



Mural of camas flowers at T'Sou-ke First Nation. Photo by Brianna Poirier.

## A SHARED Future Bi Monthly Update

Hello A SHARED Future affiliates and friends! We hope you are enjoying the shifting seasons in your corners of the world. If you have any big news, conference or funding announcements you'd like to see in the newsletter next month, send them to Emily Beacock at [emily.beacock@dal.ca](mailto:emily.beacock@dal.ca).

If you are interested in getting involved in any A SHARED Future activity or project, please contact Marc Calabretta at [marc.calabretta@queensu.ca](mailto:marc.calabretta@queensu.ca). We are always looking for extra hands on deck!



ASF Co-Directors Dee Lewis and Heather Castleden social visit in August, 2019

### Highlights

#### ASF Connect: Melody Wise

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 Melody Wise, Project Assistant on the Indigenous Women in Renewable Energy project about the work she has been doing over the summer as an Undergraduate Student Research Fellow with Heather at Queen's University.

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! You can send an email to Emily at [emily.beacock@dal.ca](mailto:emily.beacock@dal.ca).

*Hi Melody! Thank you for taking the time to chat with us about yourself and the work you have been doing this summer. Can you start us off by telling us a little bit about yourself?*



Melody Wise, I-WIRE Research Assistant

Aug - Sept 2019

Issue 2019-05



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My name is Melody Wise, and I'm a settler person of mixed Chinese, Scottish and Irish ancestry. I was born and raised on unceded Coast Salish territories, growing up between Ladysmith and Victoria. I'm in my final year of undergraduate studies at Queen's, majoring in Global Development Studies. My research interests have formed around topics of energy and climate justice, political ecology and critical surveillance studies and come largely from my past experiences with social and environmental activism.

### *Can you tell us about your role on the I-WIRE Project?*

I am lucky to have been invited to work with Melissa and Heather on the I-WIRE project. My role has been to conduct an initial coding process for the team's analysis of the stories and perspectives which emerged from the gathering. I have also done some research of literature and writing for the project. Right now, I am working with Heather, Melissa on the creation of a research poster as well.

### *How has your experience been working on the I-WIRE project this summer?*

It has truly been a privilege and an honour to work on the I-WIRE project this summer. I am very lucky to receive guidance, support and wisdom from both Heather and Melissa. And I am especially grateful to have had the opportunity to listen and learn from the stories of the women from the I-WIRE Gathering. With the guidance of my supervisors I hope that I have and will continue to honour this role and its responsibilities.



*Melissa, Heather, and Melody working on data analysis for the I-WIRE project*

### *What have you been up to recently?*

These days, I am mostly working on the creation of a research poster to display

what has been said so far by the women. Jon Aarssen, a master student in the HEC Lab is helping too. He is using Photoshop to go through video footage of the Gathering and collect headshots of the women. These will be included on the final version of the poster and will be linked to key quotes from the women respectively.

### *Has working on the I-WIRE Project influenced your way of thinking?*

Working on the I-WIRE project, for me, has reinforced the important role of Indigenous women as leaders in environmental justice. I think about the ways in which media coverage of the "climate justice movement" has failed to reflect and acknowledge the important work that has and continues to be done by Indigenous women. Despite this, the power that I see emerging from I-WIRE and ASF keeps my hope in the possibility of wider change.

I've also found that throughout my work on the I-WIRE project, I have been challenged as a settler scholar to ask; How do I invert unequal relations of power in my research, and position myself in allyship with decolonized futures? In this way, I have seen a profound shift in the way I think about research. For me, any discussion of research must foreground an understanding of my own structural and institutionalized power as an individual, and where I may give this up to amplify the voice and power of others.

### *Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us, Melody. What's next for you?*

I don't know. I'm mostly just relieved to be graduating and hopefully seeing my family soon.

*I am sure many of our readers relate to you there. Best of luck in your final year of undergrad and thank you for your time and dedication to the I-WIRE Project!*

## **Project Updates**

Here is what Project Leads have to say this month:

### **Urban Indigenous Leadership on Climate Action and Reconciliation**

**Co-Researchers:** Renee Abram, Paul Nadjiwan, Diana (Dee) Lewis, and Jeff Masuda

**Project Assistant:** Diane Giroux, Carlos Sánchez, and Anna Anbalagan

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

**Current Status:** Project proposal under development

**Update:** Since our last update, we consolidated our Research Team and Advisory Committee with members that can contribute to the existing priorities of M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre on housing, facility renovations, and climate action. Joining the research team are: Diane, Giiwe Project Coordinator (Giiwe is an intersectoral table focused on Indigenous homelessness reduction led by M'Wikwedong); Diana Lewis, ASF Co-Director; and Anna, a 4th year student in environmental sciences and gender studies.

Our Advisory Committee members are Theresa, Indigenous Director at M'Wikwedong; Karen Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ Mentor at M'Wikwedong; Susan, Chair of the Giche Namewikwedong Reconciliation Committee; Hillary, Director at the Board of Maam Wiim Win Native Homes Corporation; Ron, Former Housing Director at Saugeen First Nation; Shane, Housing Manager at Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation; Nick, Advisor at Makhos Inc; Shari, General Manager at Owen Sound Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation; Anne Marie, Director of Housing at the County of Grey; and Victoria Serda, Board Member at the Climate Reality Project Canada.

Our Research Team and Advisory Committee came together in person for the first time on September 26th for an Inaugural Ceremony and sharing circle at M'Wikwedong in Owen Sound, ON. At the ceremony, we asked for permission and guidance to conduct this research. Paul bonded attendees at a spiritual level through a pipe ceremony and food offerings. Our sharing circle helped us identify opportunities to adapt our preliminary research design according to the strengths of both on and off reserve Indigenous communities living within the traditional territory of Saugeen Ojibway Nation. The next step for the research team is to modify the research proposal

according to the input received and submit it to the ASF's Programmatic Steering Committee.

## Indigenous Women in Renewable Energy (I-WIRE)

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

**Project Assistant:** Melody Wise

**Advisory Committee:** Barbara Dumont-Hill, Tanna Pirie-Wilson, Eryn Stewart, and Open

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned

**Update:** These past months have been busy for the I-WIRE team, but we are happy to have now completed both the initial and second rounds of interview analysis. Throughout this process, Melissa, Heather and Melody have worked closely to discuss the major themes that have emerged from the stories and experiences shared at the initial I-WIRE Gathering. These discussions continue to occur as we begin our writing on this project.

Also underway is the creation of a research poster for what has been found so far. With the goal of foregrounding the voices of the women, the style of the poster will emphasize imagery of the women, and their key quotes from the gathering. Copies of this poster will be sent to the women from the gathering. Additionally, this poster will be available for viewing at Queen's University and presented at the 9th annual Undergraduate Summer Student Research next month.

The I-WIRE documentary film is still in development. Film producer Cathy Martin (Mi'kmaq) is sending us a first look soon and it is our hope that we can screen the film with the participants in October and hold a premier screening later that month in Ottawa.

## 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:** The Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) Project hired Project Coordinator Carolyn Barber in September

to assist Project Co-Lead Mary Beth Doucette carry out Phase 1 of CEPI Research. Carolyn has a background in academia and journalism.

She received her BA from Queen's University ('94) and her Master in Environmental Studies at York University ('05). While living in the United States (2006-15) she taught undergraduate courses in the Human Ecology Department at Rutgers University and the School for Sustainability and the Environment at Chatham University. She returned to Canada with her family in 2015 where she laid down roots in Unama'ki/Cape Breton and took up the craft of rural community news reporting.



*Welcome to the team Carolyn!*

In the coming weeks, past and present CEPI members will be invited to share their understanding of Etuaptmunk (Two-Eyed Seeing) in one-on-one interviews. Participants will reconnect in the New Year for sharing circle focus groups to reflect on themes that emerge during the qualitative data analysis. Phase 1 of the project aims to understand how Two-Eyed Seeing can be strengthened and implemented within the CEPI forum as it considers pathways toward sustainable economic development of the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed.

## 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 *We Lived This Way Before* team had a fun-filled meeting in August, with Serena Mendizabal, Research Assistant, leading the team in Sustainable Energy Education Outreach Programming Workshop. With a few items purchased from the local craft store (small propellers, motors, solar panels), Serena had us making solar ovens out of pizza boxes, DIY Wind Turbines out of paper cups and popsicle sticks, and solar powered boats out of water bottles. This workshop kicked off team planning for educational activities that will engage the children in the community to learn more about sustainability and renewable energy.



*Serena demonstrating how to do renewable energy activities for children. (In front, counterclockwise) Asha Bear, Rosha Sappier, Jennifer Sappier, Serena Mendizabal, Deana Sappier, Laura Turnbull.*



*Back Row L-R: Laura Turnbull, Jennifer Sappier, Tanna Pirie-Wilson, Deana Sappier, Asha Bear, Serena Mendizabal. Front Row: Diana (Dee) Lewis, Rosha Sappier.*

The team has lots planned over the fall and winter—so stay tuned! Meanwhile, Chad Walker has continued his work with the *We Lived This Way Before* project, including a policy analysis around energy sovereignty

in New Brunswick as well as interviews with Tobique First Nation, Woodstock First Nation, and government representatives. These conversations are exploring how First Nations and pathways for reconciliation may fit within the regulatory environment around renewable energy in Atlantic Canada and beyond.

## Towards Energy Security in NunatuKavut

**Co-Leads:** Debbie Martin & Amy Hudson

**Project Assistant:** Emily Beacock

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned

**Update:** After a busy summer, Connor Cepella and Victoria Sandre, graduate student research assistants, finished up their internships in August. Victoria is staying on this fall and working with Nick Mercer (University of Waterloo) to secure funding for a community firewood service pilot project in NunatuKavut to begin in the spring of 2020. They are applying to a few promising funding opportunities, including the Indigenous Forestry Initiative with Natural Resources Canada and the Climate Change Challenge Fund with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

A committee has been struck to oversee this process and includes representation from Dalhousie, A SHARED Future, the NunatuKavut Community Council, and the Conservation Corps of Newfoundland and Labrador. The committee is providing support and input throughout the application process. Connor, Victoria and Debbie are awaiting ethical approval for the research project with NunatuKavut youth. Finally, Emily is having a great time in London, Ontario as she starts her PhD at Western University with Dee Lewis!

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

**Project Lead:** Jeff Masuda

**Project Assistant:** Magnus Nowell

**Advisory Committee:** Programmatic Steering Committee

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned

**Update:** Analysis of the interviews conducted with Programmatic Steering Committee members to date have been completed. The interviews demonstrate both the commitment of ASF to explore gendered dimensions of their research through culturally relevant gender-based analysis, and also some of the institutional, methodological, and practical challenges of implementing this framework. On August 26th, Jeff shared a brief summary of initial findings from these interviews with the PSC. A full report detailing emerging results is underway and will be completed in time for the December PSC meeting, at which point we hope to discuss next steps in supporting ASF's commitment to considering gendered dimensions within research.

## 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, and Siobhan Slade

**Current Status:** Proceeding as planned

**Update:** August and September have been comparatively quiet (at least travel-wise!) for the critical program analysis of NRCan's Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative (IODI). A final few interviews were conducted with IODI awardees and NRCan staff as the first phase of data collection wraps up.

We are holding an Advisory Committee meeting in early October during which we will move forward with preliminary analyses of the data collected so far. We are also aiming to present and discuss preliminary findings on October 31 where we have plans to hold workshops – one with IODI awardees and one with the government agencies and not-for-profits responsible for delivering the IODI immediately after the Indigenous Clean Energy Network's Annual Gathering in Ottawa, Oct 29-30, 2019.

Next steps for the research/engagement plan will also be discussed with IODI awardees at the planned workshops. In the meantime, the team is pleased to

introduce a new member of our Advisory Committee, Siobhan Slade (NunatuKavummiuk).

Siobhan is NunkatuKavummiuk from St. Lewis (Fox Harbour), NunatuKavut territory in Labrador. She is a single mother to a beautiful little boy. Though by trade she is a heavy-duty equipment technician, she is presently working with the NunatuKavut Community Council in collaboration with Nunacor as the NATURE (NunatuKavut Action Team in Understanding Renewable Energy) Youth Council Coordinator. She has worked with researchers from Dalhousie and the University of Waterloo to develop renewable energy plans for three off-grid communities on the coast of Labrador and currently working on plans for six more off-grid communities, along with a food sustainability project for her home community. Welcome, Siobhan—we are honoured to have you on our Advisory Committee!



*Siobhan Slade, NRCan Project Advisory Committee Member*

## 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:** In August, Brianna and Hannah met with Chief Gordon Planes and Andrew Moore to talk about the research project and future plans for the larger greenhouses. They also spent time at the

Ladybug Garden and Greenhouse where Brianna has been volunteering all summer.

Brianna also completed her portion of the data collection at the end of August before travelling back to Ontario to write up and defend her thesis this fall. We are planning another visit to the community in late October to share some of her initial results.



Some of the larger greenhouses Brianna has been visiting at T'Sou-ke this summer.

In other big news, we would like to congratulate Hannah on starting a new position this fall as Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo!

## Research Associate Updates

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

**Lead:** Sara Rotz, Postdoctoral Fellow (Supervisor: Heather Castleden)

**Advisory Committee:** Simon Brascoupe and Cheryl Bartlett

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned.

**Update:** Sarah started a new position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Science at York University in July. Throughout this big change, she is continuing to work on data analysis for this project and is excited to present her preliminary findings at the December PSC Meeting.

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## Upcoming Opportunities:

### Conferences:

- ✚ [National Gathering of Graduate Students \(NGGS\)](#)  
The National Gathering of Graduate Students will take place May 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the University of Western Ontario. The Gathering is open to Indigenous graduate students undertaking Indigenous health and well-being research. Learn more about NGGS and apply [here](#).
- ✚ [Native American and Indigenous Studies Association \(NAISA\)](#)  
The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) will take place May 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Toronto/Tkaronto, Ontario, Canada. The deadline for proposal submissions is November 1, 2019, 11:59 pm EST. [Click here](#) for more info.

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## In the News:

- ✚ Simon Brascoupe, International Advisory Committee Chair, has shared a paper with us: Weatherdon, M. (2017). Indigenous Knowledge and Contested Spirituality in Canadian Nuclear Waste Management, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*, 11(1): 86-108. [You can view the abstract for the paper here.](#)
- ✚ With the federal election coming fast, the news is filled with promises about climate change and clean energy. Here are some resources to track the promises across political parties:
  - [Maclean's 2019 Election Primer: Energy & the Environment](#)
  - [The Narwhal explains: Canada's major parties on all things environment](#)
  - [The Energy Mix: Canada's Climate Change Election 2019](#)
- ✚ Working in the intersection of energy, environment, and community we also need to critically evaluate our own environmental footprint. [This article](#) from The Conversation questions the massive environmental impacts of academic travel, and what to do about it.
- ✚ Ryan Calder (Duke University) wrote a piece about the risks posed by the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project—specifically, that the risks associated with the project are being ignored. [You can read the full article here.](#)
- ✚ A mid-campaign analysis of the Canadian election is revealing that leaders are less focused on discussions of Indigenous justice and reconciliation. [You can read more about the findings here.](#)