

trackingchange

Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance

Youth Knowledge Fair 2018

Engaging in Discussion on Climate Change

Fostering growth and participation in the next generation of Knowledge Holders...

From May 16 – 18, 2018 the University of Alberta (Edmonton) hosted a poster competition and Indigenous Knowledge Fair for high school students from across western and northern Canada. The Tracking Change project recognizes that many peoples in the Mackenzie River Basin, specifically Indigenous peoples, have valuable insights about the social and environmental sustainability of the Basin. As such the importance of youth engagement is emphasized by project partners in terms of research priorities and key issues for study. Tracking change is investing in the development, research skills, knowledge sharing and relationship building between the next generation of knowledge holders in the Mackenzie River Basin.



Objectives of the Youth Knowledge Fair:

Create opportunities for junior high and high school aged youth to **connect with each other** in Edmonton for three days of educational activities including knowledge sharing activities, educational workshops, keynote presentations from inspirational youth and Aboriginal leaders, tours of the University of Alberta and more;

Support students to **learn about their own histories, ecosystems and communities** from elders and their communities and through their schools through submissions of poster projects;

Encourage the **development of research and written/oral communication skills** through a poster project relating to the health of water, fish, fishing livelihoods and well-being of communities in the Mackenzie River Basin.

Why is Climate Change important to our communities?

Indigenous communities are among the first to be affected by climate change. "Climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by vulnerable indigenous communities, including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment" (UN Indigenous Peoples Indigenous Voices, 2008, 1). As communities are the largest stakeholders in terms of climate change, they should have the loudest voice in building resilience. Indigenous peoples understand and respond to climate change in holistic and creative ways, utilizing traditional knowledge and community solutions that may "help society at large to cope with impending changes" (UN Indigenous Peoples Indigenous Voices, 2008, 1).

It is clear from the poster projects and discussions amongst the participants that climate change is a growing concern for youth. They were especially interested in issues that pertained to their own communities and well-being. Fostering engagement will lead to informed and conscious decision-making in the next generation. Therefore, considerable effort must be made in cultivating an interest and emphasizing the importance of climate change.



Two Thumbs Up!

Special thanks to the awesome coordinators, chaperones and volunteers who made this event come together. Additional thanks to the students for their amazing poster projects and willingness to participate!



Where are the winners of the Poster Project going?

The winners of the Youth Knowledge Fair poster contest will be travelling to the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention, otherwise known as COP24, in Katowice, Poland in December 2018! Students will have the opportunity to meet other youths from around the world and engage in discussions on climate change.

Poster Projects!

- Richard Stewart, Fort McPherson, NWT – “Mackenzie River Health and Lifestyle”.
- Sharleen Boyle, Mackenzie Mount: Norman Wells, NWT – “Snow More Climate Change”.
- Aidan Laboucan, Yellowknife, YT – “Lutselk’e Solar PV Project”.
- Jorden Lafferty, Colville Lake, NWT – “The Changing Weather”.
- Ravanna Hanna, Fort Simpson, NWT – “Salmon in the Mackenzie River Basin”.
- Gavin Winter-Sinnott, Mayo, YT – “Mayo Lake, Yukon Water Levels Affected by Drought”.
- Jarvis Mitchell, Inuvik, NWT – “Retrospective That Slumping in the Mackenzie Delta Region”.
- Josh Austin-Samson, Mayo, YT – “Peek River Watershed”.
- Angel Betthale, Fort Simpson, NWT – “Changes in the Mackenzie River”.
- Ben Oudzi, Colville Lake, NWT – “Living off the Land”.
- Devon Catholique and Sage Head, Lutselk’e, NWT – “Thaidene Nene Ts’ankui Theda”.
- Tia Gully, Colville Lake, NWT – “How we live off the water”.
- Keegan Arey, Aklavik, NWT – “Climate Change Never Stops”.
- Michael Merrier, Paige-Lynn Chisaakay, Morin, Portia Morin, High Level, AB – “What Might Happen to the Earth if Climate Change continues at the rate it’s going now”.
- Myra Naldzil-McDonald, Kylie Mercredi, Kateylnn McDonald, Terace Mercredi, Tegan George Mercredi, Fon du Lac, SK – “Lake Athabasca”.
- Dana St. Pierre, Fort St. John, BC – “Big Industry and the Global Circle”.
- Ryan Schaefer, Fort Smith, NWT – “Health of the Slave River”.
- Kaidynce Storr, Inuvik, NWT – “Climate Change in Tuktoyaktuk”.
- Brooklyn Cayen, K’atl’odeche First Nation, NWT – “Climate Change”.
- Shannon McPherson, Tulita, NWT – “On Thin Ice”.
- Naokah Washie, Tulita, NWT – “Fish in the Mackenzie River”.
- Raquel Blake, Fort McPherson, NWT.
- Molly Chisaakay, High Level, AB.
- Madison Melynk, Mackenzie Mount: Norman Wells, NWT.



Winners of the 2018 Poster Competition:

- Myra Maldzil-McDonald, Fon du Lac, SK
- Katelynn McDonald, Fon du Lac, SK
- Kylie Mercredi, Fon du Lac, SK
- Terace Mercredi, Fon du Lac, SK
- Tegan George Mercredi, Fon du Lac, SK
- Richard Stewart, Fort McPherson, NWT
- Gavin Winter-Sinnott, Mayo, YT
- Ryan Schaefer, Fort Smith, NWT
- Molly Chisaakay, High Level, AB
- Portia Morin, High Level, AB
- Michael Merrier, High Level, AB
- Kaidynce Storr, Inuvik, NWT

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Keepers of the Athabasca
Mikisew Cree First Nation
Prince Albert Grand Council
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
Treaty 8 Tribal Council of British Columbia

What did the Student's think about the Youth Knowledge Fair?

Similar to the previous year, students, chaperones and others involved were given an evaluation form to fill out about the Youth Knowledge Fair. Responses were overall very positive – students suggested more workshops for the following year! We can't wait to hear all about the Poland and to begin planning the 2019 Youth Knowledge Fair!



References:

- *Youth and Climate Change*. United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change, 2013. Pp 1 – 4. Available online at <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-climatechange.pdf>
- *Climate change and indigenous peoples*. UN Indigenous Peoples Indigenous Voices, 2008. Pp. 1 – 3. Available online at https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/backgrounder%20climate%20change_FINAL.pdf

Participating Schools:

Father Gamache Memorial School
Fond du Lac, SK

Chief Julius School
Fort McPherson, NWT

JV Clarke School
Mayo, YT

St. Patrick High School
Yellowknife, NWT

Colville Lake School
Colville Lake, NWT

PWK High School
Fort Smith, NWT

Lutselk'e Dene School
Lutselk'e, NWT

Mackenzie Mountain School
Normal Wells, NWT

Chief Albert Wright School
Tulita, NWT

East Three Secondary School
Inuvik, NWT

Chief Sunrise Education Centre
K'at'l'odeche First Nation, NWT

Dr. Kearney Middle School
Fort St. John, BC

Victoria School of the Arts
Edmonton, AB

Thomas Simpson School
Fort Simpson, NWT

Moose Kerr School
Aklavik, NWT

For more project information visit our website:

www.trackingchange.ca



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Tracking Change Project
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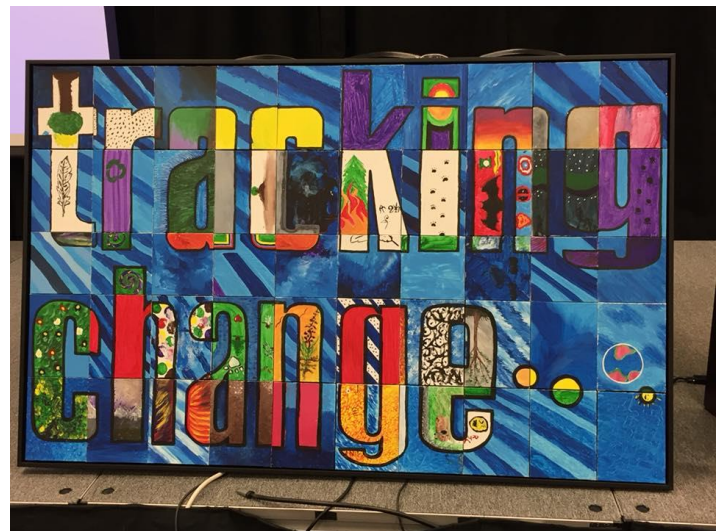
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Tracking Change painting students
created as a gift to the project!

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WEPGN
Water Economics, Policy
and Governance Network