



Members of the A SHARED Future Team at Lake Opinicon, December 2019

A SHARED Future Bi Monthly Update

Greetings A SHARED Future affiliates and friends! We hope you and yours are keeping well as the world continues to self-isolate to protect each other in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This week, Heather was speaking with Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall, a member of our International Advisory Committee and the knowledge-keeper of Etuaptmunk/Two-Eyed Seeing, about the COVID-19 pandemic. His words of wisdom about self-isolating were: "I don't call this isolation. It's a time out mother earth is giving us to really reflect and seriously re-evaluate how we got here. Most of us see ourselves as being on a fork in the road; is it business as usual? or...?"



Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall shared some words of wisdom with us during the COVID-19 pandemic

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. We are always looking for extra hands on deck!

Highlights

ASF Connects: Marc Calabretta

While the A SHARED Future team stays connected through bi-monthly meetings and email updates, with projects unfolding coast-to-coast, we don't get to meet face-to-face very often. As a way of showcasing A SHARED Future team members, their projects, and the great work folks are doing, we have started a new segment called ASF Connect so we can all get to know each other a little better.

This month, we spoke with Marc Calabretta, Manager of the A SHARED Future research program. If you, or someone from your project would like to be interviewed, we would be happy to chat and feature you in our next update! Email Marc at marc.calabretta@queensu.ca if you would like to connect for an interview.

Hi Marc! Thank you for taking the time to chat with us about yourself and the work you have been doing with A SHARED Future. Can you start by telling us a little bit about yourself?

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Thank you for interviewing me for ASF Connects! I am the Program Manager for A SHARED Future and the General Manager of the Health, Environment, and Communities Research Lab under Heather Castleden at Queen's University. I met Heather in 2015 after finished my undergraduate degree in Global Development Studies at Queen's.



Marc cookin' up a storm in Tokaanu, Aotearoa, April 2019 (Photo courtesy of Heather Castleden)

I was interested in pursuing graduate work that focused on settler colonialism and social justice. Heather graciously introduced me to her research team with Huu-ay-aht First Nations on the west coast of Vancouver Island, whom I worked with to look at the modern treaty negotiation process in British Columbia. I defended my Master's in the fall of 2017 and have worked for Heather in this role ever since.

Can you tell us a little bit about your role in ASF?

My role in ASF is a dynamic one—I do whatever is needed behind the scenes to keep the research program as a whole moving forward. From organizing project and program-wide meetings, to keeping track of finances here at 'ASF Central' and keeping tabs on research projects, my role is broad and far-reaching. Really though, I am here to assist the ASF team with any of their administrative or logistical needs.

How did you become involved in the project?

I became involved in A SHARED Future after my Master's when I began working with Heather as a Research Associate in

the HEC Lab. At the time, Rob Stefanelli was in this role leading the charge (hi Rob!), but when he left the position to attend law school, I stepped into the role. It has been really exciting becoming involved in the project because renewable energy was never an area of focus for me, but being a part of A SHARED Future has shown me the interconnectedness between renewable energy and creating autonomous, self-determining, and healthy Indigenous communities. Indigenous-led community development is an area I have focused on a lot in my studies and coming to an understanding of the role that renewable energy can play in this process has played a big part in shifting my thinking.

What is your favourite thing about being a part of A SHARED Future?

While I really enjoy the dynamic nature of my role and the opportunity to always be learning, my favourite part of being part of A SHARED Future is engaging with all the amazing people I am privileged to meet. A SHARED Future has done such an incredible job at bringing together a critical mass of people from around the world that all offer unique insights and expertise. Having the opportunity to engage with folks from all walks of life at this stage of my own journey is really insightful and inspiring. I have learned so much from everyone I have met in this role and will always be thankful for that.



Marc and Team Elder Barbara Dumont Hill sharing a meal in Ottawa, October 2019 (Photo courtesy of Heather Castleden)

What inspires you? Is there something that has really stuck with you along your learning journey?

I am inspired by fresh ideas and perspectives, as well as the passion and

drive of others. I always appreciate watching and listening to people do what they love most. Whether it is a creative, technical, or spiritual ability, there is something deeply inspiring to me watching someone in their element. I think it is because it brings me out of mine and exposes me to different knowledges and processes that I can apply in my own creative, academic, and personal disciplines (they are all connected though, aren't they?).

What has stuck with me most on this learning journey is the importance of relationships. There is an energy that connects us all through this work that I know will go beyond A SHARED Future. I look forward to seeing where our paths take us, together or apart, as we all strive for a more just, compassionate, and relational world.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

This current moment of anxiety and uncertainty we are all living in can come into tension with the pressures and expectations of capitalism. We need to exercise care—of ourselves, our families, our neighbours, and our communities—without reserve right now. Be safe and well, and thinking on the words of Elder Albert Marshall, we should all take this time to reflect.

Project Updates

Here is what the Project Leads are saying:

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 Nadjivan, Karen Houle, and Jeff Masuda

Project Team: Diane Giroux, Renee Abram, Diana (Dee) 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: Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) ethics application has been revised and resubmitted; we are waiting on a decision

Update: The ethics review process of our project by the OFIFC is advancing. The OFIFC's Research Ethics Committee reviewed our amended application by the end of February and requested that our team answer three follow-up questions before coming to a decision. Carlos travelled to Owen Sound to discuss these questions with Karen, Paul, Renee and Diane from M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre and our team submitted a formal response on March 13th.

While our project finishes its ethics review process, our team continues working on research preparation and capacity-building. On March 2nd, there was an all-staff one-day training at M'Wikwedong on 'Supporting Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Indigenous Youth' facilitated by a partnership between the OFIFC and the Native Youth Sexual Health Network.

The training emphasized that Indigenous youth have the right to self-determine what harm means to them and what supports should look like. Presenters encouraged us to see that 'change is traditional,' and shared with us various examples of the historical and contemporary roles and responsibilities of two-spirit and gender diverse people in Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee communities. The training was an excellent opportunity to learn how to address the ways that colonialism, cis-sexism, transphobia, and homophobia impact urban Indigenous communities.



Carlos and Diane taking a lunch break by Georgian Bay (photo courtesy of Carlos Sánchez)

The time for M'Wikwedong to move to its new facilities is now fast approaching. A moving company is booked for the end of

March. For moving forward, the construction of the Gikinoo'amaagewing Wiigwaam gazebo at the new facilities of M'Wikwedong, Karen, Paul and Carlos were planning to attend the *Reconciling Ways of Knowing: Indigenous Knowledge and Science Forum* in Manitoba originally scheduled for May 25-27, 2020, but it has been postponed. When it happens, *Reconciling Ways of Knowing* will have a strong focus on land stewardship and will include a visit to Sagkeeng First Nation's Turtle Lodge Centre for Indigenous Education and Wellness, a facility that aligns with M'Wikwedong's vision for Gikinoo'amaagewing Wiigwaam.

Indigenous Women in Renewable Energy (I-WIRE)

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

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

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: We are still 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 this month, with findings produced and share later this year, first with the I-WIRE participants and then with A SHARED Future and other audiences. We will schedule a follow-up gathering in 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: Mary Beth and Carolyn have completed 20 interviews with CEPI members and other knowledge holders. They are reviewing interview transcriptions completed by CBU student Shaniya Vance for emerging themes that will inform the coding process. In April, Heather Castleden, community co-leads Lisa Young and Stan Johnson, and Elder Albert Marshall, will assist with data analysis. Given social distancing precautions, this will now have to be accomplished electronically. The mid-April in-person data analysis workshop

coinciding with Heather's trip to Unama'ki has been cancelled.

The next update will include more information about how the May 2020 sharing circle/focus groups will be impacted by COVID-19, and where energy will be directed in the final stage of the project. In the meantime, Mary Beth and Carolyn continue to review watershed collaboration literature and remain in contact electronically with Stan and Lisa.

We Lived This Way Before - Tobique First Nation

Co-Leads: Tanna Pirie-Wilson and Diana Lewis

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 *We Lived This Way Before* (WLTWB) team met in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on February 18-19, 2020. Although Chad Walker has been working in England at the University of Exeter, he has continued to be involved in the work with Tobique First Nation (TFN). The Project Advisory Committee has directed Chad to prepare an update for the leadership, the Technical Committee (Renewable Energy Development), and community concerning interviews he had scheduled with staff from NB Power over the past summer. This feedback will inform the process for the negotiation of a renewable energy collaboration agreement between TFN and NB Power. (Note: A planned visit to TFN by Chad, who is safely back with his new wife and family in Ontario, is on pause).

The Project Advisory Committee has added a new objective to the overall study: to collect data that can measure what free, prior and, informed consent and the social licence to operate looks like as a community goes through a referendum process on an agreement for community-based renewable energy development that is anticipated to be finalized between TFN and NB Power in the coming years. This will require a revision to the ethics approval secured for the project. Diana Lewis will coordinate the revision.

Serena Mendizabal has presented a Sustainability Education Proposal to the

Project Advisory Committee designed to develop culturally appropriate learning opportunities for youth, families, and the wider community to support ongoing conversations about sustainability in TFN. Community Project Lead Tanna Pirie-Wilson is taking the proposal to school officials for discussion. We plan to hire a research coordinator in TFN over the next few months who will start to work with Serena in refining and implementing the educational programming. That is on pause for now as well.



The TFN: We Lived This Way Before Research Team. (Photo courtesy of Dee Lewis)

WLTWB is expected to develop measures of what constitutes healthy people, healthy lands, and a healthy environment as TFN creates an energy secure future for their community. To that end, we had planned to develop a Wolastoqiyik cultural framework that will guide us as we develop the environmental health survey instrument. We will meet as soon as we can to start this work, and ethics approval will have to be secured before we can implement a data collection process in the community.

Exciting times for this project once we are all able to get back to work.

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: Proceeding as planned

Update: The team has received ethics approval from the University of Waterloo,

as well as the transfer of project funds from ASF Central. Hannah has been in touch with Chief Gordon to look at dates in early June for her next visit to the community to compete the next stage of the data collection (interviews with key stakeholders in the community), but they are waiting to see how the public health emergency will continue to play out. Brianna is in Australia for at least the next six months where she is continuing to work in the area of Indigenous health as a research assistant. The team is hoping to get the first of her two manuscripts out for publication next month.

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

Co-Leads: Jeff Masuda

Project Assistant: Angelo Kruger, Carlos Sánchez

Advisory Committee: Programmatic Steering Committee and Hollie Sabourin

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: Jeff, Carlos, and Hollie (Native Women's Association of Canada) met by teleconference on March 23rd. They discussed ways how Hollie can play a role in A SHARED Future, both as our new Gender Co-Champion and International Advisory Committee Member. The research team has completed the transcription of the sharing circle discussion held at the A SHARED Future retreat last December 2019. Our team will incorporate the insights from our sharing circle into the CRGBA report shared at the December retreat, and to update the Living Gender Compendium with new resources.

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: Naatoi'Ihkpiakii (Melissa Quesnelle), Ken Paul, Diana Lewis, Siobhan Slade, Vince Robinson

Current Status: Proceeding as planned

Update: The ASF team reports that ICE Social Enterprise has withdrawn from participating in the A SHARED Future Research Program. The individuals who have participated have withdrawn their data. In early February, Derek Kornelsen held a Gathering of the Indigenous Off Diesel Initiative Recipients in Saskatoon for two days. The Gathering was very productive and well received.



Naatoi'Ihkpiakii and Siobhan Slade analyzing data in Ottawa, October 2019. (Photo courtesy of Heather Castleden)

Towards Energy Security in NunatuKavut

Co-Leads: Debbie Martin, Amy Hudson

Research Assistants: Emily Beacock, Nick Mercer

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: We have several exciting updates from our team! First, Nick Mercer was recently successful in receiving a two-year SSHRC post-doctoral award to pursue heat security in NunatuKavut. In addition, Nicole Blinn was recently accepted into the Masters in Environmental Studies program under Debbie's supervision. Her topic of research is yet to be determined, but stay tuned!

Nick, Emily, Nicole, and Debbie recently attended a two-day NunatuKavut Research Conference in Goose Bay where they learned about some of the exciting new research governance efforts and research projects that are happening. Nick also presented on some of the findings of his PhD work around energy security in NunatuKavut communities.

Lastly, the team is continuing to support the NunatuKavut Community Council in launching a competitive request for

proposals in support of a [community firewood social enterprise to be piloted in Black Tickle](#). Proposals have been accepted and are currently being evaluated. The program will employ and train community-members to harvest, haul, split, and deliver firewood to Elders, seniors, single parents, those with mobility challenges, and others in need in NunatuKavut communities.

Associates' Project Updates

Exploring Relations, Experience and Ways of

Knowing in an Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Program of Research

Lead: Sara Rotz, Research Associate (Supervisor: Heather Castleden)

Project Assistant: Johnathan Rose (JR)

Advisory Committee: Simon Brascoupe and Cheryl Bartlett

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned.

Update: Sarah and JR have met with Heather to discuss preliminary research findings. Now, the team is continuing to comb through the data to draft an outline for a paper. In addition, working from A SHARED Future's Culturally-Relevant Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis Report (2019), the team is preparing a paper to examine

how researchers feel about the support, or lack thereof, from CIHR in regards to implementing sex- and gender-based analysis (SGBA) in their projects, and how to improve CIHR's knowledge and training infrastructure to reflect principles of SGBA and Culturally-Relevant GBA.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities:

Conferences:

All-In: Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice This conference has been postponed. For those who have already paid, you can either obtain a refund or apply your fees to the rescheduled conference. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Unfortunately, this year's conference has been cancelled in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Refunds are being automatically processed.

Indigenous Health Conference This conference was supposed to be held May 21-23 in Niagara Falls, however it has been postponed. More information [here](#).

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. Registration will be open soon - More information [here](#). The conference is proceeding as planned but they are prepared to postpone.

The Canadian Association of Geographers Annual General Meeting The 2020 CAG Annual Meeting has been cancelled. More information on refunds can be found on the [conference website](#).

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 is now open until June 5th [here](#). Registration is now open, with early-bird pricing until August. Click [here](#) to register. Proceeding as planned thus far.

Smart Energy Event 2020 This conference focused on energy efficiency and disruptive technologies is taking place in Halifax. The conference has been rescheduled for new dates in the wake of COVID-19: August 18th and 19th. More information can be found [here](#) on the website.

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](#). Currently proceeding as planned, measures are in place to adapt to changes required by COVID-19.

Renewables in Remote Communities Conference: RiRC2020 is a four-day event at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse, Yukon from October 6-9, 2020. The conference was rescheduled in order to adapt to COVID-19. The two-day 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 of clean energy in remote communities across Canada while prioritizing Indigenous-owned and led projects. Register [here](#)!

The **World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education 2020** will take place November 2nd to 6th in Tarndanya (South Australia) and will feature an exciting Indigenous education program of keynote presentations, networking, interactive workshops and discussion forums with an associated rich and diverse cultural program. Click [here](#) for more info.

Indigenous STEM Pathways: 2020 and Beyond Students and academics along with leaders from Indigenous communities, industry, and government are invited to join The Conference Board of Canada and Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics for this year's conference. The goal is to harness diverse experiences and expertise to create enduring partnerships and build a vision for new STEM pathways over the next 10, 20, and 50 years with Indigenous youth. Click [here](#) for information on the new dates/ webinar!

The Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership is sponsoring the **Reconciling Ways of Knowing: Indigenous Knowledge and Science Forum**, which was supposed to take place in Winnipeg from May 25-27, 2020, has been postponed. If you have any questions please contact Allison Bishop at abish007@uoguelph.ca.

Other Opportunities:

Following recommendations from public health, many events have been cancelled or postponed in order to 'flatten the curve' and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Conferences are great places to learn new things and share research and innovation. If you would like to spend some of your 'social distancing' time engaging in learning and sharing, here are some recommendations for webinars and other online learning opportunities!

- Check out the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health's [website](#) for previous/upcoming webinars and podcasts related to the health of Indigenous peoples in Canada. The topics are wide-ranging and the media is incredibly informative!
- The Conference Board of Canada has many free webinars coming up on topics such as economics and northern infrastructure! More information [here](#).
- Check out Indigenous Climate Action's [website](#) for previous webinars on climate change.
- The CBC has many documentaries online, and they're promoting their more heartwarming stories for us to watch while we're social distancing, check them out [here](#)!
- Check out the Indigenous Cultural Safety Collaborative Learning Series [here](#). This is a series of free webinars on addressing racism within the healthcare system and education sector.
- The Canadian Water Network has a series of [webinars](#) on water, water governance, energy, and resource management.

News & Updates

Teck Mine Withdrawal

Amid rising tensions regarding oil and gas in Canada, Teck Resources Ltd. withdrew their application to develop the Frontier Oil Sands Mine in northern Alberta. Teck Resources withdrew citing Canada's lack of framework that reconciles resource development and climate change. Despite the political vitriol over the withdrawal, some are noting that this was the right decision that makes space for more sustainable renewable energy projects in the prairies. Read more [here](#).

Wet'suwet'en Update

The politics around the land defense and sovereignty protests in Wet'suwet'en have been at the forefront of Canadian media for several weeks now. Solidarity protests have been cropping up from coast to coast and across the colonial borders on Turtle Island. In the wake of increased policing, surveillance, and social media tactics, some have declared "Reconciliation" to be dead. Some said it was never alive.

Pam Palmater, Mi'kmaq lawyer and activist [writes](#): "*The real issue has always been about the land. The way forward is recognition of our right to be self-determining over our own lands and resources. Anything less is just the same old Indian policy that invites more uncertainty and social conflict. Canada can do better. It's time to move past genocide and work toward respect for Indigenous land rights.*"

Keep tabs on the conflict [here](#).

Australian Bush Fires

In our last newsletter, we wrote about the bush fires in Australia, and Indigenous leadership and land stewardship. On March 3rd, the New South Wales fire service [declared](#) that for the first time since July 2019, there were no active bush or grass fires in the state. This is due to what is being called the heaviest rain in 30 years– and it is a good reminder about how the earth takes care of herself.

COVID-19

It seems as though every headline, every social media post, and every conversation in the last few weeks has revolved around the spread of COVID-19. It can feel overwhelming and oftentimes scary, so we thought we would highlight some happy stories from across Turtle Island.

- There was a worldwide social media trend where Indigenous women and girls are sharing videos of themselves dancing and praying in their jingle dresses. These women and girls are calling on each other to be beacons of light and healing in the wake of the pandemic. Take a minute and watch [these](#) videos of girls (distantly) coming together to heal the world.
- Elders in long-term care are taking to social media to emphasize the importance of social distancing/distant socializing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to those who are most vulnerable, health-wise. The [photos](#) (see below) are a great reminder that these measures are taken out of love, not fear.
- The National Film Board of Canada has over 4,000 films you can [stream for free](#) while you are practicing social distancing. This includes an incredible collection of Indigenous films and stories, for example: *Stories Are In Our Bones* (2019, dir. Janine Windolph), *Jordan River Anderson*, *The Messenger* (2019, dir. Alanis Obomsawin, coming soon), *Freedom Road* (2019, dir. Angelina McLeod) *Woman Dress* (2019, dir. Thirza Cuthand), *Birth of a Family* (2019, dir. Tasha Hubbard), and many more. Check the films out [here](#).
- Indigenous communities across Canada are taking different measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as erecting blockades and checkpoints to protect those in the community. Dr. Evan Adams (First Nations Health Authority) and Dr. James Makokis (Saddle Lake Cree Nation) have called on communities to rethink and restructure ceremonies and gatherings during the pandemic, in order to protect elders. Dr. Makokis refers to how some of the ancestors survived smallpox and Spanish flu through social distancing. Nitanis Desjarlais (Cree & Métis mother living on Nuu-chah-nulth territory) has recommended using this time to connect more with your immediate family and the land, saying: "This is a great time for this pause in the country to critically think about how we're living with the planet and how we live with one another and how we take care of one another." Read more [here](#).
- Finally, follow the [recommendations](#) of the Wikwemikong Tribal Police, who developed an acronym based on a popular slang term. They are asking their community to practice good "SKODEN":
 - S:** Social distancing
 - K:** Know the precautions
 - O:** Observe travel advisories
 - D:** Don't touch your face.
 - E:** Every time you wash your hands, do so for at least 20 seconds, reaching EVERY surface.
 - N:** Nose and mouth should be covered when sneezing and coughing



Photos from Wikwemikong Nursing Home (CBC, 2020)



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