



Arctic Health Research Network-Yukon

COMMUNITY UPDATE

July 22, 2009

Hello everybody this is Chelsea Charlie, Dustin Charlie and Daniel Frost from Arctic Health Research Network-Yukon (AHRN-YT) Food Security Options research project. Here's a newsletter update for the people of Old Crow.



You may have seen us walking around with our notebooks and recorder interviewing people within the community; gathering information on our declining traditional foods and our future lifestyle of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; and also asking about how climate change is affecting our homelands.



Chelsea:

For the past month, Dustin and I have been working with Norma Kassi and Katelyn Friendship studying climate change and interviewing the members of Old Crow. So far, I've learned a lot from the interviews that we have done, learning stories I have never heard before, about skills on the land, and also different ways that we can be prepared if hard times do come to Old Crow.



I also tagged along with the Archaeologist Ray Le Blanc and Lance Nukon at Poulton Station looking for obsidian rocks that our people used to make spears/arrow heads a long time ago. While I was away Dustin and Daniel continued with interviews and researching. All together it has been fun working with the team.

Daniel and Dustin:

We have been researching on salmon and how they live. We learned that salmon live up to 1 year in the rivers and 1-8 years in the Ocean, even though they only live for 3-4 years. Through all of the interviews the information we got was interesting, like for example, Randal Kendi told us that his mother long time ago used to cook food underground. Out of all the weeks we have been working, we improved on our researching skills. All the researching and interviews we have done is for gathering information for a plan on how we are going to survive with the declining of traditional foods.



Our Changing Lives, Our Changing Homelands (film documentary)

In Old Crow this summer, AHRN has another training segment with the youth. It's film. They are training summer students, Clifton Nukon, Rhiana Kaye and April Kassi.

It has been a month of exciting skills being taught by Tookie Mercredi, a long time professional and northerner. Tookie says his students are quick to learn and are finding that filming is not just pointing a camera, first you have to think about what you want to talk about, then write it, then film

what you might need to get the message across, then editing is where it all comes together. The team have so far filmed Canada Day, Gwitchin Days, fishing upriver, locals who are gardening, and interviewed Elders like Alfred Charlie, Irwin Linklater, and Ellen Bruce; seeking knowledge about the way food security has been maintained for Gwitchin. Right now we are in the final stages of production of our trailers. We are looking forward to showing them at the General assembly later this summer.



Yudii Mercredi has also been a part of the training and film crew. He is the main narrator for the upcoming documentary "Our Changing Lives, Our Changing Homelands".

Rhiana:

I learned the ``rule of thirds``, that means how to crop a picture, editing is complicated, and storytelling on paper.

I learned a lot, I had fun working with them.



Clifton:

I learned about how to work the camera, sound and edit. Also write a script and a lot about directing.

P.S. I had lots of fun.



April:

Well I learned a lot working with Tookie and Norma, doing cool stuff . Filming was awesome. Looking forward of doing more stories on my own.

Mahsi Cho`!

We will update you again soon!!

AHRN-YT team: Norma Kassi, Katelyn Friendship, Tookie Mercredi, Yudii Mercredi, Dustin Charlie, Chelsea Charlie, Daniel Frost, Clifton Nukon, Rhiana Kaye, April Kassi, Mike Code and Jody Walker