

Communities, Caribou and Ecological Change:
A Sahtu Region Traditional Knowledge Research and Monitoring Program
April 2007-March 2008

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Project Description

Goals and Objectives

This research and monitoring program was undertaken in partnership with the Sahtu communities of **Déline, Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake**. The program aims to investigate the ways in which Dene people monitor or understand ecological changes at the site and landscape scale. The thematic focus of this study reflects an SRRB mandate in research and policy development. The study also supports the mandate of the Pipeline Readiness Office to assist Sahtu communities in research, monitoring and decision-making in preparation for potential social and ecological changes related to pipeline development. The focus is on caribou, climate and community well-being, three key valued components identified by the partnering communities.

The **goals** of the program are as follows:

- Strengthen understanding about the role of traditional knowledge in understanding ecological change and making resource management decisions about barren-ground caribou.
- Identify traditional Dene and Métis best practices for barren-ground caribou stewardship.
- Enhance knowledge exchange among Renewable Resources Councils and elders in order to strengthen their role in barren-ground caribou management.

Objectives:

Objectives of this study were adapted to the specific interests and needs of the three participating communities.

- **Research method:** Develop a model participatory procedure specific to the experience and needs of each community (and drawing on other existing models) for design, implementation, analysis and communication of TEK baseline research and monitoring.
- **Ecological change:** Document ways that Dene people understand change at different ecological scales (locally and at the level of ecosystem or landscape).
- **Dene law:** Document traditional Dene rules for respecting the land and animals.
- **Policy development:** Develop recommendations for incorporating project learnings in SRRB and ENR policy, including: participatory research protocols and methods; and TEK access and use; ecological monitoring and stewardship.
- **Capacity-building:** Build community capacity in TK research and monitoring, including training and research activities with youth. The project also supports monitoring-related

research by a PhD student from the NWT, and mentoring will be provided through the research process.

- **Education:** Conduct educational activities in schools and on-the-land programs. Develop plain language educational tools, including a booklet series and video.

Research Team (Personnel)

Principal Investigator

Dr. Deborah Simmons is Assistant Professor in Native Studies at University of Manitoba, and Senior Social Scientist with SENES Consultants (Yellowknife). Working for the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board and Déline Uranium Team during 1999-2004, she trained community researchers and facilitated participatory research processes with communities. She aims to support community objectives in the Sahtu Region by maintaining a research relationship over the long term; she also engages in dialogue and collaboration with other researchers in the social and natural sciences to ensure that research in the Sahtu Region are of the highest standards. The current program has allowed her to continue ongoing research with Fort Good Hope and Déline, and initiate a new project with Colville Lake.

Community Researchers

Déline Knowledge Project Team: This team includes a combination of experienced community researchers and trainees. **Jane Modeste Goulet** (Déline First Nation) is Community Coordinator. She has approximately 25 years of experience in Dene language programs, curriculum development, and cultural promotion. She is a member of the Deline Self-Government Team and Community Coordinator of the Déline Knowledge Project. **Michael Neyelle** (Déline First Nation) is lead community researcher. He has worked in the fields of Dene language communications, interpretation and traditional knowledge research for approximately thirty years, including work with the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board Harvest Study, the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board land use mapping project, and traditional knowledge studies related to areas proposed for development projects, or for protection. He is an elected Déline First Nation Councillor, and Chair of the Déline District Education Authority. **Jack Goulet** is the Team Manager; he is responsible for archiving, training and project management. **Doris Taneton** is a Researcher Trainee with a particular focus on assisting with the archiving and database project.

Anne Marie Jackson (K'asho Got'ine First Nation) is a film-maker in training with a strong interest in documenting Dene traditional knowledge in her chosen medium. She has worked with Deborah Simmons at the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (2000-2001), and as an employee of Diavik in Yellowknife and at the minesite. Most recently she has been hired in an on-the-job training program to assist the National Film Board with a project in her home town of Fort Good Hope.

Jerry Huculak (Colville Lake Elders Council) is an educator of many years with a strong interest in elders literacy and documenting traditional knowledge. Jerry has made his home in Colville Lake and is an active member of the community. He is employed as an adult educator with Aurora College and facilitates weekly Elders Council meetings. One of the Elders Council's

current objectives is the completion of a book with photographs, drawings and narratives in English and Dene language authored by participating elders.

External Collaborators

The team of external researchers is designed to bring together expertise in traditional knowledge, social science, and ecology, with experience specific to the north. Team members have a strong history of collaboration and roots in the north that strengthens their contributions to the program. Simmons has worked with various Sahtu communities in participatory traditional knowledge and social science projects since 1999. Simmons and Manseau are colleagues at the Natural Resources Institute; they serve together on two graduate research committees. Simmons and Gal have participated in a project led by Manseau to design a new system for computer mapping of aboriginal land use and traditional knowledge. Gal and Simmons have collaborated in GIS training and land use mapping for the Déline First Nation. Freeland Ballantyne has already initiated a research relationship with Fort Good Hope, having assisted in organizing the Indigenous Youth Summit in that community in 2005, and Dr. Simmons is an advisor in her research program. The collaborators are strongly committed to participatory research approaches designed to benefit aboriginal communities.

Dr. Micheline Manseau is a northern ecologist and is particularly interested in the relationship between human, large mammals and landscape characteristics at different spatial scales. She is a co-investigator in ongoing traditional knowledge research with Déline and Fort Good Hope. She has done extensive work in barren-ground caribou ecology, and is actively involved in incorporating aboriginal conceptions of landscape into protected areas and natural resource management. She has recently co-edited a book entitled *Breaking Ice: Renewable Resource and Ocean Management in the Canadian North*, and the accompanying video *Community-based Monitoring in Northern Canada: Watching, Listening and Understanding Changes in the Environment* (2005).

She has also written a number of papers on traditional ecological knowledge and environmental monitoring. Dr. Manseau's involvement will strengthen the research team in making strong theoretical and practical contributions to the research on how Dene and Métis people understand ecological change. Such understanding will contribute to decision-making in resource management, encouraging sustainable human activities on northern landscapes, and maintaining the dynamic cultural landscapes that are of fundamental importance to northern aboriginal communities.

Ruthann Gal has served as Director of the Fort Smith Aurora Research Institute for many years and has extensive experience in community based research. She is a GIS specialist and an ecologist. She has been involved in a number of community GIS training projects, including two projects involving land use and traditional knowledge mapping with the Déline First Nation.

Erin Freeland Ballantyne is a PhD student in geography and environment at Oxford University. Her research focus is on the interactions between youth and elders with respect to understanding environmental and community health. Born and raised in the NWT, she is our first recipient of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Erin will assist with researcher training, video production and youth activities in her research community of Fort Good Hope.

Methodology/Traditional Knowledge

This program has a traditional knowledge focus and draws upon a participatory methodology in which each community defines the specific research questions and tools within the scope of program goals and objectives.

Focus Groups

Focus groups were very successful in all three communities, reflecting the collective nature of traditional knowledge. A pool of approximately eight representative individuals, including men and women, were selected in each community to participate in a focus group to develop research protocols and method, verify and analyze research results, and design the community pamphlet, final report, and academic presentation.

Participant-Observation: Community-Based

Involvement in relevant community-based processes proved to be more central to the program than anticipated. Because research team members were seen as specialists, they were invited to participate in community decision-making processes involving social-ecological research, monitoring and planning.

Participant-Observation: On-the-Land

Researchers were able to participate in three on-the-land trips with participant communities. These were invaluable sources of understanding about people's evolving relationship with the land and how this is informed by evolving cross-generational and cross-gender relationships. Integral to these social-ecological relationships was the enactment of ongoing monitoring processes at micro and landscape levels, involving observations while harvesting, and collective discussions with elders and other harvesters at base camp.

One-on-One Interviews

One-on-one interviews provide opportunities to record the more detailed (long) versions of specific narratives by particularly knowledgeable individuals. During focus group sessions, participants would identify which narratives were important to record and who should be asked to share the narrative. In the case of Fort Good Hope, a semi-directed interview guide was used.

Documentation

Documentation methods varied in each community, depending on skills and interests of community researchers. Video and audio recordings were variously used, and transcription was either bilingual or unilingual English.

Conference Presentations

Preparation of conference presentations provided research team members with opportunities to work together to synthesize, and evaluate research results, communicate the research to a broader audience, obtain feedback, and identify next steps.

Research Context

This research is contributing to and drawing upon several larger research and monitoring programs within the Sahtu Region:

- The **Sahtu Renewable Resource Board** has undertaken a multi-year Caribou Traditional Knowledge Study. This study began in 2006-2007 in partnership with the **Déline** and **K’asho Got’ine** (Fort Good Hope) Renewable Resource Councils. The participation of the Behdzi Ahda First Nation (Colville Lake) was initiated in the fall of 2007. The **Tulita** Renewable Resource Council has agreed to participate in a project related to mountain (woodland) caribou in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
- The **Déline Renewable Resources Council** has partnered with the Caribou TK Study in their twofold efforts to protect Caribou Point (ʔehdaq̄la) under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy and to establish a mobile protection measures pilot policy for Bluenose East caribou in the Déline District.
- **Erin Freeland Ballantyne** is completing research for her PhD dissertation in geography at Oxford University. Her working dissertation title is *Sustainability’s Paradox: Petro-Capitalism and Climate Change in Northern Canada*. She aims to complete her dissertation in 2009.
- Dr. Susan Kutz (Veterinary Sciences, University of Calgary) of the **Circumarctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) Network** is involved in a multi-year caribou health monitoring program with monitors from each of the communities participating in the current CIMP program.

Methods

Activity Report

Note that a number of activities bringing together community members from both Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope were facilitated by this program, recognizing that the two communities subsist on the same caribou herd (Bluenose-West) and maintain a strong relationship in resource management processes. Combined activities are listed in the last part of this section.

Déline

Training	Field Work	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting facilitation and organizing • Archiving, database maintenance • GPS and GIS mapping • Digital audio recording • Dene language literacy/orthography • Transcription/translation • Qualitative analysis using NVivo software • Newsletter layout and article writing • Report writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring community hunt and trip to Kugluktuk • ʔehdaq̄la Protected Areas Strategy meetings • Mobile Caribou Protection Measures meetings 	<p>Déline Knowledge Project Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review • Annotated bilingual (Dene/English) transcription of three day focus group meeting (46,000 words/146 pages) • Thematic coding of transcript • Dene terminology list with English translations • Participation and recording at two ʔehdaq̄la Protected Areas Strategy meetings • Participation and recording at two Mobile Caribou Protection

Training	Field Work	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public presentations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures meetings Review of draft TK proposals for ?ehda?la and Mobile Caribou Protection Measures projects

Fort Good Hope

Training	Field Work	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting facilitation Dene language literacy/orthography Videography and video editing Digital audio recording Interview guide design Participant observation research Participatory research methods Public presentations and leadership skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-structured interviews Focus group meeting Participation in relevant community meetings 	<p><i>Anne Marie Jackson</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed a semi-structured interview guide and conducted video-taped interviews with five elders <p><i>Erin Freeland Ballantyne</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a focus group meeting with women Worked with five high school girls to design a semi-structured interview guide and conduct video-taped interviews with elders Participated in a community visioning exercise and facilitated a presentation by her student research team Participated in a youth conference in Fort Simpson with her research team Facilitated the formation of a community youth council, requested by the Yamoga Land Corporation

Colville Lake

Training	Field Work	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital audio recording Video research Dene language literacy/orthography Research methods Interview guide design Curriculum development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus groups with Elders Council and high school students School caribou TK activities Elder-youth exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing focus group meetings with Elders Council, including documentation of stories, Dene law for respecting caribou, and perspective on caribou management policy School activities included high school focus group; writing/art contest; mapping; presentation by Chief Richard Kochon; elders storytelling; and Dene language dictionary

Colville Lake-Fort Good Hope

Training	Field Work	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant-observation research methods • Peer training in video research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sahtu Renewable Resources Board Caribou Hearing • Horton Lake Community Caribou Hunt • Fort Good Hope-Colville Lake student exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review, including review of existing curriculum on caribou (re Beverly-Qamanirjuaq herd) • Erin Freeland Ballantyne participated in Caribou Hearing and provided detailed notes and reflections on the hearing process to supplement the verbatim transcript (online) • Deborah Simmons and Anne Marie Jackson participated in the Horton Lake Community Caribou Hunt; videotaped innovations required for scientific sampling (caribou health monitoring) with traditional harvesting procedures; audio interviews with elders and CARMA scientists about research and monitoring with caribou • Erin Freeland Ballantyne and Fort Good Hope student research team travelled to Colville Lake for a peer training session in video research

Community/Organization Involvement

Community	Leadership	Community Members Hired
Deline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deline Renewable Resource Council • Deline Knowledge Project (Deline First Nation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Neyelle • Jack Goulet • Doris Taneton
Fort Good Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K'asho Got'ine Renewable Resource Council • K'asho Got'ine Elders Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Marie Jackson
Colville Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behdzi Ahda First Nation • Behdzi Ahda Renewable Resources Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colville Lake Elders Council

Traditional Knowledge

This is a traditional knowledge program involving focus groups and interviews with community members; community members were involved in defining the method and elders interviewed. See Activity Report above for details.

Results

This project supports both “Research, Monitoring and Policy” and “Capacity Building and Training” objectives, as follows:

Monitoring and Research

Target	Key Messages
<p>This project focused on three components: caribou, climate and community well-being. These are three components of key concern to Dene and Métis of the Sahtu Region because of their visibility in the context of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project and other development pressures and because of impacts already being experienced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dene do not see components of the ecosystem in isolation; climate, caribou and community well-being are seen as inter-related. • Harvesting is a core method for traditional knowledge monitoring. • Dene people possess their own systematic procedures for drawing conclusions about environmental change through a qualitative process involving observations during harvesting and discussions with elders and other harvesters. • Involving youth in harvesting and monitoring discussions is a key way of ensuring future continuity of knowledge about Dene law for caribou stewardship, and monitoring ecological change. • Because they have a key interest in subsistence harvesting as a source of nourishment and family well-being and because they play a key role in processing meat, women play an important role in monitoring observance of Dene law as well as social and ecological change. • As an activity involving traditional land-based activities and engaging people of all ages and both genders, monitoring is a process that in itself is a measure of community relationships. • Dene are enthusiastic participants in methods of documentation, analysis and policy development that respect their specific modality of knowledge production. • Old time stories are the key vessels for Dene law and knowledge about healthy social relations and ecological stewardship, and methods for dealing with social and ecological change. • Hostility to science-based policy is a risk when Dene knowledge is not properly accounted for and when Dene are not given an opportunity to interpret scientific data and participate as equal partners in decision-making. • Trained community researchers are required to document and analyze traditional knowledge research and monitoring processes. • Renewable Resources Councils require strong external supports to achieve the capacity required for research and monitoring documentation and analysis.

Capacity Building and Training

Target	Key Messages
<p>All community members hired through this program were provided with training in methods and skills for community-based traditional knowledge research, as listed above in the Activity Report and list of community members hired. This was also an important training opportunity for a northern graduate student, namely Erin Freeland Ballantyne.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory methods involving capacity building at every phase of research remains the most effective approach for traditional knowledge processes. • Archiving is a key element of the research process and should be done in collaboration with specialists at the NWT archives; elders want to ensure that research incorporates oral history that has already been collected. • Youth can be strong contributors to research, since elders are highly motivated to share their knowledge with youth (as opposed to an outsider). • Dene language should be incorporated as an aspect of research and documentation to respect elders’ priorities and ensure that Dene concepts

Target	Key Messages
	<p>are properly accounted for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time is an important factor in any traditional knowledge initiative: research and monitoring must fit with the seasonal schedule of the community; documentation, analysis and reporting takes much more time than would be the case in a uni-cultural context where researchers are already fully trained.

Education

The research process, including work with schools and elders and participation in on-the-land programs and relevant community-based meetings, has been effective in educating community members and participating students about the role of traditional knowledge in monitoring and the role of communities, including elders, harvesters, women and youth, in monitoring, policy development and decision-making.

Discussion / Conclusions

Contributions to ENR Wildlife Research and Management Mandate

This program has implications not only for the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board members, but also for participating Renewable Resources Councils, communities, government, and scientists in addressing ecological and social change, and appropriate decision-making in caribou management. Areas of knowledge developed through this project include the following. For more details, see key messages listed in the Results section.

- Monitoring methods specifically involving traditional knowledge.
- The relationship between ecological changes affecting caribou and climate and impacts on community well-being.
- The resource management implications of traditional knowledge and Dene law.
- The roles of Renewable Resource Councils, harvesters, elders, women and youth in monitoring and resource management.
- School curriculum in caribou and climate change.
- Capacity-building and institutional requirements for ongoing traditional knowledge programs.

Future Work

This is the second year of a four year program. Year Three will involve a full analysis and synthesis of documentation from Years One and Two, and drafting of a preliminary document for review by the three communities. A fourth community, Tulita, will initiate research related to mountain (woodland) caribou. A workshop will be held of Renewable Resource Council representatives to share research process and results and plan next steps. Year Four will involve finalizing the research results in a community-approved document and a traditional knowledge cumulative impact monitoring workshop involving Renewable Resource Council representatives to develop a joint proposal for a long term program in the Sahtu Region.

Communication of Results

Community-Based

Déline

- Regular presentations to Déline First Nation and Déline Renewable Resources Council meetings
- Newsletter with project update
- CD with compilation of archived oral histories related to caribou
- Archive database
- Website under construction at www.lecol-ck.ca (Landscape Ecology and Community Knowledge for Conservation)
- Booklet forthcoming

Fort Good Hope

- Presentations to K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council, K'asho Got'ine Elders Council, Yamoga Land Corporation, and community visioning meeting
- Newsletter
- Video forthcoming

Colville Lake

- Presentation to Colville Lake Elders Council
- Newsletter forthcoming
- Slide presentation co-authored with Chief Richard Kochon

Regional (Sahtu/NWT) and National

- Report to Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Presentation at Sahtu *Taking Care of the Land* workshop, Kelly Lake, August 6-10
- Presentation at Natural Resource Institute conference, University of Manitoba, *Changing Landscapes*, October 5-6
- Presentation with Walter Bayha (Chair, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board), Anne Marie Jackson, and Chief Richard Kochon at conference of the NWT Region of the Western and Northern Canada Affiliate of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIAWNC), *Cultural Impact Assessment: Beyond the Biophysical*, February 28-29 (proceedings available at www.iaia-wnc.ca).
- Presentations at Learning Communities Network meeting, May 28-31, Tofino, and *Learning Circle*, March 20 (proceedings for both events available at <http://clcn.seedwiki.com>).

Appendix 1

**Sustainability's Paradox:
Community Health, Climate Change and Petro-Capitalism**
Year-end Report and February Newsletter

**Sustainability's Paradox:
Community Health, Climate Change and Petro-Capitalism**

ACTIVITY REPORT

November 2007-March 2008

Erin Freeland Ballantyne

In collaboration with Sustainability's Paradox: Community Health, Climate Change and Petro-Capitalism research project, presentations were made in the high school and contact was established with out of school youth to introduce the project and offer training to youth interested in video research in the community. Youth were specifically interested in the video aspect of the training. Four young women began video research training in November. They were introduced to the basic principles of social science research, interview techniques and camera operation.

The sessions were purposefully informal and took place in a home setting. The youth video research team (YVRT) developed their own set of questions around the issues of development, climate change and health. The interview guide focused on changes in the land, and in particular changes and impacts related to caribou. The YVRT then proceeded to interview community members, developing their video currently entitled *Changes*, exploring the impacts of environmental changes on culture, traditional foods, health and well-being.

During the process, the YVRT also turned the camera on themselves, reflecting on what they were listening to and learning about and how this information and sharing of stories affected them. The goal of training youth as video researchers is to make a long-term investment in the building of community youth research capacity in the Sahtu by destabilizing the gaze between the 'researcher' and the 'researched', supporting new ways of being and doing where community perspectives lead analysis and interpretation of community knowledge. Through this process, the youth involved gained confidence and communication skills, as well as reflecting upon the messages of elders that they should learn traditional skills in order to remain healthy and to take care of the land.

In early March, five youth from Fort Good Hope, including three members of the YVRM travelled to 'The Moment is Now' youth conference in Fort Simpson. At this conference, the YVRM and PhD researcher Erin Freeland Ballantyne facilitated video-research workshops, introducing youth from across the NWT to participatory video research (PVR) as well as going through a short video research exercise in the workshop. The workshop was very well received, and the YVRT have begun their first train-the-trainer aspects of this methodology. As well, two members of the YVRT were selected as the film-makers for the Arctic Winter Games Arts Program. As two of three selected film makers, these young women were paired with a professional film mentors (Dennis Allen and Kirsten Carthew) and supported to capture the spirit of the Games of film to share at the closing ceremonies and as the official AWG video.

As well, participant observation was carried out during the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board Caribou Hearing. Community members from Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake expressed

specific concern over the treatment of caribou in relation to human activities. There was concern over the impact of exploration activities, (helicopters, trucks, drills) on caribou. It was stated that caribou stay away from noise and smells and were disturbed by the sound of helicopters. There remain obvious gaps in how the TK of caribou and cumulative impacts can be applied in making development and monitoring policy and decisions.

The Fort Good Hope YVRT visited Colville Lake to train the high school girls in video research and assist them in interviewing elders for the caribou/climate study. This was a great success, strongly supported by the elders.

Results

Initial research generated community and especially youth interest on cumulative impacts, specifically caribou. The YVRT, through the ongoing methodology of self-reflection and group response to interviews has noted that elders are repeatedly saying that youth need to engage in traditional activities to be strong, healthy Dene. They are very proud of their project, and have noted the importance of listening with respect to what people are sharing with them. It has also been expressed that school lacks opportunities to explore the meaning of traditional knowledge for today's youth, and that there is a divide between how the school teaches youth and how traditional teaching happens, which is rooted in respect for both teacher and student. The YVRT has taken the words of the elders to heart and has worked on scraping a moose hide with the assistance of Rosemary Lennie and have also recorded community events such as the youth-elder Valentines Day dinner. The research project has given the youth a goal, as well as long term objectives around the possibility of video to engage youth in activities in their communities. All members of the YVRT spoke at the community visioning meetings, expressing their desire from increased language and cultural training, a Sahtu based curriculum and concerns over development and exploration.

Three of the members have earned one credit towards graduation for 25 hours spent working on the project, and are now working towards a second credit. Two of the YVRT members, Jeanette Kakfwi and Cara Manuel were selected as two of three youth film makers for the arts and cultural program for Arctic Winter Games. Paired with professional film mentors Dennis Allen and Kirsten Carthew, the girls traveled to Yellowknife as official Arctic Winter Games filmmakers, using their training and skills to represent their communities and capture the Arctic Winter Games for posterity.

In early March, three members of the YVRT traveled to the Mackenzie Regional *The Moment is Now* Youth Conference to facilitate a video research workshop for youth from across the north. The workshop was a success, demonstrating the ability of the team to engage in train-the-trainer activities. The workshop tackled the issues of youth drug use in communities and sewing as an activity contributing to health. Through this workshop, the YVRT are honing their skills and laying a solid foundation for these youth to engage in long-term involvement and leadership in research in the Sahtu.

In coming months, the project will support the further training of youth in Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake as well as focus groups and discussions around community knowledge and

cumulative impacts. These processes will include discussion on how to increase communication and information sharing between governments and agencies responsible for cumulative impacts monitoring. The initial youth aspect of the project as resulted in increased youth awareness of the importance of TK in making community development decisions, however, more education is needed in the communities about Valued Components and the role TK can play in development decisions and how communities can gain more control in these processes.

Discussion / Conclusions

In the coming months the YVRT from Fort Good Hope and CL will continue their investigations. At the end of April will have community showings and discussions on the results of the video research. Youth will be supported to continue this research in their communities with specified support from the project. They will work toward the training of other youth and the communication of these research results with other Sahtu communities and with development agencies and resource management boards.

The project has been very successful to date. The dedication of the youth has been incredible, as has been the openness of both communities. The youth involved have shown increased appreciation and awareness in issues concerning culture and traditional food, and have shown increased confidence and pride in their abilities and have set long-term goals for their research project. As well, many other youth in the community have become interested and inspired by the YVRT, resulting in plans to secure further video cameras so that wider participation is possible.

Communications

There have been one open community meeting, three focus groups and interviews. The thesis and videos will become part of a website that will also serve as a high school course curriculum, *Our Land, Our Life, Our Future*.

Building Fort Good Hope's Youth Research Capacity



Sustainability's Paradox:

Petro-Capitalism, Climate Change and Well-Being in Northern Communities

PROGRESS REPORT

By Erin Freeland-Ballantyne

February, 2008

Sustainability's Paradox is a research project facilitated in Fort Good Hope by Erin Freeland Ballantyne from Yellowknife. Erin is a PhD student at University of Oxford. This research looks into the impacts of climate change and oil and gas development on community health and well-being using youth as the principal investigators. It is important to understand these impacts so communities can plan for the future. A goal of this project is to establish a well-trained Youth Video Research Team in Fort Good Hope that can serve the community to create positive community change through learning from and working with each other.

Phase 1: June 2007

Erin came to Fort Good Hope to talk to the community about the project, to see if there was interest and support and to obtain a research license for the project from The Yamoga Land Corporation, The K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council, The Renewable Resource Board and the Métis Alliance. During the month, three group discussions/ community teas were hosted with the help of Anne-Marie Jackson to determine the direction of the project and the questions and issues that were important to people around oil and gas, climate change and health. Youth were also trained on professional video cameras, recording hand-games and drumming.

Phase 2: November-December

Presentations were made at the high school and over the radio to gather committed youth to form a video research team. A partnership was formed with the school so that youth can earn up to 2 credits for undertaking film and research training and carrying out their projects. Four youth, Jeanette Kakfwi, Cara Manuel, Tamara McNealy and Courtney Kakfwi underwent video and research training and developed a question guide for their interviews. This Youth Video Research Team started interviews in the community and well as recording themselves about the process of doing research from a Sahtu Got'ine perspective. During their interviews, the team heard many important messages about taking care of the land and observations about climate change.

Phase 3: January- February 2008.

The Youth Video Research Team faced the challenge of a lost video camera during this time, but partnered with recreation to start working on a moose-hide tanning project, as one of the messages from elders interviews was that the young women need to learn traditional skills in order to know and respect the land. The team will be filming the moose hide to moccasin project and recording both interviews and teachings while working on the hide. This part of the project investigates how

traditional skills teach youth skills for the future and why it is important to learn these skills. In exciting news, Cara and Jeanette were selected by the Arctic Winter Games to be two of three official youth film makers for the Arctic Winter Games, travelling to Yellowknife to work with a professional film maker to create the AWG video.

As well, the Video Research Team is travelling to Fort Simpson to facilitate a workshop training other youth researchers at the 'Moment Is Now' Mackenzie Regional Youth Conference. This train-the-trainer aspect of the project is part of a goal to support youth-lead research across the north that will be shared through the internet as part of a school curriculum developed for communities, by communities.

"I love the film project because of what I am learning from my elders about the land and environment. I like capturing my traditions and culture for future generations." Cara

Phase 4: April-July

During the month of March, the team will carry out further interviews. A project goal is to go on the land in April for one week, partnering with the Elder's council for a youth vision week. The Youth Research Team will work with footage to produce a DVD to be shown to the community and facilitate a discussion about community well-being, petro-capitalism and climate change. The team, with elder's guidance will formulate a long-term research plan.

The Team has been invited to attend the Indigenous Environmental Network Conference in Nevada in late July. This conference will be the first of many opportunities for Fort Good Hope youth to present their research. This conference, entitled *Protecting Our Mother Earth*, focuses on the efforts of First Nations across North America to use wind, water and sun for community energy. The Team and Erin will work towards fundraising for this exciting trip and are looking forward to spring activities like hunting. Thanks for everyone's support so far, especially to those people who were brave enough to share with us in video interviews.

Appendix 2

Aurora College Learning Centre Newsletter

March Report, Colville Lake
“Senior Literacy Project”
“Traditional Knowledge Researcher”
“Professional Development”



Aurora College Learning Centre

Colville Lake

March Report 2008

By Jerry Huculak

Welcome to Chris Greek—our new assistant coordinator to Dudley in Norman Wells and our organizational person serving the community adult educators.

Territorial Developmental Studies Conference—March 3-7

My bags were packed and I was ready to go. (Another old song from the 60's). My shopping list was made, my credit card up to date, I got up Sunday morning, March 2, to get ready for an early morning charter flight to Norman Wells to catch the main liner to Yellowknife. The temperature was a balmy -46. I received a call from Northwright for a weather check and was informed it was too cold for the 206 to fly. No problem, I would leave on Monday. However, after much effort and consternation, even Laura couldn't get me to Yellowknife. Canadian North was booked Monday and Tuesday. Needless to say, I missed a wonderful learning opportunity and a time away to re-socialize with my colleagues. Maybe next year.

Working versus School Attendance

The month of March saw almost all students involved in the search for oil and gas. Students have been hired to work the camps, heavy equipment operating, seismic drilling and recording. How can one compete with better than average salary and the excitement of working in a new and exciting environment?

Senior Literacy Project

However all was not lost. The elders of Colville Lake have taken over the Learning Centre. They have been actively engaged in a joint effort of contributing to some stories that require a little extra refinement.



Much to my surprise, three of

the elders who cannot read or write the English or Dene font demonstrated their skill at reading and writing in syllabics. What a revelation!



Traditional Knowledge Researcher

During Reading Week, the class was visited by Traditional Knowledge researcher, Debby Simmons—University of Manitoba who is working on behalf of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board—Caribou Traditional Knowledge Study Project. The elders have appreciated the opportunity to relate stories past down to them and incorporate them in their school visits. A remark was made that by sharing stories, other stories are recalled.

As part of the Literacy project, elders have been discussing some of the old tools that were manufactured. One tool that was commonly used in place of paper or plastic bags was a bag made out of trout skin. Sarah and Simone Kochon demonstrated this skill to the rest of the class and this will be taught to the students at the school during their cultural program.



John Blanche recalling his memory of making a trout skin bag under the watchful eye of Philip Codzi.



Marie Kochon and Alexi Blanche studying the atlas of the Sahtu and pointing out places of their birth and the locations their ancestors traveled by dog team.



Sarah and Simone drawing sketches for the brochures they will use as teaching props at the school.



Johnny and Madeline Blanche looking at photos to decide which ones make it into the story book.

Teleconferences:

March 11—Career Fair last minute updates

March 14— Adult Educators conference

March 20—SRTP teleconference

Professional Development

I am happy to say that I was able to take advantage of Debby Simmons' expertise with Microsoft Publisher and my future reports will all be emailed with photos— now that I know how to reduce photo memory. So, even though I did not attend the professional development week in Yellowknife, I can say I improved in something.

Appendix 3


**Cultural Impact Assessment:
Beyond the Biophysical Conference
February 28-29**

NWT Region of the Western and Northern Canada Affiliate of the
International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIAWNC)

Slide Presentation
*“Dene Knowledge and Caribou Stewardship
in the Sahtu Region”*

Ekwç Hé Naidé

Living with Caribou



Alfred Manseau


Presentation to IAIAWNC Conference
Cultural Impact Assessment: *Beyond the Biophysical*, February 28, 2008

Sahtu Caribou Traditional Knowledge Study
Walter Bayha, Anne Marie Jackson, Dora Grandjambe, Richard Kochon,
Micheline Manseau, Deborah Simmons

Ekwç Hé Naidé

Outline

1. Walter Bayha
A K'asho Got'ine Case Study
2. Richard Kochon/Dora Grandjambe
Dene and Caribou
3. Anne Marie Jackson
Dene Youth, Caribou, and Culture
4. Deborah Simmons
Assessments Dene Way?



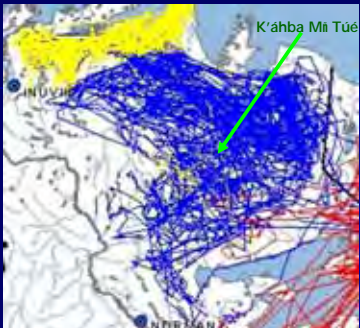
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A K'asho Got'ine Case Study

Walter Bayha


- A social-ecological landscape (caribou/people/development)
- History: Saying yes to development, saying no to development
- What we have learned

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Bluenose West Range 2006 - ENR

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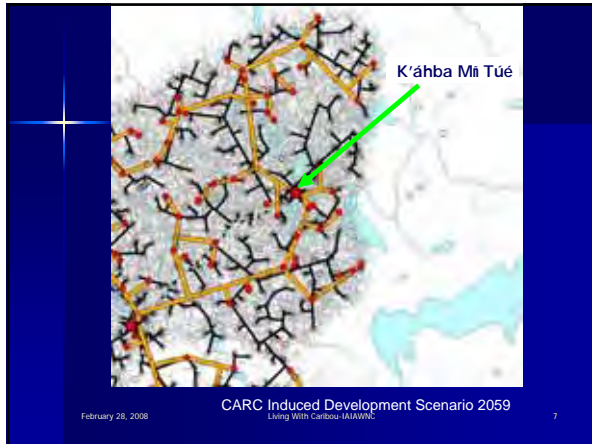
Dene Nation Traditional Trails

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Nezi / Nehzi (place names incomplete, not verified)

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K'áhba Mī Túé (K'asho Gotine) A Case Study

1999	Sahtu Land Use Planning process	× Île
2001	Winter road construction, beginning of petroleum development boom	✓ Hêæê
2006	K'áhba Mī Túé ends support for development	× Île
2007	SRRB Caribou Hearing, FGH	Listening

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Land Use Planning, 1999

- Several intensive community-based qualitative surveys
- Community meetings
- Consensus that all the land is sacred, and should not be divided into zones
- Consensus that there should be *no* winter road.

× Île

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New Development, 2001

1. Access & Benefits Agreements with Ayōnī Kī Land Corp
2. Numerous applications for permits and licenses

✓ Hêæê

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Access & Benefits Agreements

- Industry-controlled engagement and negotiations (seen by community as one and the same)
- Promotional activities
- Supposed to account for social and cultural impacts
- Very little room for concerns to be expressed

✓ Hêæê

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Licences and Permits Sahtu Land and Water Board

- Minimum requirements for TK
- No requirements for social/cultural impact assessments

✓ Hêæê

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Community Says No, 2006

- Growing community concerns about caribou moving away
- Concerns about social impacts
- Community stops supporting development



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Ayí Keots'ihæô What we have learned

- Community role – góhé (participation)
- Why Dene might say "Hçæê"
- Why Dene might say "Île"
- Ets'ewékw'ê (really listening)

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Góhé Participation

"The purpose of the establishment of boards by this Act is to enable residents of the Mackenzie Valley to participate in the management of its resources for the benefit of the residents and of other Canadians" (1998, 1.9.1)

Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

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✓ Hçæê

- Industry are seen to be the experts
- Emphasis on benefits (ABAs)
- "Yes is better than no"
- Leaders are respected

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x Île

- Community *experience* of impacts
- Impacts on caribou are not only environmental – social, economic and *cultural*
- People's *relationships* with caribou
- Family, community and regional *relationships*

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Ets'ewékw'ê Really Listening

- Listening as Dene discipline
- Listening to collectives
- Listening to diverse voices/knowledges
- Understanding in context, as opposed to data mining

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Chief Richard Kochon Behdzi Ahda First Nation



Just came back from trapping, broke trail, fixed up tent (broken ridge pole), visited Dad's Dad's Dad Oudzedahka's campsite - first time since 1968.
(Intro to audio recording)



Dora
Grandjambe
Interpreter

Horton Lake Community Hunt September 2008



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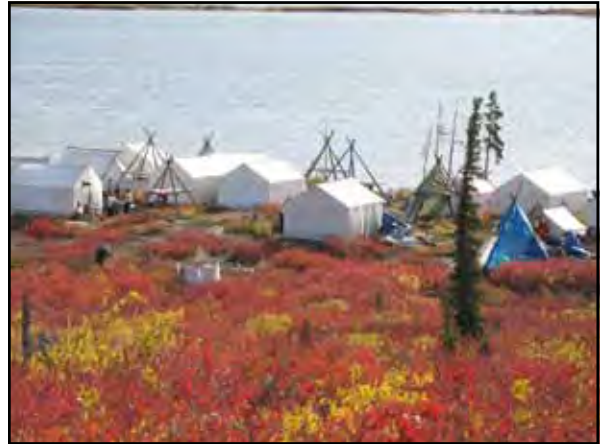
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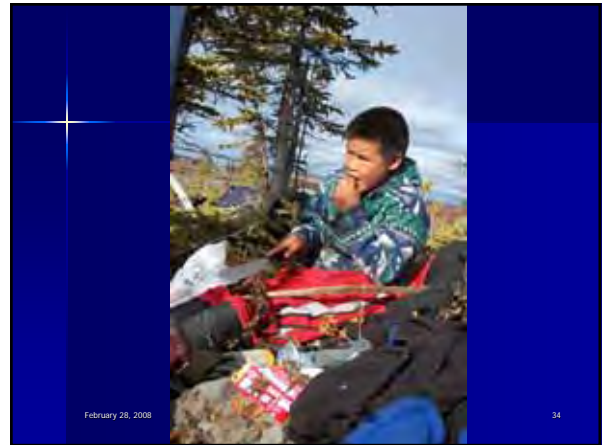
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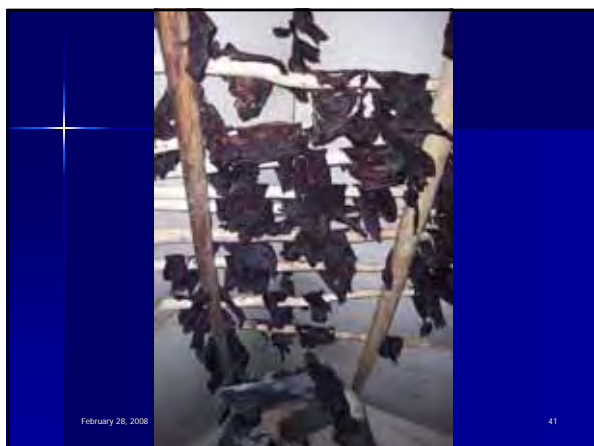
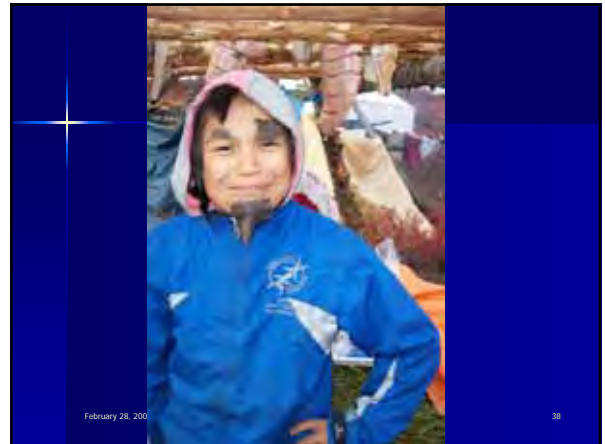


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Dene Youth, Caribou and Culture

Anne Marie Jackson

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Dene Youth, Caribou and Culture

- “Benefits” of development
- The elders’ fears for the future
- Why youth might be opposed to development

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Assessments Dene Way? *Deborah Simmons*

- Valued components?
- Indicators?
- Thresholds?
- Longitudinal questionnaire-based surveys?
- Quantitative analysis?
- Modelling?
- Quantitative Analysis?

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From WATCHING THE LAND: Traditional Knowledge and Cumulative Impact Monitoring Practitioners Workshop, Yellowknife, February 4-9, 2008 50

Ets'ewékw'ê *Really Listening*

- Experiencing the land
- Experiencing relationships: discussion, analysis, and verification
- Dene concepts/language
- Communicating what others need to know
- Role of trained researchers
- Participating in decision-making

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Dene Náower£ Chets'elæ *Gathering Dene Knowledge*

- Flexible, evolving (Dene Náower£ is a verb)
- Eclectic
- Cumulative
- Holistic
- Qualitative
- Disciplined/rigorous (quality, respect)
- Community owned/controlled

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"Working Together" - Taking Care of the Land Camp, Kelly Lake, August 6-10, 2008 53

Máhsi

- Chief Richard Kochon and Behdzi Ahda First Nation
- Dr. Micheline Manseau, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba
- Déline Knowledge Project Team: Jane Modeste, Jack Goulet, Michael Neyelle, Doris Taneton
- Déline, K'asho Got'ine and Behdzi Ahda Renewable Resources Councils
- Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- ENR, INAC

Photos: DL Simmons, Susan Kutz, Nathan Debruyn, Alasdair Veitch, Walter Bayha
Drawings: Alfred Masuzumi
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Appendix 4

Changing Landscapes Conference
University Of Manitoba, October 5-6 2007

Presentation Abstract:
“Dene and Caribou: Stewardship or (Crisis) Management?”

Dene and Caribou: Stewardship or (Crisis) Management?

Abstract by Deborah Simmons and Micheline Manseau

Since the turn of the 20th century, wildlife managers have been declaring a perpetual crisis of the barren-ground caribou herds roaming Canada's northern frontier. The rhetoric of conservation has combined scientific rationalism and a productivity-maximizing agricultural logic with attacks on the "savage" subsistence harvesting methods of indigenous peoples. Now once again we are apparently faced with a crisis, defined in terms of population declines. However, this time the resource management regime has changed significantly. In the Northwest Territories, co-operative resource management systems established through comprehensive land claim agreements and the Mackenzie Resource Management Act have provided indigenous peoples with an avenue for "participation," and new management methods are thought to be allowing for greater flexibility in policy development.

The dominant discourse through which the current "crisis" is being defined and addressed includes alarming echoes of the old colonial modality. Knowledge of population status is still primarily based on caribou census numbers. The geographic and temporal scale of policy development remains coarse, beyond human or ecological scales. Recent research with indigenous communities reveals a qualitatively distinct approach, emphasizing the importance of nurturing intimate and respectful human-caribou relationships.

This paper explores the unresolved question at the core of co-management – namely, whether it is possible to comprehend and account for indigenous perspectives within the co-management framework, where the logic of capitalist expansion is maintained as an implicit constraint in decision-making. Drawing upon research with the Dene community of Déline which has co-existed since time immemorial with the caribou now known as the East and West Bluenose herds, we argue that true co-management would involve expanding the scope of policy options beyond scientific development frameworks to more localized and intimate community-environment relationships.

Dr. Micheline Manseau is a northern ecologist and is particularly interested in the relationship between human, wildlife and landscape characteristics at different spatial scales. She has done extensive work in barren-ground caribou ecology (and other ecotypes), and is actively involved in incorporating aboriginal conceptions of landscape into protected areas and natural resource management. She has recently co-edited a book entitled *Breaking Ice: Renewable Resource and Ocean management in the Canadian North*, and the accompanying video *Community-based Monitoring in northern Canada: Watching, Listening and Understanding Changes in the Environment* (2005). She has also written a number of papers on landscape and wildlife ecology, traditional ecological knowledge and environmental monitoring.

Dr. Deborah Simmons has been involved in indigenous knowledge research in the Sahtu Region of the Northwest Territories since 1999. Her work with the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board involved a major land use mapping project. She assisted the Déline Uranium Team with an oral history project to document Dene experiences and

perspectives related to the Port Radium uranium mine. She is currently Principle Investigator on a three year Dene Knowledge project with the Déline First Nation, and a five year Dene Knowledge program with the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board. Dr. Simmons is an Assistant Professor in Native Studies at University of Manitoba. She is based in Yellowknife, and works with an environmental consulting firm. A recent publication co-authored with Ken Caine and Michael Salomons is “Partnerships for Social Change in the Canadian North: Revisiting the Insider–Outsider Dialectic” (*Development and Change* 38, 3: 2007).

Appendix 5

Déline Knowledge Project

December Newsletter
“Dene Knowledge About Caribou”

Déline Knowledge Project

A D É L I N E F I R S T N A T I O N P R O G R A M

THIRD QUARTER REPORT

- Déline Knowledge Project update
- Up and coming future Projects
- Message from the Project Coordinator
- Caribou Point Protected Area Strategy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sharing the Elders Stories

Our Dene Knowledge Team

Birth place of hockey

Message from-Deborah Simmons

Message from-Mike Neyelle

Message from-Doris Taniton

Looking for more Cassette Tapes

SHARING THE ELDERS' STORIES

This fall season is coming to an end with great expectations of welcoming old man winter. Here at the Déline Knowledge Project we have copied a tremendous amount of recordings of elders who have passed on for our archive. It is our pleasure and honour to pass on their knowledge responsibly to the Déline families. It has taken months to compile this fantastic collection.

Many community members have received the first half of the collection on DVDs. It took us awhile to figure out how best to pass on the collection for all to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes.

I have to apologize to those who do not have

the DVD players or computers to play the DVD we put together. We did try to accommodate all. I want all to know that Debbie Simmons donated the DVDs the collection is now shared on.



Remember Our Words

This now brings me to the announcement that the second half of the collection is now available. It will now be a two disc set, with over 200 hours of stories, legends and knowledge from our beloved elders. All those who have received the first DVD please come by and pick up your second helping of the best traditional knowledge north of sixty. Also, bring in your first DVD to have it labelled and dressed up. See you soon!
Jack Goulet

OUR DENE KNOWLEDGE TEAM

We are now halfway through our three year Dene Knowledge Research program. We have accomplished many things thanks to the hard work of our Déline team. **Jane Modeste Goulet** has been our research coordinator, thanks to a partnership with the Self-Government office. **Michael Neyelle** is our lead researcher, and keeps the Déline First Nation Council informed about our projects. **Jack Goulet** is the office manager, and lead archivist and trainer. We are also very lucky to have a new trainee,

Doris Taneton. Doris is a big help with all our projects. She now has experience in archiving, reports, organizing meetings, and making presentations. We also get plenty of help from our resource people at University of Toronto and University of Manitoba.

Our team will be responsible for several new and ongoing projects in the new year. We love to talk about these projects with people — please call us at 589-3066 drop by the Basic Awareness office any time! *Deborah Simmons*

CAREERS IN DENE KNOWLEDGE

On October 31, 2007, there was a Career Week for high school students. We had the students to come to our office, where we can show them our work stations.

We made a questionnaire about Dene language and culture for each student to fill out. I was very impressed when I saw that students were interested in our project.

At my work station, I showed

students how to type in Dene fonts on the computer.

From my experience, I think our project will help a lot of people here in our



community. I love learning about my language and culture. And I think the youth from Déline will also like to learn more about our ancestors and historical places.

If we had more funding to keep on going with our project, I would love to see more activities that involve the youth to learn more about our Dene history.
Doris Taneton

DENE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CARIBOU

This young boy turned himself into a caribou in order to help his people who were starving. . . .

I am the man for the caribou around this District. I have been working on the caribou traditional knowledge project since January 2007. This was when we held a three day Focus Group meeting here in Déline.

With the help of Dr Debby Simmons, Dr Micheline Manseau and Dr Keren Rice , we are evaluating my 140 page transcript from that meeting. The idea is to analyze the

different kinds of things that people told us about caribou. For example: old time stories about caribou, like the story where this young boy turned himself into a caribou in order to help his people who were starving.

Then there are also some ways that the elders use our Dene language to talk about caribou and we are going to try and identify those Dene terms and sayings, so that the

school can use them to teach students.

Finally, the main purpose of the Caribou project is to assist the community in decisions about how to manage or work with caribou in the future

I am also working on the ʔedaɣla Protected Areas project along with my Team.

Mahsi! *Michael Neyelle*

PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN THE NEW YEAR

The new year is going to be very busy for the Déline Knowledge Project Team. Although the **Déline First Nation** is our sponsor and the **Self-Government** office is our main partner, we have been asked to partner with the **Déline Land Corporation**, the **Charter Community** the **Home Care Team**, and the **Renewable Resources Council** on Dene Knowledge related projects. These partnerships are important, because

they ensure we are always doing work that benefits the community. Our ongoing activities include the George Kodakin project, the caribou traditional knowledge study, the archiving project (we will be archiving videos too!), and research guidelines. Please come by the Basic Awareness office to find out more about our projects. Give us your ideas, and find out how you can participate.

New Projects/Partnerships for 2008

- ʔedaɣla Protected Areas (DRRC)
- Déline Heritage Places (DLC).
- Déline Language Strategy (DFN)
- Community Radio/Polar Radio (Charter Community)
- Weekly Elders Tea (Home Care)