



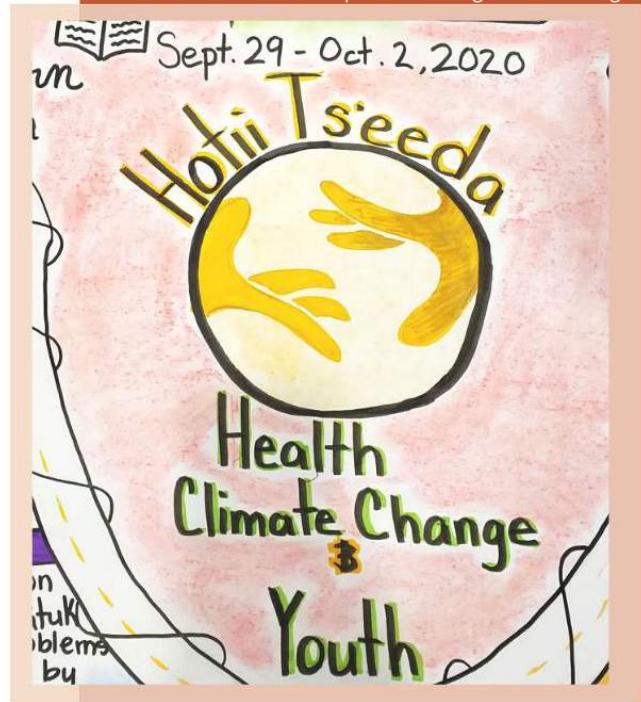
Hotii ts'eeda
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPOR SUPPORT UNIT

EŁÈTS'EHĐÈE-KATIMAQATIGIIT-NIHKHAH ŁATR'ILJI

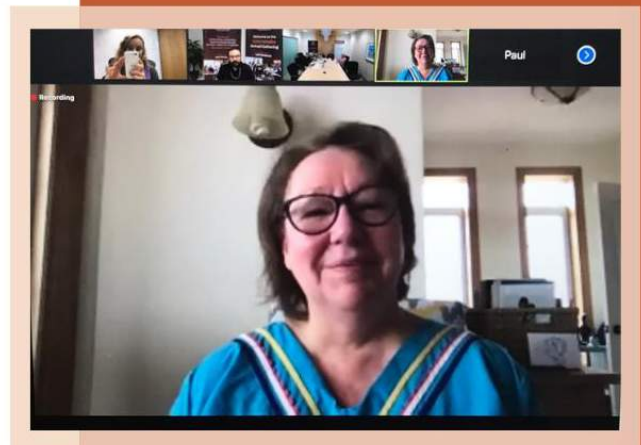
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 02, 2020

FINAL REPORT

Graphic recording Jasmine Keogak



Graphic recording Alisson McCreesh



Contents

Mahsi	4
Executive Summary	5
About Hotii Ts'eeda	7
Vision	7
Governing Council.....	7
CIHR And The SPOR Network:	7
Organization Chart.....	8
Èlèts'ehdèe Application	9
Year-In-Review 2019.....	10
Staff Year-In-Review	10
Èlèts'ehdèe 2020: Speakers, Panels And, Activities	13
Speakers.....	13
Film Screening Happening To Us	14
Panel 1: Climate Change – Indigenous Strategies And Observations	15
Panel 2: Adapting Through Language And Culture.....	15
Panel 3: Elders' Panel.....	16
Virtual Tipi Sessions	16
Ht Mid-Term Review	18
Hotii Ts'eeda – Phase Two	19
Data Access.....	19
Patient Engagement	19
Capacity Development.....	19
Learning Health Systems.....	20
Working With Other SPOR Units And SPOR Funded Entities	20
Sustainability After 2026	20
Hotii Ts'eeda Priorities.....	21
Overarching Themes	21
Building Trust	21
Data Access.....	21
Building Capacity In Health Research	22
Covid-19 Communications And Activities.....	22
What You Said: Your Experience Of The Èlèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah Łatr'iljil	23
Summary Of Comments.....	23

Capturing The Conversation	24
Contact Us.....	25
Yellowknife Office	25
Gwich'in Tribal Council	25
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	25
Déljñę Got'jñę Government.....	25
Hotii Ts'eeda Website:	25
Appendices	26
Appendix 1: Presenters List	26
Appendix 2: Agenda	28

Acronyms

NWT	Northwest Territories
HT	Hotii ts'eeda
SPOR	Strategic Patient Oriented Research
SUPPORT Unit	Support for People and Patient Oriented Research and Trials
CIHR	Canadian Institutes of Health Research
KT	Knowledge Translation

Mahsi



On behalf of the Governing Council, I would like to say thank you for participating in the online version of Ełèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah łatr'iljil, each which mean "gathering" in my language of Tliche, Inuvialuktun, and Gwich'in respectively.

This was the fourth annual gathering which had been scheduled for Inuvik, NWT, above the Arctic Circle and in the beautiful and vast Mackenzie Delta - home to Inuvialuit and Gwich'in peoples. Due to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the gathering was changed to an online format. Although this restricted interacting and networking to an online approach, I hope that you were still able make meaningful connections amongst each other. It is important that we find ways to remain connected in these times, and Hotii ts'eeda is committed to finding innovative ways of doing so.

This year's theme was *Health, Climate Change, and Youth*. The theme highlighted the work of Northerners, including youth, Elders, cultural knowledge holders, policy makers, physical scientists, and people from within the NWT,

Canada, and abroad. They shared research results about the climate change impacts being experienced and navigated by Northerners and Indigenous peoples.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Inuit activist, gave a keynote reminding everyone that solid relationships are essential to creating change with the ethos "Change Happens at the Speed of Trust." Notable young Northerners such as Tunchai Redvers, and Shania Young, shared their efforts and experiences addressing mental health and wellbeing amongst youth. Tunchai, a Dene womxn originally from Hay River NWT, established with her brother Kelvin, the We Matter Campaign, a national youth led organization dedicated to Indigenous youth support, hope and life promotion. Shania, Tłjchq from Behchokq, NWT, is a nurse and a volunteer with Jack.org – a charity that trains and empowers youth the revolutionize mental health. I also want to acknowledge the Elders and the cultural knowledge holders who shared their wisdom and talents with us through the virtual tipi/tent sessions (break-out rooms). Without them, the gathering wouldn't be as successful as it is.

The Ełèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah łatr'iljil is more than a gathering—it is also part of Hotii ts'eeda's governance, where the organization practices accountability to the community by meeting with our partners (usually) in person, review the last year of work, and ask the community what health and health research priorities in the NWT should be. This year the results from the Midterm Review were provided, the status of the next phase of Hotii ts'eeda from 2021-2026, and of course the priority setting which is done every year. I thank you for engaging in this process and invite you to review the priority-setting section of this report carefully.

Mahsi,
John B. Zoe, Chairperson
Hotii ts'eeda



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

Executive Summary

Well, that was different!

Mahsi everyone for participating in the for participating in the online version of Ełets'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah Łatr'iljil.

Based on feedback, participants missed the food, the hugs, the stories, and the music, being outside and spending time with friends new and old, catching up on the past year. With the second wave of Covid bringing cases to the NWT, we can expect that our annual gatherings will not go completely offline until a vaccine is available.

On average, the gathering had between 50-80 participants online at any given time, with the highest attendance occurring during the "Happening to Us" first hand film account of climate change in the lives of Inuvialuit youth.

That was a memorable session, as was the keynote address given by Elder and activist Sheila Watt-Cloutier. "Change happens at the speed of trust" became the most memorable phrase spoken – and quoted – throughout the four-day event. In all that we do with respect to climate change, and the health system, building partnerships based on solid relationships is fundamental to any change that might occur. This wise advice in a way sums up the experience of Hotii ts'eeda over the past four years. Through careful, respectful, and attentive relationship building, together we have begun the work necessary to create change. Few things go smoothly, and having trust of and in partners working together is an important ingredient for weathering the ups and downs in any relationship, while still staying united in working toward shared goals.

Priority sessions underlined the need to continue to build trust, and provided Hotii ts'eeda with

direction for the coming year. In a context where the only thing we can be quite sure of will be the need to be flexible and innovative to achieve organizational goals, the confidence of Hotii ts'eeda partners is important for inspiring staff to work hard in all they do.

Building trust was a major theme – from the opening keynote through the priorities session. The gathering highlighted trust in the youth and their ability to see clearly and communicate their concerns and priorities gives all of us hope for the future and inspiration to act in the present. It was great to hear feedback from partners and health system professionals that we see progress in trust in the health system. From cultural safety training to examples of a health navigator based in an Indigenous government, to wellness programming offered by Indigenous governments, we are seeing a gradual shift to increasing efforts toward improving health system responsiveness and access. There is also a shift toward taking responsibility within organizations and communities to do so. Partners encouraged Hotii ts'eeda to continue efforts to undertake initiatives around Covid 19 communications, and assistance to NWT students to navigate this difficult time.

Researchers shared their own innovative approaches to research in a Covid context, and again, having solid relationships and a deep well of trust to draw from in making these shifts was important to their success. Hotii ts'eeda will support researchers to continue to do important work in the NWT in a Covid context – and hopefully see an increase in resident participation in research as a result.



Elder Albert Elias and Elder Winston Moses in Inuvik.



Shelley Wiart showing off her new mask!



Participants

Inuvik



Great minds think alike! Elder Lillian Elias and Billie Lennie.



Mayor Natasha Kulikowski tuning in from Inuvik!



Our Moderator Dëneze!



Elder Gina Dolfus, Dëłne Got'İne Government Councillor and Hoti ts'eeda Governing Council Member



Dëłne

Joy Vital, Health Family Coordinator with DGG and Jennie Vandermeer



Dëneze and Chris in the tech control room!



Yellowknife

Great minds think alike! Elder Violet Doolittle and Denise McDonald.



About Hotì ts'eeda

Hotì ts'eeda is a research support centre for community members, organizations, and researchers involved in Northwest Territories health and health research.

VISION

Hotì ts'eeda's vision is to support health research and training that is rooted in Dene Nàowo (Dene knowledge), Inuvialuit and Métis knowledge and responds to the needs of patients, communities and governments. The organization exists to revitalize and celebrate culture, improve capacity for individuals and families and support taking an evidence-based approach to policy. It is about moving control and ownership of research back to Indigenous peoples and communities. Hotì ts'eeda acts as a connector: connecting researchers with communities and Indigenous organizations, to support recognition of NWT health research priorities, and develop a health system that is culturally competent and inclusive of Indigenous methodologies and ways of knowing.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Hotì ts'eeda is hosted by the Tłı̄chǫ government and funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) under their Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR). Hotì ts'eeda is guided by an independent Governing Council that includes members from:

- Tłı̄chǫ Government
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Délı̄nǫ Got'ı̄nǫ Government
- Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- University of Alberta

Hotì ts'eeda staff are embedded within the four NWT Indigenous Governments and work under the direction of the Scientific Director. Hotì ts'eeda's organizational chart is included below.

CIHR AND THE SPOR NETWORK:

CIHR is Canada's federal funding agency for health research. Its mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to enable its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system.

The Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) is a coalition of federal, provincial and territorial partners led by CIHR. Support units are located in most Canadian provinces and territories. SPOR Support Units work toward research-based improvements to the health care system in response to local needs identified by community members as key partners, by:

- Engaging patients as partners in research;
- Ensuring that health research is relevant to patient and policy-maker priorities; and,
- Ensuring research results are used to improve health care systems and practices.

ACTIVITIES

Hotì ts'eeda is a SPOR SUPPORT unit with a unique focus on Indigenous health and research and regards patient partners as Indigenous communities and community members. It works to:

- Identify research needs with communities and connect communities to researchers and funders.
- Cultivate meaningful partnerships between researchers, individuals and communities.
- Support culturally competent research behaviour.
- Ensure research results are transferred to community partners and health policy decision-makers.
- Support access to NWT health research data.

ORGANIZATION CHART



Elèts'ehdèe Application

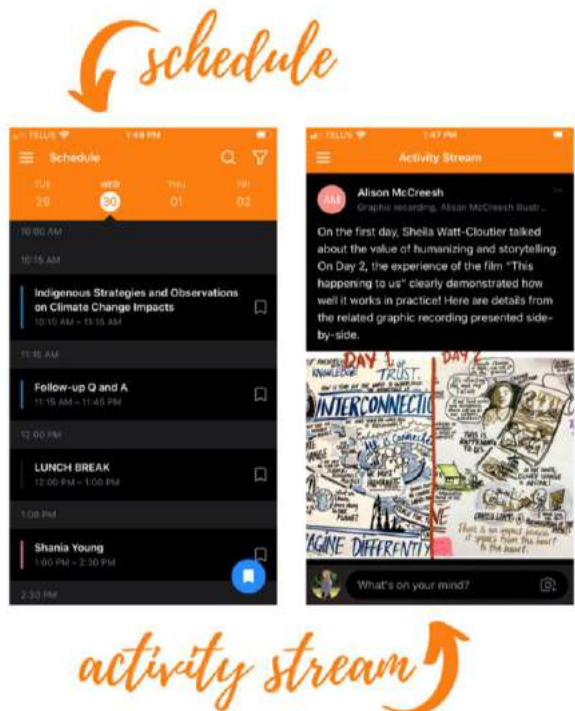
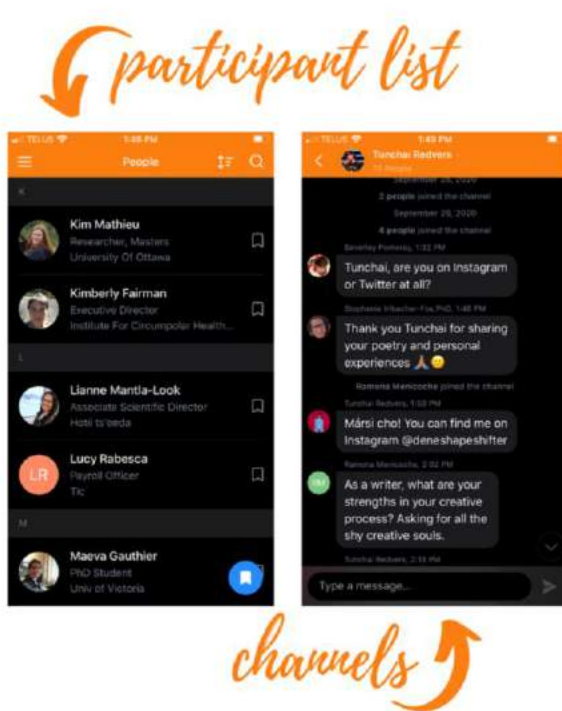
The Hotiì ts'eeda event application was a critical platform used to connect participants and speakers during the 2020 Elèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah Łatr'iljil, given its online format. Similar to other social media platforms, the app's activity stream allowed participants to share pictures, links and information with each other throughout the conference. Channels created for each speaker and panelist allowed participants to engage them in discussion and ask questions that they might not have been able to ask during a live session. Beyond its networking features, the app provided an up-to-date agenda, profiles for participants and speakers, and other resources and information about Hotiì ts'eeda and the Elèts'ehdèe available for download.

Instructions on how to download the app are provided below:

- Got to your smartphone's app store and search for H-O-T-I-I T-S-E-E-D-A, or click on one of the links below:

[DOWNLOAD FROM APPLE STORE](#)
[DOWNLOAD FROM GOOGLE PLAY](#)

- Once downloaded, enter username and password to create an account.
- Under "Your Events" Click on "2020 Elèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah Łatr'iljil", this will lead you the event homepage.



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



Year-In-Review 2019

STAFF YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Scientific Director, Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox



This position is embedded with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation virtually. The Scientific Director has overall responsibility for the strategic direction of the organization, and day to day administrative,

financial, program and staff oversight responsibilities. During the year key activities included determining and hiring staff positions, designing and overseeing program and organizational shifts in a Covid context, establishing the Integrated Care Teams evaluation partnership project with the GNWT, establishing a culturally safe Covid communications project, and designing and completing the next phase of the organization's focus including consulting partners and developing a five year peer-reviewed plan.

Operations Manager, Marissa Gon



This position is embedded in the Tłjchq Government and has overall responsibility for day to administrative, logistical, and functional operations

of the organization. Key activities for the year included establishing policy frameworks and processes; financial administration process and oversight, office and staff functionality and supervision.

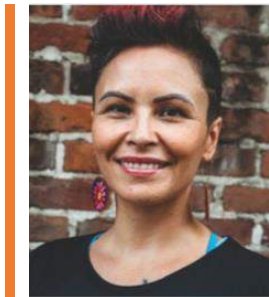
Patient Engagement Specialist, Lianne Mantla-Look



This position is embedded at the Tłıchq Government and was staffed in September 2019. The patient engagement specialist is embedded in the Tłıchq Government, and supports patient

engagement activities for stakeholders. Key activities for the year included: Presented at the World Indigenous Cancer Conference in September 2019, this conference was attended by healthcare providers, researchers, cancer from all over the world; Facilitated various funding awards to support health research and professional development in the NWT; Administered awards including a bursary for Northern Indigenous Counselling initiative in the NWT; Updated Hotii ts'eeda's Patient Engagement Plan.

Indigenous Evaluation Advisor, Jennie Vandermeer



The Indigenous Evaluation Specialist position (staffed in April 2020) is embedded in the Délıne Got'ıne Government and is located in Norman Wells, NWT. Key activities included:

Advising on COVID communications, providing culturally appropriate/trauma informed messaging (ongoing); Advising on evaluation and monitoring plan for Healthy Family Program Renewal project (ongoing); Led and participated in "Indigenous Knowledge Holders on staying healthy during COVID-19" online sharing circle. Development of mental wellness curriculum for on the land staff with NWTRPA Supporting Wellbeing Steering Committee (ongoing);

Assisting with delivery of annual gathering (Katimaqatigiit) in online format.

Research Advisor, Jessica Simpson



This position is embedded at the Tłıchq Government. Key activities included administering Covid bursaries; providing research and administrative

support to communications and research projects as required; responding to partners and providing advice on funding proposals.

Project Director, Data Access and Research Methods, Jullian McClean



This position is embedded at the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in Inuvik, NT and has been staffed since January 2018. The Project Director, Health Methods and Data forwards the NWT SPOR

Data Platform, also known as the Data Access Service. Key activities included: Liaison with key stakeholder within the Government of the Northwest Territories to increase timely access of NT Health Data in prospective researchers and local Indigenous Governments, Land-Claim Organizations and entities; Principal contact and collaborator for the Health Data Research Network whose focus is to increase multi-jurisdictional health data access and research across Canada; Liaison with local Indigenous Governments, Land-Claim Organizations and entities to forward their health data interests as it relates to their respective beneficiaries.

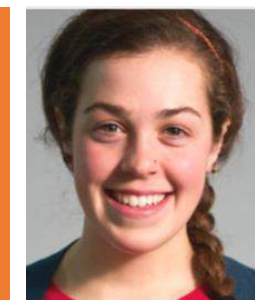
Organizational Development Advisor, Debbie Delancey



The Organizational Development Advisor is a contract position that provides support on issues related to program and policy development, evaluation, and performance measurement. Key

activities included: Coordinating Hotii ts'eeda's mid-term evaluation; Organizing Indigenous evaluation training; Engaging with partners on collaborative projects, including working with Canadian Evaluation Society to partner on developing training modules and assisting with GNWT's Conservation Network Gathering

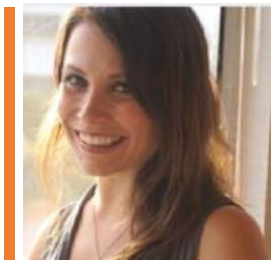
Research and Capacity Officer, Holly Jones



Embedded with the Gwich'in Tribal Council in Inuvik, this position provides intake of applications and advice to partners seeking funding for capacity and training; and

recommends projects for funding. This position was staffed in September 2020.

Manager of Research and Consultation Services (Contractor), Marlee McGuire



This position is a contract position that has been staffed by the current contractor since May 2020. The Manager of Research and Consultation Services (contract term)

manages key projects in the HT Consultation Services Portfolio. Key activities included: Managing Phase 3 of the Healthy Family Program renewal project; Working with the DHSS GNWT Primary Health Care Reform

Leadership team to develop a logic model and theory of change for the Integrated Care Teams demonstration projects as part of Primary Health Care Reform; ongoing management and implementation of these projects.

Research Assistant, Charlotte Evans



This position is a contract position that has been staffed by Charlotte since September 2020. This position provides research support on the Healthy Family

Program Renewal project and the DHSS GNWT Primary Health Care Reform project. The position also provides research support to the Scientific Director and other staff.

Administrative and Finance Assistant, Elsie Mantla



Elsie is the first person you meet at the Yellowknife office, managing the front office space, providing reception and administration assistance in English and Tłı̄chǫ , and ensuring Covid

precautions are met. Key activities include providing reception, administrative, and logistical support to all staff and receiving visitors to the office.



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

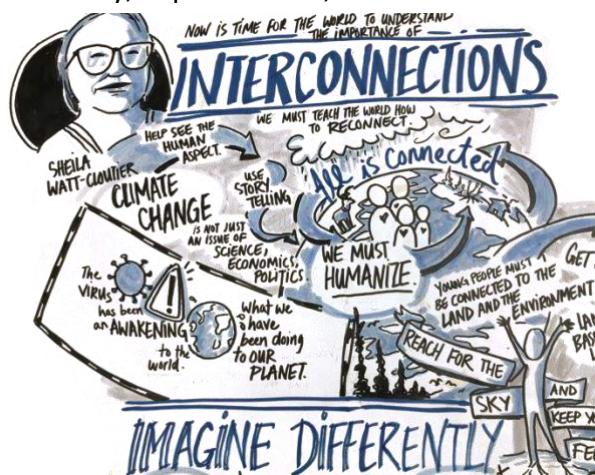
Elèts'ehdèe 2020: Speakers, Panels and, Activities

SPEAKERS

- Sheila Watt-Cloutier (Environmental, Cultural and Human Rights Advocate)
- Tunchai Redvers (Two-spirit social justice, warrior, writer and wanderer)
- Shania Young (Registered nurse and mental health advocate)

Sheila Watt-Cloutier

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:00AM



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

Sheila Watt-Cloutier was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee for her work on exposing the impact of global climate change on human rights – especially in the Arctic, where it is felt more dramatically. She published the book “The Right to be Cold” in 2017, a story detailing her continued advocacy to protect her culture, the Arctic and the whole planet. Her keynote addressed the importance of Indigenous Wisdom to the development of imaginative and creative ways of addressing the climate crisis and the importance of youth in this movement. While highlighting the need for Northern Indigenous voices within the climate

movement, she emphasized that “change and transformation comes at the speed of trust”. Overall, her keynote was a call to action for youth, adults and elders alike to utilize their voice to speak out about the impacts of climate change on their communities or make room for the voices of others.

Tunchai Redvers

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:00PM



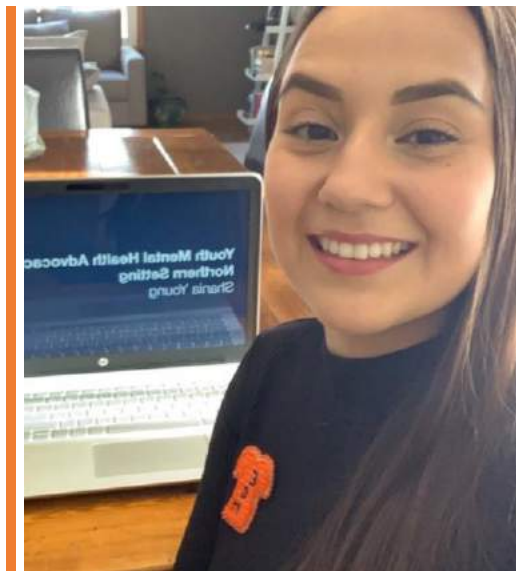
Tunchai Redvers getting ready for her talk on the Indigenization of identity, mental health and healing.

Tunchai Redvers is a Dene/Métis, queer/2spirit social justice warrior, writer, and wanderer, originally from the NWT. She has a masters of Indigenous social work and is the co-founder of We Matter, a national Indigenous youth life promotion organization. She started her talk by reading a series of poems from her book “Fireweed”. The poems grounded the audience in her experience growing up as a young, Indigenous, and two-spirit intergenerational residential school survivor. She tied her poems to the realities and trauma experienced by other Indigenous youth across Canada and advocated for the need to reclaim and Indigenize mental health and wellbeing initiatives in order to support them. She concluded her talk stating that “youth follow in our footsteps yet guide every direction we take”

and emphasizing the need to support Northern Indigenous youth as they will be the future leaders of their communities.

Shania Young

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:00PM



Shania Young starting off her presentation on Youth Mental Health in the North.

Shania Young is a Tłı̨ch̨ advocate born and raised in Yellowknife. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Aurora College/University of Victoria and is now a registered Nurse at Stanton Territorial Hospital. Shania spoke about her deep passion for mental health that stems from personal experience growing up in the North, where there are few mental health resources. She focused on her work with Jack.org, an organization that seeks to empower young leaders across Canada to revolutionize mental health in their communities. Shania has played a critical role in bringing Jack.org activities up to the North and Indigenous leadership to the organization. Overall, she spoke about the need to find ways of speaking about mental health and wellness within communities across the North and ensuring that all communities have access to appropriate mental health care services. Shania believes that Northern youth have a large role

to play in this and should be given the necessary opportunities and resources to do so.

FILM SCREENING HAPPENING TO US

Wednesday September 30, 2020 4:00PM

- Maeva Gautier, University of Victoria
- Carmen, Kuptana, Student at Mangilaluk
- Michèle Tomasino, Mangilaluk School



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

Happening to Us, a documentary produced by [Tuk TV](#), was showcased online for the public. The film chronicles the impacts of climate change that seven teenagers from Tuktoyaktuk are experiencing in their community and was shown at the 2019 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25). After the showing, Maeva Gauthier, film producer and PhD candidate at the University of Victoria, Carmen Kuptana, one of the teens behind the film, and Michele Tomasino, principal of Mangilaluk school in Tuktoyaktuk, spoke about the filming process, the reception at COP25, and their vision for future projects to address climate change.

PANEL 1: CLIMATE CHANGE – INDIGENOUS STRATEGIES AND OBSERVATIONS

Wednesday September 30, 2020 10:00 am

Presenters:

- Andrew Spring, Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at Wilfred Laurier University
- Dieter Cazon, Lands and Resources LKFN
- Dustin Whalen, Natural Resources Canada
- John B. Zoe, Governing Council Chair, Hotii ts'eeda



Dieter Cazon speaking as part of the panel on Climate Change about his work with the Decho Guardians and the Decho Collaborative on Permafrost on.

PANEL 2: ADAPTING THROUGH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Thursday October 1, 2020 1:00PM

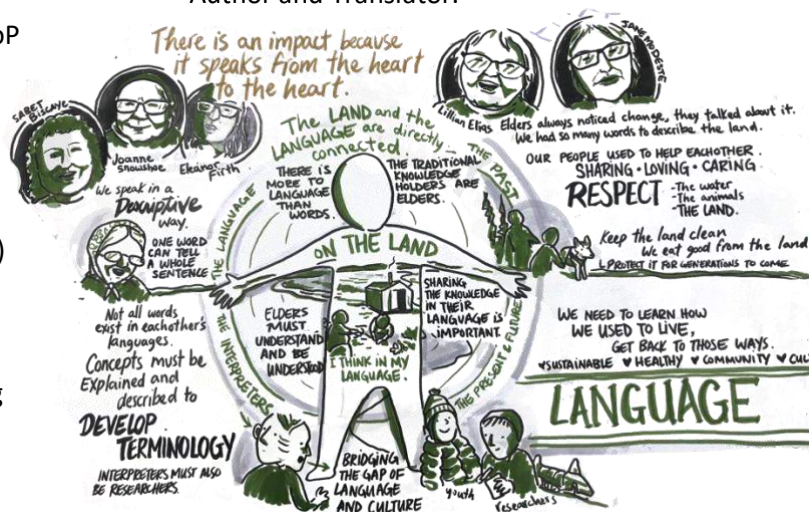
Presenters:

- Eleanor Firth, Research Associate GTC Department of Cultural Heritage
- Sabet Biscaye, Special Advisor to the GNWT Minister responsible for the Status of Women
- Elder Lillian Elias, Canadian Member of the International Inuit Elders Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Jane Modeste, Independent Contractor, Author and Translator.



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

Dieter Cazon, Manager of Lands and Resources for Liildii Kue First Nation, spoke on the work of the Dehcho Guardians and the Dehcho Collaborative on Permafrost (DCoP) initiative. Andrew Spring, a research associate at Wilfrid Laurier University and collaborator on the DCoP initiative, spoke about land stewardship in Kakisa and the impact of community-based monitoring on adaptation. Dustin Whalen, a scientist with Natural Resources Canada, described the successes of the Tuktoyaktuk Community Climate Resilience Project (TCCRP) and the risks for the sustainability of projects like TCCRP. John B. Zoe, Chairperson of Hotii ts'eeda, spoke on the importance of trust in modern research agreements, and the shifting from “key informants” to “key community engagement” within community research landscapes.



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

Lillian Elias spoke about her Inuvialuktun name, *Panigavluk*, and presented photos showing the erosion impact on her family's Kendall Island camp. Teet'it Gwich'in Elder Joanne Snowshoe spoke on her language experiences in residential school, and Eleanor Mitchell-Firth emphasized the importance of language learning in adaptation approaches. Sabet Biscaye shared her experiences in generating terminology for climate change and mental health in the Dëne Sųłiné Yatıé language. Jane Modeste spoke on building strength in Délıne Got'ıne cultural practices and the Dene Keda curriculum.



Jane Modeste all set up to speak about her expertise in Délıne on October 1st.

PANEL 3: ELDERS' PANEL

Friday October 2, 2020 11:00AM

Presenters:

- Elder Violet Doolittle
- Elder JoAnne Deneron
- Elder Rosa Mantla



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

Rosa Mantla, JoAnne Deneron, and Violet Doolittle spoke on their perspectives and learnings throughout the gathering and offered parting words on the last day of the conference.

VIRTUAL TIPI SESSIONS

Tuesday September 30, and Thursday October 1 2020, 2:45PM

Cultural Knowledge Holders

- Nancy Bonnetrouge – Discussed her practice with Dene Fur Clouds in her community and its significance.
- Karen Wright Fraser – Presented knowledge on culturally-based sewing techniques, including the importance of moose hide tanning and maintaining the vital skill of producing sewn goods.
- Morris Neyelle – Presented his craft of drum making in Délıne, and spoke about the impact of climate change on materials from the land which are required to make a good drum.
- Billie Lennie & Alecia Lennie – Mother and daughter presented on their family history with the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers and spoke of the significance of Inuvialuit drum dancing and the stories the dances tell
- Terri Naskan – Presented on Tłıchq traditional medicinal remedies to treat a variety of medical ailments and the therapeutic benefits of healing oneself with the natural environment.

Presenters:

- K Dieter Cazon / Bill Quinton / Miguel Sioui – 'Dehcho Collaborative on Permafrost (DCoP)' (Tuesday and Thursday PM)

- Julia Christensen – ‘How Housing in the North is Healthcare’ (Tuesday and Thursday PM)
- Sophie Roher – ‘Indigenous and Biomedical Healthcare at Stanton Territorial Hospital’ (Tuesday and Thursday PM)
- Kelly Skinner – ‘Promoting Self-Determination around Local Food Systems’ (Tuesday and Thursday PM)
- Pertice Moffat/Rosa Mantla – ‘The “Strong Like Two People” Approach to Ending Family Violence’ (Tuesday and Thursday PM)
- Sonia Wesche – ‘Food Security Governance in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region’ (Thursday PM)
- Mandee MacDonald – ‘Amplifying Resilience in Indigenous Theories of Change’ (Tuesday and Thursday PM)
- Crystal Milligan – ‘Stories Uncovering the Gaps, Successes and Challenges of Medical Travel Experiences’ (Thursday PM)
- Carolyn Bonta – ‘Bathurst Caribou Range History Explored through Tress and Shrubs’ (Tuesday PM)
- Shelley Wiart – ‘Using Digital Storytelling in Academia’ (Tuesday PM)
- Andrew Spring – ‘Agricultural Opportunities in the Northwest Territories’ (Tuesday PM)
- Kristen Tanche – ‘A Vision of Health and Wellness in the Dehcho from the Dehcho Indigenous perspective’ (Thursday PM)
- Ashley Ens – ‘Decolonizing education and Creating Culturally Safe Places to Learn’ (Thursday PM)

Facilitators

- Jennie Vandermeer
- Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox
- Debbie Delancey
- Jessica Simpson
- Jullian McLean
- Lianne Mantla-Look
- Marlee McGuire

Cultural Knowledge Holders



↑
Terri Naskan presenting on Tłìchǫ traditional medicine



← Karen Wright Fraser presenting on culturally-based sewing methods



← Billie Lennie & Alecia Lennie presented on the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers



← Morris Neyelle presenting his craft of Drum Making from Délìnǫ



← Nancy Bonnetrouge presented her practice with Dene Fur Clouds

HT MID-TERM REVIEW



Conducted by Firelight Group

NOVEMBER 2019- MARCH 2020

Review of Hotì ts'eeda:

- Products
- Initiatives
- Partnerships
- Activities



Information Gathered

From:

- 45 individuals
- 30 organizations

Via:

- Surveys
- One-on-one interviews
- Group discussions
- Document review



Recommendations

44 IN TOTAL

Related to

- Reach
- Governance
- Function and Support
- Methods and Knowledge Transfer

Reach

Work with all regions in the NWT.

Governance

Expand partner involvement in governance: governing council, Èlèt's'ehdèe.

Function & Support

Streamline approaches to internal operations.

Methods & Knowledge Transfer

Continue to support communities to develop Indigenous research methods and communicate those broadly in the NWT.

To learn more about the results from the Mid-Term Review click on the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/456764>

"The Unit has piloted culturally-rooted and Indigenous-led methodologies and knowledge transfer projects in the NWT."

-Firelight Group (2020)

HOTIÌ TS'EEDA – PHASE TWO

Hotiì ts'eeda's first funding agreement with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) started in 2017 and will end in 2021. CIHR has offered Hotiì ts'eeda an additional five years of funding from 2021 to 2026, with a renewed set of funding requirements. These funding requirements are listed below:

- 1) Each SPOR unit is required to provide services in the following areas: Access to health data; Patient Engagement; Capacity Development; Learning Health Systems.
- 2) Data access (and methods) are meant to be supported by 50% of Hotiì ts'eeda's funding.
- 3) All units are expected to work closely with other “SPOR funded entities”.
- 4) Hotiì ts'eeda's funding will be cut by 15% during the second 5 years.

Priorities set by partners in the NWT have emphasized the need to build capacity, and work in ways that are responsive to and driven by community priorities and communities. In the next five years, Hotiì ts'eeda will continue to build trust within the health system through building capacity, promoting cultural competency, and respectful relationships, recognizing:

- 1) building on cultural strengths is essential in all initiatives, and
- 2) the restoration of Indigenous governance of health research and health programs is central to “patient engagement”: working effectively and being responsive to community priorities.

DATA ACCESS

- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation will develop methods and approaches that

all Indigenous governments can use as a basis to develop their own unique data analysis.

- The Délı̄në Got'ı̄në Government will develop Indigenous Evaluation methods for Indigenous governments to conduct their own evaluations according to their unique cultural values and circumstances.
- The GNWT will work with the Canadian Data Program to ensure that the GNWT can share health data in ways that respects privacy and provides accurate information to researchers, and other Canadian provinces and territories.

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

- Hotiì ts'eeda undertakes its work over the next five years will be informed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Cultural safety initiatives will continue, including the development of a series of webinars to promote cultural safety and competency in research.
- Hotiì ts'eeda's staff is now 70% Indigenous and will continue to increase its Indigenous staff.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Hotiì ts'eeda supports two large annual scholarship funds for Aurora College students and NWT Indigenous medical and PhD students, to help build capacity in research.
- Hotiì ts'eeda re-profiled \$100,00.00 of travel funds to NWT post-secondary students financially impacted by COVID-19. A special \$50,000.00 fund was also created to support NWT Indigenous students financially impacted by COVID-

19 to enroll in the Northern Indigenous Counselling program.

LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEMS

- Hotì ts'eeda's Integrated Team Care Evaluation with the GNWT seeks to understand the effectiveness of an integrated health care approach. This will establish ongoing measures for GNWT to monitor program effectiveness over time.
- Hotì ts'eeda is working with the GNWT on the renewed Healthy Families Program, which now takes an Indigenous strengths-based approach.

WORKING WITH OTHER SPOR UNITS AND SPOR FUNDED ENTITIES

- Hotì ts'eeda staff have worked with Alberta, Saskatchewan, and BC SPOR Units.

- Hotì ts'eeda has a positive working relationship with Cansolve CKD, the SPOR Evidence Alliance, two SPOR-funded entities active in the NWT.
- Hotì ts'eeda will continue to work closely with SPOR Units and SPOR-funded entities active in the NWT.

SUSTAINABILITY AFTER 2026

- Hotì ts'eeda will incorporate Ełéxé Jdaà ts'àdèe (sustainability committee) to advise the Governing Council on opportunities for the sustainability of Hotì ts'eeda functions after CIHR funding ends in 2025-2026.
- Hotì ts'eeda will seek funding to support ongoing formal cooperation to support health research and capacity building in the NWT.



Hotii ts'eeda Priorities

On Thursday the 2nd of October, participants were asked to help Hotii ts'eeda define its priorities for the coming year. Research Advisor, Jessica Simpson gave an overview of the priority areas below:

- 1) Building trust between NWT residents and the NWT health system.
- 2) Methods for collecting and accessing information/data for research
- 3) Building capacity in health research
- 4) COVID-19 communications and research

Participants were sorted into breakout rooms to discuss these 4 priority areas. Hotii ts'eeda staff acted as facilitators and took notes which were then collected and analyzed by the Scientific Director and Research Advisor. This analysis is presented below.

OVERARCHING THEMES

The importance of relationships was foundational to each priority area. Specifically, building trust, and legitimate as well as reliable partnerships were highlighted as critical to effectively support communities. Building trust is built over time, and is an ongoing process, however, is built through the meaningful involvement and seeing Indigenous strengths reflected: in research, in communications, in training and in program design and evaluation.

BUILDING TRUST

Participants highlighted a lack of trust in the health care system due to a variety of reasons including systemic racism, having to repeatedly tell stories of these conditions, and the lack of sustained relationships with health care providers. Researchers who “parachute” in and out of communities without partnership, and accountability leave communities feeling as

though they have no control over health care decision making and systems development.

Participants identified that trust can be built through continuity of care for patients and sustained research partnerships. They identified the following initiatives in the NWT that are working to accomplish this include:

- The Primary Health Care Reform Project seeking to build sustained relationships between communities and health professionals.
- Cultural safety training
- The new IRC Health System Navigator position
- The Wilfrid Laurier University partnership with Dehcho First Nations

DATA ACCESS

Participants identified that data collection, and ownership in the NWT utilizes a colonial approach. Recommendations were made for the development of an approach to collecting and storing health data that makes it easily accessible and easy to use to improve health care systems and experiences at the community level. Improved access to the NWT's Electronic Medical Records system was also highlighted, as well as improving communication between different databases.

Participants identified the following initiatives as positively impacting data collection, access and ownership in the NWT:

- Use of Indigenous evaluators and evaluation methods.
- Building capacity for digital storytelling or knowledge sharing within communities.

- Household survey developed by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation that collects its own data on its beneficiaries to target its programs and services, access funding, provide evidence and be able to track changes in conditions.
- NWT was the first Canadian jurisdiction with an Electronic Medical Records system

BUILDING CAPACITY IN HEALTH RESEARCH

Participants noted that the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, Academic Funders, and universities need to be more flexible with their funding and provide more funding to the NWT. They emphasized the need for funding to take a mentoring approach to research and knowledge sharing which is foundational to Indigenous methods of research. Participants also called for Hotiì ts'eeda to be present in more communities across the Northwest Territories.

Participants identified the following initiatives that are helping build capacity in Health Research:

- Bursaries provided by Hotiì ts'eeda to fund Indigenous students and build research capacity.
- Access to online training.
- On the land programs – the land is our teacher and a strength to build on.

COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Participants felt that they have been overloaded with communications, and information over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of this information was not distributed in different languages and local community protocols were not taken into account. Furthermore, participants identified the need for more targeted communications towards at risk population groups like Elders and Youth, or in priority areas such as mental health.

Hotiì ts'eeda was identified as a trusted source of information throughout the pandemic. Participants identified the following initiatives as positively impacting COVID-19 communications and activities during the pandemic:

- Online sharing circles hosted by Hotiì ts'eeda.
- Hotiì ts'eeda's graphics and press release which made it easier for researchers to explain to their funders why they should not go to the NWT to do research and respect local protocols.
- Use of guardians in the Dehcho who are able to collect data for researchers as travel continues to be restricted.



Graphic recording Alison McCreesh

What You Said: Your Experience of the Elèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah Łatr'iljil

After the Elèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhah Łatr'iljil, 45 participants filled out an evaluation form, providing feedback on the event. This feedback is important and will help inform future events; we've summarized the comments. As an incentive, we provided a draw for a pair of traditionally crafted slippers to all who filled out the form. The lucky winner was Michelle Gruben from Aklavik, NWT.

The Elèts'ehdèe is more than a conference or annual meeting – it is the forum through which Hotii ts'eeda is accountable to its partners for progress and in which we seek guidance from our partners on strategic direction. We try to create an experience, to facilitate networking across regions and fields of work, to celebrate and highlight the expertise in our communities, and ensure that all participants have a say in how Hotii ts'eeda works. There is so much amazing work to share from across the NWT that it is a huge challenge to try to include it all, especially in an online format. Thank you for your feedback and please feel free to reach out to us directly to share your suggestions for improving future events.

Of the people who responded, 71% said they were “very satisfied” with the event, and the rest indicated that they were “satisfied”. Participants who responded had numerous comments, and also gave very helpful and specific suggestions for planning future events. Some of the highlights are summarized below.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

General

- Very well organized, informative, and professional.
- Incredible host (Dëneze Nakehk'o), was very warm, funny and polished.
- Great integration of knowledge holders and traditional knowledge with research and academia.
- Staff were very responsive and organized.
- Great keynote speakers and presenters.
- Good mix of presentations and discussion/breakout sessions.

Participation

- Youth helpers in the communities and the “control centres” with HT staff in Inuvik and Déłıne assisted with Elder participation.
- Prefer in-person gathering over online format, but realize this was necessary due to the pandemic and safety of participants.
- Some minor technical issues but were handled well.
- There were limited opportunities for networking; difficult to do online.
- Only ¼ of participants used the app. Many found it helpful but others requested tutorials.
- Enjoyed the film screening and Q&A.
- Speakers and panelists were great.

Suggestion for future events

- Have recordings available to watch later and share.
- Length of gathering was too long for online format; break up over several weeks.
- Need more breaks.
- More time in breakout groups for discussion.
- Should plan for another time (October), this was in the middle of hunting season.
- More youth and Elder participation.
- Need more time in the break out groups for discussion.
- Invite more people (if online).

CAPTURING THE CONVERSATION

Two Graphic Recorders interpreted and captured what they saw and heard during the 2020 Ełèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkhał Łatr'iljil from Inuvik and Yellowknife. They shared and their recordings with rest of the conference participants on the last day. Pieces of their recordings can be seen throughout this report.

Alison McCreesh:

Alison has lived in Yellowknife since 2009 and has travelled extensively throughout the Canadian Arctic and the circumpolar world. Alison works in a range of media, both digital and analog to create northern-themed illustrations that are engaging, relatable and humorous.

Jasmine Taylor Dawn Keogak (Panikpak)

Jasmine is the youngest daughter of John and Donna Keogak. She grew up learning from school and was taught by her parents how to live on the land. She graduated from East 3 School in Inuvik, NWT in 2018. Jasmine excelled in visual arts, which allowed her to go to the Skills Canada NWT Territorial Competition in Yellowknife, NWT, and on to the national competition in Edmonton, Alta.



Alison McCreesh



Jasmine Taylor Dawn Keogak



Contact Us

For questions, comments or to talk about how Hotii ts'eeda can support health and health research in your community, please contact:

YELLOWKNIFE OFFICE

1000, 4920-52 St.
Yellowknife, NWT
X1A 3T1
T: 867-920-5517
E: htadmin@tlicho.ca

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Holly Jones
Research and Capacity Officer
T: 867-777-7934
E: Holly.Jones@gwichintribal.ca

INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION

Jullian MacLean
Project Director, Data Access and Research
T: 867-777-7013
E: JMacLean@inuvialuit.com

DÉLJNĚ GOT'JNĚ GOVERNMENT

Jennie Vandermeer
Indigenous Evaluation Advisor
T: 867 444-0870
E: programs.advisor@gov.deline.ca

HOTIÌ TS'EEDA WEBSITE: <https://nwtspor.ca/>



Hotii ts'eeda is a research support unit hosted by the Tłı̨chǫ Government, and governed primarily by Northwest Territories (NWT) Indigenous Governments. Hotii ts'eeda connects NWT organizations, and communities with researchers and funding to achieve health research and training goals. It is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Home

ABOUT HOTIÌ TS'EEDA



ABOUT

ABOUT HOTIÌ TS'EEDA

CONTACT

GOVERNING COUNCIL

STAFF

EMPLOYMENT

RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND
ACCOUNTABILITY

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PRESENTERS LIST

Master of Ceremonies

- Dëneze nakehk'o

Inuvialuit Prayer

- Albert Elias

Gwich'in Prayer

- Winston Moses

Song and Circle

- Paul Andrew

Opening Remarks

John B. Zoe

Qulliq

- Rassi Nashalik

Keynote

- Sheila Watt-Cloutier

Youth Welcome Video

- Tyreisha Rabesca

Impact Video #1

- Nicole Redvers

Plenary #1

- Tunchai Redvers

ICS Archives #1

- Lawrence Amos

Impact Video #2

- Agnes Pascal

ICS Archives #2

- Andrea Keogak

ICS Archives #3

- Geddes and Lena Wolki

Youth Welcome #2

- Jody Anne Zoe

Plenary #2

- Shania Young

Research Report

- Fariba Kolahtooz

Remarks

- Kristine McLeod

HT Impacts #3

- Allison Forbes

Mid-Term Review

- Debbie Delancey

Strategic Approach

- Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox

ISC Archives Video #4

- John Lucas

ISC Archives Video #5

- Roger Kuptana

Graphic Recorders:

- Alison MacCreesh
- Jasmine Keogak

Closing Audio Prayer Audio

- Cecilia Rabesca

Fiddle Music

- Frank Cockney – Polar Bear Rug-Rag

Closing Drumming

- Tłjchq Drummers Prayer Song

Panel 1: Climate Change in Northern Communities

- Dieter Cazon
- Andrew Spring
- Dustin Whalen
- John B. Zoe

Panel 2: Adaption Through Language and Culture

- Lillian Elias
- Eleanor Mitchell-Firth
- Johanna Snowshoe
- Sabet Biscaye
- Jane Modeste

Panel 3: Elder Panel

- Rosa Mantla
- JoAnne Deneron
- Violet Doolittle

Happening to Us

- Maeva Gauthier
- Carmen Kuptana
- Michel Tomasino

Cultural Knowledge Holders

- Nancy Bonnetroughe
- Karen Wright Fraser
- Morris Neyelle
- Billie Lennie
- Terri Naskan

BOR Speakers

- Dieter Cazon / Bill Quiton / Miguel Sioui
- Julia Christensen
- Sophie Roher
- Kelly Skinner
- Pertice Moffit/Rosa Mantla)
- Sonia Wesche
- Mandee MacDonald
- Crystal Milligan
- Carolyn Bonta
- Shelly Wiart
- Andrew Spring
- Kristen Tanche
- Ashley Ens

APPENDIX 2: AGENDA

2020 HOTIÌ TS'EEDA ELÈTS'EHDÈE-KATIMAQATIGIIT-NIHKHAH ŁATR'ILJIL

AGENDA

TUESDAY - SEPT 29

10-12 NOON

- Opening
- Keynote: Sheila Watt-Cloutier

1-2:30 PM

- Video: 2019 Hotiì ts'eeda Impacts
- Speaker: Tunchai Redvers

2:45-3:30 PM

- Virtual Tipi Session #A

3:45-4:30 PM

- Virtual Tipi Session #B

WEDNESDAY - SEPT 30

10-12 NOON

- Opening
- Panel: Climate Change - Indigenous Strategies & Observations
- Follow-up Q&A

1-2:30 PM

- Speaker: Shania Young

4-5 PM

- Film: Happening to Us
- Follow-up Q&A

THURSDAY - OCT 1

10-12 NOON

- Opening
- Video: Hotiì ts'eeda Mid-term Review Results
- Presentation: SPOR 2.0- Hotiì ts'eeda Strategic Approach (2021-2026)
- Exercise: Hotiì ts'eeda Priority Setting Breakout Rooms

1-2:30 PM

- Panel: Health Adaptation - Climate Change, Language & Culture
- Follow-up Q&A

2:45-3:30 PM

- Virtual Tipi Session #A

3:45-4:30 PM

- Virtual Tipi Session #B

FRIDAY - OCT 2

10-12:30 PM

- Opening
- Presentation: What we have learned: Graphic Recordings Review
- Results: Hotiì ts'eeda Priority Setting Feedback Results
- Panel: Elders' Reflections Panel
- Closing