

**Back to Basics:
Creating Value
through Environmental
Assessment**



AnānauKatiget
Tumigit
—
REGIONAL
INUIT
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

Keepers
of the
Circle



**2022 OAIA
Conference**

Our Partnership

Keepers of the Circle

Is an urban Indigenous Hub, offering services and delivering community support for Indigenous women and their families in Northern Ontario. Our strategic focus is to foster socioeconomic inclusivity for our membership.



ATRIWA

AnânuKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association supports, promotes, and enhances the well-being of Labrador Inuit women in coastal Northern Labrador. We serve Nunatsiavut beneficiaries and advocate for programs and services in our region.



AnânuKatiget
Tumingit
REGIONAL
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Our Team



Alexandra Bridges

Project Lead of 'Invitation to Voices'



Britney Zacharuk

Agency Lead for Keepers of the Circle



Johanna Tuglavina

Agency Lead for ATRIWAI

Invitation to Voices Project

Our goal is to build the capacity of Indigenous Women to participate more effectively in impact assessments

We engage Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario & Northern Labrador in workshops and learning opportunities



Methodology

1. Thematic analysis

Identifying barriers

Finding solutions & strategies

Leading workshops to gather insight & perspectives

2. Create a community toolkit

Bring together information in a way that is easy to understand & accessible

3. Launch training campaign and promote toolkit within our networks

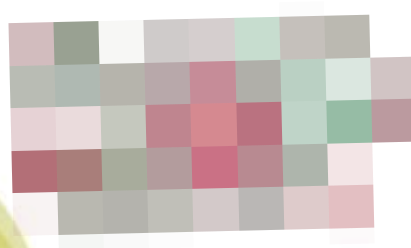
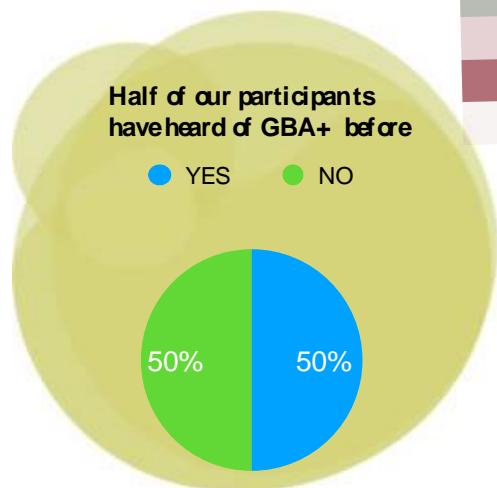
Distribute our toolkit

Hosting regular training series open to all

Provide support and information, building our networks



What we've heard so far:



What role can KOTC play?


100% of participants agree that Indigenous women have NOT been included, engaged and considered in policy development

ITS TIME FOR CHANGE

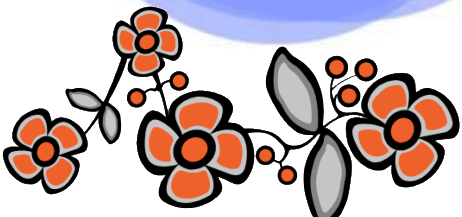
Being a voice for women, advocating for

- Building capacity & knowledge
- Bring people together
- Training & Education
- Providing information & resources
- Ensure ALL Indigenous women get to
- Guiding advocacy

How would you respond to a resource extraction project in your community?



- Worried about health & wellbeing
- Environmental Impacts
- Noise
- Voice being ignored or not heard
- Influx of workers, affecting women/ children



The path forwards



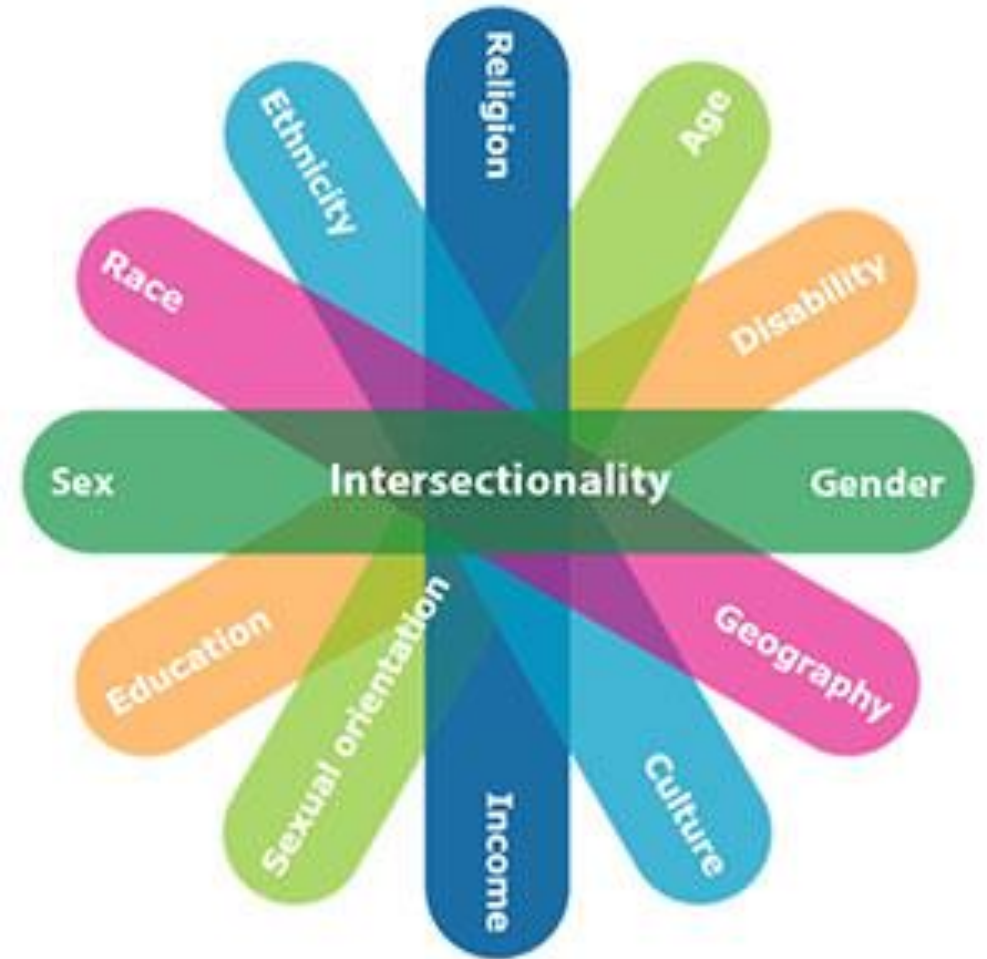
- Policy change & redevelopment
- Use the media
- Engaging youth
- Create a roadmap
- UNDRIP
- Collaboration
- Equal Inclusion
- Bringing voices of Indigenous women together
- Using our voices
- Not by shaming but by uplifting solutions

"Someone is going to hear me roar - loudly"



Indigenous GBA+ Lens

- GBA+ is a lens to apply to impact measurements wholistically throughout EA/ IA processes
- Though project impacts are felt in some ways by all, information access and ability to navigate opportunities/ challenges varies greatly by intersectional needs
- Indigenous women experience distinct and acute impacts from resource development while accessing less socioeconomic benefits
- Moving from equality to equity



CRGBA+

Indigenous Women's Participation in Impact Assessments: Strategic Community Organizing for Meaningful Engagement

Past – What We Know

Foundational principles and guiding documents that have laid the groundwork to be able to do this work and research current issues

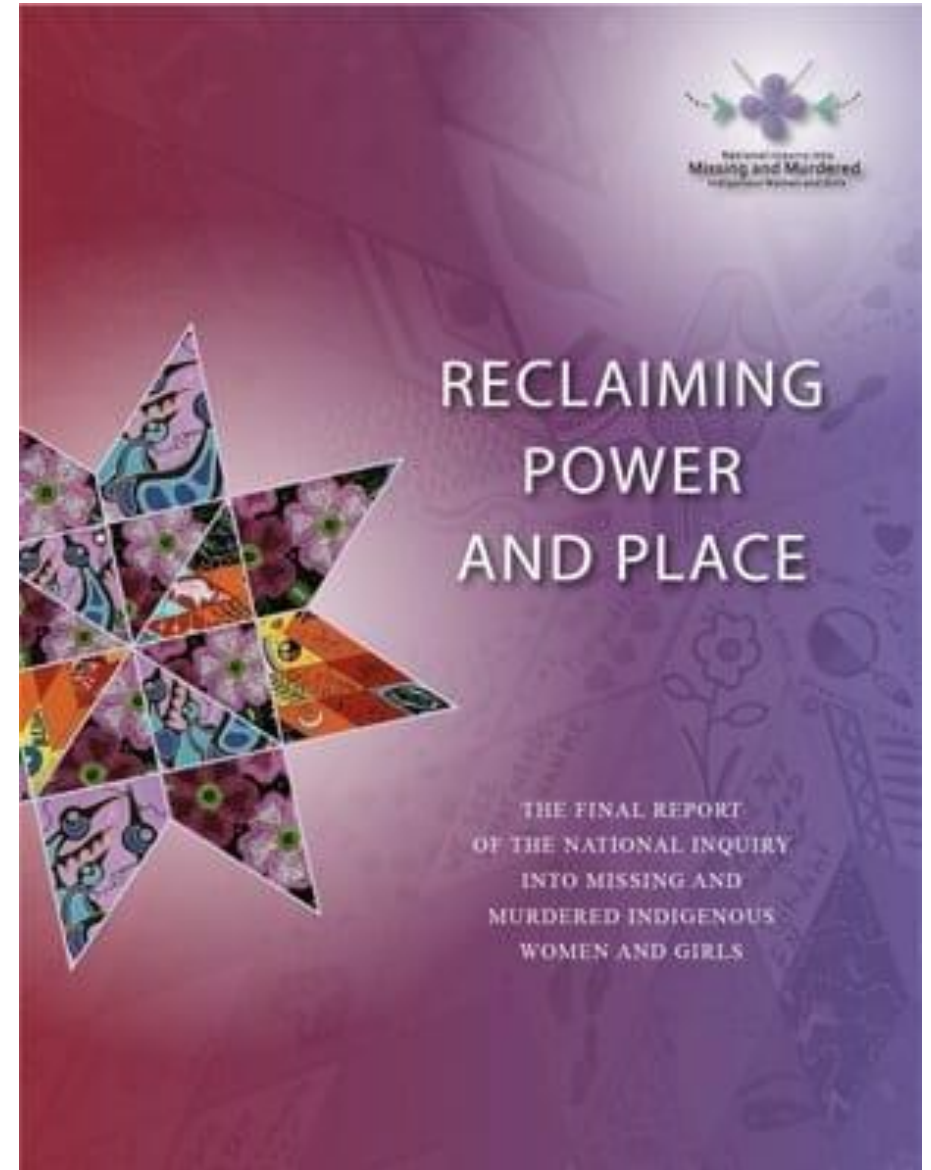
Present – Where We Are Now

Immediate and tangible steps we can take to generate meaningful engagement and inclusion in EA/IA

Future - Where We Must Go Next

Systemic barriers contributing to capacity issues that we must collectively work towards addressing

**This report is in progress and will be
published late 2022.**



An Examination of Barriers in IA: Navigating Violence to Land and Body

- Systemic bias favoring western worldviews and knowledge systems
- Lack of familiarity with legislative processes
- Difficulty understanding technical content
- Lack of representation, feeling othered or unwelcome
- Distrust towards institutional processes
- Lasting impacts of intergenerational trauma
- Lack of capacity/ resources (time, funds, support)



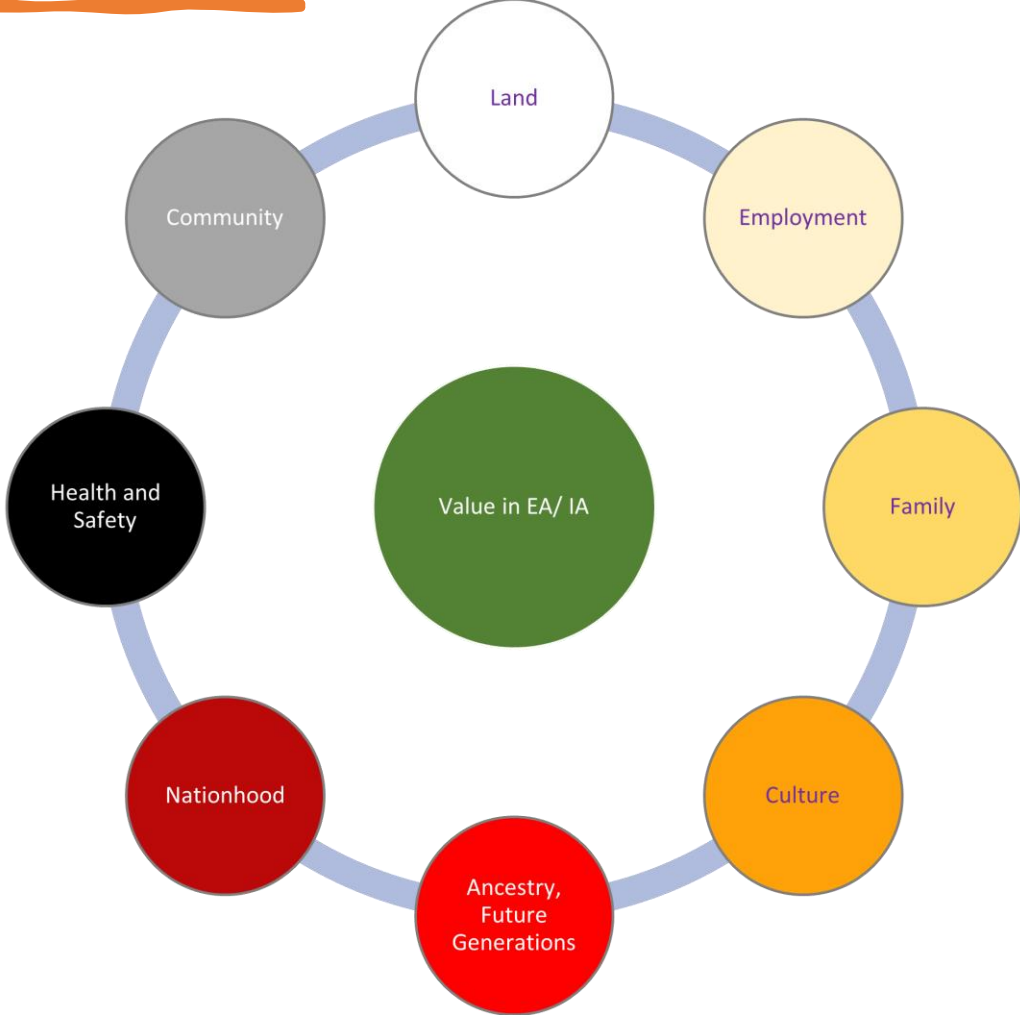
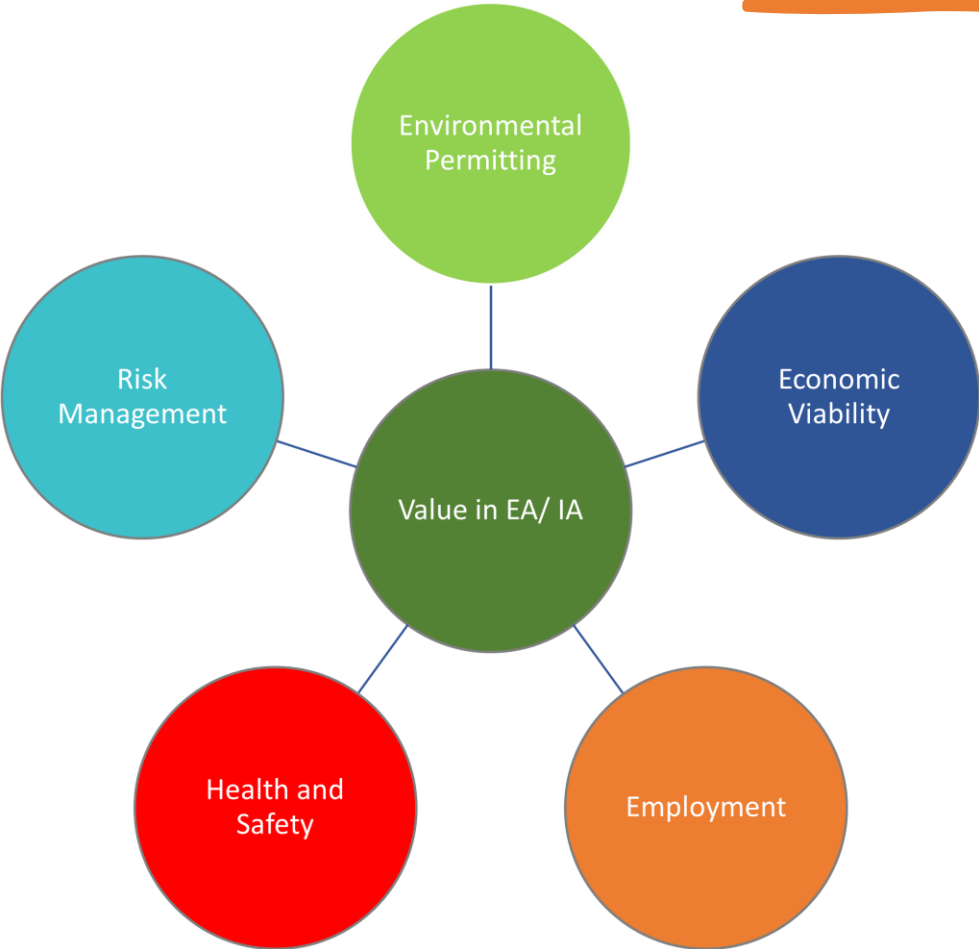
'Mother Earth and Her Birds' Art by Pam Cailloux

Observations

- Tendency to focus on reserves near project area
- Heavily rely on technology for consultations
- Diversity tends to be quantified (IE: # of women employed, demographics of consultations, # of women engaged)
- Timelines limit the ability for membership to be engaged and informed in time to make comments



Responsibilities to the natural world, values shared translated into summaries of concerns tend to be reductive





Ontario

- Provincial and Federal Priorities
- Friends of the Attawapiskat
 - Provincial EA
- Social, Health, Cultural, Spiritual and Ecological Impacts of the Ring of Fire

Key Takeaways

- Community Led Assessments lead to better EA/IA results for all stakeholders
- Women's Traditional Roles (IE: Water Carriers) must be uplifted
- Inclusion of urban Indigenous people
- GBA+ Tangible measurable contributions to socioeconomic impacts to Indigenous women and their communities
- Back to basics (door to door/ collectivism/ membership notices)



Next Steps

- Baseline data collection – a shared responsibility
- Engagement Protocols
- Traditional Land Mapping
- Technology and Citizen Science
- Intergenerational Knowledge

This work is nationhood, it is building the bridge between Indigenous and Western worldviews in a new path forward that prioritizes reconciliation

Layers of a GIS

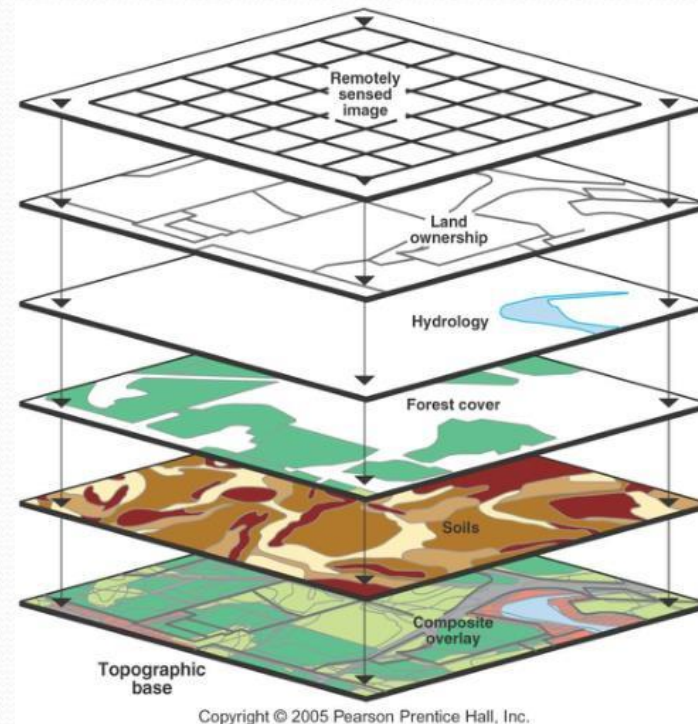


Fig. 1-5: A geographic information system (GIS) stores information about a location in several layers. Each layer represents a different category of information.



WELCOME TO GCHS



www.gchshs.org

Gchi-miigwech for listening