

Knowing Traditional Territory: An Inter-Generational Dialogue for Community Research

Researchers: Sheila Gruner and Gayle Broad (Algoma University College)

Project Summary

This project is aimed at supporting the development of meaningful space for inter-generational dialogue and community-driven research concerning the importance of land-relationships for Fort Albany First Nation. In the spirit of oral tradition, an audio documentary will be produced by community youth and others who will interview elders, adults, and their peers concerning the importance of traditional territory for economic and social well-being. Research of sounds and key sites will emphasize the importance of the Albany River as a source of history and identity for the community of Fort Albany.

Objectives

- Develop a process with community groups to promote involvement by youth, adults and elders to plan a documentary project
- Provide basic training in community research to community members of Fort Albany First Nation
- Participate as a research group in a river expedition involving an inter-generational group
- Produce research material (audio or written) on key issues related to the role of land for community well-being

Activities to Date

- Discussions among diverse groups of Fort Albany First Nation advanced towards establishing a process for community research and audio documentary production
- Research training workshop planned with focus on community research and ethics, identification of key concepts, sites for learning, and strategies to engage youth, adults, and elders in collaborative activities
- Exploration of strengths and challenges related to language, traditional land practice, inter-generational dialogue, and learning on the land

Community Partners: Fort Albany First Nation, Economic Development Officer Christopher Metatawabin and community advisory groups (health centre, education authority, Peetabeck Academy, youth group, local knowledge holders)

Term of Project: 2007–08 to 2009

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