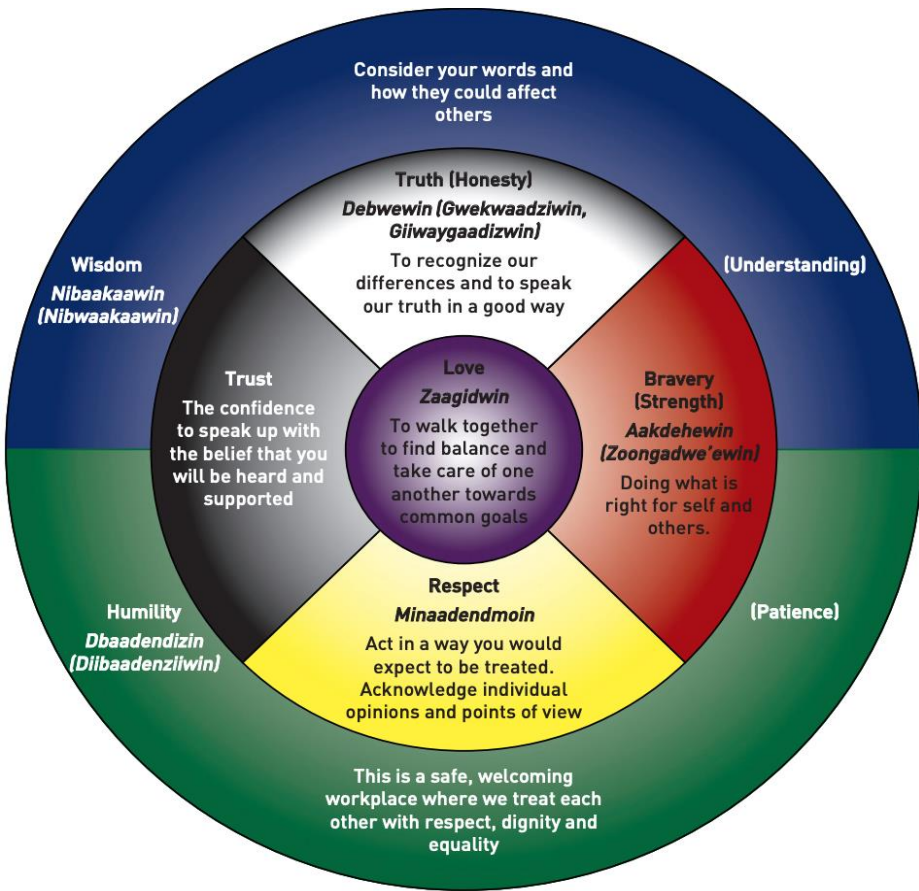
Lindsay Galway (Lakehead University)



Fort William First Nation

- The Ojibwe community created in 1853, as a condition of the 1850 Robinson-Superior Treaty.
- Located south of Thunder Bay on the North shore of Lake Superior, at the foot of Mount McKay
- Prior to European contact, we resided along the north shore of Lake Superior near the mouth of the Kaministiquia River





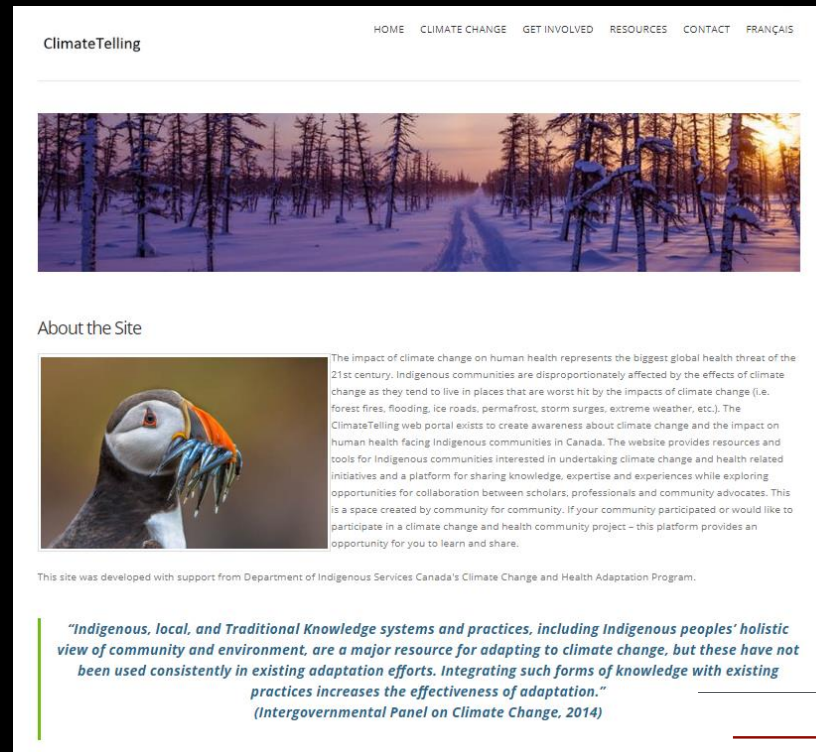
Cultural Identity

- Our early history tells a story of a sustainable community that kept a close grip on a traditional way of life and dependence on a worldview derived from the “Great Spirit”
- Recognized for Mount McKay also known as Thunder Mountain (Anemkiwaucheu) where the Ojibwe use this site for sacred ceremonies
- Our Vision Statement: “Fort William First Nation will be a healthy, vibrant and self-sustaining community, built on our traditional values”

Our project

- Title: “Climate Change & Health in Fort William First Nation: Planning for the Future, Today”
- Funding program: Climate Change and Health Adaption Program South of 60
- Funding supports First Nations and Inuit communities in building capacity to adapt to the health impacts of climate change

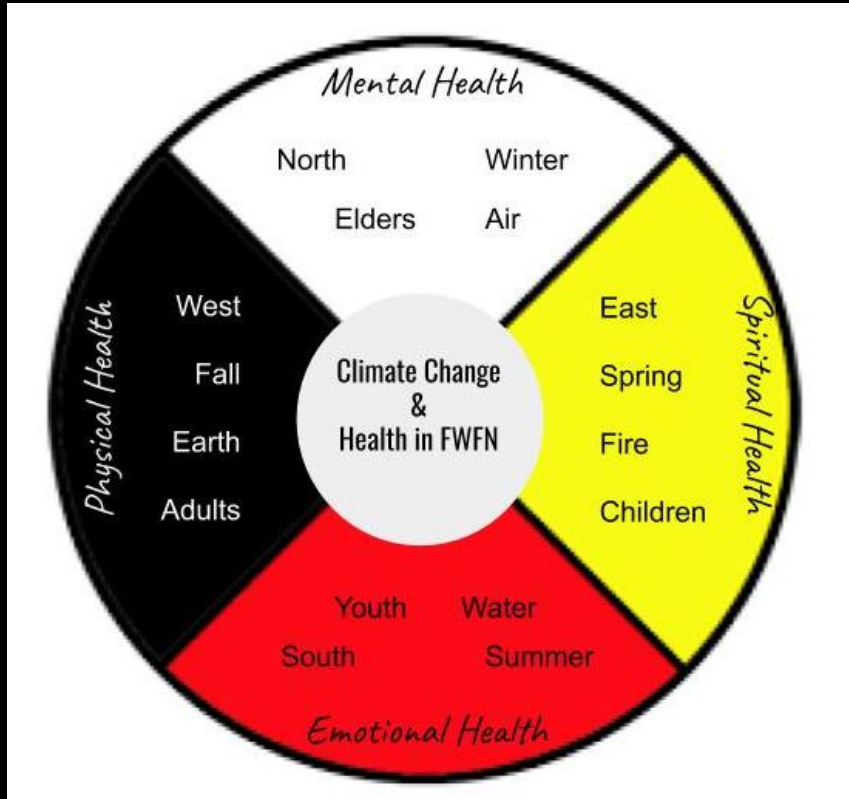
[Link to article](#)



<http://www.climate telling.info/>

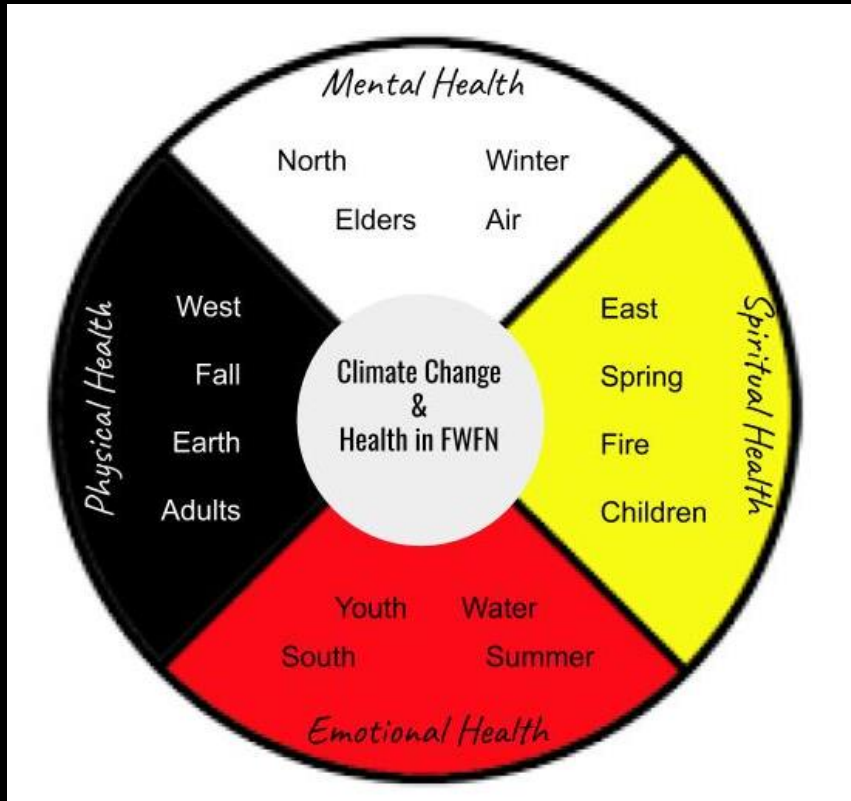


Our objectives - Short term



- Develop a guiding framework based on the medicine wheel;
- Conduct community workshops;
- Conduct interviews with community members to gather stories, traditional knowledge, and perspectives on the links between climate change and health;
 - focusing on Elders, hunters, those closely connected to the land, and with experience in the health system
 - “Messages for our youth” quilt
- Conduct a photovoice project with FWFN youth to gather perspectives on climate change in general and on the links between climate change and health

Our objectives - Long term



- Build capacity for climate change and health adaptation in FWFN;
- Foster intergenerational knowledge sharing and relationship building between FWFN Elders and youth
- Build respectful relationships between Lakehead University climate change scholars and FWFN Members
- Share learning and experiences with other FN communities in the lake Superior Watershed

Quilt

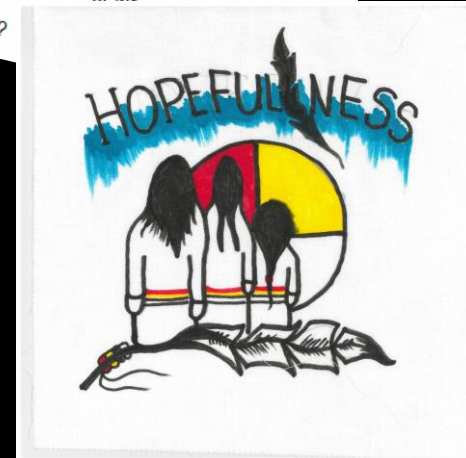
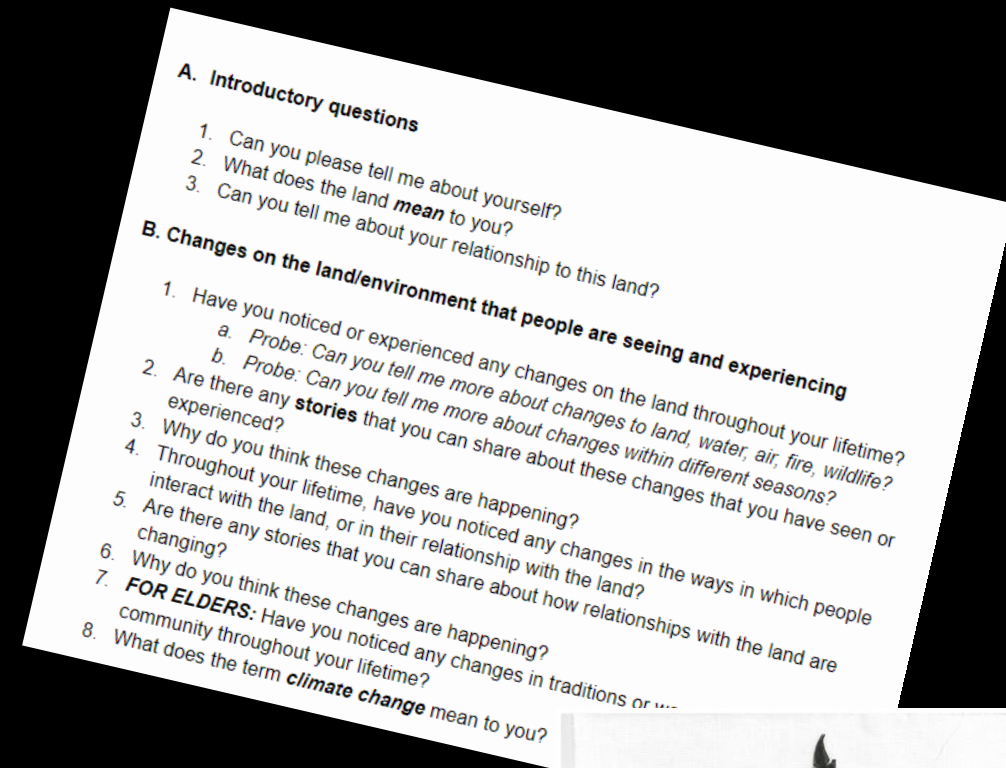


Youth photovoice



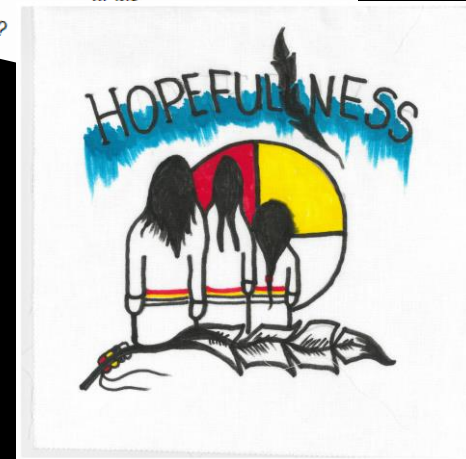
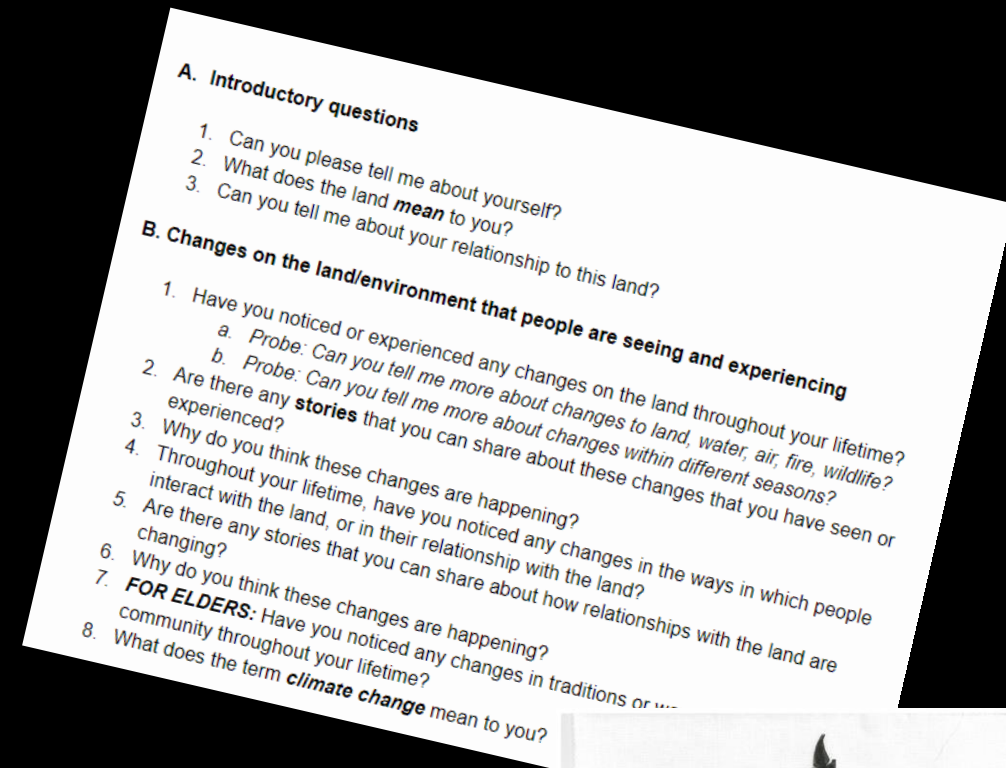
Community Interviews

- 22 conducted by Liz between Nov 2019 and Jan 2020
 - 18-49 range: 6
 - 50-69 range: 10
 - Over 70 range: 6
- 8 men and 14 women
- Diverse relationships to the land
 - Knowledge keepers
 - Stewards of the land
 - Elders
- Analyzed by a research assistant from Lakehead University to identify key themes



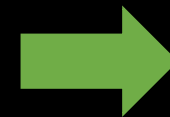
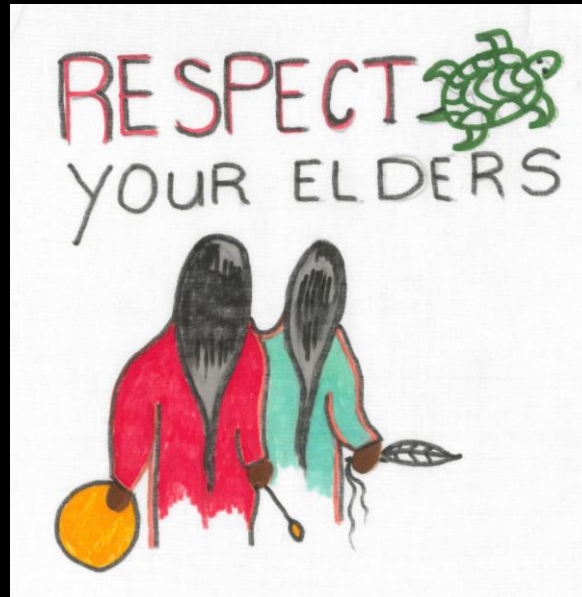
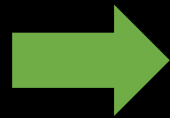
Community Interviews

- Interview guide sections:
 - Changes people are seeing and experiencing on the land
 - Impacts of changes
 - What can we do to protect health
 - Message for our youth
- Quilt message: “if there was a message or something you could leave for your children and grandchildren about climate change, in a word or in a phrase or in a symbol, what would that message be?”



Our quilt

“if there was a message or something you could leave for your children and grandchildren about climate change, in a word or in a phrase or in a symbol, what would that message be?”



Interviewee

FWFN artist designed a quilt square for each message

FWFN Community member crafted the quilt

Our quilt



Liz's message



GRANDFATHERS
AND
GRANDMOTHERS

ARE WATCHING

My story and inspiration...



Lindsay's message

HEALING
TOGETHER

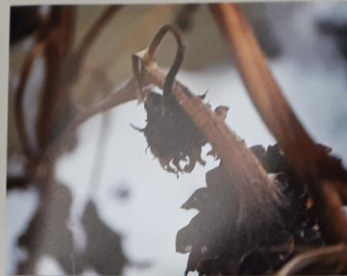


Youth photovoice project

- Youth “responded” to the quilt through a photovoice process
- Six female youth participated
 - between the ages of 15 – 19
- In collaboration with FWFN Youth Center
- 6 sessions:
 - Learned about climate change
 - Learned about photovoice
 - Liz shared quilt with them
 - Gained skills in photography
 - Received a high quality camera to keep



Youth photovoice project



Proud to be from this Land:
Powerful, strong, Resilient

Needs
to be seen
Need to
do something
about it
Change
Point of
view

happy, proud

- capturing a
moment
in time



- powerful

- living in the winter

Surviving → resilient

- Pretty

- Unique

- Skilled

"I didn't know
I could take this."

- Stories

- Strong

- Empowering

* proud to come
from this land

↳ photos from here,
from home

- Surrounded by
light, by sunrise,
sunset

LAND

where we
came from

HOME

Young Empowered
Eyes:
Proud to be of
this Land

- Our generation
has to grow
up in this society
Society makes it
the way we live,
- Our gen. has
to deal w/ this





Miigwetch/Thank You!

Questions?

