

# Gwich'in Youth and Scientists Climate Change Research and Knowledge Translation Workshop in Northern Yukon & NWT

## How is Climate Change Affecting our Health?

*Presentation by: Lance Nukon*

Climate change is affecting the food chain in the entirety. The purpose of studying climate change is to understand what is happening to our land and how it will change our future. We must learn to work and cope with our ever changing lifestyle, yet, figure out a way to preserve our natural habitat and our traditions as generations, yet to come, will learn.

*Presentation by: Murray Humpries, Troy Pretzlaw & Dorothy Cooley*

Tracking Moose, Caribou and other wildlife by means of radio-transmitters and satellites. Conclusion: The general annual pattern of the movement of Caribou and Moose across the North is recognized and applied to gauge the weather patterns and climate changes as the animals adapt to it. The Tagging of animals are done with care, without hurting the animals. Hunters use this visual aid to identify the tagged animals.

*Presentation by: Pascal Roy-Laveillee - Permafrost*

Frozen ground insulated from the cold or hot air by moss or snow. Warming climates causing permafrost to start a melting trend. As it continues to melt, it causes a change in water basins and a change in land formations.

*Air Photos Workshop January 29th*

Starting with hot air balloons. Then evolved into airplanes.

Pairing the same photos taken at different intervals from the same photography flight shows the elevation and contours of the area when compared simultaneously.

Observing the lake draining over a period from 1952 until 2007 in 4 installments shows the different drainage patterns of the lakes and streams.

*Movie presentation: "Water"*

Cancer and other sickness is an indirect result of oil sands operations and other similar industries.

Is there a way out of this catastrophe? Is there a way to get all the natural habitats back?

"The traditional way of life is ever changing and is nearly gone. Our young people must go to school and get educated to find a way to live our life and continue our tradition. The government took away a lot of our land, what once was our untouchable treasure."

## What can GCI and its Board of Directors do to combat these effects?

The following are questions and statements gathered from the conference at various presentations and discussions throughout:

"You cannot do wrong if you do things according to the creator"

"How do we find a way to manage our land and govern our people and still find a way to preserve our caribou for the future?"

"Our younger generation have to understand who we are as people of the north. We have to teach them what Culture, animals, land etc, means to us."

"The world is big to me because of the water, because it's life"

"There's more abuse than there is respect in this day and age?"

## Is there any specific task to be undertaken by the Executive Director of GCI as a result of this conference?

It is recommended by the youth present at this conference that studies are kept consistent and the climate change as we know it are continuously monitored.

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