

## Deborah Simmons

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**Subject:** Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı́łı Forum - On the Land theme cluster meeting - NOTES  
**Location:** Teleconference 1866-969-8429 and code 4950573#

**Start:** Wed 2017-11-29 1:00 PM  
**End:** Wed 2017-11-29 4:00 PM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer

**Organizer:** Deborah Simmons

**Required Attendees:** alana.fletcher@canada.ca; Andrew\_Applejohn@gov.nt.ca; aspring@wlu.ca; agiles@uottawa.ca; bruce\_hanna@gov.nt.ca; clmartin@ualberta.ca; christine@planitnorth.ca; cindygilday@hotmail.com; Nihtla321@gmail.com; drrc\_manager@gov.deline.ca; director@srrb.nt.ca; faun@ualberta.ca; srrb.frederick.andrew@gmail.com; ndl\_manager@yamoga.ca; jenica.vonkuster@huskyenergy.com; jennie\_vandermeer@gov.nt.ca; rrcos@srrb.nt.ca; ron\_kochon@hotmail.com; jodiejean1016@outlook.com; caram-21@hotmail.com; info@handsonmediaeducation.com; celestinegendron@outlook.com; jdunkin@nwtrpa.org; srrb.jordan.lennie@gmail.com; elaine\_doctor@hotmail.com; uphammil@ualberta.ca; johnny\_lennie@gov.nt.ca; ultralennie21@gmail.com; j\_barichello@hotmail.com; kirsty.gurney@canada.ca; lamountaindene@theedge.ca; srrb.leon.andrew@gmail.com; lise\_dolen@gov.nt.ca; manéal@shaw.ca; chair@srrb.nt.ca; mknaggs@gmail.com; mratelle@uwaterloo.ca; hope\_1966@hotmail.com; rogerfodgaard@outlook.com; nwrrc@nwlc.ca; sahtu.rrb@gmail.com; stephanie\_behrens@gov.nt.ca; thom.stubbs@headwatergroup.ca; faye.deon-eggertson@pc.gc.ca; kcaine@ualberta.ca; rt@uoguelph.ca; sahtuapple@hotmail.com; Tonya\_Makletzoff@gov.nt.ca; Krista\_Chin@gov.nt.ca; gillian.donald@appliedecology.ca; Tracey Williams

**Optional Attendees:** David Little; Meredith Seabrook

### Participants

**Déłıne:** Dolphus Tutcho, Ed Reeves, Sjoerd van der Wielen, Walter Bezha, Michael Neyelle

**Fort Good Hope:** Norman Pierrot

**Norman Wells:** Stephanie Behrens, Bruce Hanna and Jennie Vandermeer (ENR), Lise Dolen (ECE)

**Tulít'a:** Gordon Yakeleya, Jordan Lennie, Deborah Simmons

**Dene Ts'ı́łı School Team:** Audrey Giles (University of Ottawa), Jessie Curell (Hands on Media Education), Jess Dunkin (NWT Recreation and Parks Association, and NWT On the Land Collaborative), Alana Fletcher (Sahtú Library)

### Regrets

Tisha Doctor

### Round Table

- Norm: Questioned whether it's appropriate for the K'áhsho Got'ı́ne Charter Community Council to be leading/sponsoring on the land programs. Submitted a proposal with Bella Ts'eleie for an on the land program, but it was taken over by the Charter Community Council. Norm noted that on the land programs are part of the mandate of the ʔehdzo Got'ı́ne.

- Gordon: Wants to support on the land programs, but there are challenges with liability. It would be good to have more opportunities to teach people to go out on the land.
  - Lise Dolen: This has been a big issue, especially with the Take a Kid Trapping program.
  - Deb: the SRRB is looking into this with Maciek Chudek; we hope to have a report from him soon.
  - Norm: the ʔehdzo Got'jñę has liability insurance that covers on the land programs.
  - Michael: the Déljñę ʔehdzo Got'jñę does not have liability insurance for on the land programs
- Michael: in Déljñę, all leadership organisations are involved in on the land programs; need more training.
- Walter: the challenge is to coordinate so we don't duplicate and so get into conflicts; Déljñę has been doing a lot of on the land programs over the years. We need to learn from the experiences, and make sure that the programs are actually benefitting youth. There needs to be a good record of these initiatives.
- Dolphus: From the perspective of parks, we have to set money aside for on the land programs; every year we set aside \$50,000; the different leadership organisations have been given on the land programs on a rotating basis – now under self-government, Déljñę Got'jñę Government is the lead. We want to teach the younger generations the Dene culture and Dene way of respecting the land, and very importantly, story telling.
- Lise: Education, Culture and Employment has funding available, and community initiatives tie right in. We need to get the word out there so that the communities are aware of the funding that's available. There are now 13 pots of funding – she can make initiatives fit the different funding pots. There's a very straightforward proposal template – short and sweet works. We have done some good work with ENR and ITI.
- Deb: Noted that MACA and Health and Social Services
- Bruce: Field Support Unit of ENR; Scott McQueen, Traditional Economy; and Stephanie Yuill Public Education; Wilfrid Laurier University has been sponsoring on the land educational opportunities.
- Jennie: ENR has been involved in on the land camps with SRRB in on the land programming, and funds the Forum; initiated the interagency meeting – in the process of creating a regional interdepartmental working group.
- Stephanie: Does surveys and hires monitors to come on surveys. There is also the Take a Kid Trapping program.
  - Norm expressed interest in more training for environmental monitors, and taking
- Audrey: Comes at on the land programs from a research perspective, and has participated in a lot of on the land programs, including "Project Jewell," an Inuvialuit program. She has been impressed with the number of government folks that have come up to her saying they want to fund programs but are not sure how. It would be interesting to get people together to share what they know, involving more community people; the funding was from Public Safety Canada's SARNIF (Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund). How is there a way that we can all share our experiences.
- Jess Dunkin: Next Friday is the funding deadline for 2018 grant call from NWT On the Land Collaborative; has assisted in development of anti-colonial risk management plan; and helped compile the evaluation of the fall Dene Ts'jłj School
- Jessie Curell: Her main passion is digital media, working with youth; she's helping to develop the Sahtú Youth Network website. Digital stories often involve interviewing elders, sharing their life stories, and provides an opportunity for sharing lessons learned.

## **On the Land Program Evaluation**

### *Focus on Dene Ts'jłj School*

- Jess Dunkin: evaluation of on the land programs has been a priority; there was a panel on evaluations at the NWT On the Land Summit – it was contentious in that it was being thought of as another colonial tool; what are expectations? were they met? What worked well? What needs to be improved? Jess was asked to help with the Dene Ts'jłj School evaluations – ideally evaluations should be thought about right at the beginning of planning the camp. For the Fall Dene Ts'jłj School it wasn't done in a structured way – it evolved through the process.
- Jessie Curell helped us by coming up with a list of questions, which were drawn from her experience working with the SMASH and FOXXY retreats.
- Audrey: The original funding proposal for the camp included a strong evaluation component focused on the safety theme. However, it became clear during the camp that the understanding of the scope of safety has to be rethought. Being on the land was an opportunity to reflect on drinking and drug use. It was remarkable that they said it was the first time they'd been sober for such an extended period of time – and they wanted to tell their story.

And everything they say was tied to the land. There's a lot about their relationships to the land – everybody talks about their family, mentors, coping mechanisms, language/identity, resilience.

- Jess Dunkin: Provided a synthesis of the camp evaluation, including the themes: Dene Ts'ı̨ı̨, schedule and activities; roles and responsibilities; and self and others.
- Norm: concern that people are supporting the Charter Community Council to take a lead with on the land programs.
- Gordon: talked about traditional practices of travelling to family areas.
- Deb: noted that it's good to consider the role of regional on the land programs – not to replace local initiatives, but rather to increase capacity for communities to lead such initiatives.
- Jessie will be going to a training in January related to her work with FOXXY and SMASH; suggestion that we consider training that includes learning what happens when people are detoxing.
- Gordon: The RRCs need to come together to discuss the topic of on the land programs.

#### **Action Items**

- Need a letter to regional superintendents to urge them to act quickly on setting up the interdepartmental working group in the Sahtú Region.

*Adjourned at 4 pm approximately.*