

Cultural well-being



Changes to cultural well-being have been monitored since the opening of the Tłıchq Highway, November 30, 2021.

The highway opening coincided with COVID-19, followed by 2023 fire evacuations. Data should be considered within this context.

HOUSEHOLDS CONSUMING COUNTRY FOODS

In 2018, household consumption of country foods in Behchokò decreased to 38% compared to 59% in 2013. This is a **19% decrease** in consumption of country foods in only five years.

In 2018, household consumption of country foods in Whatì, increased to 81% compared to 60% in 2013. This is a **21% increase** in consumption of country foods in only five years.

These data trends are captured prior to the opening of the highway.

BERRY HARVESTING

In 2018, 27% of Behchokò's population that is 15 years old and over participated in berry harvesting. This is a **7% decrease** from 34% in 2013.

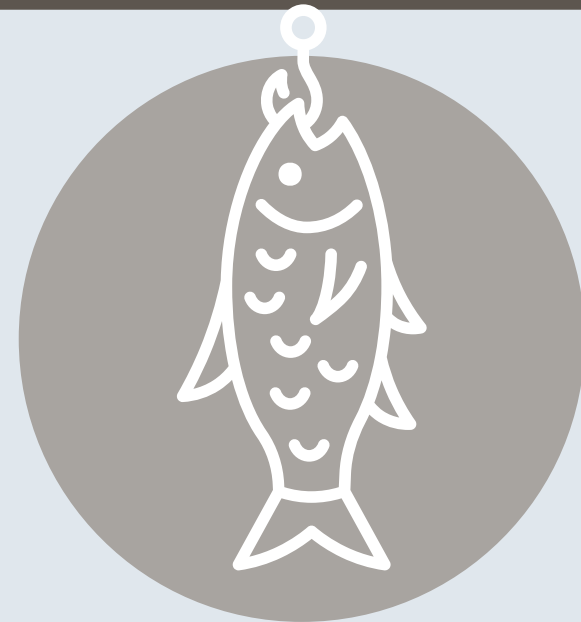
In Whatì, 48% of its population aged 15 years old and over participated in berry harvesting. This is a **13% increase** from 35% in 2013.



HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING

In 2018, 28% of the Behchokò population participated in hunting and fishing. This is a **decrease** compared to 41% in 2013.

In 2018, 69% of the Whatì population participated in hunting and fishing. This is an **increase** compared to 55% in 2013.

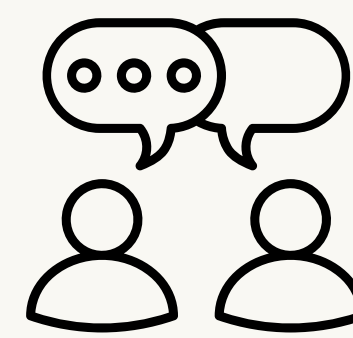


In 2018, 9% of people 15 years old and older in Behchokò reported participating in trapping. This is a **decrease** compared to 11% in 2013.

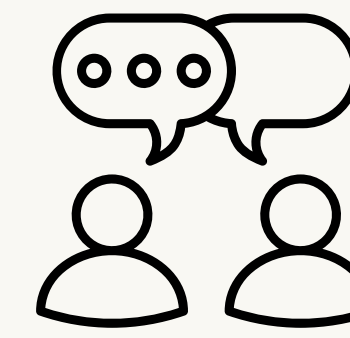
In 2018, 39% of people fifteen years old and older in Whatì reported participating in trapping. This is an **increase** compared to 16% in 2013.

TŁIČHQ LANGUAGE

According data collected through the NWT Community Survey, in 2019,



50% of Indigenous peoples in Behchokò reported speaking Tłıchq.



62% of Indigenous peoples in Whatì reported speaking Tłıchq.

This is a **decrease** in the number of language speakers in both communities.

In 2014, **84%** of Indigenous peoples in Behchokò reported speaking Tłıchq, and **87%** did in Whatì.

In 2019, **45%** of Indigenous peoples in Behchokò could **understand** all Tłıchq conversations, while in Whatì, **64%** of the population could.

CULTURAL WELL-BEING PROGRAMMING

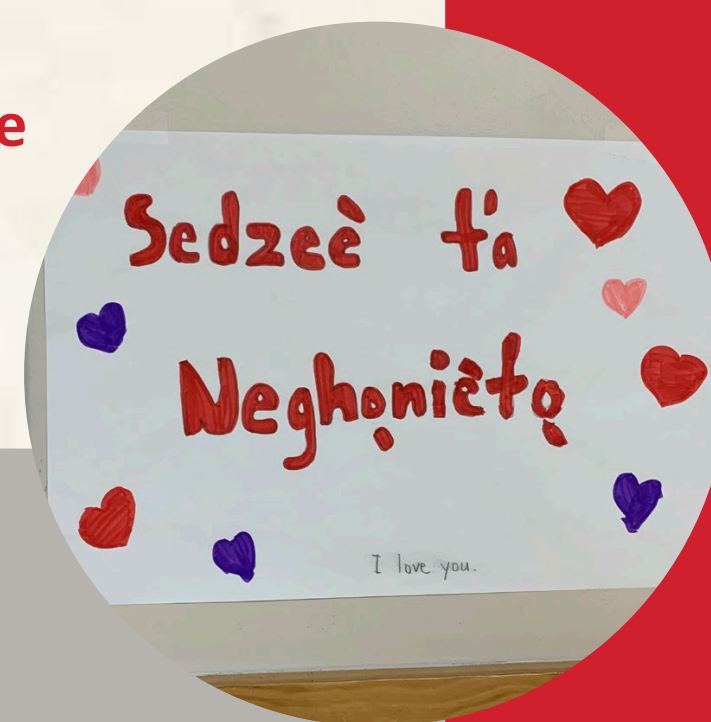


- A trail breaking program was facilitated by the Whatì Presence Office, with local people hired to break trails from Rabbit Lake to Gamètì.
- In March 2023, the Whatì Presence Office and the Mezi Community School provided K–12 students an opportunity to participate in cultural education on the land. This included harvesting fish and game and knowledge exchange on producing dry meat.
- The Tłıchq Government and GNWT funded the Mentor Apprenticeship Program (MAP).

This is an Indigenous language learning tool where fluent speaker of the language (a mentor) teaches a committed language learner (an apprentice). Through immersion, apprentices learn by “living life in the language.” There were four successful mentorship pairs in 2023 and five recorded participating in 2022.

College Nordique partnered with the Tłıchq Government to facilitate Tłıchq Yatì focused courses and linguistic studies that continue to encourage language revitalization.

Continued studies programming at the University of Victoria worked with the Tłıchq Government to create a Tłıchq focused program to obtain a Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization (CILR).



RESOURCES

The Tłıchq Government has publicly available resources to promote Tłıchq Yatì. Items created include:

- Tłıchq prayer book
- Hymn book
- Online dictionary (in progress)
- Tłıchq app (in progress)
- Tłıchq typeface design
- Summer school programming through the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute
- Playing cards
- And many more...

Tłıchq Ndek'áowo



Tłıchq Government

The Tłıchq Highway Socio-Economic Working Group was established in 2019 to monitor the impacts of the new highway on overall health and well-being in Whatì and Behchokò. With representatives from the community governments of Whatì, Behchokò, the Tłıchq Government and the Government of Northwest Territories, the working group releases progress reports once per year. This series of posters — on child & family services, community safety, cultural well-being, early childhood education & student support, economic well-being, and health & well-being — highlights what the working group has found.

SOURCES: TG AND GNWT | PHOTOS: TG AND FIRELIGHT