

Following Our People's Way: Building a Circle of Dignity and Justice



**Gūdené' K'éh Gūš'añī: Dene 'A'Nezen
Gedí' Gūtīe Sū'aḷ dege**

**Tu Cho Gathering
Engagement Report
July 4-6th 2019**



Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the following staff from LAWS, local agencies, project partners, Elders, and participants who attended the Tu Cho gathering:

Name	Organisation/Position
Ann Maje Raider	LAWS Executive Director
Mary (Rose) Caesar	Liard First Nation Leader
Mary Charlie	LAWS Board of Directors Member
Jody Dick	Advocate
Maryann Dick	Mother of Advocate, Community Member
Michelle Wolftail	Advocate
Rosemary Rowlands	Executive Director- Help and Hope for Families
Kyla Greene Beaulieu	Staff- Help and Hope for Families
Linda MacDonald	Kaska Language Teacher/School Liaison
Renee Claude Carrier	Project Partner/Facilitator
Julie Laliberte	Project Partner/Facilitator
Martina Volfova	Project Partner
Miranda Lane	LAWS Support Staff
Joey Mitchel	LAWS Support Staff
Allan Wade	Centre for Response Based Practice
Shelly Bonnah	Centre for Response Based Practice
Jeff Cook	Beringia Community Planning Inc. Principal
Naomi Schatz	Beringia Community Planning Inc.
Paula Hay	Beringia Community Planning Inc.



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Executive Summary

In May 2019, *Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS)* was awarded \$1,000,000 for a new advocacy-focused project- *Following Our Peoples' Way: Building a Circle of Dignity* (referred to in this Report as the *Advocacy project*). The project launched on June 20th, 2019 and will run to June 19th, 2024. The project aims to address gender-based and relationship violence in Watson Lake, Yukon and surrounding areas by training a team of community Advocates to become anti-violence leaders in their communities.

LAWS Executive Director, Ann Maje Raider extended an invitation to project stakeholders to attend a 2-day gathering, July 4th - 5th 2019, at Tu Cho on traditional Kaska land, to support collaborative and culturally grounded project planning activities. The Gathering brought together a diversity of project partners to draw upon the strengths, experience and knowledge amongst the group. It was attended by: LAWS (Executive Director, Board Members and Support Staff), Advocates and Advocate Family Members, Agency Staff (i.e. Help and Hope for Families), Response Based Practice facilitators and Beringia Community Planning Inc. staff.

The objectives of the gathering were to:

1. Build relationships, trust, safety and mutual understanding amongst project stakeholders
2. Commence the collaborative design of the Advocacy project curriculum and service delivery model
3. Explore approaches and develop tools (i.e. cultural protocol, guiding charter) to embed Kaska culture, principles and protocols into Advocacy and YFD Project's curriculum and program activities
4. Undertake a needs assessment with Advocates to identify barriers, gaps in service and priority areas
5. Collect feedback on the Advocacy and YFD project monitoring and evaluation plan, methodologies and data collection tools



The time together helped to build trust and relationships amongst the diverse partners and also contributed to advancing the project deliverables and planning activities. The guiding questions that acted as a compass for the Gathering fell under four categories:

1. Successes and lessons from past LAWS initiatives
2. Advocacy Program Design
3. Needs and Asset Assessment
4. Measures of Success

Out of the Gathering's discussions, there were 10 key themes that emerged:

Theme 1: Successes and lessons from past initiatives addressing gender-based violence

Theme 2: Understanding the limitations of the justice system and change needed

Theme 3: Activism, social justice and systems change

Theme 4: Role of the RCMP

Theme 5: Reclaiming identity and grounding the project in Kaska cultural teachings- Following our people's way: Gūdené' K'éh Gūs'ānī

Theme 6: Engaging safe and honorable men

Theme 7: Expanding the allied group (Circle of Support) to effect systems change

Theme 8: Project momentum and sustainability

Theme 9: Role of an Advocate

1. Survivor support
2. Research and Documentation
3. Training and Awareness Raising
4. Advocate Supports and Learning Needs

Theme 10: Measures of success for Advocates, Elders and culture, agencies and community

The next steps in the Project's development, associated with the deliverables, include:

1. **Needs Assessment:** Beringia to work on needs assessment report that integrates findings from Gathering.
2. **Partnership Protocol:** Identify the lead and set of steps for developing this deliverable.
3. **Advocacy Training Curriculum and Service Delivery Model:**
 - Advocate recruitment: LAWS, Jody and Michelle continue to promote program and recruit Advocates. LAWS and Beringia to provide promotional material as needed to support recruitment.
 - Training Facility: LAWS to identify and confirm Advocate training location. Yukon College and 2 Mile Hall were discussed as options.
 - Program logistics: LAWS and RBP Facilitators to identify dates for training, commencing in October 2019, with potential overlap with Youth for Dignity programing.
 - Training Curriculum Design: RBP Facilitators to draw from this report to design training curriculum for Advocates.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan:** Beringia to further develop the M&E plan and associated tools, integrating findings from Gathering.



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“We are trying to prepare a context, so women know where to turn for safety.”
– Ann Maje Raider



A. Introduction

In May 2019, *Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS)* was awarded \$1,000,000 for a new project- *Following Our Peoples' Way: Building a Circle of Dignity* (referred to in this Report as the *Advocacy project*). This project aims to address gender-based and relationship violence in Watson Lake, Yukon and surrounding areas by training a team of community Advocates to become anti-violence leaders in their communities.



In May 2019, LAWS extended an invitation to Project stakeholders to attend a 2-day gathering, July 4th - 5th 2019, at Tu Cho to support collaborative and culturally grounded project planning activities. The Gathering brought together a diversity of project partners to draw upon the strengths, experience and knowledge amongst the group. The objectives of the gathering were to:

1. Build relationships, trust, safety and mutual understanding amongst project stakeholders
2. Commence the collaborative design of the Advocacy project curriculum and service delivery model
3. Explore approaches and develop tools (i.e. cultural protocol, guiding charter) to embed Kaska culture, principles and protocols into the Project's curriculum and program activities
4. Undertake a needs assessment with Advocates to identify barriers, gaps in service and priority areas
5. Collect feedback on the Advocacy and YFD project monitoring and evaluation plan, methodologies and data collection tools

The purpose of this Report is to capture the results of the valuable time spent together at Tu Cho. The Tu Cho gathering was an opportunity for relationship building between partners, Elders and Advocates, as well as ensuring a common understanding of the Project's objectives, outcomes, deliverables and roles in the Project. Another key outcome of the gathering was gaining an understanding of how Kaska culture is to be honored and embedded throughout the Project.

This Report may act as a tool for LAWS and project partners as we collaborate to develop, evaluate, and report on the community-based and culturally grounded program model for increasing safety and supports for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). This report is organized into 5 sections:

- The **Background** gives context for the project and the Tu Cho gathering, and an overview of the Project's key components
- The **Summary of Engagement** provides an overview of the Gathering's development and engagement approach, including the location, guiding principles, participants and their roles, project deliverables, methods and guiding questions
- The **Summary of Discussions** summarizes the 11 key themes that emerged from the Gathering, along with more detailed notes and quotes associated to each theme
- The **Actions and Next Steps** highlights the actions to be taken by partners over the coming months, in relation to the Project's deliverables
- The **Conclusion** wraps up the report with final commentary

B. Background

At national, territorial and local levels, Indigenous women and Youth face high levels of violence, particularly relationship violence. *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence, commenced in 2017* and is the Government of Canada's response to the crisis of gender-based violence (GBV). The Strategy involves initiatives and investments from multiple agencies, including the *Status of Women Canada (SWC)*. In 2018, SWC released a Call for Concept Applications for a *Gender-Based Violence: Promising Practices to Support Survivors and their Families funding program*.

The Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS) submitted a concept application and in December 2018, was selected to move forward to the next phase of the application process and was awarded \$30,000 to develop a detailed project implementation plan (PIP). Beringia worked closely with LAWS to develop the PIP and received confirmation on May 22nd, 2019 that LAWS was successful in securing \$1,000,000 funding to implement the project.

The 5- year project titled- *Following Our Peoples' Way: Building a Circle of Dignity and Justice*- will run from **June 20th, 2019** to **June 19th, 2024**. This SWC opportunity intends to develop promising practices to support survivors of GBV and their families. The planned results, as outlined by SWC, of the promising practices are as follows:

1. Support gaps are identified for survivors of violence;
2. Promising practices are identified and tested;
3. Evidence is generated demonstrating efficiency and effectiveness of promising practices; and
4. Blueprint(s) are developed and available for other organizations to replicate and adapt to their local context.

The Advocacy project intends to demonstrate the efficacy of a community-based, culturally relevant advocacy model and program that supports the community safety needs of Indigenous women in Watson Lake and surrounding areas. This will be done by training a team of community Advocates, who are survivors of violence, to become anti-violence leaders in their communities. Advocates will engage in a range of training and capacity-building activities based on two distinct strengths-based and culturally appropriate approaches: 1) Kaska Dena cultural principles, protocols and teachings of dignity, justice and healing; and 2) Response-Based Practice (RBP)¹

The training curriculum will include foundational learning about GBV issues, prevention and response, as well as a large component of the training will be hands-on learning (the testing of the service delivery component of the Project²). Ultimately, the project aims to build a core foundation of community capacity to support, respond, and restore dignity and safety among survivors of GBV.

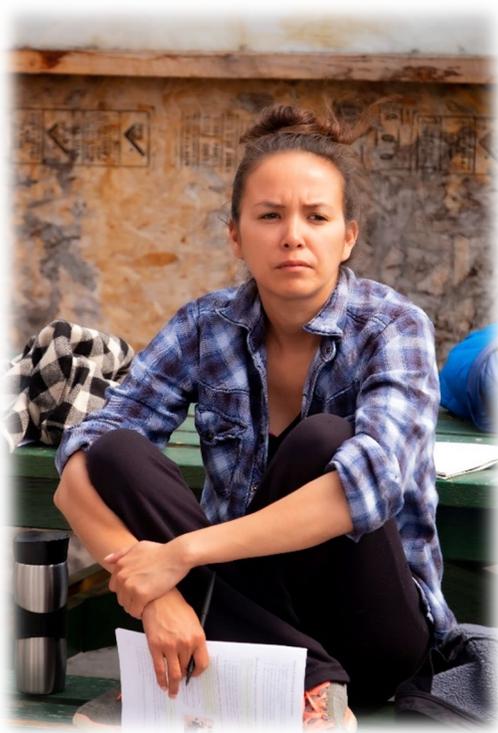
¹ Response-based practice (RBP) is an evidence-based methodology with a foundation in social justice and human rights. It has been proven to be effective in diverse situations (therapy, school settings, counseling) as it acknowledges the systematic nature of violence and provides an alternative to diagnostic and pathology-oriented practices. It works to preserve dignity, moving beyond traditional victimizing language and acknowledges an individual's physical and emotional resistance to violent assault. (Centre for Response-Based Practice, 2019; BC Society of Transition Houses, 2015)

² A key component to the Advocate training will be applied learning which is referred to as the service delivery component of the Promising Practice model. The activities that the Advocates may undertake were explored at Tu Cho and include initial activities such as leading campaigns, documenting their role, accompanying survivors to

There are six pillars that are foundational to the Promising Practice model, as demonstrated in the diagram below:

1. **Community Champions**
2. **Kaska Culture and Dene ā'nezen**
3. **Capacity Building**
4. **Circle of Support**
5. **Partnerships and Systems Change**
6. **Advocacy and Knowledge Dissemination**

Diagram 1: The Pillars of Advocacy: Following Our Peoples' Way: Building a Circle of Dignity and Justice



“Helping women rise above it all, to be who they are.”-
Advocate

agencies, and providing mentorship to women and youth in the community. These activities will be designed with the Advocates as survivors of violence.

C. Summary of Engagement

This section includes an overview of the Gathering’s approach including location, guiding principles, methods and guiding questions and an overview of participants and their roles in the Project.

Location

The Gathering was hosted at Tu Cho on traditional Kaska land at the Elders Culture Camp, approximately 170km north of Watson Lake. The location of the Gathering grounded the event offering a place that is connected to Kaska culture and the land. It was an environment where participants would feel comfortable sharing their views with limited interruptions. The location allowed for diverse partners to come together to co-create the project in a way that honors the experience and wisdom of partners, survivors of violence and community members, as well as Kaska traditional teachings and our connection to ancestors, the land and each other.



Kaska Elders Culture Camp

The Liard Aboriginal Women’s Society, the Liard First Nation and the Ross River Dena Council partnered to offer a summer camp GUK’EH GU’SANI – “Living our Kaska Way” at Frances Lake during the summer months of July and August 2019.

The camp will focus on remembering our culture by practicing our language, by storytelling, and by joining together in traditional medicine, traditional crafts, traditional sewing, and traditional ceremonial practices. The camp will honor the central place of our Elders in remembering our culture, partnering participants Kaska language speakers to practice our language through immersion.

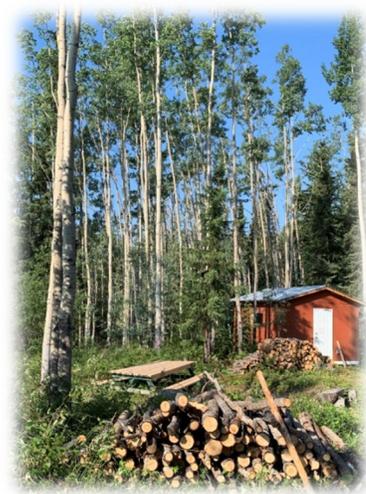


LAWS Newsletter, May 2019

Guiding Principles

The Tu Cho gathering was guided by the following principles:

- **Culturally-responsive and relevant** – Respect for Kaska culture, values, knowledge, protocols and customs that support a culturally safe process was central to the Gathering
- **Holistic** – The interrelated nature of all aspects of relationship violence were respected: mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health, social, cultural, economic, and environmental
- **Capacity-driven and empowering** – The Gathering honored the existing capacities of the group and supported capacity building through collaboration and community self-determination
- **Strength-based** – Community assets and strengths, including the valuable work done by LAWS and partners up to this point, were honored and celebrated
- **Collaborative and participatory** – The Gathering was a deeply valuable opportunity for diverse partners who care deeply about this work to build relationships, listen to one another and begin to co-create the project
- **Adaptive and reflective** – The Project and Gathering supported a process of continuous feedback, reflection, and learning to adapt throughout the project.
- **Communicative** – The gathering strived to use accessible communication tools (e.g. a Project Information booklet)



Participants and Roles in Project

The Gathering was attended by the following 18 Project partners and stakeholders:

Ann Maje Raider	LAWS Executive Director
Mary (Rose) Caesar	Liard First Nation Leader
Mary Charlie	LAWS Board of Directors Member
Jody Dick	Advocate
Maryann Dick	Mother of Advocate, Community Member
Michelle Wolftail	Advocate
Rosemary Rowlands	Executive Director- Help and Hope for Families
Kyla Greene Beaulieu	Staff- Help and Hope for Families
Linda MacDonald	Kaska Language Teacher/School Liaison
Renee Claude Carrier	Project Partner/Facilitator
Julie Laliberte	Project Partner/Facilitator
Martina Volfova	Project Partner
Miranda Lane	LAWS Support Staff
Joey Mitchel	LAWS Support Staff
Allan Wade	Centre for Response Based Practice
Shelly Bonnah	Centre for Response Based Practice
Jeff Cook	Beringia Community Planning Inc. Principal
Naomi Schatz	Beringia Community Planning Inc.
Paula Hay	Beringia Community Planning Inc.

There were several key groups and organizations represented at the Gathering. Below is an overview of the groups present and their role in the Project:

Partner Organization/Group	Role in Projects
LAWS (Executive Director, Board Members and Support Staff)	LAWS is the lead organization of the Project. LAWS Board members are Kaska Elders who will support Project activities and will help to guide cultural practices and protocols in the Project.
Advocates and Advocate Family Members	Advocates are positive social responders made up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women and allies, ages 18 year and older. Through this project, Advocates will become anti-violence leaders in their community.
Agency Staff (i.e. Help and Hope for Families)	Supporting the Project design and implementation, including partnership components with local service delivery organizations (I.e. job shadowing)
Centre for Response Based Practice practitioners	Facilitators from the Centre for Response Based Practice will be leading the Advocate training and service delivery model
Beringia Community Planning Inc.	Consultants leading Advocacy Project’s monitoring and evaluation; Interim LAWS Project Manager role and duties until LAWS staff is hired.

Methods and Guiding Questions

Prior to the gathering, Beringia, LAWS and project partners collaborated to develop an agenda for the gathering that was informed by Project deliverables and planning objectives. The semi-structured agenda guided the Gathering’s discussions, supported shared facilitation between project partners, and allowed for flexibility and responding to the group’s safety needs. The Project deliverables the Gathering aimed to contribute towards include:



Deliverable	Target Date
1. Needs Assessment Report- Draft	September 15 th 2019
2. Advocacy Training Curriculum and Service Delivery Model- Draft Outline ³	September 15 th 2019
3. Monitoring and Evaluation plan - Draft	October 1 st 2019
4. Partnership Protocol and Dene ā’nezen cultural protocol ⁴	December 31 st 2019

³ A key component to the Advocate training will be applied learning which is referred to as the service delivery activities of the program model. The testing of the service delivery will include awareness-raising and capacity building activities across the community. Advocates will be involved in the design of the activities. A preliminary overview of the types of activities includes: leading educational campaigns and outreach events, directing people to appropriate services and supports, networking and job placements, and mentorship in the community.

The Gathering began with a welcome and prayer by Ann Maje Raider, LAWS Executive Director and she shared context on why we were all gathered together. We did a round of introductions, including name, organization and role in the project. The Day 1 morning session included an overview of Response-Based Practice from Dr. Allan Wade and Dr. Shelly Bonna, as well as an overview of the Project from Naomi Schatz, Beringia Community Planning Inc.

The Gathering used a sharing circle method to support the planning process⁵. Guiding questions were posed to the group which supported storytelling and important sharing from the diverse perspectives present. Discussions were documented by Beringia Community Planning staff. The discussions were complemented by additional activities such as the Vision Tree (results under Measures of Success of this report). Interviews with Project partners were also conducted and filmed by Martina Volfova with the aim to document the Project



planning process. Kaska cultural practices were embedded throughout the gathering, for example through prayer, smudging ceremony, a communal fire area for listening and sharing, walks around the land, and fishing in Frances Lake. Small group and one on one conversations between partners naturally occurred throughout the Gathering, which allowed partners to get to know one another, and explore the Project in smaller group settings.



The story of each individual is important. The effects don't get to the story behind the person. – Project Partner



⁵ Sharing circles are a discussion process in which participants share their feelings, experiences, and insights in response to guiding topics and questions. They are loosely structured, promote the goals of the process, and support cooperation, effective communication, trust, and confidentiality. (Innerchoice Publishing, 2012)

The sharing circle discussions were guided by a number of questions fall under 4 categories:

Successes and lessons from past LAWS initiatives	Advocacy Program Design	Needs and Asset Assessment	Measures of Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•What were successes of past LAWS initiatives?•What are you proudest of?•What did we learn? What improvements can be made?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•What is an Advocate?•What is the role of an Advocate?•What supports might Advocates need?• What types of activities can Advocates do to support survivor safety?•What are the resources and partnerships needed?• How can Kaska cultural principles, teachings, and protocols can help guide the project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•What challenges are women, youth and the community facing in regards to violence and safety?•What is working in supporting survivors?•What are the gaps in services, supports and justice system for responding to violence and supporting survivors?• What are the types of personal, community and systemic changes needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•What is the biggest change you would like to see in 5 years?•How will we know if the Project is successful?•What kind of change will we see amongst Advocates as survivors of violence, community members, agencies and Elders?

Day 1 focused on exploring successes and lessons from past LAWS initiatives, needs assessment and Program design.

Day 2 discussions dove into the Advocacy program design, exploring how to embed and honor Kaska culture in the Project, as well as identifying measures of change and success.



We are so eager to label, but you need to explore the context- you then start to understand. – Ann Maje Raider

D. Summary of Discussions

This section includes an overview of the key themes that surfaced from the discussions along with more detailed points and quotes from participants.

Theme 1: Successes of Past Initiatives Addressing Gender Based Violence

The group also wanted to celebrate and honor the work to address gender-based violence to date. We explored the proudest moments, strengths and highlights, as well as challenges and lessons learned.

“The youth have been courageous- telling it like it is.” Project partner

SUCCESSSES

- Positive programming
- Elders involvement
- We evolved as facilitators and as a group
- Having youth, facilitators. Linda and Elders working together
- Culture through drum-making and learning the women’s warrior song
- Giving permission to think differently
- Paying community members to teach the traditional way
- Slowly building trust and teambuilding
- People in and outside of comfort zones
- Having flexibility to adjust and meet the needs of the youth and community

“Culture makes it successful”- Elder

CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS

- Build in more community support
- Maintaining momentum between sessions
- Community wide response- pledge to sign on to- promote community wide pledges

IMPACTS

- Accumulative results- watching and experiencing results with survivors over time
- Invitation for the rest of the community to step it up
- Addressing racism by raising awareness
- Making voices heard
- Youth feel proud
- Youth passing on teachings to others

Theme 2: Understanding the Limitations of the Justice System and Change Needed

Discussions on the root causes and underlying factors related to violence surfaced quite quickly at the Gathering and continued to be emphasized from many participants. The limitations of the justice system was brought up throughout the gathering and well as exploring ways to challenge the system and offer alternative routes to justice.

“Our justice system is not working. The system that should have protected you, let you down.” – RBP Project Partner

- Putting onus on government to change- Look at gaps in the justice system, how it fails people and the implications of a failing justice system
- Creating a cycle of (social) justice that includes resistance and exposing what people are caught in (i.e. reporting violence to the RCMP might invoke child protection)
- Bring awareness of pathways to justice (e.g. legal system) and knowing one’s rights.
- The justice system confusing sex with violence- you can’t treat a sexual problem when it is actually a violence problem.
- There is no access to justice and no way to deal with violence and victimization
- The importance of paying attention to language and challenging colonial language that conceals (i.e. residential schools are prison camps)
- The justice system is not healing the perpetrator.
- The need to address systemic racism and bullying
- Confronting government and public institution collusion with violence (E.g. Government collusion with porn industry)
- Helping women (survivors) to see they do not need to be fixed



“Not deficits in people, but a deficit in the system and institutions.” - Project Partner

Theme 3: Activism, Social Justice and Systems Change

“Advocates can help individuals, but they can also help politically.”- Project partner

The themes of activism and social justice had a strong presence throughout the Gathering. They were heard and felt as voices spoke to the urgent need for change. When asked to reflect on what works and

propose what activities Advocates and partner might undertake, the following ideas were discussed to tackle the enormity of systems change.

- Seeing that action is possible, what we can do
- Advocates do a critical analysis of RCMP training materials and apply a Kaska lens to justice
- Developing alternatives, another way, towards justice. Youth bringing forward ideas around alternative justice
- Building up a system of positive social response in Watson Lake
- Giving the language to confront the system
- Research- helping advocates access information and resources
- Critical analysis- unpacking legislation as a means of resistance and accountability
- Bring back the Stop Rape sign- confronting the town of Watson lake for the circumstances and decision to pull sign down
- Giving the language and tools to survivors so they can confront the system
- Dignity preserving actions- Demonstrating we can show just as much dignity for the perpetrator as the victim

Theme 4: Role of the RCMP

Another topic was raised throughout the Gathering was the role of RCMP in promoting community safety and supporting survivors.

“The RCMP have to be accountable to Indigenous women.”- Project Partner

- Racism and discrimination by RCMP
- Lack of trust to turn to RCMP for help and reporting process
- Some RCMP are allies in this work
- Advocates working with RCMP to get to know each other and building working relationships
- Advocates deliver training to RCMP - Crash course on Do’s and Don’ts for RCMP
- Role of Advocates as a witness (accompanying survivors) to document process. The individual has the choice if they want someone (an Advocate) there with them



Theme 5: Reclaiming identity and grounding the Project in Kaska cultural teachings- Following our people's way: Gūdené' K'éh Gūs'ānī

Throughout the Gathering, the conversation revisited the deep importance of culture in the project. The Gathering's location on Kaska land reminded us again and again of the importance of our connection to the land and ancestors. Discussions explored what it means for Kaska culture to guide the project, and what this could look like in the design and delivery.

"You need to know who you are and where you come from." - Elder

- Learning about one's personal lineage through a genogram (family tree and lineage)- a response to systemic assault
- Restoring the role of women
- Helping Advocates connect with Elders and to know who their ancestors are
- Cultural learning
- Ancestors are guiding us- including physical and spiritual dimensions
- Elders are needed to teach Dene au Nazen
- Restoring the role of women
- Talking about who are our ancestors: we cannot forget our ancestors otherwise we lose connection to the land and who we are
- Dena Nedi is a Kaska word meaning 'helping'



"We were all advocates traditionally." – Elder

Theme 6: Engaging Safe and Honorable Men

When reflecting on the role of men in the Project, the following practices and reflections were raised:

"We are so busy doing men's roles as well."- Elder

- Our men are neglected. Our men need to be seen as honorable
- Including honorable and respectful men in the Advocacy project who have resisted violence and asking them how they have resisted? How is it that they were able to be safe and honorable men?
- Supporting mentorship opportunities between men and youth
- Inviting male Elders to teach young men and boys
- Approaching men as knowledgeable and asking them how men can help to make it safer for women



Theme 8: Project Momentum and Sustainability

Project planning discussions also addressed administration needs and considerations to support the project's sustainability.

- Project administration needs: A project manager who has the experience and tools to support the Advocates
- To consider in sustainability planning: In 5 years this program reverts to a trauma informed program versus a response- based process- evidence based support is needed (equivalent to best practice)
- Program design consideration: Staying connected to Advocates in between sessions. Keeping momentum and support needed moving forward. This could be addressed by check-in calls with facilitators or linking Advocates to Youth for Dignity programming.
- Advocates take up roles and jobs in community

Theme 9: Role of an Advocate

"Speaking truth to power."- Project partner

We explored the qualities of an Advocate and the roles they may play in supporting survivors, advocating for systemic change, and building a safer community. Key words are captured here in a word cloud.



There are many women who have not survived, and who are still experiencing violence. - Advocate

There were **four sub-themes** that emerged in regard to the Advocates role:

1. Survivor support

- Providing positive social responses to survivors
- Walking alongside (not in front or behind) and supporting informed choice
- A witness who is available and helping make it safer for other women
- Accompanying survivors to agencies (i.e. reporting) and being a witness
- Ability to stand up to public institutions



2. Research and Documentation

- Documenting their role in supporting survivors and contributing to a safer community
- Start tracking their own statistics- recording evidence throughout the 5 years
- Advocates identify men who have resisted violence, interview them, and ask how they decided to become and stay non-violent
- Advocates can be the historians of the dignity process and keep records of change

3. Training and Awareness Raising

- Training agency staff (i.e. RCMP)
- Promoting justice and safety through conversations and providing useful and supportive social responses
- Building relationships with agencies (e.g. RCMP)
- Co- facilitate Youth for Dignity program

*Advocates can play diverse roles based on their strengths, interests and skills. –
Project partner*

4. Advocate Supports and Learning Needs

Discussions were held on what types of supports Advocates might need in order to be part of the program.

“I want to learn from the youth.”- Advocate

- Understanding violence and the system of response
- Counselling supports for their own journeys
- Make sure everything is confidential
- Understanding what advocacy is and how to practice advocacy
- Research skills
- Training on social responses



- Understanding of the reporting process, complaints process, rights of survivors, and how not to corrupt evidence
- Cultural activities on the land (E.g. working with moose hide)
- Public speaking and facilitation skills
- Suicide prevention and intervention training
- Range of learning opportunities (e.g. learning about ancestry, facilitation, research, project management skill development)
- Cultural and training recognition (i.e. ceremonies, certificates)

"It's just a big mess in our community. I need training on how to speak with my friends."- Advocate



RESOURCE IDEAS

- Health and Hope- Circles of Safety program
- [Gordon Foundation](#)
- Kaska Land Conference- October 5-6th 2019
- Movies: Wind River; Finding Our Way
- [FOXY](#)
- [Verbal Judo](#)
- [Mining Watch](#)

Theme 10: Measures of Success

This section summarizes the discussions on how we will know if the project is successful. As captured in the diagram below, we explored the change we might see amongst Advocates, as well as agencies, community and Elders.

Vision Tree: What is the biggest thing that would be different in 5 years?

Justice, helping hands, respect

Leaders who are not criminals

Respectful. Lineage, knowledge development

Our community is a violence free environment

Men and women united to create safety

Kaska dene a nazen training for all services professionals

Stronger cultural systems of support

Get men involved to advocate young guys, boys

Youth who know about respect and consent

More Kaska speakers

Laws to change for sexual predators

Protect our community from violence

Rebuilding hope and strengt



<p style="text-align: center;">ADVOCATES</p> <p><i>Why type of change will Advocates experience if the Project is successful?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger and empowered • Increased connection • More survivors getting more positive social responses • No negative gossip • Increase in healing • Advocates have ownership over the program and guide it • Advocates become leaders and role models • People are unhappy and angry with injustice • They are still there- retention of advocates • Advocates feel supported • They are comfortable saying what they need/want to see • They are able to describe clearly what they are doing to create safety • The type and quality of the relationships they have developed with other youth, with the team, and themselves • Increased negotiating skills • Women stop blaming women • Promoting more safety- through positive social responses • More language that creates safety 	<p style="text-align: center;">CULTURE AND ELDERS</p> <p><i>How will we know Kaska culture is guiding the Project?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates are building relationships with Elders • Elders are teaching what they learned growing up • Respect for family • Elders are less isolated • More relationships between elders and youth • Advocates knowing their roots and who they are • Singing kaska songs • Starting point is grounding in a culture- who are you? • Geneogram- response to systemic assault • Stand up proud and know who your grandpa is. You can feel him in your veins. You can hear him. That is where the power is. • So important that it is rooted in culture • Connecting with culture • It is always in their DNA • Non-native can also explore where they come from • Rooting yourself in culture before it is lost. There is an urgency in it.
<p style="text-align: center;">AGENCIES</p> <p><i>What type of changes might agencies experience?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That they know about the program/resources • They try to engage with Advocates and refer to Advocate services • Paradigm shift- accountability of agencies 	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMUNITY</p> <p><i>What kinds of changes might we see in the community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing the narrative in Watson lake • Increase in community voices • Interrupting negative perceptions of Watson lake and first nation



E. Actions and Next Steps

This section provides an overview of the next steps in the Project planning process in relation to the deliverables outlines in Section C: Summary of Engagement.

Project Deliverable	Action Items	Target Date
Needs Assessment Report- Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beringia to work on needs assessment report and integrate findings from Gathering. 	September 15 th 2019
Partnership Protocol (including Dene ā'nezen cultural protocol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify lead on developing this deliverable, draw from report to inform its development, and identify steps to create protocol 	December 31 st 2019
Advocacy Training Curriculum and Service Delivery Model- Draft Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate recruitment: LAWS, Jody and Michelle continue to promote program and recruit Advocates. LAWS and Beringia to provide promotional material as needed. Facility: LAWS to identify and confirm Advocate training location. Yukon College and 2 Mile Hall were discussed as options. Program logistics: LAWS and RBP Facilitators to identify dates for training, commencing in October 2019, with potential overlap with Youth for Dignity programming to help with travel to Watson Lake. RBP Facilitators: To draw from this report to design training curriculum for Advocates, commencing in October 2019. 	September 15 th 2019
Monitoring and Evaluation plan- Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beringia to further develop an M&E plan and associated tools, integrating findings from Gathering. 	October 1 st 2019

F. Conclusion

The Tu Cho Gathering was a symbolic and foundational launch of the Advocacy project. It brought together a diverse group of partners and community members, each with their own experiences and wisdom, to work together. Being on traditional Kaska land was grounding and guided us in listening to ancestors and traditional teachings, and honoring the circle of partners and community members that continue to work together.

The Gathering was a rich opportunity for building trust and getting to know one another, as well as exploring the potential and possibility of the Project. The work ahead of us is to weave the experience, teachings, resources, ideas, and learnings together towards supporting, responding and restoring dignity and safety amongst survivors of gender-based violence.



Appendix A: Agenda

An overview of the Gathering's semi-structured agenda is as follows:

DAY 1- THURSDAY, JULY 4TH, 9AM-5PM

Time	Activity	Topics
8:30-9AM	Breakfast	
9 – 9:30AM	Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening Prayer and Welcome ○ Introductions
9:30 – 10AM	Gathering Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review agenda ○ Goals for Tu Cho gathering
10-10:45AM	Project Overviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of YFD and Advocacy Projects ○ Themes from March meetings
10:45-11AM	Break	
11AM – 12PM	Project Overviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response- based practice Introduction
12 – 1PM	Lunch	
1-2:30PM	Design Advocacy Program Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energizer/Trust Activity ○ Sharing circle with Advocates and Elders (Needs assessment)
2:30-3PM	Break	
3-4:30PM	Design Advocacy Program Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion/activities to design Advocacy Program model
4:30-5PM	Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closing circle
5PM-Onward	Supper and Evening Activities	

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, JULY 5TH, 9AM-5PM

Time	Activity	Topics
8:30-9AM	Breakfast	
9 – 9:30AM	Day 2 Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review/reflections on Day 1 ○ Day 2 Agenda Review
9:30 – 10AM	Past LAWS initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successes and Lessons Learned

10-11AM	Kaska Culture in Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can Kaska culture and Dene Au Nezen guide the Projects?
11-11:15AM	Break	
11:15 – 12PM	Kaska Culture in Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can Kaska culture and Dene Au Nezen guide the Projects?
12 – 1PM	Lunch	
1-2PM	Design Advocacy Program Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activities/discussion to support design of Advocacy curriculum and model
2-2:15PM	Break	
2:15-4PM	Project Results (Evaluation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion- What does a successful project look like? What are the results?
4-5PM	Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closing Circle ○ Acknowledgements