Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future: Using Community-Based Participatory Research to Document and Understand the Huu-ay-aht Path to Modern Treaty and its Implementation with British Columbia and Canada

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS
OUR JOURNEY, OUR CHOICE, OUR FUTURE: THE PATH TO TREATY AND BEYOND

- CBPR
- Previous work with Huu-ay-aht
  - Project One
  - Project Two
- ‘Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future’
- How will we do research
- Why is this research important
- CBPR, Research Ethics, and ‘Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future’
- Progress to date
COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

Philosophical and methodological approach to research.

Relevant, respectful, responsible, and reciprocal research.

shared decision-making about:

• the research design;
• the data collection;
• the interpretation of the data; and
• when/how results are disseminated.

Shared ownership and use of data.
CBPR

~ SHARE DECISION-MAKING POWER ~ BUILD TRUST ~ INCREASE CAPACITY ~ SHARE OWNERSHIP ~ CULTURAL RELEVANCE

Community Advisory Committee and Research Team

Stella: Elected Councilor

Andy: Hereditary Chief

Jane: Researcher

Dempseym and Lonnie: Research Trainees
Project 1: As Sacred as Cedar and Salmon: Environment and Health Priorities

Huu-ay-aht First Nation Stages of Photovoice

Continuous Recruitment and Training (6 months)

Photography Assignment

Individual contextualization of photographs through stories

Individual selection of ‘best’ photographs

Individual codification of issues, themes, theories

Community Potluck and Poster Release

Repeat loop each month for six months

Ongoing participatory analysis of the data and photovoice process
PROJECT 2: DIGITAL STORYTELLING
YOUTH WORKSHOPS VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE

OUR PARTNERSHIP: FROM DESIGN TO DISSEMINATION
‘OUR JOURNEY, OUR CHOICE, OUR FUTURE’
2014-2018

“Our work is just getting started”
- Robert Denis Sr., April 8, 2011

Photo: Huu-ay-aht burn Indian Act at midnight, April 1, 2011, implementation day
Source: Turtle Island.org
Goal: Document, understand, and evaluate Huu-ay-aht’s journey to accepting the Maa-nulth Treaty, as well as the issues, decision-making processes, and outcomes of Treaty implementation.

1) Place the Maa-nulth Treaty in the historical, social, political, geographical, cultural, and economical context;

2) Document and understand how Treaty negotiators – Maa-nulth, federal, and provincial – recall the negotiation process;

3) Investigate the issues, challenges, and opportunities with implementing the Treaty; and

4) Monitor and evaluate the research in terms of Huu-ay-aht ownership and control over our process and outcomes.
HOW WILL WE DO THIS RESEARCH?

• Treaty Implementation Committee, including Ha’wiih, and Elders, guiding the research

• Archives:
  • Huu-ay-aht’s archives, federal government’s archives, and provincial government’s archives

• Interviews:
  • Maa-nulth negotiators, provincial government negotiators, federal government negotiators, British Columbia Treaty Commission representatives
  • Ha’wiih, Elders, and Huu-ay-aht citizens

• Community Engagement Sessions

• Door-to-door interviews

• Reporting back:
  • Year end community gatherings
  • Updates through Uyaqhmis and online
  • Opportunity to review your interview and any of your quotes
SO, WHY DO THIS RESEARCH?

USEFUL TO HUU-AY-AHT

• Identify where Treaty is working effectively (and not)
• Show where (and how) things can improve
• Detailed study for Huu-ay-aht to keep about your journey to accepting and implementing Treaty

USEFUL TO OTHERS

• Help other First Nations decide if Treaty is the right path for them
• Inform White/Settler population about Treaty
• Inform provincial and federal government about their Treaty obligations
CBPR, RESEARCH ETHICS, AND ‘OUR JOURNEY, OUR CHOICE, OUR FUTURE’

- Ethics and research
- Informed consent and information
- Data sharing
  - HFN’s Privacy Policy

Appendix D: Letter of Information to Huu-ay-aht Citizens at the Community Engagement Sessions

Project Title: Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future: Applying a Community-Based Participatory Research Approach to Document, Understand, and Evaluate the Huu-ay-aht Path to a Modern Treaty and Its Implementation with British Columbia and Canada.

Research Partner: Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Maa-nulth Treaty Signatory
Principal Investigator: Dr. Henrich Csaad, Queen’s University

Funded by: Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant

Purpose: This project will document Huu-ay-aht’s journey to accepting the Maa-nulth Treaty to understand and evaluate this process. It will also look at the issues, decision-making processes, and outcomes associated with implementation. The project aims to do four things: 1) place the Treaty within the broader historical, socio-political, geographical, economic, and cultural context; 2) document how Treaty negotiators talk about their experiences with the Treaty negotiation process; 3) investigate the issues, challenges, and opportunities with implementing the Treaty; and 4) monitor and evaluate the research process.

Your Participation and Content: As a citizen of Huu-ay-aht First Nations who is a signatory to the Maa-nulth Treaty, you are invited to participate in the third aim of this study. Your voluntary participation involves attending a community engagement session at Port Alberni, Anaclla, Victoria, Namgis, or Vancouver. These sessions are intended to keep Huu-ay-aht citizens informed about the Treaty Implementation Committee’s activities. They are also to hear from Huu-ay-aht citizens about what is and what isn’t working in regard to the implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty. Please note that by participating in the engagement session you are also providing your consent to have your comments audio-recorded and transcribed or written out.

If you wish to have your comments excluded from the project, you can tell this to any member of the research team or the Treaty Implementation Committee before the meeting begins. You can also state this before you speak. Your comments will then be removed from the transcript and the researcher will be turned off while you speak. Please note that we will not be able to remove your comments once the session is over because we will not be able to link you to your comments.

How this research will be used: Direct quotes of what you say may be used in reports and/or presentations. Your name will not be used. Any identifying information will be removed. Findings from this research will be used to produce academic and policy recommendations for future Treaty negotiations and highlight key barriers to implementation. A copy of this report will also be freely available on the Huu-ay-aht’s website.

Benefits of this study: This research is being used to further understanding of key successes and pitfalls of modern treaty negotiation. It will also shed light on the complexity of treaty implementation. Sharing the results of this study will improve processes of negotiations and post-treaty self-determination; it will also contribute to First Nations’ decisions regarding whether a modern treaty is the right path for them. This study will provide insight into Indigenous-settler (or non-Indigenous) relations in modern treaties and with it, present an opportunity to develop education strategies to inform British Columbians and all Canadians about treaty and their long-term effects.

Note: There is minimal to no risk associated with participating in this study. At the same time, we recognize that some people may be uncomfortable with speaking publicly, and therefore, there is no obligation on your part to do so. We would also like to emphasize that the Research Team and those present at the session will know who is participating, so your participation will not be anonymous.

Withdrawal from this study: You may decline to participate in this study. There is no penalty for doing so; you would simply have to let any member of the research team or the Treaty Implementation Committee know before the meeting begins. Your comments will then be excluded from the transcript and the researcher will be turned off while you speak.
PROGRESS TO DATE

WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED!

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

• Treaty Implementation Committee meetings
  • Three to date
• Community engagement sessions (like this one)
• Archival search
  • Huu-at-aht’s archives
• Queen’s University ethical approval

NEXT STEPS

• Treaty Implementation Committee meetings
• Community Engagement sessions
• Door-to-door interviews
• Interviews
• Archival search
  • Provincial and federal archives
• Reporting back
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS?

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