

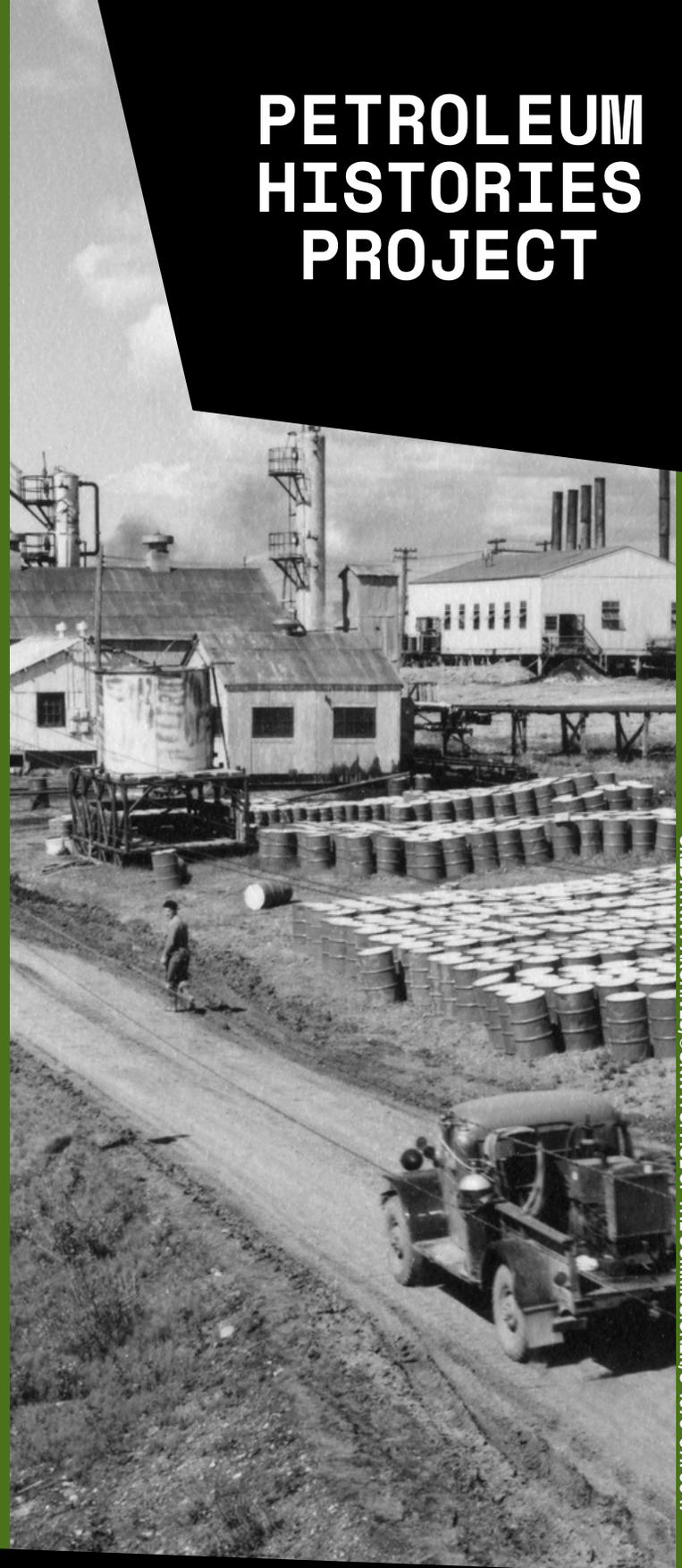
BACKGROUND

ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB) and the Norman Wells, Tulít'a, and Fort Good Hope ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Renewable Resources Councils), with input from the Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı̨ı - Living on the Land Forum, initiated the Petroleum Histories Project in 2021 in response to questions and concerns from community members about the history of oil extraction at Norman Wells and its impacts on land, water, animals, people, and Dene and Métis ts'ı̨ı (way of life). The project scope has expanded to include the impacts of climate change on remote sumps across the Sahtú.

DESCRIPTION

Stories and knowledge about the history and impacts of petroleum extraction gathered through oral histories, fieldwork, archival research, study circles, and in-person gatherings are being and will be shared with Sahtú communities and the wider public through written publications, online story maps, audiovisual materials, and artwork. A guidance document for managing the impacts of climate change on remote sumps is also in development. In addition to expanding local understandings of the history and impacts of oil and gas in the region, the knowledge generated through this project is supporting ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (planning for the future) in the five Sahtú communities, as well as participation in regulatory processes for existing and future oil and gas operations.

PETROLEUM HISTORIES PROJECT



CREDIT: NWT ARCHIVES/©GNWT, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER/G-1979-011: 0047

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Petroleum Histories Project is: to document the history and impacts of the oil and gas industry at Norman Wells and across the Sahtú, and to strengthen present and future Indigenous roles in decision-making, stewardship, and monitoring.



CREDIT: NWT ARCHIVES/©CANADA. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/G-1979-001: 0228

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Record oral histories with a focus on Indigenous knowledges about the history and cumulative impacts of oil and gas development in the Sahtú region on land, water, animals, people, and Dene and Métis ts'įł.
2. Compile an archive of sources about the history and impacts of petroleum extraction at Norman Wells and across the Sahtú.
3. Facilitate dialogue between Dene and Métis Elders and knowledge holders, Ne K'édíke (Keepers of the Land - Indigenous guardians), youth, and collaborators about the history and impacts of petroleum extraction at Norman Wells and across the Sahtú.
4. "Ground truth" sites of concern identified through oral histories and study circles through boots on the ground observation and monitoring by Ne K'édíke using Indigenous and western science methods.
5. Share Sahtú Dene and Métis stories about the history and impacts of oil and gas at Norman Wells and across the Sahtú using different media as directed by community members.
6. Produce a community-informed and archival-based history of petroleum extraction at Norman Wells to be used as documentation for regulating existing and new resource development projects, and regional decision-making related to conservation of homeland, wildlife, and way of life.
7. Train Sahtú Dene and Métis in different fieldwork and archival methodologies, as well as audiovisual tools so they can document and share their stories about the history and ongoing impacts of oil and gas development in the Sahtú region.

You can find more information about this project at:
www.srrb.nt.ca

Máhsı to our partners, collaborators, and funders:

