

trackingchange

Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance

Ki Ta Ski Naw: 2019 Wa Ni Ska Tan Hydropower and Energy Justice Gathering and Conference

Amabel D'Souza, University of Alberta

Wa Ni Ska Tan Conference

From November 8-10, 2019, Tracking Change attended **Ki Ta Ski Naw: The 2019 Wa Ni Ska Tan Hydropower and Energy Justice Gathering and Conference** at The University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The conference brought together participants from Manitoba, B.C., Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, the USA, Mexico, Latin America, Brazil, and India to discuss social, environmental, and economic hydro-development impacts and solutions. Tracking Change hosted breakout rooms during the conference to facilitate meaningful discussions about our project and research in the Mackenzie, Amazon, and Mekong River Basins. The conference included pipe ceremonies, round dances, crafts, artwork, and more.

Cree Translations:
Wa Ni Ska Tan - "Rise Up"
Ki Ta Ski Naw - "Our Land"

Images from top to bottom: The University of Winnipeg Convocation Hall - the location of the Wa Ni Ska Tan Conference and Renato Silvano presenting research on the Amazon River Basin.



Wa Ni Ska Tan: An Alliance of Hydro-Impacted Communities

The conference was organized by the Wa Ni Ska Tan Alliance of Hydro-Impacted Communities. The alliance emerged out of meetings and tours of hydro-affected communities in northern Manitoba and now includes members from 24 hydro-impacted First Nation and Metis communities, as well as 23 researchers from 9 universities and representatives from 24 non-governmental organizations and legal firms. Their mission and overall goal is “to explore both the positive and negative implications of hydropower for nearby environments and Indigenous communities in Manitoba and other affected regions across Canada, and to further explore how and to what degree this research alliance might enable healing as well as meaningful and desirable social and environmental change” (Wa Ni Ska Tan, 2015, <http://hydroimpacted.ca/>)

Tracking Change Breakout Room

On November 9th, 2020, Tracking Change hosted a breakout room for the Wa Ni Ska Tan Conference. Our project presented research from the three river basins, as well as an overview of the project, specifically acknowledging the work we have done on the impacts of hydroelectric development. We also presented our video from the *Tracking Change Global Knowledge Symposium and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues* for the first time! Our video received a lot of positive feedback and was a great discussion-starter!

Scan the QR code
below to see the
Tracking Change
NYC Global
Knowledge
Symposium
Documentary!



SCAN ME



Images from left to right: A group photo of the Tracking Change Team (Ian Baird, Renato Silvano, Abby D'Souza, Cleo Reese, and Fikret Berkes), Bruce MacLean facilitating the Tracking Change breakout room.

Ki Ta Ski Naw Our Land: March for Energy Justice

The final day of the conference included a March for Energy Justice through downtown Winnipeg. The march acknowledged the damages of hydroelectric development in the pursuit of “clean” or “green” energy. The signs shared included messages such as “Water is Sacred” and “Make Manitoba Hydro Accountable” (Dawkins, 2019). The aim of the march was to bring attention to the impact of hydropower on Indigenous or local communities, including issues such as environmental degradation, poverty, displacement, and more. The march and conference represent one step of many in building a collective dialogue and pathways toward change regarding hydropower. The march ended by leaving signs outside of Manitoba Hydro Place, which was the perfect way to end a weekend of learning, community, and local knowledge. The march was even covered in the Winnipeg Sun (see Dawkins 2019)!

“What we’re doing is we’re passing along a message that enough is enough”

Protest Organizer Carol Kobliski of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in Nelson House (in Dawkins, 2019)



Images from top to bottom: protest materials at the conference, marching in downtown Winnipeg, group photo from the protest.



For more project information visit our website:

www.trackingchange.ca



Full classroom and great discussion in the Tracking Change breakout room!



Tracking Change
@mackenziebasin



Tracking Change Project
@riverbasins



Tracking Change Mackenzie
basin@ualberta.ca

Brenda Parlee

Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology
University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta T6G2H1
bparlee@ualberta.ca

Tracy Howlett – Coordinator/Research Assistant

Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology
University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta T6G2H1
thowlett@ualberta.ca

Amabel D'Souza – Newsletters/Research Assistant

Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology
University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta T6G2H1
dsouza@ualberta.ca

Sources

Dawkins, Glen. (2019). Indigenous leaders, activists take protest to Manitoba Hydro's doorstep. *Winnipeg Sun*.
<https://winnipegnews.com/news/local-news/indigenous-leaders-activists-take-protest-to-manitoba-hydros-doorstep>



More information on the Wa Ni Ska Tan Conference and Alliance of Impacted Communities can be found at:
<http://hydroimpacted.ca/>