

Alternative Energy & Climate Change Policy for Tomorrow's World

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Background

Alternative energy technologies have the potential to address issues of economic and environmental risk¹ in two communities within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, NT.



Six Indigenous youth from Northern Canada presented their research on climate change in their communities to world leaders and policy-makers in Europe².

What is the role of youth in global activism for climate policy & a transition to a cleaner energy systems?

How can alternative energy be developed meaningfully & sustainably in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region?



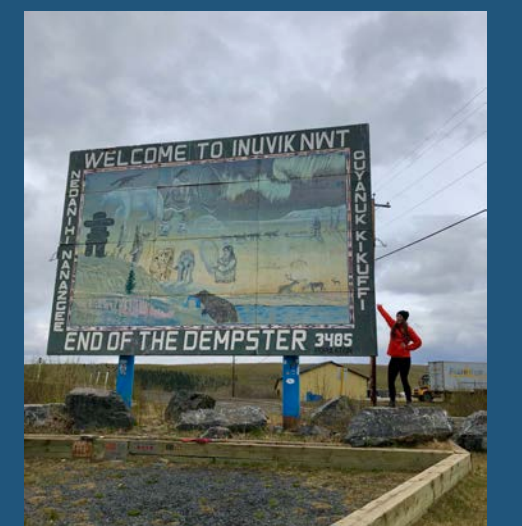
Objectives

1. Interactions between levels of government and the socio-economic factors that govern energy;
2. Socio-economic benefits of alternative energy to people living in the ISR; and
3. Outcomes of youth involvement in policy discussions at individual, local, and international scales.



Project Overview

This qualitative study utilizes the principles of Community-Based Participatory Research, which emphasizes the importance of incorporating local knowledge, respecting intellectual property rights, and working with communities as co-researchers³. We have spent two months in the ISR, building relationships with locals and collaboratively planning a research project that will address their concerns. We have been working with organizers of the Tracking Change to engage youth on climate change issues.



Energy Governance

Energy governance involves all of the policy, actors, and considerations that affect the way energy projects are done and how the energy system is managed. Renewable energy literature increasingly points to the benefits of a bottom-up, de-centralized approach to governance⁴.

We completed 20 interviews with Elders (2), community members (8), and energy stakeholders (10). A "thematic analysis" identified key themes⁵.

Findings:

- Tension between governance actors & roles
- Differing energy and non-energy priorities
- Multi-Level Governance for energy will be difficult in the NWT (at least today)

Social Network Analysis

From May 16-18, 2018 approximately 30 Indigenous youth from across Northern Canada travelled to Edmonton, AB to participate in a Youth Knowledge Fair. Six Youth participants travelled to Europe to present their research at UNESCO World Headquarters in Paris, France, and at the Conference of Youth 14 at COP24 in Katowice, Poland in Fall 2018.

Social Network Analysis (SNA) focuses on the nature of relationships between people⁶. We utilize fieldnotes, research posters, and interviews to complete a SNA of Youth experiences. The SNA will highlight the importance and value of networks in Youth climate activism and refine strategies for future Youth policy involvement.

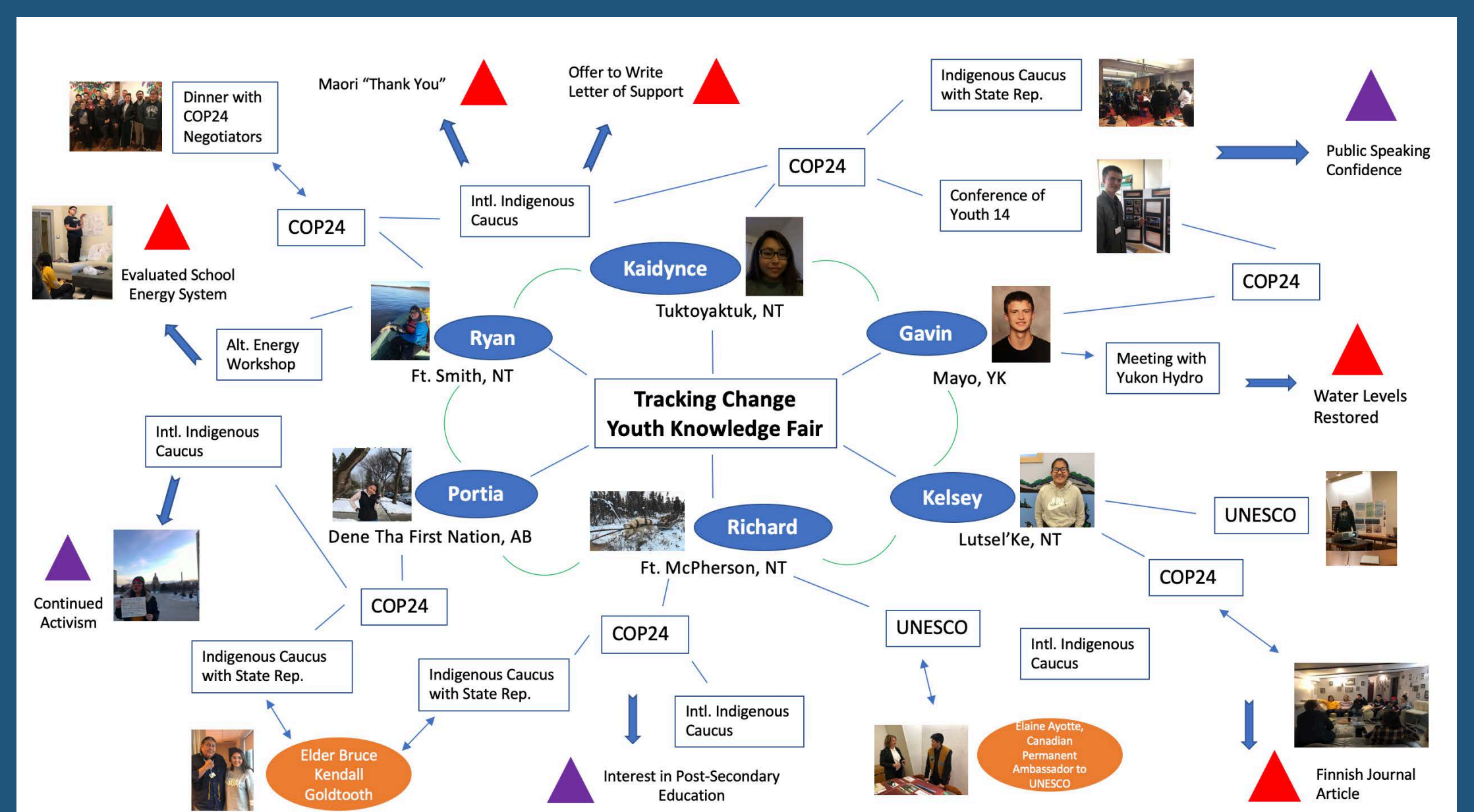


Figure 1: DRAFT Social Network Analysis showing the flow of impact of activism.

Outcomes

Contribution to Literature: some of the first peer-reviewed literature on renewable energy development in the Arctic and Youth as important stakeholders in climate change activism

Community Deliverable:

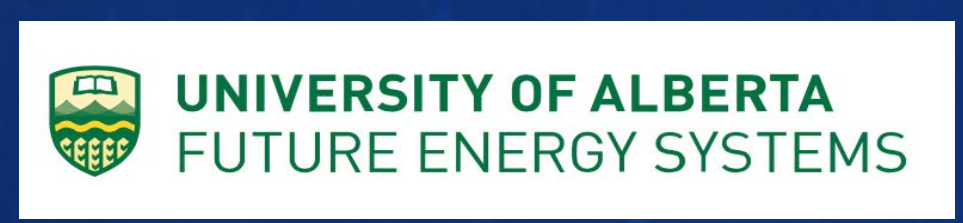
- Personalized Social Network Analysis map for each of the six Youth participants
- Share findings with local organizations and students
- Policy recommendations intended to improve sustainability of energy systems in the Northwest Territories



Acknowledgements & References

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¹Fuel solution has Inuvik residents struggling to pay bills. (2014, January 17). CBC News North. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/fuel-solution-has-inuvik-residents-struggling-to-pay-bills-1.2500833>
²Tracking Change @ COP24. Tracking Change. Retrieved from <http://www.trackingchange.ca/cop24/>
³Fletcher, C. (2003). Community-Based Participatory Research Relationships with Aboriginal Communities in Canada: An Overview of Context and Process. *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal & Indigenous Community Health*, 1(1).
⁴Goldthau, A. (2014). Rethinking the governance of energy infrastructure: Scale, decentralization and polycentrism. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 1, 134-140.
⁵Saldaña, J. (2015). *The coding manual for qualitative researchers*. Sage.
⁶Serrat, O. (2017). Social network analysis. In *Knowledge solutions* (pp. 39-43). Springer, Singapore.



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