



June 2022 - June 2023

Critical Indigenous Policy Perspectives

YELLOWHEAD INSTITUTE

Year Five Highlights



HERE, WE SHARE SELECT HIGHLIGHTS, MOMENTS OF EVOLUTION, LEARNING, AND GROWTH, AND SOME OF THE MEANINGFUL TIMES WE SHARED WITH OUR YELLOWHEAD COMMUNITY THIS YEAR (JUNE 2022 - JUNE 2023).



SELECT MILESTONES THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

2022

JUNE

YI MILESTONE
Yellowhead turns 5!

JULY

YI COMMUNITY
Toronto Freedom School

AUGUST

YI RESEARCH | SPECIAL REPORT RELEASE
Redwashing Extraction: Indigenous Relations at Canada's Big Five Banks

SEPTEMBER

YI RESEARCH | EVENT
A Calls to Action Conversation on Truth & Reconciliation

OCTOBER

YI COMMUNITY
Barks & Roots On the Land Program

NOVEMBER

YI RESEARCH | SPECIAL REPORT RELEASE
Between Membership & Belonging: Life Under Section 30 of the *Indian Act*

DECEMBER

YI RESEARCH | SPECIAL REPORT RELEASE
Calls to Action Accountability: A 2022 Update on Reconciliation

2023

JANUARY

YI RESEARCH | SPECIAL REPORT RELEASE
Indigenous Land-Based Education in Theory and Practice

FEBRUARY

YI SCHOOL | SPARK EVENT
Bad Cree x The Big Melt Book Launch

MARCH

YI COMMUNITY
Research Presentation with the Qanak Collective in Iqaluit

APRIL

YI RESEARCH | SPECIAL REPORT RELEASE
Indigenous Food Sovereignty in Ontario:
A Study of Exclusion at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, & Rural Affairs

MAY

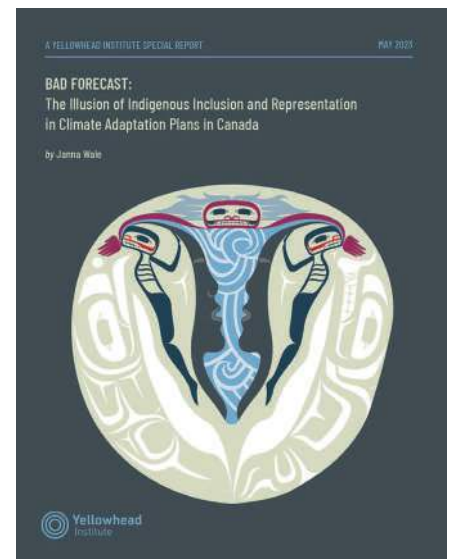
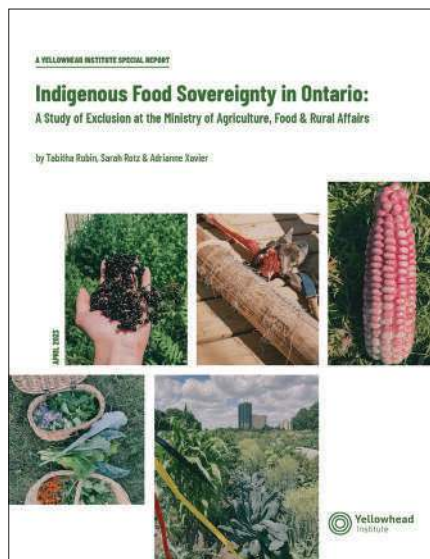
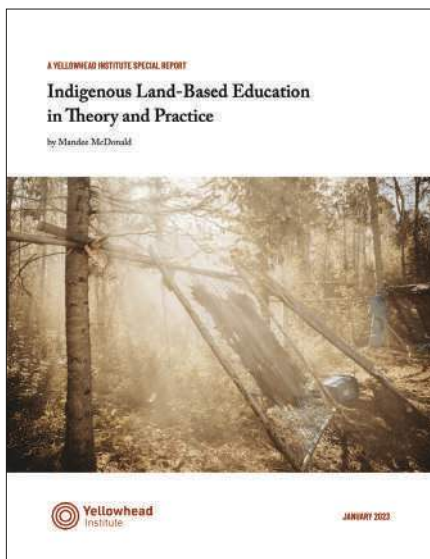
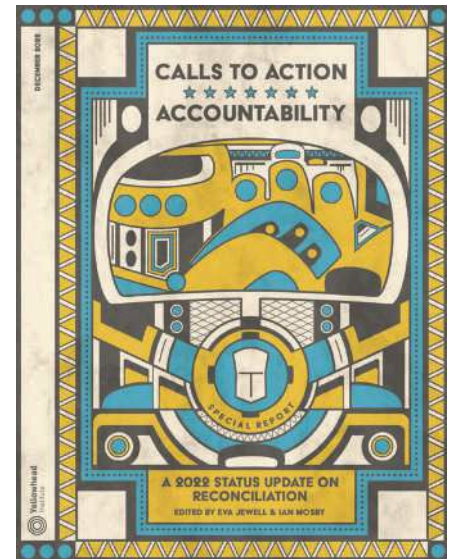
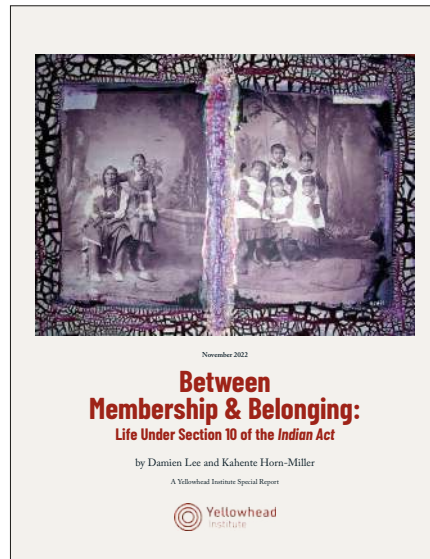
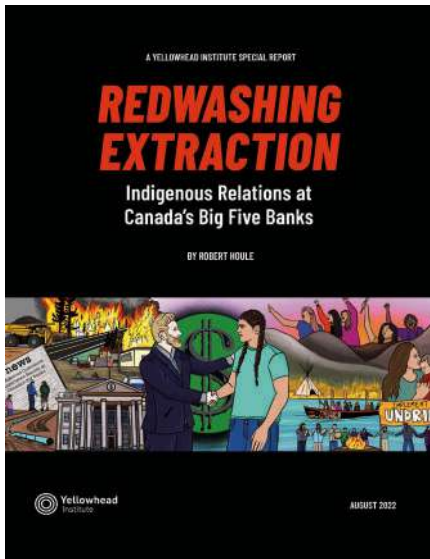
YI RESEARCH | SPECIAL REPORT RELEASE
Bad Forecast: The Illusion of Indigenous Inclusion and Representation in
Climate Adaptation Plans in Canada

JUNE

YI RESEARCH | LAST BRIEF OF THE YEAR
A Call to Reconsider the Métis Self-Government Agreement in Ontario

Between June 2022 - June 2023, we published six annual reports and 17 Yellowhead Briefs, many of which generated meaningful community-based conversations on critical issues in Indigenous law and policy.

SPECIAL REPORTS



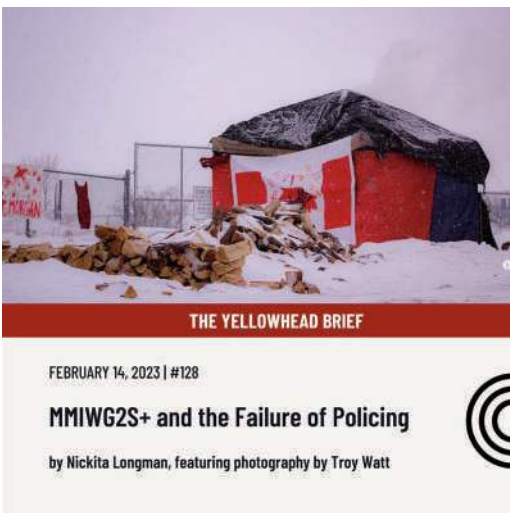
TESTIMONIAL

Yellowhead's work offers a critical window into the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples, while also making critical policy connections which are relevant to the work of Canadian policy makers at all levels of government, and with an authority and level of academic rigor that allows people like me, working within the policy space to apply Yellowhead publications to their own work.

THE YELLOWHEAD BRIEF



FIRST BRIEF OF THE YEAR



MOST LIKED BRIEF ON OUR INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT



TESTIMONIAL

"[I've] used various briefs for literature reviews for work, and have found it helpful as they cover a lot of topics and issues in Indian country that aren't published by many reputable sources; touching on challenges and issues others won't touch has been important for myself to advocate in different spaces."

INITIATIVES - IN - PROGRESS

RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM REVITALIZATION // YI COMMUNITY

In 2023, Yellowhead Institute began the process of reimagining our Research Fellows program. Since Yellowhead's inception, Research Fellows have been in a position at the Institute to support the research, contribute to Yellowhead publications, and represent the Institute. This year, with the addition of a full time Community Engagement Specialist to our team, Yellowhead has been inspired to carry out the program more intentionally to establish deeper connections with the fellows, foster more collaboration, and build a stronger culture at Yellowhead. This process began with consultation and engagement with each of the Research Fellows, the establishment of shared agreements and the intention of hosting an in person gathering in November 2023.

TREATY MAP PROJECT // ONLINE TOOL

The Yellowhead Treaty Map is a learning and teaching resource that offers an accurate representation of treaties in Canada, while describing the context, negotiation process, treaty terms and implications in an accessible way. The layers of the Map depict British North American, Confederation-Era and so-called "Modern" Treaties as well as layers for non-treaty areas and Indigenous diplomatic approaches. Together they constitute a comprehensive picture of treaty-making in Canada. The online tool will be launched in 2024.

TREATY FUTURE // SPECIAL REPORT

Are modern treaties strengthening Indigenous relationships to land, or weakening that link? To answer this question, Yellowhead Institute, supported by the Modern Treaty Implementation Research Project is working with two communities in modern treaty contexts to host small gatherings over the summer 2023 in Nain/Torngat Mountains, Labrador and Iqaluit, Nunavut.

NORTHERN ECONOMY // SPECIAL REPORT

Informed by existing publications developed by the Yellowhead Institute such as Land Back (2019) and Cash Back (2021), the Northern Economy Special Report seeks to conceptualize "economy" from primarily Northern Indigenous perspectives and to grapple with the emerging challenges in a Northern economic context. There does not currently exist in the literature discussions on the nature of economy and economic development from these perspectives. In that sense, this report will be a unique contribution and hopefully one of many that offers a re-centering of Indigenous perspectives on Indigenous futures.

CALLS TO ACTION ACCOUNTABILITY: EVENT & REPORT

On the eve of Canada's second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Yellowhead Institute hosted an online event, *A Calls to Action Conversation on Truth & Reconciliation*.

This event provided the opportunity to both provide an opportunity for public education on the Calls to Action as well as begin the research process for the annual 2022 Calls to Action Accountability report led by Dr. Eva Jewell and Dr. Ian Mosby. An esteemed panel of Indigenous leaders was gathered virtually, including Cindy Blackstock, Kisha Supernant, Sheila Cote-Meek, Ginger Gosnell-Myers, Kunuk Inutiq, Janet Smylie, and Scott Franks, experts on each category of the Legacy Calls to Action 1-42. The event created a space to illuminate the reality of Indigenous experience in Canada, as well as challenge and reflect on the nature of the September 30 holiday when so many of the impactful Calls to Action remain incomplete.



TESTIMONIALS

"All the panelists were amazing. I particularly liked the timing and flow of things. Each speaker so masterfully complimented and built in the other, and having the panels organized around the broad sections of the calls to action kept it all wonderfully rooted in the concrete. The moderators asked fantastic questions and the closing was just brilliant. I felt like each panel gave new insights into something I thought I'd thought a lot about before. It was real and inspiring."

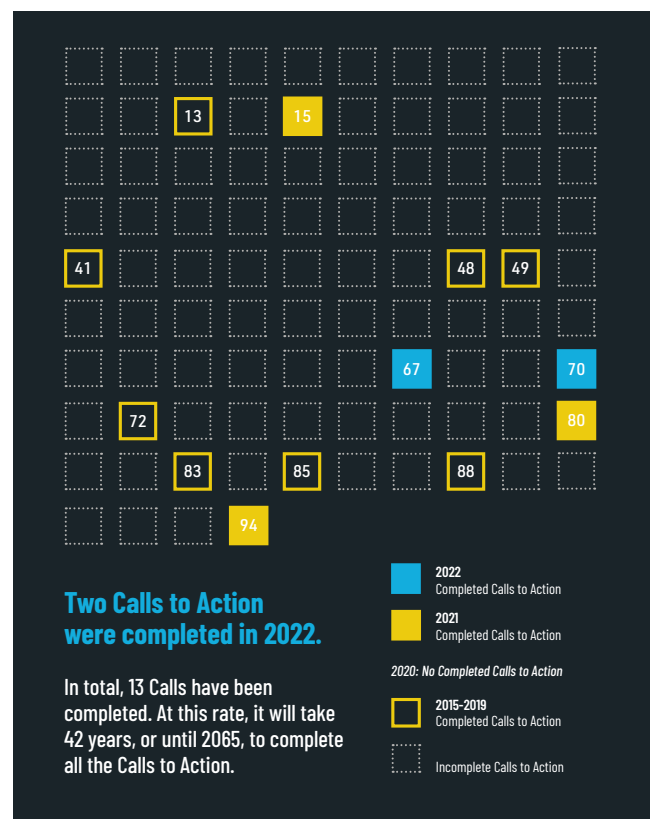
"I sent a note to my friends saying how magnificent it was and how very accessible the participative technology was. It is the best webinar, at all points of view—content and format and accessibility I have experienced since I have attended them. Deep gratitude and admiration"

The event amassed a significant audience and received positive feedback from attendees:

- **957** live viewers
- **3,442** views of the recording within 24 hours
- **92%** of feedback survey respondents indicated they felt more informed to very much more informed on the Calls to Action after attending.

Yellowhead then released our fourth annual Calls to Action Accountability analysis report on December 15, 2022. This edition took the form of a collaborative, edited volume with several Indigenous experts, practitioners, and artists covering the flurry of reconciliatory gestures over the past year — the papal apology, the second-ever National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and legislative activity toward a new National Council for Reconciliation.

Despite the prevalence of these reconciliatory movements in the media, the report found sustained barriers to meaningful change that have inhibited progress on Calls to Action completion. In 2022, only two Calls to Action were completed, both in the 'Reconciliation' category and both completed by non-governmental professional associations. Seven years after the TRC released the Calls to Action, this brings a total of 13 complete in 2022.



IMPACT

In May 2023, Yellowhead was invited to testify at the Senate Standing Committee regarding Bill C-29, the formation of a National Council for Truth and Reconciliation. The National Council's formation is called for in Call to Actions 53-56. Ian Mosby spoke on behalf of Yellowhead as an expert on the topic.



This year's Calls to Action event and report featured commissioned artwork from artist Sonny Assu, Ligwíłda'xw of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation .



2022 FREEDOM SCHOOL

Yellowhead Institute hosted our fourth Freedom School in July 2022.

Held in Toronto, 11 Indigenous youth and several special guests joined Yellowhead for the first Freedom School held post-pandemic. The intention of this Freedom School was to build on our existing relationships, and lay the groundwork for the future of Yellowhead Red Papers. We planned to meet these objectives with intentional facilitation, including specific Red Paper-related conversations, while remaining open and flexible to the interests and needs of the group.

The feedback received from participants incited deep reflection on Yellowhead's hosting practices, engagements with youth, and broader governance principles. As a result, Yellowhead has more effectively learned ways to meaningfully learn from and with the next generation of Indigenous leaders while providing support and mentorship. In addition to these organizational lessons, participants of the Freedom School directly inspired the topic of the 2024 Red Paper, which addresses many of the issues Freedom School young leaders believe are important and most impacted by.

SELECT ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

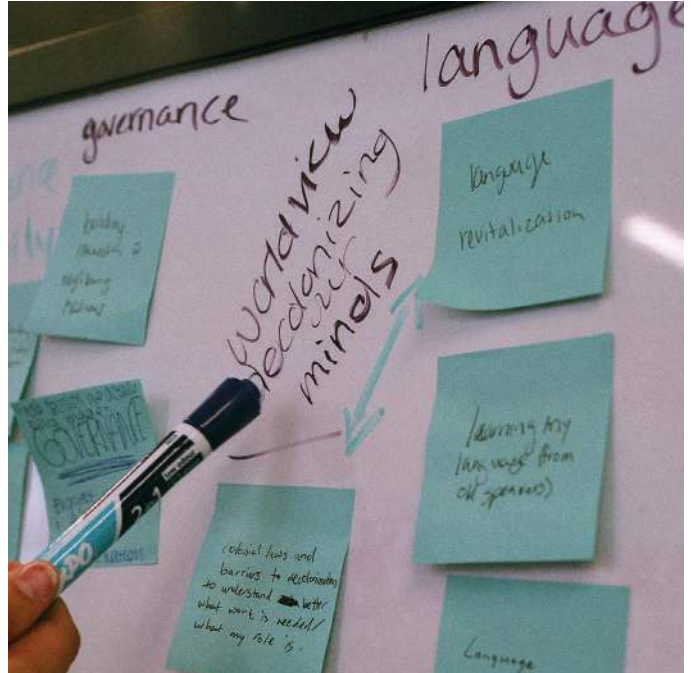
Guest Speaker // Sylvia Maracle, Mohawk, Wolf Clan
On navigating and taking up space in Indigenous organizations

Guest Speaker // jaye simpson, Oji-Cree Saulteaux,
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation
On Indigeneity, queerness and art

Small Group Discussions // We Are Not Really Strangers
*Sharing and reflecting on four topics: Mentorship;
Skill Building; Collaboration; and Generative Conflict*

Group Discussion // The Future of the Red Paper
*Big Questions / Topics / Themes & The Gaps and Cracks
in Decolonization*

+ group karaoke, art activities, shared meals & more!



PHOTOS: YUMI NUMATA

BAD CREE X THE BIG MELT BOOK LAUNCH

On March 28, 2023, Yellowhead School co-hosted our first Spark event: a book launch for *Bad Cree* by Jessica Johns and *The Big Melt* by Emily Riddle in collaboration with Another Story Bookshop. The event included a moderated discussion with the two authors and wrapped up with a fun game of bingo.

INITIATIVES - IN - PROGRESS

YELLOWHEAD SCHOOL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT //

Led by Dr. Megan Scribe, this year included Toronto Metropolitan University student and staff engagement sessions on the School, development of a community engagement strategy, and further development of the three Yellowhead School streams: Yellowhead Fire (speaker series); Radical Policy School; and Yellowhead Online (online education).

TEAM EXPANSION //

Integral to the Yellowhead School is increased capacity. This year we worked with Toronto Metropolitan University on creating a new full-time position for an Indigenous Education Programming Coordinator to join our team.

LAND BACK CURRICULUM // YELLOWHEAD ONLINE

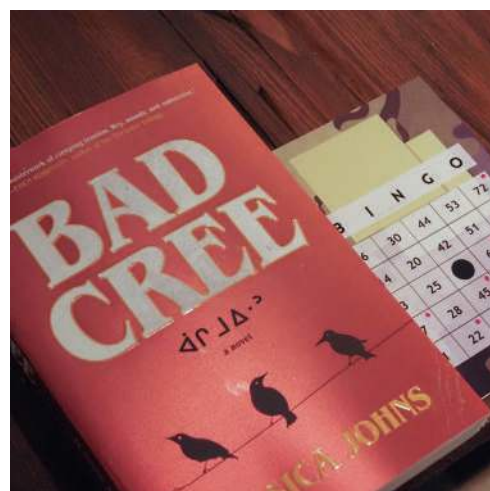
Yellowhead continued development on creating an accessible online curriculum based on our first Red Paper, Land Back. The course will consist of seven modules, interactive learning elements and updated resources.

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Yellowhead School offers a different kind of education rooted in ancestral beliefs about the transformative power of knowledge and education.



PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK BY ABBY RIDDLE



PHOTOS: YUMI NUMATA



PHOTO: HELEN PELLETIER

BARKS AND ROOTS

In October 2022, Yellowhead coordinated a land-based education experience on Anishinaabe art and governance through engagement with bark and roots to create artistic works.

Participants, Indigenous Toronto Metroplotian University students, met with knowledge holders to learn about Anishinaabe land-based governance in northwestern Ontario through these practices. The workshop ran for three days in Fort William First Nation from October 10-13 and was hosted by artist Helen Pelletier and led by Yellowhead Associate, Dr. Damien Lee.

Programming elements included:

- Visiting the sugar bush and root harvesting
- Birch bark basket making
- Birch bark canoe etching



TESTIMONIALS

"I feel very empowered as I have learned a lot on this trip. The experience was absolutely incredible and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate"

"I feel like this experience has strengthened my connection to my culture and encouraged me to believe that you can be successful while doing something you love (like Helen). It was an honour to work with Helen and her passion for art and culture was inspirational. I learned how governance is not just found in politics, it is found within the power of the land. I am excited to share my takeaways from Bark and Roots with my own community too."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

This year, Yellowhead sponsored community members to attend events that celebrated Indigenous arts and knowledge.

2023 NAISA CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

The Native American Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) is the largest international professional organization for researchers involved in Indigenous Studies. The annual conference allows faculty, students, community members, artists, and Elders to come together to discuss critical and emerging conversations in Indigenous studies. Yellowhead funded 54 community members to attend the conference to provide opportunities for community building and learning.

IMAGENATIVE

Yellowhead sponsored 11 community members to attend ImagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival in October of 2023. ImagineNATIVE is the largest presenter of Indigenous screen content and provided the opportunity to see Indigenous representation in film.

GAWII WIIKAA GA-NENDIMISII (NEVER EVER FORGET ME) MUSIC AND ARTISAN FESTIVAL

This Music & Artisan Festival was hosted by the community of Deshkan Ziiibiing with all proceeds going to the community's Save the Barn initiative. This initiative sought to save the remaining structure of the Mount Elgin Indian Industrial School barn, where children inscribed messages on the walls and foundation, to create a Mount Elgin Museum and Interpretive Centre. Yellowhead sponsored 14 people to attend the festival, celebrate Indigenous music, and support the community.

PHOTO: KELSI-LEIGH BALABAN



TESTIMONIALS

"I am just reaching out to share gratitude and appreciation for the work you do at the Yellowhead Institute. I have been working with my colleagues to create personalized plans/commitments towards Land Back and Reparations. The information you all have put online has really helped so many people deepen understandings of relationality and history within movements towards land back and supporting Indigenous sovereignty."

WHO WE ARE

BOARD MEMBERS

Kunuk Inutiq
Inuk, Clyde River

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

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

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

Fallon Simard
Anishinaabe-Métis

Kris Statnyk
Gwich'in, Vuntut Gwitchin
First Nation

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

//

OPERATIONS

Yumi Numata
Operations Director

Kelsi-Leigh Balaban
Métis
Community Engagement Specialist

Sage Broomfield
nehiyaw iskwew, Treaty 6 & 8
Red Paper Project Coordinator

Jasmyn Galley
Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory
& London, UK
Copy Editor & Researcher

LEADERSHIP

Hayden King
Anishinaabe, Beausoleil First Nation
Executive Director

Eva Jewell
Anishinaabekwe, Deshkan Zibiing
(Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation)
Research Director

Megan Scribe
Ininiw iskwew,
Norway House Cree Nation
Education Director

Damien Lee
Fort William First Nation
Associate

//

RESEARCHERS

Michael Borsk

Diane Hill
Oneida Nation of the Thames

Janine Lightfoot
Inuk

Elizabeth McKenzie

Kaitlin Rizarri
Filipina, Mi'kmaw & settler

RESEARCH FELLOWS

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

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

Shady Hafez
Algonquin Anishinaabe & Syrian,
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

Robert Houle
Wapsewsi'pi (Swan River)
First Nation, Treaty 8

Shalene Jobin
Cree and Métis, Red Pheasant Cree
Nation, Treaty Six

**Minnawaanigogijzhigok
a.k.a Dawnis Kennedy**
Waabizheshi Marten Clan,
Anishinaabe Nation & descendant
of Canadian settlers

Andrea Landry
Anishinaabe
Pays Plat First Nation

Elisa Levi
Chippewas of Nawash
First Nation

Dēneze Nakeh'k'o
Dene, Liidlii Kue First Nation

Sherry Pictou
Mi'kmaw, L'sitkuk,
Bear River First Nation

Brock Pitawanakwat
Anishinaabe,
Whitefish River First Nation

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

Courtney Skye
Mohawk, Turtle Clan
Six Nations of the Grand
River Territory

Gina Starblanket
Cree/Saulteaux, Star Blanket Cree
Nation, Treaty 4 Territory

Vanessa Watts
Anishinaabe and Mohawk

Tara Williamson
Opaskwayak Cree Nation,
Gaabishkigamaag

Riley Yesno
Anishinaabe
Eabametoong First Nation

Cover page photo credits from left to right.

Top Row: Yellowhead Intitute graphic; Borna Atrchian, Yumi Numata;

Middle Row: Yumi Numata, Ethan Dankert-Lannigan, Yumi Numata;

Bottom Row: Helen Pelletier; Jamie Stevenson, Bailey Macabre

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT AND BELIEF IN OUR WORK.



AND, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FACULTY OF ARTS AT TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY WHERE WE ARE BASED. SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DR. PAMELA SUGIMAN, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS, TANYA RUMBLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, GREG FIORIDO, MANAGER OF FINANCE, AND DIANNA CHU, RESEARCH ACCOUNTS SUPPORT OFFICER.



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