

trackingchange

Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance



Fishers have been tracking change in the same places, in the same ways, using the same signs & signals for many generations...

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 23-27
Youth Knowledge Fair in Edmonton,

April 15
Tell us if you are applying for partner funding...

March 2017
Project meeting in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

Tracking Change... is a new research initiative funded by the *Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada* and led by the University of Alberta, the Traditional Knowledge Steering Committee of the Mackenzie River Basin Board, the Government of the Northwest Territories and many other valued partner organizations. Over six years (2015-2022), the project will fund local and traditional knowledge research activities in the Mackenzie River basin and sister projects in the Lower Amazon and Lower Mekong River Basins, with the long-term goal of strengthening the voices of subsistence fishers and Indigenous communities in the governance of major fresh water ecosystems.

www.trackingchange.ca



University researchers and representatives from the Mackenzie River Basin Board got to know each other in the Whitehorse meeting...

Planning and building relationships in Whitehorse Project Management Committee Meeting



Tracking Change Planning Meeting in Whitehorse (November 2015)

Members of the public and a social science research methods class from Yukon College joined in public sessions to learn more about the project and the Peel River Watershed. Thanks to the Mackenzie River Basin Board, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Yukon College, ReSDA and the Alpine Bakery.



Our History and Future in the Peel River Watershed

A public presentation about the sustainability of one of the most northerly sub-basins (Peel River Watershed) was organized and slides and discussion facilitated by Yukon College student, **Dawna Hope of Nacho Nayak Dun First Nation**

"Our old people lived and survived off the land. They depended upon the animals and plants, the clean air and water. They understood that as humans we cannot own the land, but that it is our job to protect it. We have seen the impact industry is having on the lands and waters of the Territory and we are determined that this will not happen in the Peel Watershed".

Chief Simon Mervyn of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Why is this project important?

Local and traditional knowledge is critical to our understanding of many emerging issues of change in fresh water ecosystems including the effects of climate change, resource development and other stresses. In northern Canada, there have been important studies in some areas in the past, however, not all communities have the same research opportunities and influence over decision-making. The aim of the **tracking change** project is to build tools and capacity for communities to document and share local and traditional knowledge they consider important to the sustainability of the Mackenzie River Basin and other major fresh water ecosystems (Amazon, Mekong).



A second area of research is in Thailand and the Laos region of the **Lower Mekong River Basin**



in Southeast Asia. The Mekong river begins flowing in Tibet and empties into the South China Sea – a distance of almost 5000 km. The lower Mekong basin is considered to be the richest freshwater ecosystems in the world and is highly valued by local Laos communities for subsistence and commercial fishing.

The **Mackenzie River** is the largest and longest river system in Canada, and is exceeded only by the Mississippi River system in North America. The river's main channel runs 1,738 kilometers (1,080 mi) in a northerly direction to the Arctic Ocean, draining a vast area nearly the size of Indonesia. It is the largest river flowing into the Arctic from North America, and with its tributaries is one of the longest rivers in the world.



A third area of research will take place in the Lower Amazon – specifically the **Tapajós-Curua-Una River Basin**. This major river system flows through the Brazilian states (Mato Grosso, Pará and Amazonas). The Tapajós is one of the largest tributaries to the Amazon Basin and has a very rich and diverse population of fresh water fisheries valued for subsistence and commercial fishing by local residents including Indigenous peoples.

University of Alberta

Mackenzie River Basin Board

Government of the Northwest Territories

Arctic Borderlands Knowledge Coop
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte
First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group
Inuvialuit - Fisheries Joint Management Committee
Government of the Northwest Territories
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
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Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
Treaty 8 Tribal Council of British Columbia

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For More information visit our website:

www.trackingchange.ca

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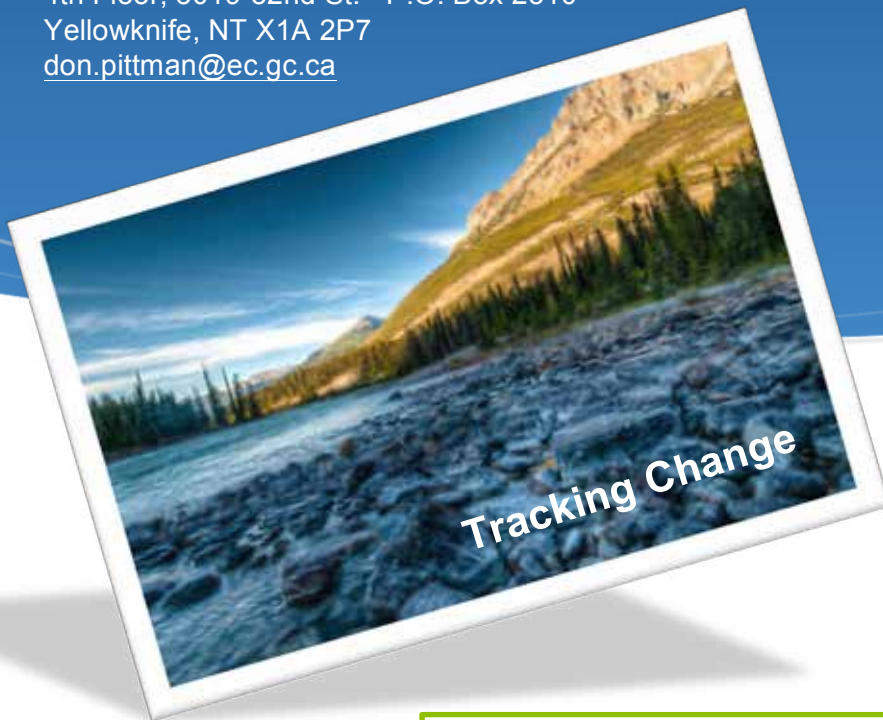
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More details and updates
about project funding,
research news and team
members are on our
website trackingchange.ca

PHOTO CREDITS:

Front Cover:

- (1) *Watching the Athabasca River* – (Photo by Brian Uhreen)
- (2) *Getting Water Under the Ice* – Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation – www.landoftheancestors.ca (Photo by Tessa Macintosh).
- (3) *Tree R. at Aklavik*. (c. 1942) (Photo by: CWD Clarke). Repository: Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, Part of: MS. Coll. 367 Clarke, C.H.D. (Charles Henry Douglas) Papers

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- (1-3) *Project Team Members* (Photos by BL Parlee)
- (4) *Peel River* (Photo Credit – Protect the Peel)

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- (1) *Mackenzie River Basin* - wikipedia
- (2) *Mekong River Delta* - wikipedia
- (3) *Tapajos River* - wikipedia

