



Tulit'a Youth Gatherings Summary

June-July 2014

Youth talking about Tulit'a

Great ideas were flowing back and forth with the small group of youth that met with Sámi researcher Dr. Rauna Kuokkanen in Tulit'a in June and July. Kristen Yakeleya told the group about the recently released United Nations report criticizing Canada for its track record on the situation of indigenous peoples. We found out that we had similar problems in Tulit'a, especially when it comes to housing, education, and communication. We started coming up with ideas change things for the better. Angela Bernarde spoke about a new Sahtú Youth Network that she's helped get going. We discussed an idea of a leadership training for youth in Sahtú communities. The youth talked about the need for follow-up after such training. The leadership training would include building self-esteem and skills needed for the next generation of leaders.



First Youth Gathering, June 24, 2014

Summary:

Tulit'a youth have taken first steps to plan an on-the-land program to build self-esteem and skills needed for the next generation of leaders.

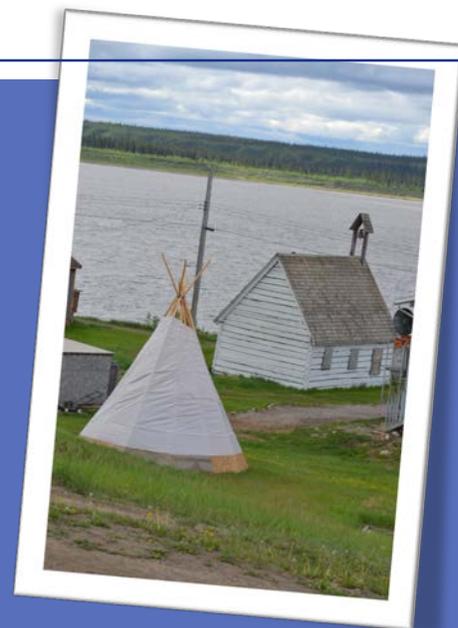
Tulit'a youth wants to take initiative in changing things for the better for themselves and their community!

See next page for more!

The second Tulít'a youth meeting was held on July 2. A group of six youth started by discussing the difficulties of schooling and finding a program that would help youth become more motivated and build up their self-esteem. The ideas included on-the-land programs, and youth activities in town. The group discussed the idea of on-the-land programs at length and wanted to do something different on the land: new teachers, new location and new activities. Most importantly, this would be an entirely youth-driven program. Dechinta Bush University was also mentioned as one option and a possible partner.

The group decided to start with small steps and work toward an on-the-land leadership training session in a year's time. A small working group of three youth (Kristen Yakeleya, Archie Erigaktuk and Angela Bernande) was established and the group decided to meet twice a week and figure out what we can do and how can we do it. First we would want to try a small project in town. We wanted to try an activity with the kids, somewhat of a test-run to learn from and work on it. The small test-run project is the first step towards our goal. This is only the beginning!

For more information about the Tulít'a youth initiative, contact Kristen Yakeleya at the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board office (588-4040), or Archie Erigaktuk of the Community Readiness Initiative (250-466-4853).



Background:

The two Tulít'a Youth Gatherings emerged out of a women's focus group held with Dr. Rauna Kuokkanen on June 12, 2014 in Tulít'a. Soon after her arrival, a group of Tulít'a women met to discuss key issues to be addressed with community members, and how the research should be done. Themes included youth leadership, creating opportunities for youth to go out on the land, and shale oil exploration and development. The main suggestion of the focus group was to arrange a meeting for Tulít'a youth to discuss issues that are important to them.



Facilitator

Dr. Rauna Kuokkanen, an indigenous Sámi woman from Northern Finland visited Tulít'a with her family in June 2014 to learn about community views on participation, decision-making, women's changing roles and self-government. Rauna is associate professor of Political Science and Aboriginal Studies at the University of Toronto where she teaches Aboriginal and indigenous politics. Rauna is interested in comparing experiences here with those of Sámi people in northern regions of Norway, Sweden and Finland, the Inuit in Greenland, and Aboriginal people elsewhere in Canada.