

Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation

NEWSLETTER
fall 2023



Indigenous Relations Workshops

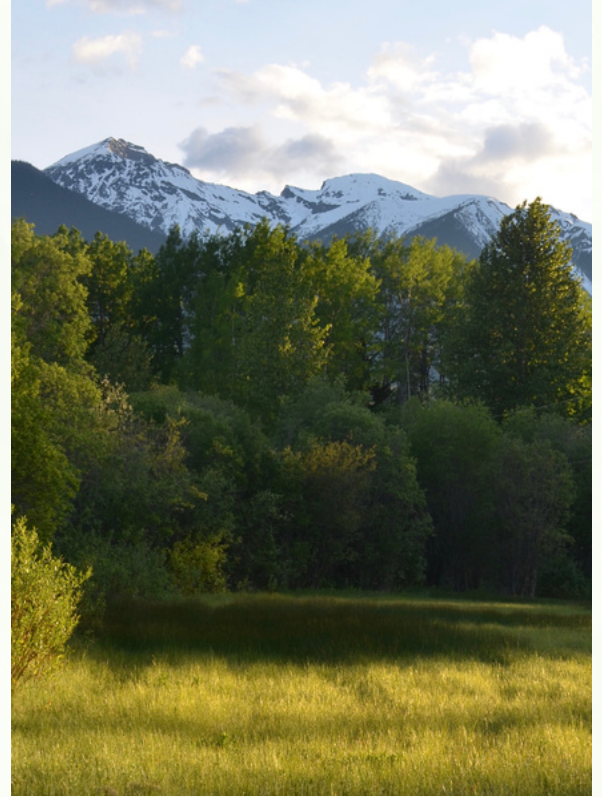
In April 2023, the KLTF Board, in our desire to move forward to connect meaningfully and respectfully with the Indigenous Peoples of the Robson Valley, hired Pulxaneeks from **Heart to Heart Indigenous Relations Consultation** for a custom three-part workshop series on Indigenous Relations Building. Prior to the sessions, the KLTF Board members spent time identifying individual questions (and concerns) we had for Pulxaneeks regarding Indigenous Relations and our mission as a land trust. Pulxaneeks also sent us intake questions to get a sense of what our current relationship is to Indigenous Peoples, to our Ancestry, the concept of Belonging & the concept of "whiteness." The three sessions were as follows:

Meet and Greet session

The Fundamentals of Indigenous Relations Building

Ask Me Anything In-depth Consultation session.

Pulxaneeks provided a safe space for discussion and growth and reminded us that relationship building takes time. We came away from her teachings feeling more solid in our intentions. Pulxaneeks suggested ways that we might like to explore the possibility of providing the opportunity for Indigenous youth to spend time at the Kiyooka Land Trust and reconnect to the land. We are very enthusiastic about this possibility.



Spring preparations

In anticipation of our May celebration event, the current trail on the property was brushed, and we created a new narrow trail from the southwest end of the property to connect with the original trail. The "bridge" across the slough behind the main building was reinforced to allow for safe passage (aka dry feet) due to high water levels. Volunteers spent hours weeding the garden beds and installing the new sign.. The resident beaver(s) were also busy re-engineering the landscape near the oxbow.

May celebration



KLTF hosted its first public event on May 28th to celebrate our recent acquisition of the 72 acre wetland/riparian property in Tête Jaune Cache. In addition to the official welcome and the unveiling of our sign, there were a series of scheduled educational walks/talks throughout the day. The KLTF board gave a presentation about our mission and vision, which provided an opportunity for the local community to meet some of the current board members.

There was tasty food, a silent auction (we raised over \$800), and live music. KLTF welcomed eight new members that day. We received much enthusiasm for the work we are undertaking in local land conservation, and some in attendance expressed the desire for more events like this in the future. Many thanks to all the volunteers, presenters, and silent auction donors for making this celebration possible.





bird walk with Elsie Stanley



nature walk with Barb Zimmer



chinook salmon cycle with Bruce Wilkinson



local history talk with Gene Blackman

Our community space

KLTF was delighted to host several groups this summer in our community space on the Tête Jaune property. As a land trust, it is part of our vision to provide opportunities for people to connect with nature. We have an artist residency program, and we plan to welcome environmental field work groups and be a venue for more local community events / small group retreats.

To learn more visit:

<https://kiyookalandtrust.org/community-and-cultural-space/>



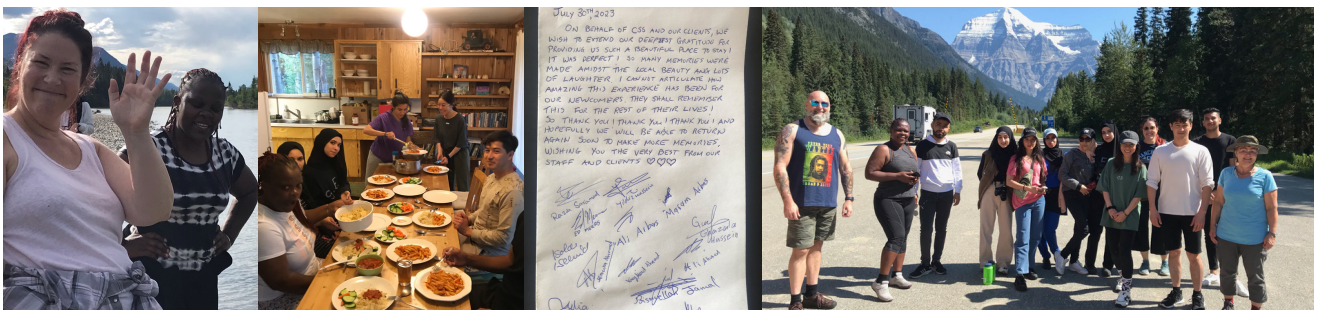
Circle Dance workshop



"We attended the Circle Dance Workshop at the Kiyooka Land Trust in the summer of 2023. We found the venue to be clean, well equipped and welcoming. The spaces were varied and more than adequate for the number of participants who chose to stay there. We enjoyed the outdoor deck with a lot of space to visit. The surrounding wilderness is exquisite with very little disturbance to the natural environment. We dipped into the Fraser River for relief from the heat. I would definitely attend workshops or retreats there in the future."

Nancy Taylor, co-organizer, Circle Dance Retreat, July 2023

Catholic Social Services Newcomers retreat



At the end of July, twelve newcomers to Canada and their team leaders from Catholic Social Services Edmonton stayed at the community space. They enjoyed spending time together on the land, at the Fraser river, and on a hike to Kinney Lake in Mt. Robson provincial park.

Environmental Field Work study

On September 7, 2023 a group of enthusiastic students - the graduating class of 2023/24 in the Natural Resources and Technology Program at College of New Caledonia (Prince George Campus) - were on a sightseeing tour of Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation in Tête Jaune Cache. We split the group into 5 teams of 3 students and they took off to the respective sampling location (Fig. 1). At each location, some parts of the wetland rapid assessment form developed by West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, USA were completed in the field. Each team spent 2 hrs collecting vegetation & soil data and identifying wetland stressors in their plots. This activity was an exploratory one i.e. to get a lay of the land and also, to familiarize themselves with a wetland complex. Then, we regrouped around the fire pit and a debriefing followed their field work (Fig. 2).

This activity was a great eye-opener for the students, who are more accustomed to dry sites for timber harvesting as opposed to low-lying areas. We will provide the Land Trust Foundation with completed forms as well as a summary of this activity. We plan on returning each year with a new cohort of students and expand our research in new areas of the wetlands.

I want to personally thank Hanae for reaching out to me, sparking my interest and providing a fantastic educational opportunity.

Stéphane Dubé, M.Sc. RPF
Program Coordinator/Instructor

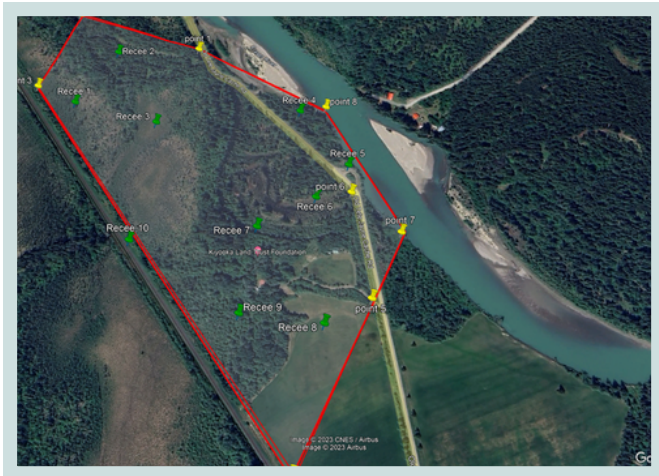


Fig. 1. Locations of sampling sites (waypoints) within the Kiyooka Land Trust. Only recce #4, 6, 7, 8 & 9 were assessed



Fig. 2. 2023/24 grad class in Natural Resources and Forest Technology at College of New Caledonia.

Board news

KLTF Board member Garnet Borch stepped down from the board this spring after serving as an inaugural member for two-and-a-half years. We are very grateful for his thoughtful input, his many contributions in helping establish this grassroots organization, and his ongoing support for the KLTF vision and mission. Thank you, Garnet! We wish you well.

KLTF is very pleased to welcome Rashmi Narayan, a local resident of the Robson Valley, as the newest member of the board. To learn more about Rashmi, please visit the board page of our website at <https://kiyookalandtrust.org/volunteer-board/>



Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday **October 22nd, 2023** at **6:30pm Pacific** time via **Zoom**. All current members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to kiyookalandtrust@gmail.com by October 15th if you plan to attend so that we can send you the Zoom link.

Looking ahead

The KLTF board will be working on its longterm stewardship management plan for the 72 acre property in Tête Jaune Cache over the next year in order to determine stewardship priorities and how best to conserve the land for future generations of life.

We will also be researching possiblites for completing an energy retrofit of the main building, and in the spring of 2024, we plan to replace the 44 year old roof.

We look forward to hosting another educational event for the local community in spring/summer 2024.



Thank you for your support!

To renew your annual membership, please send an email to kiyookalandtrust@gmail.com

To make a donation, please visit our website: <https://kiyookalandtrust.org/donations/>



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