

NWT MODERN & HISTORIC TREATIES

# TREATY TALKS

— SELF-DETERMINATION &  
INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY —

ARCTIC  
INSPIRATION PRIZE



PRIX INSPIRATION  
ARCTIQUE

2021 \$100,000 YOUTH CATEGORY WINNER





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### THE ARCTIC INSPIRATION PRIZE

The Arctic Inspiration Prize is the largest annual prize in Canada. It inspires, enables, and celebrates the achievements of the people of the North, recognizing diverse teams with innovative projects in the fields of education; health and wellbeing; culture, arts and language; science and traditional knowledge; climate change; food security; and the economy.

### NOMINATOR

Eva Wu

*Director, Arctic Youth Network*

### TEAM

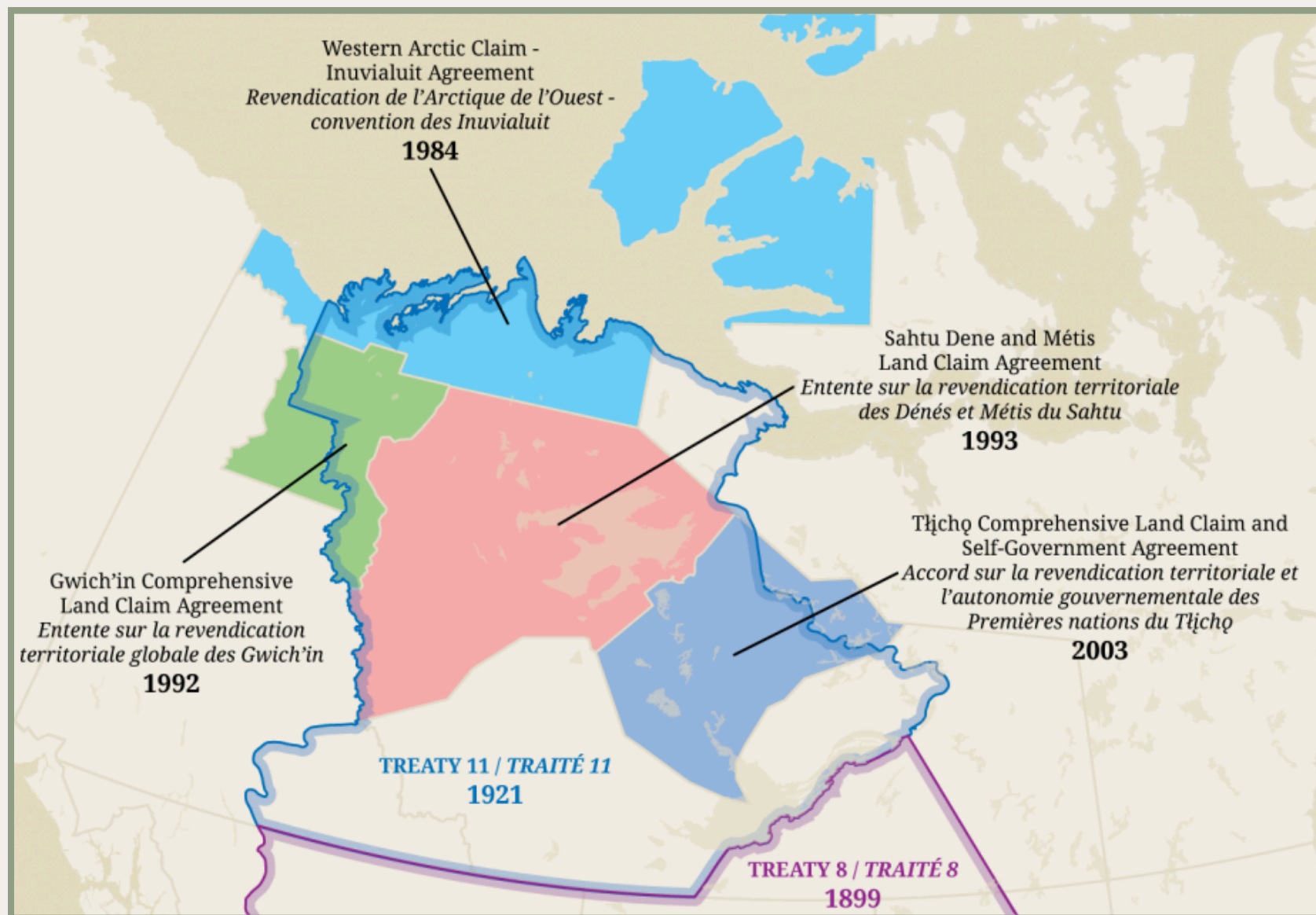
Marlisa Brown, Jacey Firth-Hagen, and Peter Greenland.

THIS REPORT WAS COMPILED AND CREATED BY THE QATALYST RESEARCH GROUP, WITH THE HELP OF PEGGY JAY, THE PROJECT TEAM, AND AIP.



## TREATY EDUCATION FOR YOUTH THAT IS FUN, ACCESSIBLE, AND INFORMATIVE

Treaty Talks NWT was an initiative born out of the struggle to understand Indigenous rights written into the legal jargon of treaties. The team wanted to bring in the knowledge of community members, and couple that with the guidance and involvement of Elders and knowledge keepers.



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"THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION OF MODERN TREATIES IN THE NWT PERPETUATES A LACK OF AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE AMONG CITIZENS, BENEFICIARIES, AND RESIDENTS OF THE NWT. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THIS IS THAT THOSE LEFT TO INHERIT THESE AGREEMENTS WILL BE LEFT UNABLE TO REALIZE AND IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL."

Marlisa Brown, from *Reconnecting to Our Relations: The Need for Formal Land Claim and Self-Government Education in the Northwest Territories*

## DỌNE NÀOWO - DENE LAWS

Ayìi naxìts'ò sìi ełeghàahdì.  
Share what you have.

Ełeèts'ahdì.  
Help each other.

Ats'ò Ełeghònets'etò.  
Love each other as much as possible.

Go?òhdaà hotì wenaet'ì xè asìi hazhò naxìmò whela sìi wenaet'ì.  
Be respectful of Elders and everything around you.

Too whahte eyìts'ò dzèè eghàlaahdè.  
Sleep at night and work during the day.

Dò nezì ahłì eyìts'ò dòzhìa wenaet'ìk'èk' ehoge?a ha.  
Young girls and boys should behave respectfully.

Nàowo wek'ets'ezhò wet'à dọne hoghàgets'ehtò ha.  
Pass on the teachings.

Ats'ò naxìnàà nezì naxìxè góe?a.  
Be happy at all times.



### DENE ELDER PAUL ANDREW

THE DENE LAWS TO THE LEFT WERE SEEN IN TREATY TALKS NWT'S  
INSTAGRAM VIDEO FOUND HERE.  
[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/P/CZM0GMJVK5P/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CZM0GMJVK5P/)



## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Treaty Talks NWT is a passion project co-founded by Jacey Firth-Hagen, Peter Greenland, and Marlisa Brown; three youth from the Northwest Territories who are passionate about treaties and self-determination, and learning how to navigate our modern world with the teachings of their Elders, communities, and families.



From October to December, 2021, Treaty Talks NWT held online speaker sessions that featured knowledge keepers, Elders, and individuals from many nations who were able to share their expertise with attendees. A wide variety of topics were covered in just 8 short weeks, including self-governance, misconceptions about Métis people, and advocating for Northern youth issues.

OCTOBER 14TH: JORDAN PETERSON

OCTOBER 21ST: NICOLE ENGE & CHLOE  
DRAGON SMITH

OCTOBER 28TH: DANIEL T'SELEIE & DAKOTA ERUTSE

NOVEMBER 4TH: JOHN B. ZOE

NOVEMBER 11TH: DĚNEZE NAKEHK'O

NOVEMBER 18TH: RENIE AREY

NOVEMBER 25TH: ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW, BOBBI  
JO GREENLAND-MORGAN, CRYSTAL LENNIE

DECEMBER 2ND: FRANCOISE PAULETTE



## AN EDUCATION CAMP ON THE LAND

Youth and young adults from across the Northwest Territories and Yukon were brought together on the Yellowknife's Dene and Chief Drygeese Territory at BDene Adventures (outside of Dettah, NWT). There was an outpouring of support and a need for knowledge that the Treaty Education Camp was fulfilling, with 25 individuals taking part in the week-long camp.

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YATA Beads Workshop</li> <li>• Community Introductions</li> <li>• BDene Story (Bobby Drygeese)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellness plan &amp; community agreement</li> <li>• Inuvialuit rights and culture (Elders Robert and Agnes Kuptana)</li> <li>• Feeding the fire ceremony</li> <li>• Yellowknives Dene FN Land and History (Charlene Liske)</li> <li>• Medicine Walk</li> <li>• Let's Talk Treaties &amp; Meme Activity (Marlisa Brown and Peter Greenland)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mini teach-ins:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Inuvialuit Beneficiary (Crystal Lennie)</li> <li>◦ Resource Management Overview (Kelly Slack)</li> <li>◦ Implementation (Riane Peterson)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Indigenous Governance and Hide Tanning (Mandee McDonald)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDRIP (Kaila Jefferd-Moore)</li> <li>• Dene Knowledge and Experience of Treaty 11, and Dene Liberation (Paul Andrew)</li> <li>• Circle debrief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing &amp; activities throughout the day</li> <li>• Departures</li> </ul>



## DAY 1: COMMUNITY INTRODUCTIONS

“

*There's this oral history of what treaties are and our relationship with the land, and our relationship with the crown, and our relationship with ourselves, and our communities.*

Peter Greenland, on the legends of Denendeh

”





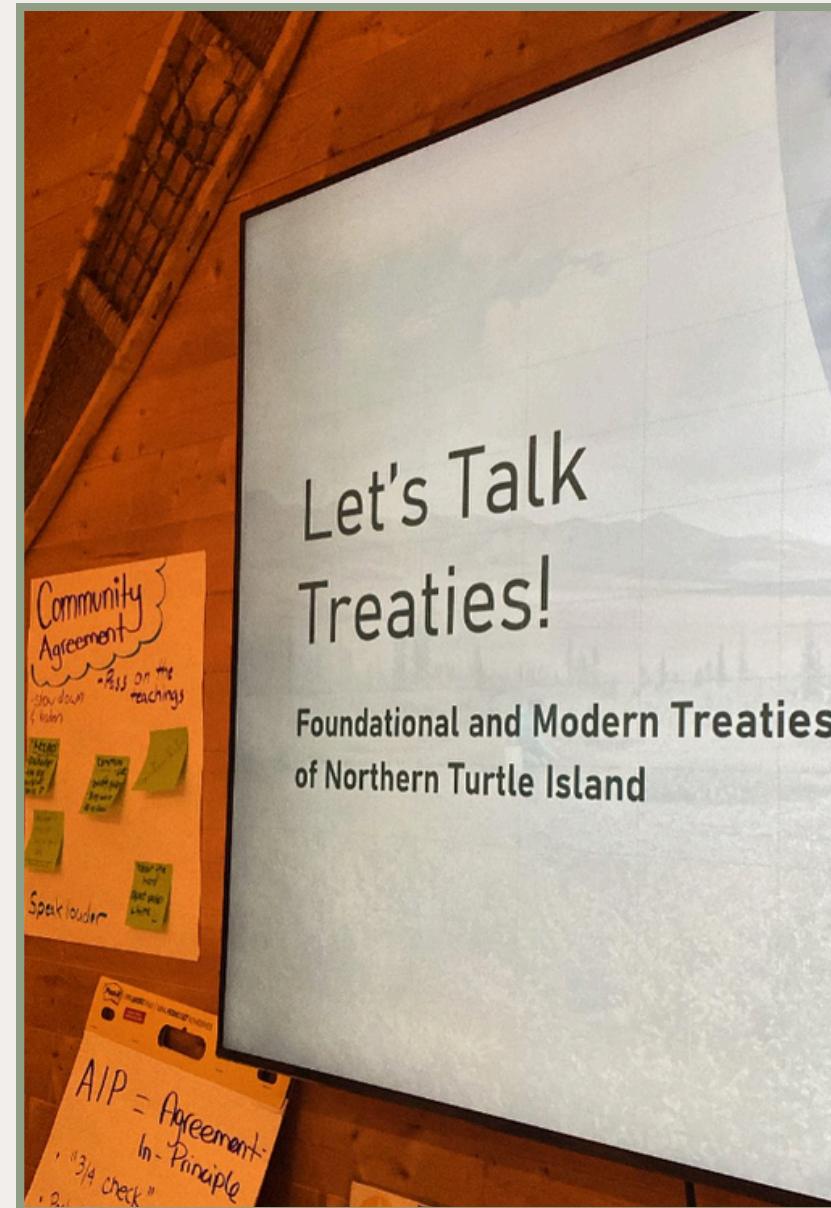
## DAY 2: MAKING SENSE OF TREATIES, LAND CLAIMS, AND SELF-GOVERNANCE AGREEMENTS

“

*I now feel a sense of responsibility, as we are entering a new time of self-government agreements, to ensure that my children, and their children's children, are better equipped with the tools to learn about these agreements.*

Marlisa Brown

”



“[SELF-GOVERNANCE] IS A TOOL THAT YOU CAN USE TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS, ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS, AND PROTECT YOUR WAY OF LIFE AND YOUR CULTURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

Daniel T'seleie  
Speaker Series  
presenter, October  
28th, 2021

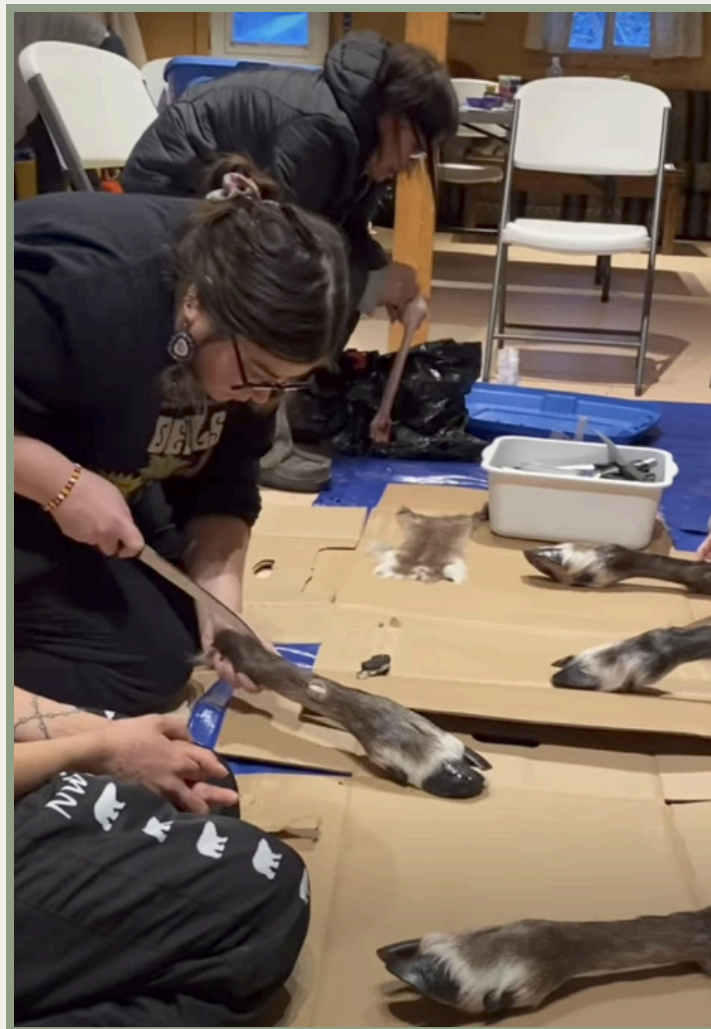




## DAYS 3 & 4: SELF-DETERMINATION

“The thing I want young people to know is that your right as Indigenous People, it's the Inherent Right. It goes even before the Historic Numbered Treaties, Land Claim Agreements, Self-Government Agreements - all different forms of Treaties under the Crown. Remember the Inherent Right goes before all of that.

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan



HIDE TANNING DEMONSTRATIONS WITH JACEY AND PETER.



VISIT @TREATYTALKSNWT ON INSTAGRAM FOR PHOTOS, VIDEOS, AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH DAY SPENT ON THE LAND.



“NOTHING CAN BEAT THE VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE, HUMOUR AND COMPANY ELDERS ROBERT & AGNES KUPTANA SHARED WITH US AT THE TREATY CAMP. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THEM TO HAVE SPENT THEIR TIME WITH US! THEY WERE CERTAINLY A HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMP.” @NWTTREATYTALKS



## DAY 5: SHARING CIRCLE, CLOSING CAMP

At the end of the camp, participants and speakers were given space to share their reflections and experiences about the Treaty Talks NWT Treaty Camp.

“

*LEARNING ABOUT HOW IT WAS ON THE LAND. I FELT SO COMFORTABLE AND SAFE.*

*HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE NEGOTIATORS.*

*FAVOURITE PART WAS WORKING ON THE CARIBOU [HOOF]/LEG, AND FEELING MY MOM, GRANDMA WATCHING ME.*

*GOOD TO MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER. NEVER BEEN SO WELL TAKEN CARE OF.*

”





## MOVING FORWARD WITH TREATY TALKS NWT

The Treaty Talks Camp has strengthened the program and product offerings and led to increasing opportunities for various types of revenue generation.

Going forward, Treaty Talks NWT hopes to:

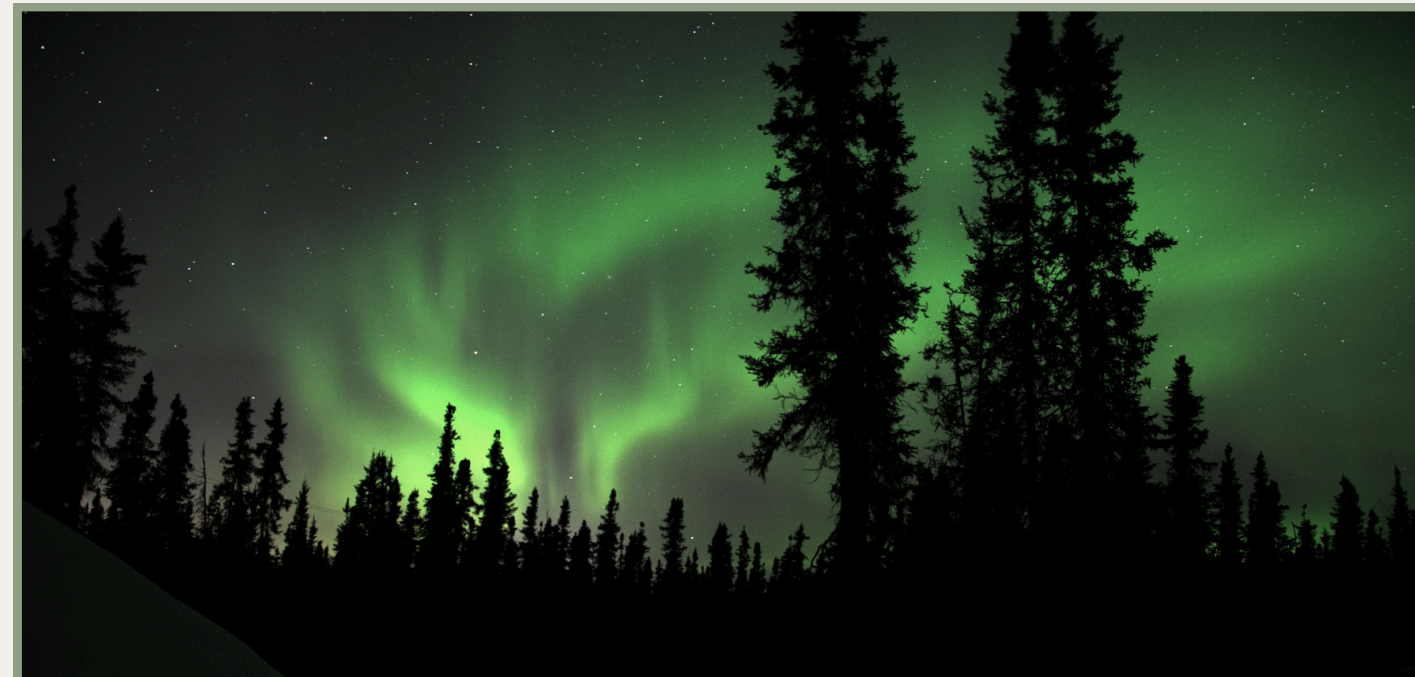
- Create various forms of media, such as children's books and graphic novels.
- Create a podcast, host giveaways, and increase public engagement.
- Create a website.

“

*THE DREAM CONTINUES: TO BE THE LEAD IN YOUTH TREATY EDUCATION IN [THE] NWT AND ACROSS THE WORLD.*

JACEY FIRTH-HAGEN

”





MAHSI'CHO HAI', QUYANAINNI, THANK YOU TO  
OTHER SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES  
RESILIENCE  
FUND



**Gwich'in Tribal Council**  
*Gwich'in land, culture & economy  
for a better future*