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

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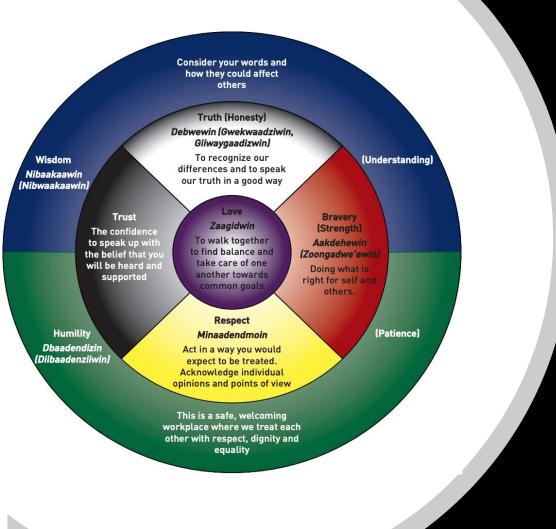
Fort William First Nation

- 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 selfsustaining 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

HOME CLIMATE CHANGE GET INVOLVED RESOURCES CONTACT FRANÇAIS ClimateTelling



About the Site



his site was developed with support from Department of Indigenous Services Canada's Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program

"Indigenous, local, and Traditional Knowledge systems and practices, including Indigenous peoples' holistic view of community and environment, are a major resource for adapting to climate change, but these have not been used consistently in existing adaptation efforts. Integrating such forms of knowledge with existing practices increases the effectiveness of adaptation. (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014)

http://www.climatetell ing.info/

https://doi.org/10.24095/hpcdp.39.4.0

Commentary

The Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program: Indigenous climate leaders' championing adaptation efforts

Gabrielle Richards (1); Jim Frehs, MA (1); Erin Myers, BA (1); Marilyn Van Bibber (2)

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The Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program (CCHAP) is a program within the First Nations Inuit Health Branch of Indigenous Services Canada (which was previously under the responsibility of Health Canada). The CCHAP supports Inuit and First Nation communities in mitigating and adapting to the health impacts of climate change. The impacts of climate change on Indigenous health can be observed in multiple areas including, but not limited to, food security, cultural medicines, mental health and land based practices. This program seeks to address the needs of climate change and health in First Nation and Inuit communities to support resiliency and adaptation to a change ing climate both now and in the future through its emphasis on youth and capacity building. The commentary is based on the Program's eleven years of experience work ing with and for Indigenous communities and provides an overview of the CCHAI model and the work it has and continues to support. This paper demonstrates three examples of community-based projects to mitigate and adapt to the health impacts of climate change to demonstrate climate change resiliency within Indigenous communities

Keywords: climate change, First Nations, Inuit, community-based, adaptation, mitigation

mental to human health, and an opportunity to develop adaptive and creative upon the wellness of the land. Cunsolo

which impacts food security, the melting Environmental changes are both detri- of sea ice and permafrost, lower crop vields, and furthermore, the spread of compounded with climate change have infectious diseases and more intense and the most by these environmental shifts.1 also impacted emotionally, as Inuit and critically impacting health and well-being Amongst those who are critically impacted First Nation communities express that are First Nation and Inuit communities these environmental changes, and subse- Indigenous Knowledge is a key comp whose livelihoods and well-being hinges quent land changes, have impacted community members' identities and livelihoods.25 Willox et al.² describes that Indigenous These environmental changes are happen-

Highlights

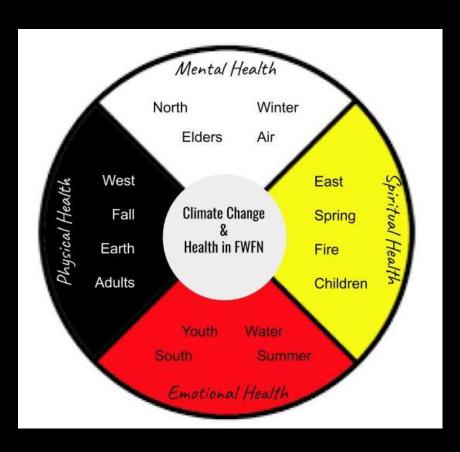
- The Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program (CCHAP) for First Nations South of 60N directly supports First Nations communiadaptation and mitigation projects to build upon their needs within a changing climate.
- This commentary outlines the CCHAP's work and history, and highlights three cases, in Selkirk First Nation, Arviat and The Mi'kmaw Climate Action, which demonstrate the work these com munities have undertaken with support from the Program

knowledge, and the extraction of land and resources 7 These impacts of colonization subsequently increased communities' vul-

helps mitigate the health impacts of a

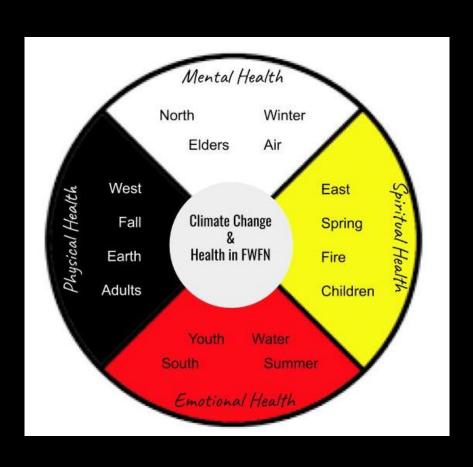
Link to article

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



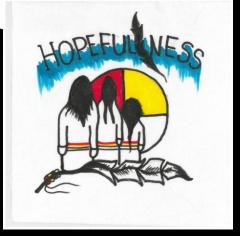
Community Interviews

- 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

A. Introductory questions

- Can you please tell me about yourself? What does the land mean to you?
- Can you tell me about your relationship to this land?
- B. Changes on the land/environment that people are seeing and experiencing
- 1. Have you noticed or experienced any changes on the land throughout your lifetime? a. Probe: Can you tell me more about changes to land, water, air, fire, wildlife? b. Probe: Can you tell me more about changes within different seasons? 2. Are there any **stories** that you can share about changes within amerent seasons?
- Throughout your lifetime, have you noticed any changes in the ways in which people Are there any stories that you can share about how relationships with the land are
- Why do you think these changes are happening?
- FOR ELDERS: Have you noticed any changes in traditions or we What does the term climate change mean to you?





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?"

A. Introductory questions

- Can you please tell me about yourself? What does the land mean to you?
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- B. Changes on the land/environment that people are seeing and experiencing 1. Have you noticed or experienced any changes on the land throughout your lifetime? a. Probe: Can you tell me more about changes to land, Water, air, fire, wildlife? b. Probe: Can you tell me more about changes within different seasons? 2. Are there any **stories** that you can share about these changes that you have seen or

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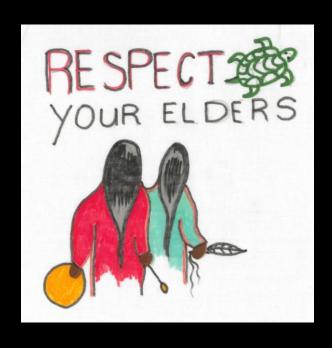




Our quilt

"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

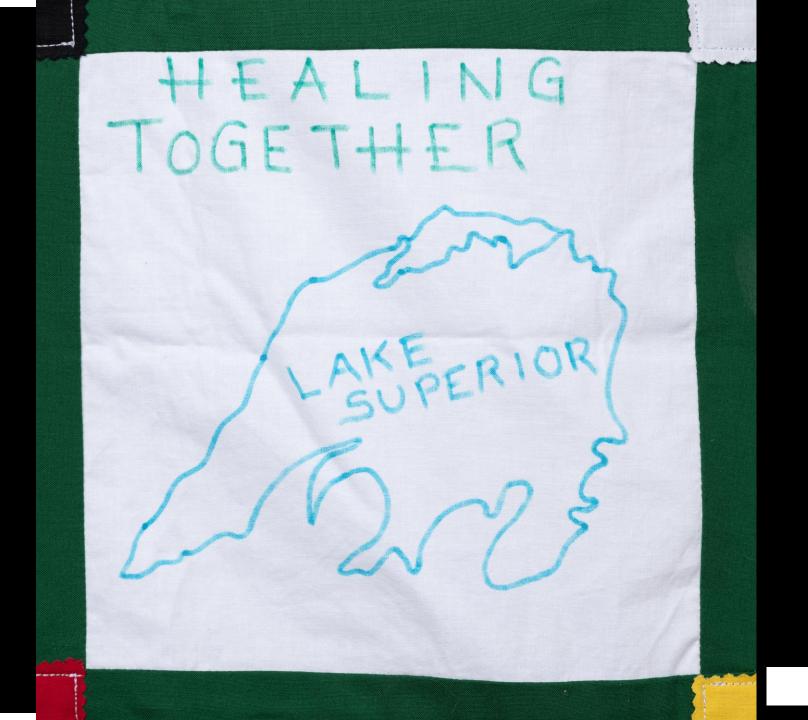




My story and inspiration...



Lindsay's message



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



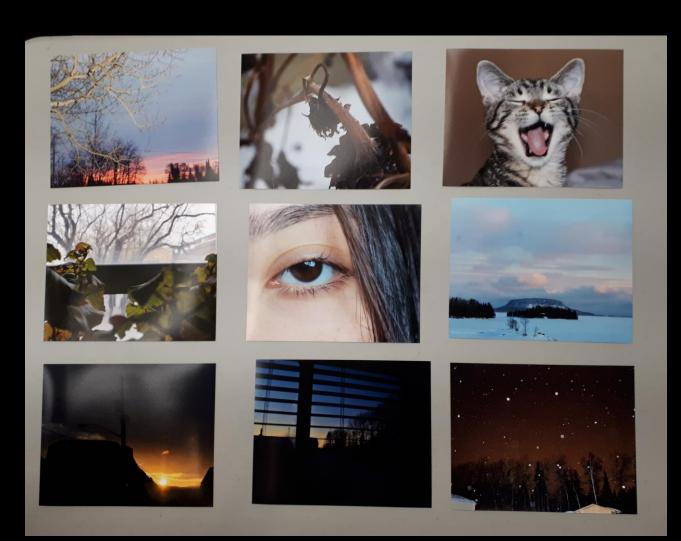
- Learned about climate change
- Learned about photovoice
- Liz shared quilt with them
- Gained skills in photography
- Received a high quality camera to keep

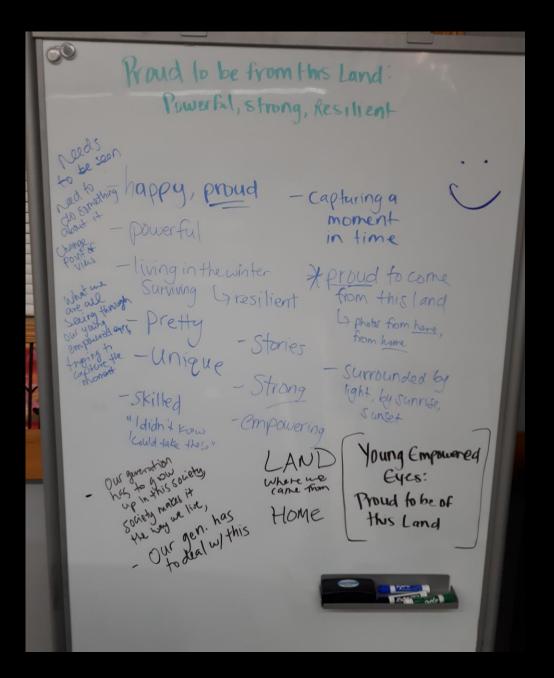






Youth photovoice project







Miigwetch/Thank You!

Questions?





