

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT
Traditional Moose Hide Tanning Session
Wolastoq Traditional Grounds; Fredericton NB
October 12 - 20, 2019

The week of October, moose-brain tanning was held at the Wolastoq traditional grounds with our invited guest facilitator, Melaw Nakehk'o of Yellowknife NWT. She is a lead instructor on the cultural programs in her traditional homelands, and she is re-educating indigenous communities in the traditions on smoked **moose hide tanning** across the country. Although the week was varied in weather conditions---fair, warm, stormy, cold---existing facilities were adequate for the training.

Gatherings such as this training, bringing Community members---Elders, Youth, Children, Families---together, the offerings of medicines and ceremonies where, and are habitually included. The Sacred Fire was lit the first full day of the training workshop and kept burning until the last day. Fire-Keepers were volunteers, experienced in Keep Fire and Ceremonies.

Community members not participating in the workshops, upon hearing of the presence of the Sacred Fire, would come to take advantage of the ceremonies.

All in all, participants numbered about 400 from registered coming both local and distant---as far away as Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, to Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Several schools attended the session, local primary schools from St. Mary's Reserve, Kingsclear Reserve, Harold Sappier school, Under One Sky child care center as well as university students from the University of New Brunswick, Saint Thomas University, NBCC Aboriginal Arts and local high schools, Fredericton North.

Passers-by curious of the gathering would come, witness, and interact; throughout the week, this number of curious interactive passers-by numbered approximately 40 people.

Heart-warming, single Mothers and Families would attend with their Little Ones to participate; even some of the Little Ones would take turns scraping hides. The full range of activities from the beginning of working fresh hides, donated for the training, to hides ready for braining application and smoking. Resource people would attend bringing supplies and helping to facilitate tool making and various equipment, most notably, frames for racking the hides.

Local Communities supplied in-kind services, such as firewood, lighting, electricity, woodstoves, tents, Wikuoms, picnic tables, food, and materials for framing and racking hides. Some of the hot meals were also provided by Kingsclear Reserve Community Catering service.

The presence of the **moose hide tanning** workshop brought many community people together in ways not always anticipated, and this is always good social bonding.

It is important to note, there were several elder/language circles within the **moose hide tanning** camp of participants surrounding elders who shared stories in their languages and introducing words in their languages relating to the traditional practices demonstrated in the **moose hide tanning** sessions. We filmed and recorded 13 elders, mostly language speakers from 6 different indigenous languages from the Wabanaki. The editing of the films is complete and we are working on the plans for the translations for each interview.

More pics on the Facebook groups- Wapenagewsk –women of first the light



PANAEIK LUGOWA'GN

OPENING DAY FOR PREPARATIONS



WENAG'EK NUWEGATI

SETTING UP CAMP



EKJIPUTEW WASOGOTIK
BRINGING THE SACRED FIRE TO LIFE



N'TLU'GUWOGWOM

CREATING THE SMOKE HOUSE FOR SMOKING THE MOOSE HIDES



NUWEGATIG U'NIG

FOGGY MORNING BEGINNING OUR COMMUNITY IN TRAINING



N'UWEGATI
OUR VILLAGE FROM ANOTHER VIEW



EKJI'PUTE'WU

OUR HEALTHY SACRED FIRE



OUR LANGUAGES ARE DESCRIPTIVE AND INSTRUCTIVE
OUR NEXT GENERATION OF ELDERS AND EXPERTS



**LANGUAGE SHARED TO THE YOUNG IN THE EXPLANATION OF SCRAPPING
HIDES---CHILDREN ARE REALLY GOOD AT THIS!**



MINGUWAN - RAINBOW

**MORNING AFTER THE STORM; ENGIFTING US WITH THIS PROFOUND
GREETINGS**



MINGUWAN
REACHING THE ENTIRE SKY



PEMATUTIJ

LIVING AND WORKING UNDER THE BANNER OF FIRST LIGHT



NAGUSET RETURNS EKSITPUG IN THE WAKING FOR THE FINAL DAY



GA'EAG - BREAKING CAMP ON THE FINAL DAY



OUR HOMES AND RESOURCES PREPPING FOR DEPARTURE