

TTR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

December 2023



Dear TTR Members,

As part of implementing our TTR Traditional Knowledge Center for Climate Change program, our Duck and Goose Camp returned on September 2023 with new, exciting, fun activities.

Because safety always comes first, the Duck & Goose Camp started with the execution of the PAL and the Manitoba Hunter Safety courses. The two-day courses were followed by a day of cooking and target practising with our clay target throwers. During these activities, the youth had the opportunity to learn important skills associated with preparing traditional foods.

This year, we had the good fortune of having half of a moose provided by one of our Band council members. The moose was cut up with the support of experienced cultural mentors, and the meat was used to make many pots of delicious stew to be shared with the youth's family and friends.

Just like in our past camps, we always ensure that our activities continue to address the different issues and barriers to accessing traditional foods and, simultaneously, build awareness about the effects of Climate Change so the TTR community can be prepared. Adaptation is what many of our people have been required to do since time immemorial, so these concepts, although not new, are more relevant as we learn and observe.

After a full morning of cutting and prepping, our youth enjoyed an afternoon of skeet shooting to practice and reinforce the safety lessons learned during the previous days. Skeet shooting also represents a good opportunity to become familiar with shotguns and improve marksmanship skills in preparation for the hunt scheduled for the next morning.

The camp ended with a full day in the field where youth, mentors, community members, and many volunteers spent early morning and late afternoon in the field waiting for the ducks and Geese to come close to the blind built by the youth.

As always, the time at the blind goes fast. During Sunrise and Sunset, our youth are alert, engaged and busy. Between the sound of multiple out-of-tone callings, they eat snacks, tell stories, laugh, share, wait, and sometimes even dream of the future and its possibilities.

As this 2023 Camp ends, we pray to the creator for all the people who made this camp possible, especially our youth, for their enthusiasm and openness to learn and share their insightful views and perspectives that help us plan a better future.

Miigwech!
Don Clarke
TTR Climate Change Initiative



You can see the Camp Video in our website



www.ttr292.ca

03:47 / 10:00

GATHERING IN THE MOUNTAINS, REFLECTING ON THE FUTURE OF WATER

CIER, DECEMBER 15, 2023



Amongst the beautiful landscape of the Rocky Mountains, nine Young Indigenous Artists gathered in person for the first time to share their insights, skills, and passions. From November 20 to 24, the gathering was co-hosted by CIER and One Drop in the breathtaking mountains of Kananaskis at the Biogeoscience Institute – University of Calgary, in Alberta, Treaty 7 territory.

The objective of the Indigenous Young Ambassadors Water Initiative (IYAWI) is to empower Indigenous youth to express their voice and vision around water-related challenges using social art and community-based approaches. As part of a one-year program, these artists share a common goal of bringing forward their stories of water issues in their communities, sharing experiences and perspectives with other communities, and, ultimately, bringing these water issues to the forefront throughout Canada.

Elder Violet, from Tsuu t'ina First Nation, provided a greeting to open the gathering, and spoke guiding words. The first day started with an icebreaker, and was followed by an interactive session, where the artists and their organization leads shared their

water stories by drawing their stories. Later, there was an active discussion on how art has the power to drive social transformation. Graphic artist Aaron Russell captured the sessions each day, enthusiastically chatting with the artists, and providing a graphic of what was shared throughout the week.

The second day included sessions on creative system mapping, storytelling from our guests at Wapikoni, and a water walk that doubled as an outdoor photo competition, led by Thomas McKay of CIER, and later judged by Wapikoni. The third day saw the arrival of snow, making the surroundings seem magical. For some guests at the gathering, snow was a new experience. The YIAs were given some time to collaborate while taking in the breathtaking scenery, and even go for a swim in the chilly Barrier Lake.

On the final day of the gathering, Wapikoni led the artists through a session on how to edit their work, and a guest speaker spoke about navigating water rights and governance. The wonderful week finished off with a sharing circle and a closing prayer by Elder Violet.

The artists went home having made new connections and friends, realizing that their journey was just beginning, and excited to see where they will go. These artists, supported by grants, will receive funding to create social art to help achieve their goals. They will have a year to produce their work, and will be provided training, support, capacity building and the tools needed to develop their projects. Next year, the artists will meet again to celebrate their journeys and to share their creations with their new colleagues, and with communities throughout Canada.