

SHIKAAPAASHKWH TIPAJIMOON

ᓂᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓂᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ

SUMMER 2019

NEWSLETTER

Eelgrass symposium in Chisasibi in January 2019: A good learning opportunity!

A symposium on eelgrass was held in Chisasibi in January 2019. There were many exchanges with coastal land users regarding the goal and objectives and outcomes of the research project. The different research teams presented the initial results on the first two days, followed by a day-long workshop on how to improve communication and integration of Traditional Knowledge.



Yaayimutitaa Shikaapaashkwh - Let's talk about eelgrass Symposium, Chisasibi Banquet Hall January 29-31, 2019

We wish to thank the symposium participants who provided valuable insights into how the research should continue while improving the integration of Cree Traditional Knowledge.

This fifth edition of our newsletter will inform you about some changes made in the research program following the 2019 Symposium.

The Cree Knowledge and Land Use Study is launched!

Julian Idrobo

One message from the Symposium was that the traditional knowledge study should begin as soon as possible. The Steering Committee worked hard on this aspect over the spring and is pleased to announce that the research will start in Wemindji, Eastmain and Waskaganish this summer.



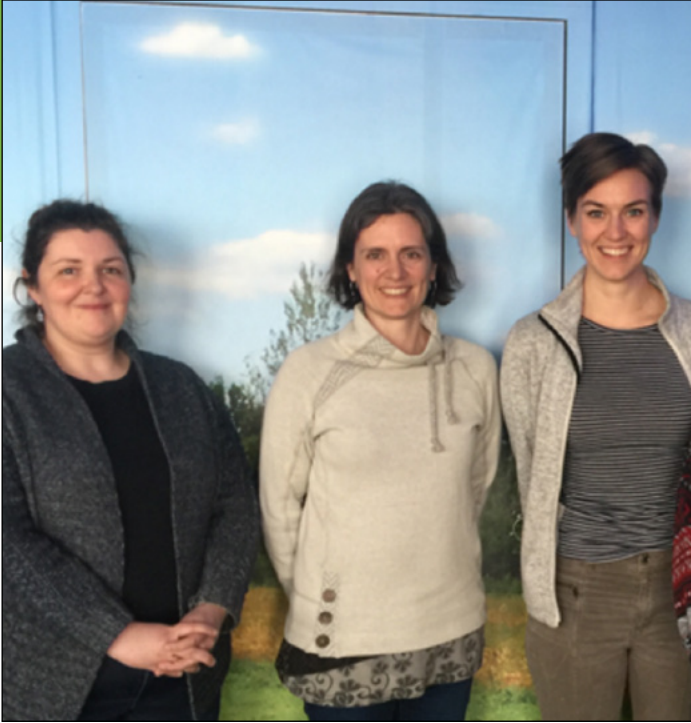
"I am very interested in contributing to the Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project to understand changes in eelgrass and waterfowl in James Bay over the last 50 years from the perspective of Cree land users".

This study will document Cree Knowledge regarding changes in eelgrass and waterfowl distribution and abundance as well as other changes in the coastal environment. It will also document changes in land use and harvesting activities. This research involves extensive interviews with coastal land users, either elders, active hunters or youth, both male and female. The research will also involve participating in coastal harvesting activities.

The study is led by Julian Idrobo, a Ph.D. graduate in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from University of Manitoba. Since 2007, he has worked with Indigenous and local peoples in the Canadian Arctic and the tropics on Traditional Ecological Knowledge of marine and coastal environments.

In June 2019, Julian presented the research plan to the participating communities and he will begin his interviews in Late July and August.

A new team for the Eelgrass research



Some new members of the Eelgrass team you might see this summer.

From left to right: Mélanie Leblanc, Mary O'Connor and Kaleigh Davis (missing Emily Lim)

The Steering Committee learned this past spring that Dr. Frederick Short is retiring in June 2019. Dr. Short will be missed for the tremendous knowledge of eelgrass he brings to the project and his keen interest in working with Crees.

A new a team of Canadian scientists with state-of-the-art methods in eelgrass research will begin their work this summer. They combine the know-how of Mélanie Leblanc, who began her research career working in Chisasibi, as well as numerous collaborators with significant experience in eelgrass research. They will be under supervision of McGill professor Dr. Murray Humphries.

The new team's work will include:

- Underwater diving to count seagrass plants, measure their height and leaves.
- Collecting small pieces of seagrass to study the physiology and chemistry of the plants.
- Studying seaweeds and invertebrates living on and among the seagrass.
- Using images of seagrass from drones and satellites and combine it with on-the-ground surveys to increase coverage in the areas harder to survey.

Summer field work planning

Note this is a tentative plan, exact date and location of the activities may change over summer due to weather or logistic issues.

	Eelgrass	Coastal Oceano	River	Geese	Land use	Steering Committee
June 16-22		Eastmain Wemindji				Chisasibi
June 23-29		Wemindji Chisasibi				
June 30- July 5						
July 7-13		Eastmain Wemindji				
July 14-20		Wemindji Chisasibi				
July 21-27	Wemindji Chisasibi	Chisasibi				
July 28- Aug. 03	Wemindji Chisasibi	Chisasibi	Waskaganish, Wemindji		Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish	
August 04-10						
August 04-10	Chisasibi Eastmain	Chisasibi	Waskaganish, Wemindji, Eastmain		Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish	
August 11-17	Chisasibi, Eastmain Waskaganish		Chisasibi Eastmain		Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish	
August 18-24	Chisasibi Waskaganish				Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish	
August 25-31					Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish	Chisasibi
Sept. 1- 7						
Sept. 8-14						
Sept. 15-21						
Sept. 22-28						
Sept 29-Oct 5				All the coast		

For more information or questions, please contact your local representative or email info@niskamoon.org

