



The A SHARED Future Annual Co-Leads Retreat, December 2019

A SHARED Future Bi-Monthly Update

Hello and a warm Happy New Year to our A SHARED Future affiliates and friends! We wish you and yours all the best for 2020.

If you have any big news, a conference or funding announcements you'd like to share, or if are interested in getting involved in A SHARED Future, you can contact Marc Calabretta at marc.calabretta@queensu.ca.

Highlights

A SHARED Future 2019 Annual Retreat

The Annual Retreat of the A SHARED Future Co-Leads took place December 4-6 at Lake Opinicon, one hour north of Kingston on the territories of the Omamiwininiwak (Algonquin), Huron-Wendat, and Anishinaabe. This year, we asked the Academic Project Co-Leads to invite their Community Project Co-Lead to the meeting to participate in annual project updates, as well as discussions around the direction of the A SHARED Future program as we look toward the final two years of the research program.

It was a pleasure having our Community Co-Leads attend the Retreat to share their thoughts and experiences from the research so far, as well as their reflections on A SHARED Future's forward-looking commitments to knowledge translation and programmatic outputs. It was a jam-packed three days that included: a review of outstanding business in 2019, the

annual financial update, a look ahead at business in 2020 (i.e., planning our second Summer Institute), and project updates that included a Q&A with Project Co-Leads. These conversations were intermixed with daily discussions of our objectives and goals with a focus on how our independent projects align to create a programmatic whole.



Ken Paul (Assembly of First Nations, Executive Body) joined the Co-Leads at the Retreat

On the first day, Mary Beth Doucette (Cape Breton University) introduced the idea that we were, collectively, making something from A SHARED Future. Rooting her comments in the idea of basket weaving, she led a discussion about how we could think about the threads that weave our projects together. The group was asked to consider the goals and objectives from the original proposal and how they have changed, as well as the goals they have for their projects, and how the outcomes could contribute to programmatic outputs. The conversations

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Issue 2020-01



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were productive, fruitful, and inspiring, with many ideas developed that will be discussed and pursued over the next two years.



Mary Beth Doucette leading the group through a conversation on "the threads that weave our projects together"

The group also addressed a challenge associated with the autonomy of projects within the program with respect to upholding Indigenous rights, self-determination, and values. This conversation was in regard to our Programmatic Terms of Reference and the Project-based Terms of Reference developed between each Academic and Community Co-Lead for their respective project. There has been an ongoing discussion regarding each Terms of Reference around access to data and authorship. We mitigated this challenge by reviewing our Programmatic Terms of Reference—which exists as a 'living' document subject to change throughout the life of the program—to ensure Indigenous rights, self-determination, and values were upheld over the typical academic conformities concerning authorship and data access.



The Retreat included a full day of project updates from Academic and Community Co-Leads

Overall it was a highly successful Retreat and we appreciate the time everyone took out of their busy schedules before the holidays to join us in the Ontario countryside.

Save the Date: July 26-31, 2020 Second ASF Summer Institute

Stay tuned for more information on our next gathering, the 2020 Summer Institute from July 26-31 in Unama'ki (Cape Breton, Nova Scotia)!



From Left: Carolyn Barber, Dee Lewis, Heather Castleden, Nick Mercer, Mary Beth Doucette, and Sarah Rotz on a snowy walk around Lake Opinicon

Project Updates

Here is what Project Leads have to say:

Gikinoo'amaagewin Wiigwaam (Teaching Lodge): Supporting M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre's Leadership on Land Stewardship and Urban Climate Transition in Owen Sound/Saugeen Ojibway Territory

Co-Leads: Paul Nadjiwan, Karen Houle, and Jeff Masuda

Team Members: Diane Giroux, Renee Abram, Diana Lewis, Carlos Sánchez, Anna Anbalagan, and Julia Moreau

Advisory Committee: Theresa O'Connor, Susan Staves Schank, Hillary Trudeau, Ron Root, Shane Chegahno, Nick Saunders, Shari Huber, Anne Marie Shaw, Victoria Serda and Helen Doyle

Current Status: Project proposal approved, ethics application re-submitted

Update: Our project has received approval from the Programmatic Steering Committee, as well as clearance from the General Research Ethics Board of Queen's University. Additionally, we received detailed feedback on our ethics application from Ontario Federation of Indigenous

Friendship Centres (OFIFC). Our research team discussed the changes to our project derived from OFIFC's feedback and re-submitted our application in January 2020. We hope to start our project as soon as we finalize the ethics review process with the OFIFC!

One of our first planned activities is an inaugural feast to celebrate the beginning of this research journey with Indigenous community members living in Owen Sound, ON. At the same time, through the thesis project of Anna Anbalagan – a member of our research team and 4th-year undergraduate student – we plan to meet with Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee knowledge holders to learn more about teachings related to gender equality as a way to guide the future activities and outcomes of our project. For example, according to the teaching of elder Paul Nadjiwan, "It wasn't that Indigenous peoples like the Anishinaabeg choose to stop their traditional practices and move to replace those practices with European religious practises. They were instructed by various clergy to not have their children go through the Rites of Passage that were consistent with the cultural norms, values, traditions and languages of the Indigenous people."



Carlos Sánchez-Pimienta sharing the Gikinoo'amaagewin Wiigwaam project update at the December Retreat

Having a greater knowledge of culturally-grounded and holistic understandings of gender will allow our team to make safer and more welcoming research events for all, especially for women, girls, and gender diverse individuals and to ensure that the insights we gain from our research can have practical contributions to the ongoing leadership of M'Wikwedong in the Owen Sound community.

Regarding the material contributions of our project, we recently heard that the application that M'Wikwedong submitted in collaboration with our research team in support of the community design and construction of an energy-efficient transitional housing complex was not successful. We expect to hear news in April 2020 about another grant that would enable us to construct the Gikinoo'amaagewin Wiigwaam gazebo at the new facilities of M'Wikwedong. In the meantime, we will keep working toward creating a community-driven vision for the future of M'Wikwedong as a leader on climate action and land stewardship.

Indigenous Women in Renewable Energy (I-WIRE)

Co-Leads: Naatoi'Ihkpiakii (Melissa Quesnelle) and Heather Castleden

Advisory Committee: Barbara Dumont-Hill, Tanna Pirie-Wilson, and Hollie Sabourin

Current Status: We are on pause at this time, while both co-leads are pulled in other directions. We plan to re-start our data analysis and film development in the spring, with a second gathering in the fall or winter of 2020-2021.

Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI

Co-Leads: Mary Beth Doucette, Lisa Young, and Stan Johnson

Project Assistant: Carolyn Barber

Advisory Committee: Elder Albert Marshall and Cheryl Bartlett

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: To date, fourteen interviews with various knowledge holders within the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative have been conducted. Mary Beth and Carolyn are on target to completed 30 interviews by March. CBU student Shaniya Vance began transcribing interviews in early January. Heather Castleden will meet with CEPI project members in Unama'ki in mid-April to participate in the thematic analysis of the data.

Mary Beth and Carolyn have begun planning May 2020 gatherings during which CEPI members can review, discuss and refine themes found in the Phase 1 data. In the meantime, they continue to meet with Stan and Lisa and will attend the Jan. 30 CEPI Senior Council meeting

and Feb. 6 CEPI Steering Committee in Eskasoni.



Mary Beth Doucette and Stan Johnson sharing their CEPI project update at the December Retreat



From left: Stan Johnson, Lisa Young, Mary Beth Doucette, and Carolyn Barber at the Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources. In the background, Crane Cove leading out the Bras d'Or Lake

Unama'ki will host the ASF Summer Institute July 26-31, 2020. Heather and Marc have begun planning with some on-the-ground assistance from Mary Beth and Carolyn. Summer Institute participants can expect to learn a lot about Indigenous-led Renewable Energy projects in Unama'ki.

We Lived This Way Before - Tobique First Nation

Co-Leads: Diana Lewis and Tanna Pirie-Wilson.

Research Assistant: Serena Mendizabal

Project Coordinator: Jennifer Sappier

Advisory Committee: Elder Ramona Nicholas, Laura Turnbull (Sex and Gender Project Co-Champion), Asha Bear (Youth)

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned.

Update: The research team is hoping to begin collecting baseline health data from members of Tobique First Nation soon. This summer will be dedicated to gathering funding and setting up the

structures needed to begin data collection. The team intends to meet February 19th to begin planning for data collection.



Dee Lewis presenting Tobique First Nation's project update at the December Retreat

The team is also continuing to work with Serena Mendizabal (Western University) on the knowledge translation and education programming in the schools at Tobique First Nation. We plan to have Serena return in February to start working with Tobique First Nation to implement their school programming by September 2020.

Advancing Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis in Indigenous Research on Renewable Energy Futures and Health

Co-Leads: Jeff Masuda and Hollie Sabourin

Project Assistant: Angelo Kruger, Carlos Sánchez

Advisory Committee: Programmatic Steering Committee and Hollie Sabourin

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: At the last A SHARED Future Retreat in December 2019, we were pleased to facilitate a sharing circle with Academic Co-Leads as a follow-up for us to discuss the preliminary report about the gendered dimensions of our research projects. The sharing circle was an evocative experience that displayed the remarkable interest of all participating members of A SHARED Future in prioritizing this type of conversation.

The insights from the conversations will be incorporated into our "living" document on team perspectives of Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis, and eventually combined with the "living" compendium

that reflects on the broader literature. We are excited to be joined by new NWAC Gender Co-Champion, Hollie Sabourin, to embark on this next phase of our work. Our team's next step is to hold a meeting with Heather Castleden, Dee Lewis, Hollie Sabourin and Chaneesa Ryan (also from the Native Women's Association of Canada) to expand our current collaborative work and plan for concrete outcomes for 2020-2021.

Perspectives Among Indigenous Youth on Energy and Food Sovereignty

Co-Leads: Hannah Tait Neufeld and Chief Gordon Planes

Project Assistant: Brianna Poirier

Advisory Committee: TBD

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: Hannah and Brianna traveled to T'Sou-ke in late October to meet with members of the community to share initial results from the sharing circle that was conducted in August with Advisory Committee members and Chief Gordon. In December, Chief Gordon attended the A SHARED Future Annual Retreat to provide a project update with Hannah and share in the conversations. After the meeting, Brianna successfully defended her MSc thesis. Congratulations Brianna! Hannah and Brianna are working on two manuscripts for publication and Hannah is making plans to travel to T-Sou-ke for additional data collection in the early spring.



Hannah Tait Neufeld and Chief Gordon Planes preparing to present at the December Retreat



Radishes harvested from the Ladybug Garden in T-Sou'ke First Nation

Working Towards Energy Security, Self-Determination, and Reconciliation: A Collaborative Analysis of Natural Resources Canada's Off Diesel Initiative

Project Lead: Heather Castleden

Manager: Derek Kornelsen

Advisory Committee: Naatoo'lhkpiakii (Melissa Quesnelle), Ken Paul, Diana Lewis, Siobhan Slade, Vince Robinson

Current Status: Proceeding as planned

Update: Our project, examining the barriers to implementing reconciliation via Natural Resources Canada's Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative (IODI) funding program is progressing nicely, as we are now in the process of analyzing much of the data collected over the past 2 years. Since the program was officially launched almost 1 year ago (Feb. 2019), we have collected a wide range of observational data from training sessions with IODI recipients, sharing circles, and interviews conducted with the recipients, as well as government and NGO staff responsible for the development and roll-out of the IODI program.



Derek Kornelsen presenting at the December Retreat

In December, 2019, members from our team (Heather Castleden – Program Lead/Project Co-lead; Derek Kornelsen – Project Co-lead; Diana Lewis – Advisory Committee; Ken Paul – Advisory Committee) attended the Annual Retreat of the A SHARED Future Co-Leads, where we were able to update the broader team on our progress, challenges encountered, and discuss future directions.

As we move forward with data analysis, we are also ensuring that we will engage with participants to solicit further feedback on our preliminary findings. These engagements will include a 2-day workshop with IODI recipients in Saskatoon (Feb 5-6), as well as a meeting with government and NGO staff in Ottawa in late February. We are also developing a presentation to a broader audience within NRCan regarding understanding the theoretical foundations underlying settler colonialism and how this might impact initiatives to decolonize the civil service in general.

Towards Energy Security in NunatuKavut

Co-Leads: Debbie Martin, Amy Hudson.

Project Assistant: Emily Beacock

Current Status: Proceeding as planned

Update: NunatuKavut has been undertaking its own Sustainability Planning, of which the A SHARED Future funds are supporting. In this regard, ASF has supported a number of recent and upcoming community gatherings and conferences.

In addition, through support in part by ASF, our research team had nine youth train in sustainability research with a focus on renewable energy. We worked with them for eight weeks, training them in survey collection, report writing, and other research-related activities. This culminated in funding them to attend a conference in Montreal where they participated in presenting and learning about diverse initiatives in climate change and resources.

The team wants to continue to work through ASF to do some evaluative research and identify lessons learned from the research project. The team has also been involved in some monitoring work on climate change. Lastly, we are holding

another Sustainability Summit in early March of 2020. The focus of this Summit is to identify emerging research areas and research strategies to start implementing. The team welcomes other projects from A SHARED Future to present their findings here too!



Nick Mercer (University of Waterloo) representing the Towards Energy Security in NunatuKavut research team at the December Retreat

Exploring Relations, Experience, and Ways of Knowing in an Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Program of Research

Lead: Sara Rotz (York University)

Project Assistant: Johnathan Rose

Advisory Committee: Simon Brascoupe and Cheryl Bartlett

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned.

Update: Sarah has completed a text analysis of CIHR documents and presented on some of these themes at the December meeting, such as:

- ✚ Prioritization of cultural sensitivity and safety

- ✚ Prioritization of meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples
- ✚ Knowledge sharing
- ✚ Indigenous health concepts, ways of knowing and methodologies
- ✚ Institutional support-claiming to prioritize Indigenous led and co-led research

As well, the interviews with CIHR staff involved in the original call for research proposals offered a lot of context on the limits of CIHR, while also shedding light on some challenges with CIHR's own framework. They illustrate a problematic gap between CIHR's rhetoric and reality in the extent to which Indigenous led projects and knowledge systems are being prioritized by funders.

The plan moving forward is to prepare some of these findings for publication and guide these reflections back to CIHR. Sarah is also planning to move forward with some more internal conversations on ASF amongst the Programmatic Steering Committee and Executive Body.



Jeff Masuda and Sarah Rotz discussing their work at the December Retreat



Sarah Rotz sharing the Institutional Ethnography project update at the December Retreat

Upcoming Conferences:

Land, Health & Healing: Honouring Indigenous leadership and integrative approaches

A SHARED Future has been invited to participate in the Land, Health & Healing Gathering, taking place on the unceded Territory of the Lheidli T'enneh in Prince George, British Columbia June 8-10, 2020. The Gathering is an invitation-only event, with the clear intention to build on existing relationships, connections and to foster cross-fertilisation among work that connects across environment, community and health. Diana Lewis has confirmed that she will represent A SHARED Future at this event. If others are interested in attending as part of the A SHARED Future delegation, you can contact Diana Lewis or Heather Castleden.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Climate Gathering

This gathering will bring First Nations experts, leadership, youth, women, knowledge keepers and other professionals to work on the most urgent crisis of our time – climate change. The conference runs from March 2nd-5th 2020, more information [here](#).

Smart Energy Event 2020

This conference will focus on energy efficiency and disruptive technologies is taking place in Halifax April 7th and 8th. More information can be found [here](#) on their website.

[Renewables in Remote Communities Conference](#)

RiRC2020 is a four-day event at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse, Yukon from April 21 to 24, 2020. The main conference, supplemented by activities on the pre-conference and post-conference days, focuses on the collaboration and financial solutions necessary to further accelerate the transition to clean energy in remote communities across Canada while prioritizing Indigenous-owned and led projects. Find more information [here](#).

[All-In: Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice](#)

Ron Glass (UC Santa Cruz, International Advisory Committee member) is organizing this conference at UC Santa Cruz, to be held April 22-24. This conference aims to bring teams of people that do community based collaborative research, particularly teams of folks working with undergraduates in deep, engaged, and ethically committed ways for research for justice. The deadline for submissions has passed, but registration will be available in early February. Visit their [website](#) for more information!

[Native American and Indigenous Studies Association \(NAISA\)](#)

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) will take place May 7th-9th, 2020 in Tkaronto/Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Registration will open soon, more information [here](#).

[Indigenous Health Conference](#)

Being held in May 21-23 in Niagara Falls, the focus for this year's conference is the future and how we can cultivate the youth as tomorrow's leaders and agents of change. Topics will include youth leadership, suicide prevention, impact of colonization, missing and murdered Indigenous women, determinants of health, Indigenous ways of knowing. More information [here](#).

[Reconciling Ways of Knowing: Indigenous Knowledge and Science Forum](#)

The Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership is sponsoring this [conference](#) in Winnipeg from May 25-27, 2020. The conference is being hosted by the Reconciling Ways of Knowing Conference Society in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation, Turtle Lodge International Centre for Indigenous Education and Wellness, and the Indigenous Leadership Initiative. The purpose of the conference is to bring together Indigenous and western ways of knowing to produce comprehensive and effective responses to the challenges of climate change, the protection of biodiversity, improved health and wellness outcomes, the development of thriving and sustainable economies, and fulfilling commitments to reconciliation and nation-to-nation relationships. Following the conference on May 28th the CRP will host its 2020 national gathering in Winnipeg for CRP partners.

More details about the CRP gathering to follow in the coming weeks. If you have any questions please contact Allison Bishop at abishoo7@uoguelph.ca.

[The Canadian Association of Geographers Annual General Meeting](#)

The 2020 CAG Annual Meeting will be held at the [University of Victoria](#) in British Columbia, from May 25 to 29, 2020, in conjunction with the [Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives \(ACMLA\)](#) and the [Canadian Cartographic Association \(CCA\)](#). The theme will be "Resilience on a Dynamic Planet." More information, abstract submission, and registration can be found on the [conference website](#). Paper and Poster submissions are due on February 29th.

[Canadian Water Resources Association 2020 National Conference](#)

The title of this year's conference is: "How Well is Canada Managing its Water Resources?" The conference will be held June 1-4th in Kenora, Ontario. More information [here](#).

11th International Sustainability Transitions Conference

The 2020 International Sustainability Transitions Conference is taking place August 18-21 in Vienna, Austria. The conference theme is "Governance in an Era of Change – Making Sustainability Transitions Happen." The conference invites contributions that address structural issues and causes for current challenges, together with the design and implementation of transformative governance and policies for systemic change. You can find out more about the conference [here](#).

Sustainable Communities Conference

This year's conference will be taking place October 20th-22nd in St. Johns, NL. Registration for exhibitors and attendees opens March 23rd. More information on the conference is available [here](#).

9th Biennial International Indigenous Research Conference 2020

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence (NPM) is the founding host of the biennial International Indigenous Research Conference, and will be hosting this year's conference titled "Indigenous Futures" from November 16th to 20th in Auckland. Abstract submission will open in early 2020. More information [here](#).

Behavior, Energy and Climate Change 2020 Conference: From Nudge to Leap

This year's conference will be taking place in Washington DC December 6th to 9th. Abstract submissions are now open [here](#).

In the News:

A SHARED Future team member and Post-Doctoral researcher Chad Walker (University of Exeter) recently published an article in *The Conversation* entitled "Journalists covering Indigenous Peoples in renewable energy should focus on context and truth, not click-bait". The article highlights findings from the Walker et al. article published in *Energy Research & Social Science* in 2019, supported by A SHARED Future. You can read the article in [full here](#).

Twelve youth in Saskatchewan [created five films](#) about the six-acre "Sundancer" solar farm built in their home of Ermineskin Cree Nation. Elias Burnstick, 15, used the opportunity to share the story of Elder Ron Littlechild, who emphasized their peoples' history with the Sun and connected it with their future. The films will be available online soon after they are presented back to the community.

With the tragedy of the Australian bush fires, some are turning to Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge of the continent for guidance. Indigenous leaders have said there is a mass influx of requests from people to learn about [traditional fire management](#) practices and traditional burning in order to protect the land. As well, in New South Wales, [two entirely Indigenous firefighting crews have been established](#). These eight men will protect sacred sites and fight remote fires.

Premiers from the Atlantic provinces [met over two-days in St. John's](#) to discuss upgrading the electric transmission system to allow Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to move away from carbon intensive sources of energy and towards more renewable sources, such as hydroelectricity.

The purpose and vision of A SHARED Future is becoming more pertinent as climate change progresses and resistance to systemic change continues, especially on the lands of the Wet'suwet'en. The Canadian Government and Coastal Gas Link are utilizing Federal police resources (the RCMP) to establish an [exclusion zone](#) to block access to the territory and interrupt resistance from Wet'suwet'en, who assert their control over unceded territories they have inhabited for hundreds of generations. This ongoing struggle between Indigenous Nations, the Federal Government and national economic priorities highlights the tensions between developing fossil fuels, government agendas, colonialism, autonomy, self-determination, gender, and violence. Find updates and information on how to support the Wet'suwet'en [here](#).

Thank you to those who shared news articles with us. If you read an article or see a multimedia piece that you think fits the A SHARED Future research program, we would love to see it!
Please send all content to marc.calabretta@queensu.ca