

Ìtaà negetsà-lia et'ì hoghàgetq̄ xèhoòwi

Celebrating Families



Over the summer, the Tłıchq̄ Government Early Childhood Department and Deedats'eetsaa: Tłıchq̄ Research and Training Institute visited communities in the region to meet leadership, families, and community members. This was done as part of the development of future research projects to support Tłıchq̄ children and families.

Summer 2022 Activities:

- Hosted playgroups and met with families and community leadership in Wekweētī and Gamētī
- Hosted "Celebrating Families" table at the Annual Gathering and Assembly in Whatī, and at Client Services Open House and 101 Anniversary of Treaty 11 in Behchok̄
- Two Tłıchq̄ summer students worked to support both Early Childhood Programming in Behchok̄ and research project development

Playgroups:

Families in Wekweētī and Gamētī attended to play, have snacks, and talk about what is needed in the community for families with young children.



Lilah and Amelia Judas at Wekweētī playgroup in May 2022

Early Childhood Programming:

Activities in Behchok̄ included partnering with the Healing Path team for an On-the-Land Camp for families and children at Russell Lake and partnering with summer camp the K̄ Gocho Sportsplex for crafts and fruit skewer making.



Russell Lake, July 2022

"Love this! Is there going to be another one in the future, love that there is even things for the toddlers too."
 – Feedback on the Family Camp

"Celebrating Families" Table:

Community members were invited to engage with photos of Tłıchq̄ families over time, answer some questions about children and families, meet members of our team, and get a family photo taken.

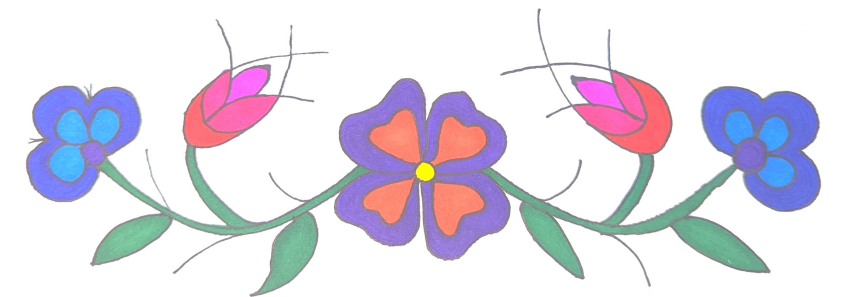
"Elders, parents, youth and young adults came and viewed our booth and shared stories on who were in these photos, and also they share many details in the photos and what the items were used as, how long ago the photos were taken and who they are. There was a lot of great communication going back and forth, sharing knowledge and stories back in the day."
 – Summer Student Report



Whatī, July 2022

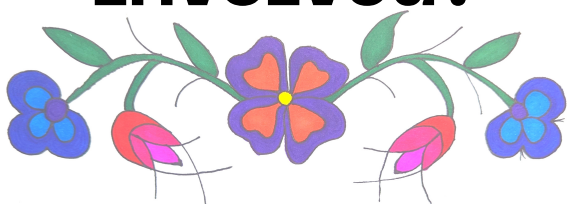


Behchok̄, August 2022



"We enjoyed hearing elders' storytelling and listening to stories from the past. We were building relationships between community members and making connections from the images we displayed."
 – Summer Student Report

Who was involved?



Shannon Wedawin
Summer Student



Darian Rabesca
Summer Student



Sarah MacGregor
Edets'seēhdzā Student



Joni Tsatchia
Summer Staff



Cody Mantla
Photographer



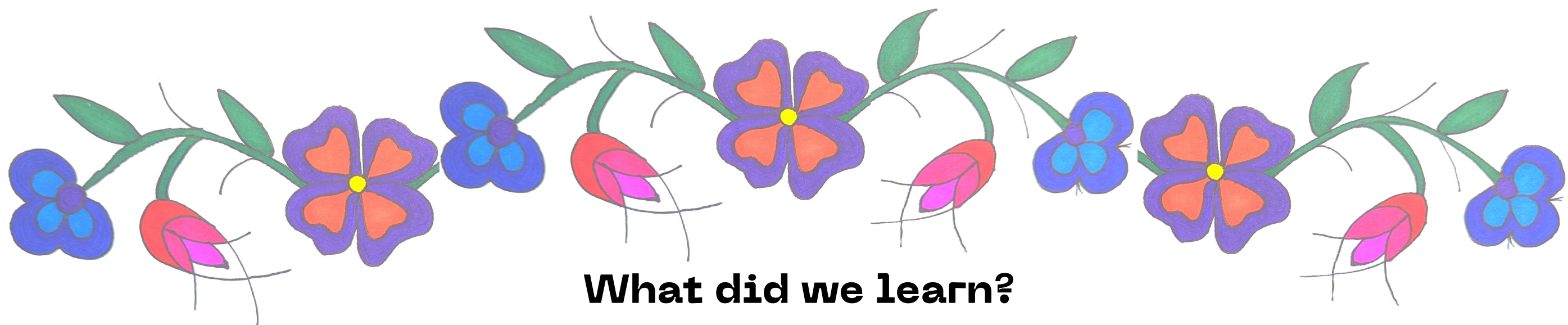
Chelsey Weleschuk
Capable Kids, Inc.



Patti Turner
Senior Advisor
Tłıchq̄ Government



Dr. Sara Komarnisky
Project Lead, Deedats'eetsaa
Research Chair, Aurora College



What did we learn?

We learned a lot about Tłıchq family life, past and present. At the "Celebrating Families" Tables, people shared a lot of knowledge and recollections, and they wrote down their thoughts on three questions:

What is needed to support strong families?

- Faith and love each other
- Quality time together, spend time with your children, they look up to you
- Jesus
- Respecting elders
- Sit and gather with family and make time for each other
- Bonding with love
- Support groups and family programs
- Take time to support each other [with] family programs
- Communication, commitment, coping with crises, appreciation, spirituality, being together
- Family nutrition
- Infant mental health
- Connect with each other
- Love one another
- Support each other
- More programs that [are] geared for all ages and family friendly
- Community support, communication [with] each other
- Sharing time with each other
- Family day and family fun weekend
- Mom and baby drop-in groups (working moms)
- Good social support
- Recreational opportunities for kids
- Affordable housing, daycare, community recreation infrastructure
- Parents need to be involved in their daily lives, make plans, and keep them busy, encourage them about school, goals, and get into sports, set bedtime, homework, patients, gratitude and caring
- Basic parenting and child G/D
- After school library with computers for study and catch up on homework
- Spending time with family and checking in on them and ask 5W (how, what, where, why, when)
- Never give up
- Treat others like the way you would like to be treated
- Make a difference for both languages
- Support each other
- Time together, prayers around the table
- Lots of love
- Healthy communication
- Talk to kids, love support! Never give up!
- Talk to kids, go to school
- Go to school, be strong
- Communicate. Talk to your loved ones
- Love one another
- Got to love
- Love
- Sober parents
- Talk to the kids
- Have patience and stay positive
- Family fun night!
- Lots of laugh[ing]
- Love each other
- Constant communicating, making time available, scheduling with work/family, supporting one another and being available support/ help where needed
- Communication
- Parental guidance and lots of love and attention and really listen to them! And care for them, be there for them, be concern for them.
- Parents supporting grandkids
- Respect each other
- Always forgive one another
- Strong love
- Parents supporting parents
- Love, laughter, support families who trying their best
- Forgiving/working together workshops
- Talking it out
- Support one another
- Love and laugh

How has family life changed over time?

- Communication
- On the land learning
- Loss of languages
- Letting children use technology at a young age (ex, iPad, iPod)
- Addiction
- Less traditional learning
- Lack of supports
- Technology
- Diversity L
- By teach(ing) the kids more. Talk to them positive[ly] – let them know they are doing very good jobs. Communication for sure!
- Physical distance, we live so far apart now
- My family grows over time <3
- More connections, more families, more costs, more love all around due to being in many different places around the world
- Everything changed
- Time is key <3
- Lack of support for one another
- More get togethers
- Electronics
- Change with time, making adjustment, + scheduling our work/school etc.
- Spending time together, go out on the land, help and respect
- Connect each other with love and support one another
- Everyone is growing and changing
- Over time there are more things to do and opportunities for families
- Family and electronics pulling them apart
- Living further apart
- Less time with family and kids, more into electronics
- Drugs and alcohol peer pressure
- Help each other
- My life choices/decisions
- Big support
- Healing with each other
- Addictions
- [Parents] not giving advice, video games (violent)
- Not sure but a lot stayed the same
- Change everything about you, and change your life
- Social media/ electronics
- Lack of communication because of electronics
- Less time out on the land because children want to stay home (WIFI)

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 Charlie Eyakfwo, Germaine Eyakfwo, Alfred Eyakfwo, Sam Simpson, Noella Kodzin, Mary Adele Eyakfwo, Pierre Wedzin (Identified by community members in 2022)



NWT Archives/Emile Gautreau photograph collection/N-2015-009: 0033

What do you love about your family?

- Giving each other hugs
- Strong connection with love
- Love
- Quality time
- Support and connecting
- Spiritual[ity] and praying everyday
- On Sundays, go to church with family in the morning
- I love how unique they are and will love them no matter what
- Time together, laugh[ing], crying, caring, support so much together, love on and keep the circle strong together
- Diversity all ages of the family
- Spending time together
- Family gatherings, dinners, birthdays, fishing, and traveling
- Diversity
- Unconditional love and support
- Big families
- The constant love and support for one another
- You will never find any family like yours
- That I have one
- Family support
- Family gatherings, traveling, and going out on the land
- Togetherness
- Family pictures and love each other and respect
- We do fun things together and laugh a lot
- [Being a] support
- Family cookouts and spending time together
- Sharing, working together, sharing love
- Bonding, interacting with children
- Keep up [the] good work <3
- Teamwork
- Our children are our generation
- Love one other always
- Communications, hugs and loves, staying positive, positive attitudes, masi
- Smile, God Love you
- Sharing, working together, sharing love
- Love and security
- Love u my best friend
- Happy family
- Doing things together (like the bouncy castle)
- Be strong, be happy
- Time spent together
- Family gathering
- Love, kind
- Being there for one another
- Sharing
- Helping each other
- Home cooked meals, movie nights, get togethers, and chatting to one another
- Story time
- Going to YK
- Love family
- Being with them
- Bonding
- Support and bonding
- Going on trips
- Outstandin'
- Strong and bonding, speak our language
- Getting along...loving...sharing...+ cooperating. Time mgmt. is so important...
- Love, sharing, caring
- I love all my family playing games
- Teaching and [hands-on] learning – sewing and art/craft
- Best vibes!!!
- Too much technology and Google taking over Elders teaching way of life
- Reconnecting with family and supporting each other!!!
- New generation w/tech
- Teaching the children culture and how it can [go] forward

What's next?

Our team will be having meetings and planning research for next summer on a "Family Stories" project. We want to talk to community members about what they remember from their childhoods, and understand more fully how family life has changed over time, what practices and knowledge connect Tłıchq families across generations, and how what is learned can support children and families today.

