

Gwik'it Coon'lih Gwaa Project Workshop Report

It's Not Right, Neighbours, Friends & Families

Gwich'in Tribal Council Board Room
Inuvik, NT
Monday, November 21, 2016



Prepared by:

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Introduction:

This one day workshop is part of a language revitalization project entitled ***Gwik'it Coon'lih Gwaa Project, It's Not Right, Neighbours, Friends & Families***. The project is sponsored by the NWT Seniors' Society and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. An Advisory Committee was established with membership of the NWT Seniors' Society, Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Sarah Jerome (Team Leader) and the people of the communities of Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik. Funding for this project was received from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, Community Participation and Leadership.

The two key goals for this workshop were to:

- Translate the ***It's Not Right, Neighbours, Friends & Families*** materials into the Gwich'in language, thereby raising awareness of abuse of older adults in the Gwich'in communities; and
- Engage 10 older adults to receive training on the materials to enable them to deliver the materials informally or formally to elders groups, youth, health care professionals and the general public in the four Gwich'in communities.

The workshop is entitled, ***Gwik'it Coon'lih Gwaa Project, It's Not Right, Neighbours, Friends and Families***. There was no formal agenda developed prior to the workshop to allow flexibility and engage with the elders.

Monday, November 21, 2016:

The workshop came to order at 9:30 am, initially with 10 participants including 1 youth, the Wellness Intern, Patricia Louie, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Ann Firth-Jones, President, NWT Seniors' Society and Barb Hood, Executive Director, NWT Seniors' Society. A list of participants is contained in Appendix "A".

An opening prayer was offered by Sarah Jerome, Lay Minister, Diocese of Western Arctic, Inuvik.

Bobbie-Joe Greenland-Morgan, President, Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) welcomed the participants and guests. Tony Devlin, Corporate Manager and Susan Ross, Resolution Health Support Worker also sat in on the sessions throughout the day.

Bobbi-Joe welcomed everyone and said she was very happy to have the elders in the conference room on her first day back to the office. Ann Firth-Jones also welcomed everyone and introduced the project.

Ann introduced Barb Hood as the facilitator for the day and together they introduced the goals for the participants. Consent forms were distributed and signed by participants for release of written, photo or voice materials. Patricia Louie consented to be the photographer and was very helpful distributing materials and helping meet the needs of the participants.

The participants introduced themselves and reflected on the value of the project and indicated their happiness with being invited to participate. They said they were looking to a very good day.

The participants filled out the Pre-Session evaluation forms prior to the presentation.

Barb introduced the *YOU Power and Making A Difference* presentation to the participants. The rest of the morning was spent in going through the presentation. The presentation is attached in Appendix B.

During the afternoon sessions, Bobbi Joe, Tony and Susan sat in and contributed to the work that was being carried out for the day. Barb answered questions and gave the participants an opportunity to talk about their own experiences with elder abuse and how they were impacted with family violence and abuse. The participants are concerned about other elders in their communities who may not know where to turn for help. They also identified people do not want to report on their family members when abuse is occurring.

The participants are concerned about the youth in their communities as well. The youth are often lost without the cultural knowledge. The elders want to work with the community, including the youth, to pass along the language and the knowledge they are receiving.

A Post-Session Evaluation was conducted and Patricia Louie collected them for passing along to the University of Western Ontario, Family Violence Initiative Department who had developed the materials.

Lunch Break

The presentation ended around noon time and everyone took a break. The food that was supplied was very much appreciated. Sarah offered grace and everyone enjoyed and talked in their language throughout the lunch break.

Following the lunch break, the *It's Not Right, Neighbours, Friends and Families* presentation which had previously been translated in Gwich'in was presented. Each participant went through the materials, page by page, and made a couple of small adjustments.

Barb followed along with the English version on the screen. There was lively discussion and lots of laughter in the room. Everyone enjoyed talking about the presentation and the value of sharing and being in the presence of other Gwich'in speaking people.

During the presentation Barb played two scenarios from the presentation – the Moving In scenario and the Grandson scenario. There were powerful emotions from these presentations. Participants had a chance to talk about the reality in their communities that are similar to these scenarios.



Next Steps and Commitments

The participants and everyone present acknowledged it was great to be together. Everyone was tired at the end of the day but very happy to be able to see each other and spend time in Inuvik. One of the participants was celebrating her 87th birthday so we sang Happy Birthday in both Gwich'in and English.

We talked briefly about the hope that the participants would review the materials when they returned to their home communities. Sarah agreed to continue on as the Team Leader and keep in touch with the participants. We hope to be able to get back together again before the close of the project at the end of March, 2017.

The workshop came to a close at 3:00. The participants were returning to their communities at 5:00 and left the workshop to prepare for their road trip home.

Pre-Session & Post-Session Evaluations

Pre-Session Evaluation (Current Beliefs About Abuse)

7 evaluations were completed

Little things that people do can make a difference in big problems like abuse.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 1; Strongly Agree 6.

I can identify the warning signs and risk factors of abuse of older adults.

Strongly Disagree 1; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 1; Strongly Agree 5.

I wouldn't know how to respond if someone I knew was in a potentially abusive situation.

Strongly Disagree 1; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree 1; Somewhat Agree 3; Strongly Agree 1.

Most abusive situations are a family matter and none of my business.

Strongly Disagree 4; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 2; Strongly Agree

Post-Session Evaluation

I found the workshop to be useful and informative.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 2; Strongly Agree 5.

The facilitator was organized and easy to follow.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree; Strongly Agree 7.

Little things that people do can make a difference in big problems like abuse.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 3; Strongly Agree 4.

I can identify the warning signs and risk factors of abuse of older adults.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree 1; Somewhat Agree 2; Strongly Agree 2.

I know where to look for help and/or provide referrals to someone experiencing abuse.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree; Neither Agree/Disagree 1; Somewhat Agree 3; Strongly Agree 4.

Most people are willing to respond to signs of abuse if they know what to do.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree 1 Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 3; Strongly Agree 3.

I wouldn't know how to respond if someone I knew was in a potentially abuse situation.

Strongly Disagree 1; Somewhat Disagree; Neither Agree/Disagree 1; Somewhat Agree 3; Strongly Agree 2.

Most abusive situations are a family matter and none of my business.

Strongly Disagree 2; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree 1; Somewhat Agree 2; Strongly Agree 0.

If you're going to help you need to see it through to the end.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 1; Strongly Agree 5.

Addressing an abusive situation is complicated and takes a great deal of effort.

Strongly Disagree; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree; Somewhat Agree 3; Strongly Agree 3.

I would want to help when I see a potentially abusive situation but I don't want to get anyone in trouble.

Strongly Disagree 1; Somewhat Disagree 1; Neither Agree/Disagree 1; Somewhat Agree 2; Strongly Agree 2.

What was the most important thing you learned in the workshop?

Abuse and good information!

It is not right!

Everyone have the same problems and almost everyone don't do anything about it.

Was there anything that surprised you?

Not really, good program!

No

It's good to know that people still care and want to help one another.

Having attended the session today, I see myself as:

Advocate 6; Citizen Researcher; Presenter 5; Workshop Host 2.

Do you have any suggestions for how we can make the presentation better for future participants?

This is my first time, so I have no say!

The presentation Excellent! Will have some thoughts

I like the way everything was done.

Good the way you did the presentation

Have discussion as the information is presented as like now.

Well presented. Please present to high school students.

Appendices:

- **Appendix “A” – Workshop Participants By Community**
- **Appendix “B” – YOU Power and Making A Difference**
- **Appendix “C” – It’s Not Right, Neighbours, Friends & Families Presentation (English & Gwich’in)**

Appendix “B” & “C”

Power Point Presentations

- **Appendix “B” – YOU Are A Powerful Person Presentation**
- **Appendix “C” – It’s Not Right, Neighbours, Friends & Families Presentation (English & Gwich’in)**

Please Note: All this information will be available on our website. If you wish to download a copy please go to www.nwtseniorsociety.ca and www.nwtnetwork.com. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact us at 1-800-661-0878 and we will either email a copy to you or send a hardcopy through the regular mail.