

Interim Project Progress Report - October 2019/March 2020



Recipient Investigator: Leon Andrew

Project: Nío Nę P'ęne' - Trails of the Mountain Caribou: Renewing Indigenous Relationships in Conservation (April 1, 2019- March 31, 2022)

1. Progress against year 1 project deliverables

Background

This Mode 3 Indigenous-driven research in the shared Nío Nę P'ęne' (backbone of the Mackenzie Mountains) area straddling the NWT-Yukon border is an outgrowth of a community conservation planning partnership led by the Tulít'a and Norman Wells ᑕᓄᓂᓂᓂ ᑕᓄᓂᓂᓂ ᑕᓄᓂᓂᓂ (Renewable Resources Councils), and the Tu Łidlini (Ross River) Dena Council. The research asks the question, "What is the role of Indigenous people in maintaining the health of caribou and people in times of change?" The three year program addresses three key themes: 1) Ways of Being; 2) Ways of Doing; 3) Biocultural Integrity.

Program Sponsors

The Nío Nę P'ęne' program is sponsored by the following contributors:

- ᑕᓄᓂᓂᓂ ᑕᓄᓂᓂᓂ ᑕᓄᓂᓂᓂ (Sahú Renewable Resources Board)
- Canadian Mountain Network (CMN)
- Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program – Indigenous Services Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Global Water Futures

- Lawson Foundation – Youth and the Environment Fund
- Nature United
- Sahtú Dene Council (with funding from CanNor)
- Tides Canada – Full Circle Foundation

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The past eight months have been extremely productive in setting the stage for the Nío Nę P'ęne' research program.

Year 1

Research Deliverables

- **Development and delivery of funding proposals:** CanNor, Tides Canada, Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program (CCHAP), Lawson Foundation, Nature United, ECCC, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board.
 - **Consolidated partnerships and collaborations:**
 - Working Group teleconferences on June 6, October 9 and 15, 2019.
 - Joint Leadership meeting, Tułidlini (Ross River), June 12-16, 2019.
 - Canadian Mountain Network advisory group meeting, Edmonton, May 15-16, 2019 (Jennie Vandermeer & Alexa Scully attended)
 - Tulit'a ʔehdzo Got'Inę meeting, October 29, 2019.
 - Community Conservation Planning Workshop, Tulit'a, October 30-November 1 2019, including Nío Nę P'ęne' component.
 - Planned Nío Nę P'ęne' research plan meeting, March 10-12, 2020, Tulit'a, NT with Tulit'a and Norman Wells community members and leadership, SRRB, and Micheline Manseau, Blair Kennedy, and Tracey Williams (Nature United).
 - **Research ethics approval**
 - Received research ethics approval (Aurora College Research Ethics Board).
 - Applied for research permit from Tułidlini (Ross River) Dena Council.
 - Distributed letter about research to leaders of participating communities
 - **Literature and Governance Review, Indigenous Governance Overview and Biocultural knowledge consolidation**
 - Preliminary inventory prepared as part of Challenge Fund proposal for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area establishment process.
 - Outfitter knowledge report contributed as part of information compiled for NWT Species At Risk status report.
 - Caribou populations and vegetation research scoping at September 2019 Pæt'ánejo camp.
 - **Pilot On the Land program implemented at Caribou Flats.**
 - Pilot Nę K'édíKe and Mountain Research program in conjunction with
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fall Tulít'a caribou harvest at Pətt'ánejo (Caribou Flats), September 12-24 2019.

- Collaborative development of ethical protocol
- Capacity assessment and preliminary training for community research collaborators (HQP).
- Piloting field research activities to further refine research design.
- Recruited graduate student Kimberleigh Schultz for mixed economy project

HQP Deliverables

- **Partnerships** formalized and expanded to Sahtú Dene Council
 - Coordinated and consulted on hiring of Indigenous Guardianship Coordinator, Danny Yakeleya as of January 2020
- **HQP Training and experience**
 - Community Conservation Planner, Kirsten Jensen – Facilitating Healthy Country Planning workshops and Public Listenings Preparation workshops – working with community members and RRCs
 - On the Land Program Manager & Nio Ne Pene Coordinator Alexa Scully – coordinating bush camps including Caribou Flats, attending CMN meetings, coordinating Research and Monitoring Workshops and Meetings, development of Guardians programs and curriculum
 - Research Intern Jessie Yakeleya – conducting research interviews, supporting programs and workshops
 - Nío Ne P'əné Intern Kyanna Dolphus-Lennie facilitation and digital storytelling training workshops, Public Listenings, Coordinated Sahtu Youth Network initial gathering
- **Recruitment** for Indigenous economies research
 - Kimberleigh Schultz, PhD student, McMaster University – mixed Indigenous local economies and governance and development models

Knowledge Exchange and Mobilization Deliverables

- **Paper** incorporating Nío Ne P'əné knowledge as part of Indigenous Discussion Document and Calls to Action (from North American Caribou Workshop 2018): to be submitted to *Ecology and Society*.
 - **Presentation** of ALCES atlas for Sahtú Research Results Workshop, Tulít'a, December 10-12, 2019 be included in Sahtú Research Results Workshop report; workshop convened by Ne K'ə Dene Ts'ı ı - Living on the Land Forum, to include approximately 50 community members from five Sahtú communities and researchers.
 - **Submission and presentation** to the Colville 2020 Public Listening (Hearing) Session for the public record on Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting, January 21-23, 2020.
 - Leon Andrew, PI **presentation** to CMN in Ottawa, Feb. 5th, 2020
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- Annual activity report to partner



2. Deviations from the original research plan

Please note in bullet form any significant deviations and provide the justification for each.

Planned Task	Deviation	Justification
Partner/Working Group engagement	More engagement required than expected to achieve consensus on the path forward for the research.	Strong engagement will lead to enhanced participation and community ownership of the research.
Complete complementary funding proposals.	This was more time consuming than expected.	The additional time spent developing funding proposals will benefit the research in expanding the level of community participation, partnership support, and on the land activities.
Complete research license and ethics applications.	Did not complete Yukon ethics application or research license applications.	Research team decided to defer until after pilot program at Caribou Flats (September).
State of biocultural knowledge document.	This is a work in progress, including ALCES atlas, preliminary scan for IPCA proposal, scoping with Working Group and Caribou Flats camp participants, and compilation of bibliography and digital library. Likely will not be complete until Year 2.	Less available time required to compile materials due to
Detailed plan for Indigenous land protection.	Plan developed through IPCA proposalling process, but further research and planning needed. A graduate student may be identified to undertake an additional research component	In engaging with community leadership organisations about the proposal, we learned that we need to expand this initiative to include economic development research related to community aspirations for a mixed economy (including mine development, for example).
Preliminary traditional	Knowledge and gaps included in NWT Species at Risk status report on Northern Mountain Caribou.	Traditional knowledge research will be initiated once Yukon ethics approval

Planned Task	Deviation	Justification
knowledge of caribou ecology.	Traditional knowledge research scoping sessions with ALCES atlas review and Caribou Flats camp, but not actual research.	and Yukon/NWT research licenses received.
Knowledge dissemination	More knowledge dissemination than originally planned.	Research team members have taken opportunities to contribute to knowledge dissemination as they arise.
Knowledge mobilization	Less than planned	Need to refine and bring project back for more community-led design and direction.

3. Budget

Please complete the CMN Interim Progress Report – Statement of Accounts – October 2019 below. If you anticipate >25% carryover from FY2019 to FY2020 (1 April 2020 - March 31 2021), please provide justification in section 4 below and see the CMN Approved Corporate Policy - Research Project Funding Carry Over and Budget Reallocation for further details (attached to the email with this document).

Research Expenditures (estimate to nearest hundred dollar)	A. Budgeted 1 Apr 2019-31 Mar 2020	B. Actuals to 31 Oct 2019	C. Budgeted to 31 Mar 2020	D. Carryover to 2020/2021
1) Salaries to trainees (including benefits)			-	
a) Undergraduates			-	
b) Masters			-	
c) Doctorate	5,000		-	5,000
d) Post-Doctoral			-	
e) Indigenous Youth	5,000		5,000	
f) Others (specific, if known): <i>Program Coordinator</i>	5,000		5,000	
			-	
2) Professional and technical services/contracts/stipends (total amount)			-	
			-	
a) Estimate of amount for honorariums and costs for Indigenous knowledge holders and Elders included in item 2) above	21,500	6,500	10,000	5,000
3) Equipment (incl. rental or purchase of powered vehicles)			-	
4) Materials, supplies and other expenditures	15,000		0	15,000
5) Travel	40,000	22,000	10,000	8,000
			-	
6) Management, Networking & KTEM (a+b+c+d)			-	
			-	
a) Communication activities			-	
b) Workshops	20,000			20,000
c) Knowledge mobilization	10,000		-	10,000
d) Other (explain): Administration fee @ 10%	13,500		6,500	7,000
TOTALS	135,000	28,500	65,000	70,000

4. Carry Over Request

If the difference between Column A and Column B+C in Section 3 above is greater than \$33,750, please complete this section if you wish to carry over funds to FY2020. In this section please describe how the updates provided in Section 1 and Section 2 resulted in lower-than-anticipated expenditure of funds. Any funds not carried over must be returned to the Canadian Mountain Network.

Although we were very busy with Nio Nę P'ęñę program activities during April-October 2019, we were fortunate to be able to count on funds from other sources to cover the majority of program costs. Moreover, we are planning to defer on the land research activities to summer 2020, so there will be more time to plan and prepare. In particular, we need to direct more attention to workshops and communication, so that our activities are community-directed and -led.

In 2020, we are looking forward to community-directed research and knowledge mobilization activities. We are planning a second camp in the mountains: This will have both Shutaot'ine knowledge transmission and data collection components, all of which will centre bush and research skill development with an intergenerational group of community members. Activities will include:

- Shutaot'ine place knowledge and naming with Leon Andrew and Frederick Andrew Jr.
- Ongoing language focus with Leon and Frederick Andrew Jr. and Ethel Blondin Andrew
- Excursions into the mountains from a central camp to develop bush awareness and resilience, led by mountain knowledge holders (we are hoping for William Horrassi, famed guide and Shutaot'ine knowledge holder)
- Caribou genetics research with Dr. Micheline Manseau
- GIS Ground Truthing with Dr. Blair Kennedy
- Socio-economic analysis of Dene and Métis economies and development models with Métis PhD student Kimberley Schultz

Communication with the community will be ongoing and diverse: We look forward to developing audio and visual media methods of sharing knowledge and progress with the Tuli't'a district communities regarding the work in the mountains. Knowledge transmission activities will include:

- Development of a website to collate and share Dene knowledge, GIS data, maps, and images/stories
- Regular meetings of various scales to update community
- Youth podcast/storytelling via radio and internet

5. Other updates or highlights to share

Please complete in bullet form. Content could relate to research, knowledge mobilization activities (including any publications, conferences attended or media coverage such as articles

or interviews), training activities, new partnerships or collaborations, anecdotes to share in CMN newsletter, or supportive quotes from project knowledge end users. This content is very important for the Administrative Centre to demonstrate the impact of the Network's research and build broader support and funding for mountain research in Canada.

- Revitalization of the Sahtu Youth Network, who were centered and given their own space to learn, connect and present in our bush camps, and in our Research Results workshops. This greatly energized the program, and is a central focus going forward for NioNęP'ęné, in synergy with the NęK'édíKe programs.
- This research was promoted and centered in the Public Listenings event held by the SRRB in support of wise governance and relations with Caribou – the first of a series
- Looking forward to the potential for this research to support the NęK'édíKe programs in Tuli't'a district and the potential for an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area connected to NioNęP'ęné territories
- The Tuli't'a district community members are passionate about Land-based knowledge and relationships to protect the caribou and the water for the future

6. Contact information for Principal Investigator, Investigators, Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) and Collaborators

Please fill out the table below and add more rows if needed. Please also ensure that all HQP have signed Annex A the Network Agreement (attached to the email with this document).

Role	Full Name	Organization	Email
PI	Leon Andrew	SRRB	lamountaindene@theedge.ca
Co-Investigator	Deborah Simmons	SRRB	director@srrb.nt.ca
Investigator	Micheline Manseau	ECCC	micheline.manseau@canada.ca
Investigator	Gordon Yakeleya	Tuli't'a RRC	yakeleyagordon@gmail.com
Investigator	Rhea McDonald	Norman Wells RRC	sahtuapple@hotmail.com
Investigator	Norm Sterriah	Ross River Dena Lands Dept	sterriah@northwestel.net
HQP/Coordinator	Lex Scully	SRRB	otl@srrb.nt.ca
HQP	Kirsten Jensen	SRRB	planner@srrb.nt.ca
HQP	Kimberleigh Schultz	McMaster U	schultzk@mcmaster.ca
HQP	Jessie Yakeleya	SRRB	srrb.jessie.yakeleya@gmail.com
HQP	Kyanna Lennie Dolphus	SRRB	srrb.kyanna.lee@gmail.com

7. Year 2 deliverables (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

As previously provided for this fiscal year, please list the detailed deliverable for year 2. Please be as explicit and detailed as possible to support RMC approval of year 2 funds and/or any carryover request in section 4. We require: (1) a clear workplan including milestones for core activities; (2) HQP recruitment targets and training plans; and (3) plans for partner meetings, conference presentations, workshops, or other knowledge exchange and mobilization activities.

- **Research Deliverables**

- State of biocultural knowledge document
 - Overview of Shutaot'ine knowledge records and scientific data reports pertaining to the Nío Nę P'ęne' area, including mining interests, watersheds, traditional trails, significant moose and caribou sites
- Round 1 traditional knowledge study results
 - Pathways, place names, significant sites in the area
- Caribou sampling and remote sensing ground truthing
 - Dr. Micheline Manseau will continue to conduct her caribou sampling in the region
 - Dr. Blair Kennedy will pursue a rigorous program of ground truthing to produce more accurate remote sensing maps of the area
- Round 1 Indigenous environmental governance study results
 - With support from the Indigenous Leadership Initiative and the International Boreal Conservation Collective, and Nature United, an overview of the governance structures and mapping of the region will be conducted in support of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- Round 1 Mixed economy study results
 - Kimberley Schultz, Métis PhD student, will be investigating traditional and development economies and governance

- **HQP Deliverables**

- HQP training plan complete, including:
 - Basic On the Land safety certificates, including PAL, chainsaw, camp safety, bush carpentry, Wilderness First Aid
 - On the Land survival, research and monitoring – Dr. Kennedy and Dr. Manseau will be training Nę K'édí Ke in sampling and imaging, and we will be continuing our water sampling and monitoring training
 - Indigenous environmental governance – Dene and Métis ways of being, hunting and safety on the Land will be centered in every activity

- **Knowledge Exchange and Mobilization Deliverables**

- Ongoing community meetings of various scales (leadership, wider community), to ensure that work is community-led and that the knowledge gathered is accessible to community
- Presentations: North American Caribou Workshop, Sahtú Research Results Workshop, CMN Annual Meeting.
- Ongoing youth-led community reporting, including via radio, podcasting and video
- Development of a website to collect and share knowledge
- Written submissions and presentations for the public record, Public Listening Sessions 2) Knowledge about Caribou, Habitat, Change; 3) Predators.
- Contribution to peer reviewed journal publications:
 - Dene Kədə to Dene Ts'ıı (Dene language and ways of life) Knowledge Synthesis for the Sahtú Region.
 - Gender and Environmental Governance, comparative study with Nunatsiavut.

8. Year 2 budget (adjusted for the 10% decrease in funding)

PIs previously confirmed the overall 10% budget cut in light of the 27% cut to the NCE grant. We now need you to revise your Year 2 budget accordingly, as CMN is not able to determine for you where best to apply that cut. Provided you meet your previous commitments to HQP training and knowledge mobilization activities, you may move funds between budget categories as you see fit. The one exception is any additional transfers to the Equipment category, which require approval of the co-Research Director & President if up to 25% of the annual grant total, and approval of the RMC if above 25% of the annual grant total. Finally, please ensure that you budget to send one investigator and one HQP to the Network's annual meeting.

Research Expenditures (estimate to nearest hundred dollars)	FY 2020-21 01 Apr - 31 Mar A	Carryover B
1) Salaries to trainees (including benefits)		
a) Undergraduates	-	
b) Masters	-	
c) Doctorate	5,000	5,000
d) Post-Doctoral	-	
e) Indigenous Youth	9,000	
f) Others (specific, if known): Program Coordinator	8,000	
2) Professional and technical services/contracts/stipends (total amount)	0	
a) Estimate of amount for honorariums and costs for Indigenous knowledge holders and Elders included in item 2) above	25,000	5,000
3) Equipment (incl. rental or purchase of powered vehicles)	10,000	
4) Materials, supplies and other expenditures	5,000	15,000
5) Travel	25,000	8,000
6) Management, Networking & KTEM (a+b+c+d)	0	
a) Communication activities	4,500	
b) Workshops	20,000	20,000
c) Knowledge mobilization	10,000	10,000
d) Other (explain): Administration fees @ 10%	13,500	7,000
TOTAL MUST EQUAL BOARD-APPROVED AMOUNT	135,000	70,000
TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST FROM CMN NCE FUNDS		205,000

Expenditures Detail

1. Salaries

1.c) **Doctorate** (\$10,000) We are looking forward to supporting the work of PhD student Kimberleigh Schultz. Her area of interest is investigating Indigenous economies and Land in areas where governance, development interests and community needs and concerns in harvesting, monitoring and tourism are intertwined. This funding will support her travel to Tulit'a, and her support of the project.

1.e) **Indigenous Youth** (\$9,000) Supporting youth in research and monitoring training, and in Dene language, skills and knowledge acquisition, is central to our work. Their knowledge and direction in our research design is invaluable, as they are the end users – the future of Nío Nę P'ęñę.

1. f) **Program Coordinator** salary support (\$8,000).

2) Professional and technical services/contracts/stipends

2. a) **Honorarium, Knowledge holder & Elder** pay (\$30,000) In this upcoming year, we will have a strong emphasis on community meetings, consultations and workshops. We anticipate that this will mean that pay for local knowledge and time will be significant. This knowledge is at the core of our work for Nío Nę P'ęñę.

3. Equipment (\$10,000). In our On the Land programs this year, we anticipate needing the use of jetboats, snowmachines, and ATVs. These rentals are needed for travel to the remote areas we will be conducting our programs in, and are a good contributor to local economies. Jetboat rentals are about \$750/day, ATVs \$200/day, and snowmachines \$200/day (with sled \$300). We also rent or buy generators, chainsaws, which are crucial to bush camp life.

4. Materials, supplies and other expenditures (\$20,000). For the Youth participants in the On the Land programs, we provide a small bursary for equipment purchase for them to keep – in this way they can build up what they need to continue their bush life. This budget line also provides for food and cooking equipment, First Aid equipment, gas/oil, rope, and tarps – all necessary and mostly single-use for bush camps. Also included is printing and lamination for maps and materials for bush 'classes', GPS units for specific programs, batteries, charging stations, and minutes and data for satellite phones and InReach satellite devices.

5. Travel (\$33,000). Our On the Land programs require charter flights into the mountains: For a program of 20 people, this means 4 flights at \$16,000/flight (1 flight gear and set up crew, one flight people, 2 ways). We also use travel budget to support workshop participants from Norman Wells and Tulit'a traveling between these two communities. Once the winter road is closed (next week), a return flight is \$572.86. As directed, these moneys will also be used to send one Investigator and one HQP to the Annual Meeting.

6) Management, Networking & KTEM (a+b+c+d)

6.a) **Communication Activities** (\$4,500) This year, we are looking forward to employing more diverse communication methods to get the word out to the communities. We are looking to radio, podcasting, digital storytelling and other media, and hope to get the Sahtu Youth Network involved in these activities.

6. b) **Workshops** (\$40,000). Regular community gatherings of various scales will be crucial to the program going forward. Meetings with Tulit'a district leadership and with our working group will ensure we have open lines of communication and understanding so that the program is directed by and for community.

6. c) **Knowledge Mobilization** (\$20,000). Communicating both the processes, consultations and results of this research has been identified as a very high priority by the communities. In **Communication Activities** and in **Workshops**, we will be working with community members of all ages to generate understanding and rich collaboration in our design and in our research. Knowledge mobilization activities will include publications in diverse forums (academic and non) co-written with community researchers, regular radio updates, podcast and digital storytelling in collaboration with the Sahtú Youth Network, and the development of an open-access internet platform so that the knowledge gathered is widely accessible (please note – the information on the site will be curated by community). Additionally, we will be supporting team presentations at the Public Listeners, and at Research Results workshops.