

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

JUNE 2018-MAY 2019



Ryerson  
University

Faculty  
of Arts



Yellowhead  
Institute

## OUR MISSION

# Yellowhead Institute generates critical policy perspectives in support of First Nation jurisdiction.

### ABOUT CHIEF WILLIAM YELLOWHEAD

William Yellowhead (1760-1865), known as Misko Aki or "Red Earth", was an Anishinaabe leader in what is now Southern Ontario. His traditional territory stretched from East Toronto, through Lake Simcoe, and to hunting grounds in Muskoka, Ontario (the township is named after Yellowhead). While a British loyalist during the War of 1812, Yellowhead also led his people through some of the most oppressive periods of British colonization. This included being at the first reserve experiment in Canada and subject to numerous fraudulent land surrenders. In spite of this, Yellowhead defended Anishinaabe jurisdiction against British encroachment, was an advocate of inter-national Indigenous unity and treaty-making, and preserved Anishinaabe ceremony and philosophy, even after adopting elements of Christianity. Yellowhead eventually founded and spent much of his later life on Rama First Nation (Mnjikaning).

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

While this has been an incredible year for Yellowhead Institute, we celebrate with some sadness. Vernon Yellowhead, who gave his blessing for our use of the Yellowhead name, passed away in the Fall of 2018 at Rama First Nation. Like Chief William Yellowhead before him, Vernon carried the Yellowhead name with integrity and we strive to honour their legacy.

Yellowhead would not be possible without Vernon and his family's support. But also the support of Dean Pamela Sugiman, Sharmaine MacKenzie and the rest of our colleagues in the Faculty of Arts and the Ryerson community generally. Finally, we are held up by a growing Indigenous community we have come to think of as the Yellowhead network. We want to acknowledge all of their support, too.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY STAN WILLIAMS, MOHAWK AND ANISHINAABE

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A year after we launched Yellowhead Institute, I continue to be overwhelmed with the interest and support for the work of the organization.

And despite being in existence for such a short time it feels like we've made an impact, which we share here in this report. Our work is taken up at the community level, we have supported over a dozen emerging First Nation leaders, co-created a community-based research model, contributed to the public discussion on Indigenous issues, and are influencing policy and legislation that affects First Nation people. Within the university we are also contributing to and actually shaping the broader institution to make space for Indigenous education and research. Finally, maybe most importantly, we've built a network of relationships that continues to grow, evolve and strengthen.

Through it all, we've learned a lot, too. There have been challenges and set-backs that have taken a lot of careful navigation but have ultimately made us a more thoughtful organization. We are moving into our second year with a committed and growing team in the Faculty of Arts at Ryerson University, and clear focus on supporting First Nation visions for the future.

Hayden King  
Executive Director, Yellowhead Institute



**Introducing Yellowhead Institute: Indigenous Strategies for Transformative Change** event is held at Ryerson University.

**Yellowhead Institute launches online** with the report, *Canada's Emerging Indigenous Rights Framework: A Critical Analysis*. The report was informed by a community-based research workshop held with the Yellowhead Board of Advisors in March 2018.

**Global Indigenous Solidarity Grant** is announced, a partnership with Ryerson International allowing Yellowhead to send six students to NAISA2019 in Aotearoa.

**Art Manuel Awards are held;** three winners are announced, receiving a combined total of \$7,000 to support their ongoing work.

SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER

JUNE

OCTOBER

DECEMBER

**First cohort of 15 Research Fellows is announced.**

**Red Paper Workshop on Land & Water Restitution** is held, welcoming over 20 First Nation leaders and activists to connect and inform the upcoming Red Paper report.

**Into the Ring with Ford: A Fundraiser for Neskantaga & Eabametoong First Nations** event is held in collaboration with Wawatay Radio Network.

2018

# A YEAR OF YELLOWHEAD

## Milestones from June 2018 - May 2019

# 2019

***"An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families: Does Bill C-92 Make the Grade"?*** report is launched in collaboration with five legal scholars.

**Board Meeting & Spring Red Paper Workshop**

**FEBRUARY**

**APRIL**

**MARCH**

**MAY**

**North Coast, Meet Yellowhead Institute**  
event is held in Prince Rupert featuring leaders of the #WestuwetenStrong movement.

**From the Rights Framework to the 2019 Federal Election**  
videos, podcast and comic are released online.

## SELECT UPCOMING 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- **July**  
Red Paper Report & Online Tools Release
- **August**  
Yellowhead Freedom School
- **September**  
Vernon Yellowhead Scholarship Launch
- **October**  
Red Paper Report Event

JUNE 2018 - MAY 2019

# BY THE NUMBERS



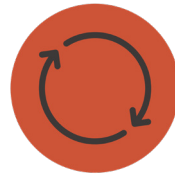
**38,369** Visitors to  
yellowheadinstitute.org



**4,901** Twitter followers



**2** Yellowhead Special  
Reports released



**6** Student circles held



**50+** Media features



**891** Newsletter  
subscribers



**700** Facebook followers



**30** Yellowhead Policy  
Briefs published



**2,900** People engaged  
at events



**173,366** Pageviews  
on yellowheadinstitute.org

**"The Faculty of Arts is committed to promoting an informed understanding of Indigenous perspectives and awareness of Indigenous issues, within the university and beyond. Yellowhead Institute will be a crucial resource for all Canadians as we work together to establish a nation-to-nation relationship."**

-Dean Pamela Sugiman, Faculty of Arts, Ryerson University

**"Yellowhead Institute will be the first Indigenous-led national think tank. There is no organization in the country doing policy and legislative analysis, and sharing it with First Nations communities to support their work. And with the speed and scope at which policy changes are happening, there is an urgent need."**

-Hayden King, Executive Director, Yellowhead Institute

**"The Yellowhead Institute is committed to creating a space of real transformation to shape what justice in Canada might look like for Indigenous peoples."**

-Shiri Pasternak, Research Director, Yellowhead Institute





# POLICY BRIEFS

Between June 2018 - June 2019, Yellowhead Institute has published 30 policy briefs covering a wide range of topics written by diverse, nearly exclusively Indigenous authors.

YELLOWHEAD BRIEFS FOCUS ON topical and pressing issues affecting communities on the ground and ideas that challenge the status quo. They are written in the style of op-eds, for a broad audience, and range in length from 800-1,000 words. We publish the briefs on an ongoing basis and welcome distillations of research, community perspectives, or responses to current political issues. We aim to release Briefs weekly on the Yellowhead website and they are announced via Twitter and Facebook. They are a signature element of Yellowhead's critical policy analysis work.

## Examples of Impact & Engagement

→ After publishing *The Promise and Failure of First Nation Policing in Ontario* on January 23, 2019 by Miskaankwad Dwayne Nashkawa, we learned that the Deputy Chief of the Anishinaabek Police Service, Dave Whitlow addressed the Yellowhead brief the next day in a mass email to APS officers/team. Coincidentally, the Chief and Deputy Chief of the APS were suspended soon after, pending the outcome of an internal investigation.

→ Released on February 7, 2019, *Dear Qallunaat: Racism, Public Government and Inuit Nunanga* by Sandra Inutiq led to 8k in site traffic in one month (double our average per month) and was subsequently reposted on CBC.com. The brief led to a prolonged public discussion in Iqaluit on the role of non-Inuit in government.

→ *The 176 Million Dollar Question: Are The Promised Federal Education Funds For First Nations Actually Flowing?* by Karihwakeron Tim Thompson led to a quick response and updated data, previously unavailable, from Indigenous Services Canada on education funding.

Looking forward, Yellowhead will continue to refine and sharpen the process for soliciting/identifying brief topics and authors in order to ensure quality and relevance.



## TOP 10 MOST VIEWED BRIEFS FROM JUNE 2018 - MAY 2019

#	DATE PUBLISHED	BRIEF TITLE	AUTHOR
1.	2/7/2019	Dear Qallunaat: Racism, Public Government and Inuit Nunanga	Sandra Inutiq, Clyde River Inuk
2.	8/21/2018	Better Late than Never? Canada's Reluctant Recognition of Métis Rights and Self-Government	Adam Gaudry, Métis
3.	9/19/2018	Canada's Indigenous Rights Framework: A (Bad) Proposal Emerges	Hayden King, Anishinaabe, Beausoleil First Nation
4.	12/24/2018	An Injunction Against the Unist'ot'en Camp: An Embodiment of Healing Faces Eviction	Karla Tait, Wet'suwet'en First Nation & Anne Spice, Tlingit, Kwanlin Dun First Nation
5.	3/4/2019	A Critical Look At the New Fiscal Relationship and Contribution Funding Agreements with First Nations	Candice Maglione Desjarlais, Cree Métis
6.	5/6/2018	Mi'kmaq and the Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework	Sherry Pictou, Mi'kmaw
7.	7/20/2018	Fraser Institute: Property Rights for Everyone, Just not Indians	Peter Di Gangi
8.	7/18/2018	We Own It, So Let's Kill It: What to do about Kinder Morgan in an era of "reconciliation"	Kanahus Manuel is Secwepemc/Ktunaxa & Shiri Pasternak
9.	7/10/2018	Can the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girl's Inquiry be Reclaimed?	Courtney Skye, Mohawk, Turtle Clan, from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
10.	1/23/2019	The Promise and Failure of First Nation Policing in Ontario	Miskaankwad Dwayne Nashkawa, Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation





# RESEARCH

## SPECIAL REPORT

### Canada's Emerging Indigenous Rights Framework: A Critical Analysis

ON JUNE 5, 2018, Yellowhead Institute launched online with the report, *Canada's Emerging Indigenous Rights Framework: A Critical Analysis* by Hayden King and Shiri Pasternak. This was the first comprehensive analysis of the Indigenous Rights, Recognition and Implementation Framework announced by the federal government in February 2018. The report analysis is divided into three categories – Relationship Reform, Policy Reform and Legislative Reform – and finds that the Rights Framework expresses a clear and coherent set of goals that guide First Nations towards a narrow model of “self-government” outside of the Indian Act.

In addition to the full report and in line with our focus on creating accessible and practical resources for First Nations, we also released an Executive Summary, Presentation and User Guide, two related policy briefs and two infographics.

**The report is the top visited page and download on the Yellowhead website and continues to be referenced in media and by Indigenous and non-Indigenous thought leaders and policy makers.**

#### Examples of Impact

→ The Rights Framework legislation was put on hold in December 2018

→ Youth leading the Stop the Framework Rally in December 2018 quoted the Yellowhead report in their comments to the AFN. Megan Logan (Delaware Nation), one of the youth who spoke at the meeting stated, “I relied very heavily on the report - it was extremely helpful in allowing me to really grasp a lot of the information surrounding the Framework! I referenced it quite a bit.”

→ Cited in numerous reports including: *UNDRIP Implementation: More Reflections on the Braiding of International, Domestic and Indigenous Laws* by the Centre for International Governance Innovation, *Reconciliation Beyond the Box* by Center for International Governance Innovation / 6 Degrees, and *Assessing the Duty to Consult*, by the Fraser Institute.

#### WEBSITE STATS\*

**14,957** PAGEVIEWS

**7,417** UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS

**907** REPORT DOWNLOADS

June 5, 2018-May 25, 2018\*

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# From the Rights Framework to the 2019 Election

Since the June release of our analysis report on Canada's Indigenous Rights Framework, Yellowhead has been overwhelmed with invitations from First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations to deliver workshops on our findings and to discuss how to create local strategies. As such, we applied for, and were successful in receiving a \$5,000 from the Inspirit Foundation to develop accessible multimedia tools to continue the conversation on the Rights Framework. We produced:

- A video titled *Indigenous Strategies for Transformative Change: A Discussion on the Rights Framework*, featuring a dynamic panel discussion on the Rights Framework from the Yellowhead launch event;
- A podcast titled *Is it Dead Tho? An Update on the Rights Framework*, where Executive Director Hayden King and Research Director, Shiri Pasternak answer crowdsourced questions on the Framework, offering an up-to-date state of Indian Policy today;
- A comic explainer titled, *Indigenous Rights: Frameworks for the Future* that breaks down why the Framework was shelved and offers the possibility of an alternative approach.

These tools contribute to Yellowhead's commitment to influencing policy development and holding governments accountable for policies affecting First Nations and contributing to public education on the legal and political relationship between First Nations and Canada. Launched online on April 9, 2019 as a special feature on the Yellowhead website, we received an increase in site traffic for the month of the release as well as significant engagement via our social media channels and newsletter.

### Examples of Feedback on the Resources:

*"I shared them with folks at work as I now work for the federal government and believe it is important for colleagues to be exposed to this work."*

*"The video I watched was extremely impactful. I had no idea that such a large percentage of policies/laws affecting Indigenous peoples lives are being implemented under Trudeau."*

INSPIRIT FOUNDATION  FONDATION INSPIRIT



A SPECIAL REPORT  
**Canada's Emerging Indigenous Rights Framework: A Critical Analysis**  
by HAYDEN KING and SHIRI PASTERNAK

JUNE 05, 2018

Left: Cover of the Yellowhead Institute Rights Framework Report  
Right: Panels from the Rights Framework Comic Explainer, illustrated by Joshua Pawis-Steckley





# RESEARCH

## SPECIAL REPORT

### An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families: Does Bill C-92 Make the Grade?

IN MARCH 2018, Yellowhead collaborated with a team of legal scholars on a five-part special report on Bill C-92. The team identified five key areas in the legislation that should be addressed in order to make meaningful change in the lives of Indigenous children and families, providing a grade (A-F) and analysis for each of the areas:



01. National Standards



02. Funding



03. Accountability



04. Jurisdiction



05. Data Collecting  
and Reporting

## Examples of Impact

→NDP MP Rachel Blaney, Senator Murray Sinclair and a member of Elizabeth May's staff requested to be connected with the authors, one person stating that "the Yellowhead Institute's analysis of Bill C-92 is a guiding force in the work I'm doing on that bill."

→Naomi Metallic and Hadley Friedland, two authors of the report testified at the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs in May 2019.

## WEBSITE STATS\*

**5,047** PAGEVIEWS

**2,434** UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS

**1,030** COMBINED DOWNLOADS\*\*

\*June 5, 2018-May 25, 2018

\*\*Includes full report, factsheet and each of the 5 sections



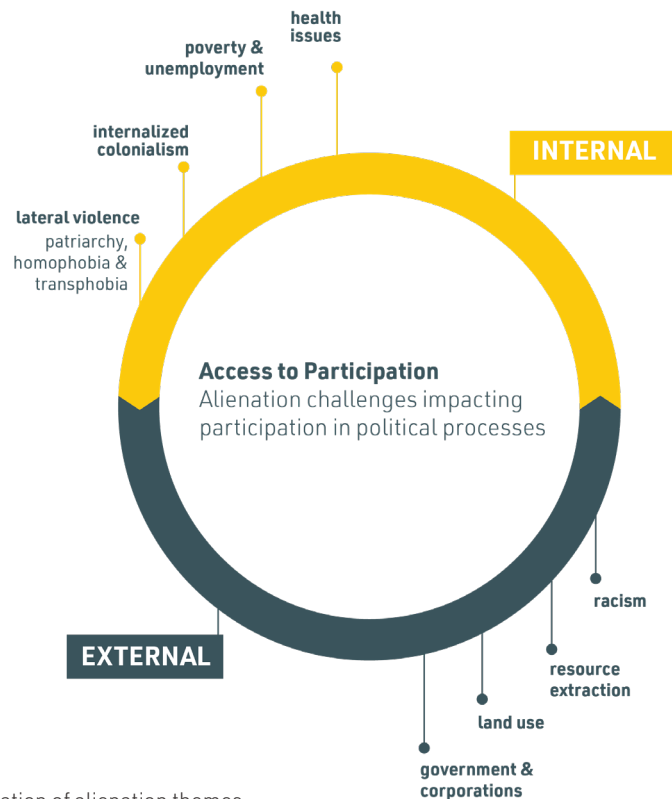
# RESEARCH

## RED PAPER

### Land & Water Reclamation Workshop

INSPIRED BY THE ORIGINAL RED PAPER, drafted by First Nation leaders in response to the White Paper, Yellowhead's version is an annual, in-depth and constructive response to Canadian Indian policy featuring Indigenous alternatives. The Red Paper research model is directed and informed by community perspectives and expertise. In our first Red Paper, workshops revolved around strategies and models of land and water reclamation, based on case studies of communities across the country.

This two day workshop, held November 10-11, 2018, brought together Indigenous leaders to discuss and strategize around land and water restitution. We know that there is a significant lack of opportunities for First Nations to share information about techniques the provincial and federal governments use to alienate First Nations from the lands and the tools First Nations in turn deploy to refuse.



Visual representation of alienation themes that emerged from the November 2018 Red Paper workshop.



"The power is in these circles. Now we're all connected.  
Our nations are stronger when we build relationships."

- Red Paper Workshop Participant, November 2018

Through this workshop and the Red Paper Project, we aimed to strengthen networks of resistance and share models of self-determination across the country to help other communities better defend and manage their lands. We expect to release the Red Paper in late Summer, 2019.

### **The Red Paper Project**

With support from the Laidlaw Foundation, Yellowhead will release the Red Paper with a suite of accessible, community-focused knowledge mobilization tools and host a land and water reclamation themed Freedom School for young emerging First Nation leaders in summer 2019. This is part of a three-year partnership between the Laidlaw Foundation and Yellowhead Institute that integrates community-based research, knowledge sharing and mentorship opportunities for young First Nation leaders.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STAN WILLIAMS, MOHAWK AND ANISHINAABE





# STUDENT SUPPORT

## Global Indigenous Solidarity Grant

THIS GRANT is an opportunity for Indigenous students at Ryerson University to travel to Indigenous territories beyond the borders of Canada and help build global relationships and solidarity. The 2018/2019 grant covers travel, accommodation, and expenses up to \$5,000 for six students to attend the 2019 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) annual meeting and related symposia at the University of Waikato, Aotearoa (New Zealand). This grant is offered by the Yellowhead Institute in partnership with Ryerson International and the Faculty of Arts.

Yellowhead received 21 applications for the inaugural operating year of the grant.

## Vernon Yellowhead Scholarship

STARTING IN FALL 2019, two Indigenous students studying environmental stewardship or Indigenous knowledge at Ryerson University will receive a Vernon Yellowhead Scholarship. This award will be granted annually and is valued at \$6,000 a year, per student.

## Student Circles

YELLOWHEAD INSTITUTE HOSTS monthly student circles during the academic year on topics related to Indigenous politics, policy and education. Undergraduate, graduate and non-student community members join us for lunch while discussing issues related to Indigenous politics, policy and education that are significant to them.

Since October 2018, we have held six student circles with a total of 35 students attending in total. Topics discussed include authenticity, 'economic reconciliation', Indigenous experiences within post-secondary institutions and land acknowledgements.

## Research Assistantships

OVER THE PAST YEAR, Yellowhead and members of the Yellowhead team have worked with 14 Research Assistants. 12 of these researchers are Indigenous and the majority are women and community researchers (as opposed to enrolled students). Of the students researchers, they have been both undergraduate and graduate. There are currently three active Yellowhead researchers.



# EVENTS

In 2018/2019, Yellowhead Institute held three major events, partnered on two, and members of the Institute presented at, or attended 14 community events to a total audience of approximately 2,900 people.

## Feature Events

**OCTOBER 23, 2018**

### **Introducing Yellowhead Institute: Indigenous Strategies for Transformative Change**

As part of Ryerson University's Social Justice Week, Yellowhead launched with a sold out event introducing Yellowhead to the Ryerson community and beyond with a dynamic panel on the Rights Framework. Yellowhead was honored to have Pauline Shirt, Plains Cree, Red-Tail Hawk Clan, Grandmother to the Toronto Indigenous community open and close the event, and Lori Yellowhead, wife of the late Vernon Yellowhead attend, along with Bill McRoberts, Hereditary Chief, Reindeer Clan (Anishinaabe) and Carrier of the Musquakie / Yellowhead Name.

**NOVEMBER 9, 2018**

### **Into the Ring with Ford: A Fundraiser for the Neskantaga & Eabametoong First Nations**

Neskantaga & Eabametoong First Nations are both on the frontlines holding Premier Doug Ford accountable to Indigenous laws in their territory. The event, which was sold out and standing room only, featured Chief Wayne Moonias (Neskantaga) and Chief Elizabeth Atlookan (Eabametoong). Wawatay Radio Network provided live audio broadcast in Ojicree / Cree / English translation and over \$4,000 was raised for the two Nations.

**FEBRUARY 15, 2019**

### **North Coast, Meet Yellowhead Institute**

On February 15, 2019 Yellowhead hosted an event in Prince Rupert featuring leaders of the #WestwetenStrong movement, Karla Tait, Molly Wickham and Freda Huson. It was an opportunity to give communities on the North Coast a chance to learn about Yellowhead / how to engage with the Institute and also allowed Yellowhead to further connect with existing and potential collaborators and First Nation leaders in our growing Indigenous network.





Top Left: Bill McRoberts, Hereditary Chief, Reindeer Clan (Anishinaabe) and Carrier of the Musquakie / Yellowhead Name at the Yellowhead launch

Top Right: Executive Director, Hayden King and Research Director, Shiri Pasternak at the Yellowhead Launch

Bottom left: Chief Liz Atlookan, Chief Wayne Moonias and special guests at the Into the Ring with Ford event

## Select Partnered Events and Community Presentations:

**APRIL 2, 2019**

Policy Options Pre-Election Breakfast Series:  
Indigenous-Crown Relations

**MAY 6, 2019**

Mapuche Land Defenders: Contesting State  
Criminalization in Chile

**JANUARY 15, 2019**

Treaty #8 Chiefs of Alberta, Constitutional  
Development Think Tank

**DECEMBER 5, 2018**

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly: Presentation  
to the Ontario Chiefs Caucus on the Rights  
Framework

**NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

Presentation to the Pic River First Nation Band  
Council and Land Managers on the Rights  
Framework

**OCTOBER 25, 2018**

Free, Prior and Informed Consent Conference:  
Empowering Our Future



# ART MANUEL AWARDS

"There is room on this land for all of us and there must also be, after centuries of struggle, room for justice for Indigenous peoples. That is all we ask. And we will settle for nothing less."

- Arthur Manuel, *Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-Up Call*

THE ART MANUEL AWARDS HONOUR the legacy of Secwepemc leader and activist Art Manuel by recognizing impactful Indigenous governance research or practices.

Art Manuel helped us understand the contemporary dynamics of colonization while also offering strategies for creative resistance. Yellowhead aimed to honour his legacy with three awards totaling a value of \$7000, recognizing an individual or community that expands on his life's work and makes a significant on-the-ground contribution to Indigenous self-determination.

**Yellowhead Institute is indebted to generations of leaders, community organizers, land defenders, and those revitalizing Indigenous knowledge and practices.**

Our inaugural Art Manuel Awards recognizes some of these efforts – individuals and groups that resist settler colonialism in creative and meaningful ways. We were proud to celebrate and spotlight the three winners selected by our esteemed jury.

## JURY:

**Leanne Betasamosake Simpson**

Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg

**Doreen Manuel**

Secwepemc and  
Ktunuxa

**Melina Laboucan-Massimo**

Lubicon Cree First Nation

## WINNERS:

**Native Youth Sexual  
Health Network (NYSHN)**

**Rhoda Quock**

Wolf Clan,  
Tahltan Nation  
the Klabona Keepers

**Judy Da Silva**

Grassy Narrows First Nation

"I was forwarded your recent publication, *Canada's Emerging Indigenous Right's Framework: A Critical Analysis*, and I found it extremely enlightening. I was not aware of how much things could change, or the pace that it is happening."

"On behalf of the nation, I am grateful for the several assessments and analyses that the Yellowhead Institute has provided because they have been helpful in our navigation of the current direction of the Government of Canada."

"A much needed Indigenous-led institution to generate a substantive and outcome based dialogue on self-determination and Indigenous policy perspectives."

"Such a potentially powerful tool to help change the landscape for Indigenous peoples in Canada."

"I attended the Yellowhead Institute launch. I wanted to email to thank you. I'll be using several of the briefs that YI has published online as teaching resources."

"Thank you so much to the authors for researching and writing the *Canada's Emerging Indigenous Right's Framework: A Critical Analysis* report. I found it really accessible and helpful to break down Trudeau's policies and it helped me frame his government's agenda in my mind."





# IMPACT & INFLUENCE

WITHIN ONE WEEK OF LAUNCHING, Yellowhead Institute received 85+ media hits spanning print, radio and television, 10 student requests to contribute to the Institute, 6 collaboration requests and over 3,100 website visitors.

This response demonstrates the overwhelming timeliness and necessity of an Institute with our mission and objectives. As we move into this next year, we will continue to build on this impact, holding ourselves accountable to our community and the vision of Yellowhead Institute.



## Yellowhead Community: Board of Advisors and Research Fellows

Our network of community leaders, researchers and practitioners who share their knowledge, time and guidance to the Institute, contribute significantly to the strength and impact of the Institute.

Yellowhead is guided by a Board of Advisors comprised of First Nation leaders representing diverse perspectives, experiences, and knowledge, rooted in communities across Canada. In addition to providing overall strategic guidance to the Institute, individual board members also contribute to the Institute in varying capacities such as advising on specific initiatives, research, and responding to media requests.

In September 2018, the Institute announced 15 Research Fellows, esteemed researchers and practitioners doing community-based, critical Indigenous policy work that support and contribute to various Yellowhead initiatives. Two key areas that Fellows have contributed to are Yellowhead Briefs and media requests.



## Website & Online Engagement

The Yellowhead website, [yellowheadinsitute.org](https://yellowheadinsitute.org) and our social media channels (Twitter and Facebook) are our primary methods of communication and dissemination, contributing significantly to our impact. All of Yellowhead's research, policy analysis and community resources are released online and downloadable. On average, the Yellowhead website engages 3,515 visitors a month - traffic has peaked so far at 8,413 visitors, the month that Sandra Inuitiq's policy brief, '*Dear Qullunnaat...*' was released. Further, we receive quality engagement on Twitter and Facebook, as 41% of our website traffic comes from these channels. Our online presence is crucial to our work and this is reflected in our ongoing updates to the site; the latest addition was the Community Resource Library, a searchable database of free, downloadable tools and resources created by the Institute.



## Community Support and Collaboration

Over the past year, Yellowhead has received over 60 requests from individuals and organizations interested in varying degrees of collaboration with the Institute. Examples include requests to review reports and policy, for presentations in First Nation communities, for research advice from individuals working in academia, and general requests for informational interviews on the Institute. Yellowhead responds to as many of these requests as capacity allows, prioritizing requests from First Nations and collaborating on a range of initiatives and partnerships.



## Government Engagement

One of the Institute's objectives is to influence policy development and hold governments accountable for policies affecting First Nations. Over the past year, we have received seven requests from Senators and policy analysts for MPs to either speak at Senate Standing Committee sessions or advise on various pieces of legislation relevant to Indigenous peoples. Further, government officials have responded to two of our policy briefs, providing additional data otherwise not available, showing their awareness of, and engagement with our content. We have also received anecdotal feedback from government employees who are disseminating Yellowhead content and policy analysis within their workplaces.



## Media Coverage and Requests

Another key objective of the Institute is contributing to public education on the legal and political relationship between First Nations and Canada. One of the ways we do this is by providing Indigenous perspectives in the media, which has a long track record of excluding Indigenous voices or perspectives on Indigenous issues. Since the launch of the Institute, Yellowhead and/or members of the Yellowhead network have been featured in the media over 50 distinct times. Moreover, we have fielded requests from journalists on a wide-range of topics over 35 times.



## Support and Solidarity

Yellowhead welcomes requests and opportunities to show support and solidarity with organizations / initiatives that align with our values. The following are examples of ways that Yellowhead has supported such initiatives over the past year:

- Providing funding to the Black Liberation Collective-Ryerson, specifically, the Black and Indigenous Solidarity Cafe event at the BLC's first intercollegiate Black Frosh week.
- Providing funding to No More Silence - Aboriginal Legal Services in support of their event, Queering Decolonization featuring esteemed speakers sharing their experiences on the frontlines of Two Spirit resistance against settler colonialism in Canada and Palestine.
- Providing a statement of support in the *Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside* by the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and featuring the report on the Yellowhead website and social media as a special brief.

# WHO WE ARE

## Board of Advisors

**Emily Riddle**, nehiyaw iskwew,  
Treaty Six, Alexander First Nation  
(Kipohetakaw)

**Janice Makokis**, nehiyaw iskwew,  
Treaty Six, Saddle Lake Cree Nation  
(Onihcikiskwapiwin)

**Judith Sayers**,  
Hupacasath First Nation

**Kris Statnyk**, Gwich'in,  
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

**Naiomi W. Metallic**, Listuguj  
Mi'gmaq First Nation,  
Gespe'gewa'gi

**Peter Di Gangi**

## Research Fellows

**John Cutfeet**, Kitchenuhmaykoosib  
Innuwug (KI) First Nation

**Ellen Gabriel**, Kanien'kehá:ka  
(Mohawk), Kanehsatà:ke

**Christina Gray**, Ts'msyen member  
of Lax Kw'alaams, Dene and Métis  
from Lutsel K'e

**Sákéj Henderson**, Bear Clan of the  
Chickasaw Nation and Cheyenne  
Tribe

**Shalene Jobin**, Cree and Métis, Red  
Pheasant Cree First Nation (Treaty  
Six)

**Tanya Kappo**, Sturgeon Lake  
Cree Nation

**Dëneze Nakehk'o**, Dene,  
Liidlí Kue First Nation

**Sherry Pictou**, Mi'kmaw from  
L'sitkuk (Bear River First Nation)

**Brock Pitawanakwat**, Anishinaabe,  
Whitefish River First Nation

**Raven Sinclair**, Nehiyaw (Cree)  
from George Gordon First Nation,  
Treaty 4 Territory

**Courtney Skye**, Six Nations of the  
Grand River Territory

**Tim Thompson**, Mohawk Nation,  
Bear Clan Family, Wahta Mohawk  
Territory

**Vanessa Watts**, Anishinaabe and  
Mohawk

**Matthew Wildcat**, Nehiyaw,  
Ermineskin Cree Nation

**Tara Williamson**, Opaskwayak Cree  
Nation, Gaabishkigamaag

## Associate Fellows

**Damien Lee**  
Fort William First Nation

**Julie Tomiak** (March 2018 - March 2019)

## Researchers

**Minowaywayjiwan Sinclair**,  
Anishinaabe

**Fallon Andy**,  
Couchiching First Nation

**Riley Yesno**,  
Eabametoong First Nation

## Operations

**Hayden King**, Anishinaabe,  
Beausoleil First Nation

**Shiri Pasternak**

**Yumi Numata**





PHOTOGRAPH BY STAN WILLIAMS, MOHAWK AND ANISHINAABE



*Critical Indigenous Policy Perspectives*

**[www.yellowheadinstitute.org](http://www.yellowheadinstitute.org)**