



NI HADI XA

Annual Report 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Tom Unka, NWTMN

Hi all, 2021 has been a notable year, considering the extreme pandemic happening around the world, continuing from 2020. The Northwest Territories front line workers did an exceptionally well done job on keeping northerners safe by promoting and administering the COVID-19 vaccine to all the communities. Good job to all those involved with the community outbreaks and keeping people at ease and comfortable during containments orders. Thank you for the intense effort.

As Chair of NHX, I want to welcome new committee members Femi Baiyewun to the committee. Femi is representing **Yellowknives Dene First Nation**. Welcome to the Ni Hadi Xa Governance Committee, it will be great to hear and gain your perspectives.

It is sad to say the NHX took a loss this year as our NHX Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Program's Administrative Assistant Tommy Lafferty resigned in June 2021. Since then, it is to my knowledge the NHX Environment Manager and NHX Human Resource subcommittee have been working effortlessly to find a replacement.

I also want to acknowledge the indigenous parties Chiefs and Councils, Presidents, and Councils, NHX Representatives and De Beers Canada for their efforts in working together through NHX to monitor ecology and sustainable livelihood to observe co-existence alongside mining development.





MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

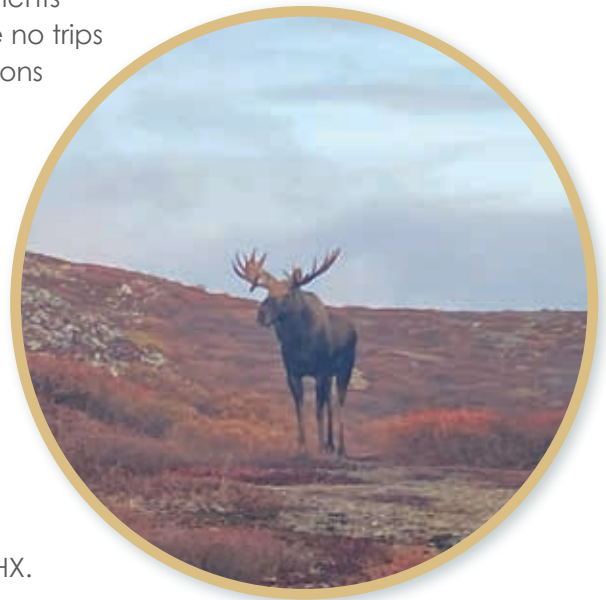
Rosy Bjornson, NHX Environmental Manager

As the year 2021 winds down, as manager of the NHX traditional knowledge (NHXTKMP) and environmental monitoring (NHX EM) programs I have to say this year has been a work in progress.

The On-the-Land family travel program was successful in receiving applications. NHX received a total of five (5) applications. There were six (6) spots with only five (5) applicants. Travel and food arrangements were planned, flights were scheduled, and, in the end, there were no trips completed. First four (4) trips were cancelled due to personal reasons and the last trip was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Behchok̓ and Yellowknife.

The NHX TKMP was able to get four trips in this season and will go into more detail further in the report. The NHX Environment Monitor at the mine site also went back on to three (3) weeks on and three (3) weeks off. I also ensured that the shift and trip reports were completed in timely manners.

It was a loss when our NHX TKMP administrative assistant Tommy Lafferty resigned in June 2021, since then I have been working tirelessly to recruit a new assistant. I also hosted an open house in Łutsel K'e on July 28, 2021, with very little interest from community. Advertising and networking for this position has been priority for NHX.



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I was able to host four (4) executive meetings and as executive secretary to the governance committee I was able to complete all the office administrative duties, such as meeting notes, finance updates, monthly reports, annual reports and ensuring management of programs under the direction of the Ni Hadi Xa Governance Committee.

I participated on behalf of Ni Hadi Xa in the Diamond Mine Wildlife Monitoring Feb 2-3, 2021.

I also participated in the Social Peer Group zoom conference for practitioners on June 1, 2021. I presented to the group about Ni Hadi Xa, who we are and what we do. It was received well from the group.

The NWT Annual Geoscience forum was online this year and due to the fact that NHX has no credit card or access to online purchasing, NHX did not have a representative at this forum.





I also would like to acknowledge the new representative on the Ni Hadi Xa Governance Committee, Femi Baiyewun, Yellowknives Dene First Nation appointee. Welcome Femi!

Thank you to the NHX Governance Committee, Deninu K'ue Dene First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Tłı̄chǫ Government and De Beers Canada for offering me another two (2) years of work. It is a pleasure to work with the NHX Governance committee and staff.





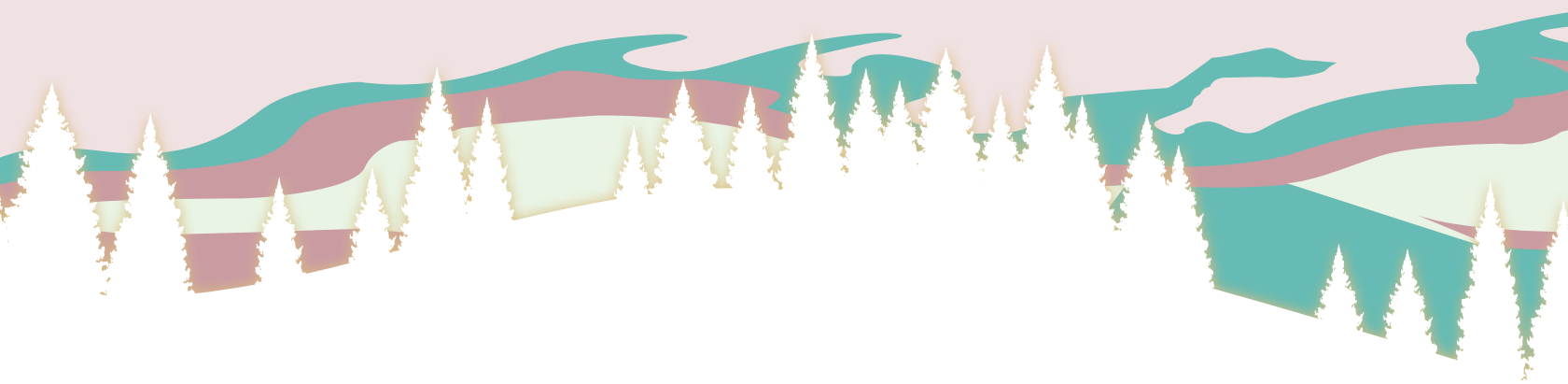
OBJECTIVES

Ni Hadi Xa is a contractual agreement between six (6) Indigenous Nations; Deninu K'ųé First Nation, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation and Tłıchų Government, and the De Beers Canada mining company. The Ni Hadi Xa Agreement is a legally binding contract which provides for environmental monitoring and management of the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine in addition to such matters governed by legislation.

This effort aims to provide ways to avoid or minimize the impacts of Gahcho Kué on the rights of Indigenous Parties; their traditional lands; their relationship to the land, water, and resources; their social, cultural, economic, and spiritual values; their way of life; and the environment.

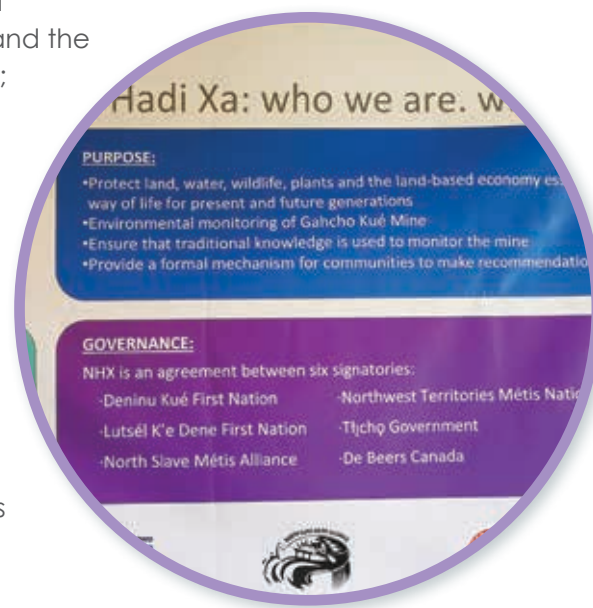
Ni Hadi Xa exists to watch over the Gahcho Kué mine. This is different than the existing environmental agreement agencies set up to monitor the other diamond mines in the NWT, because there is a much greater emphasis on traditional knowledge monitoring.





Some of the objectives of Ni Hadi Xa are to:

- ★ Respect and protect land, water, wildlife, plants, and the land-based economy, essential to the way of life and well-being of the Indigenous Parties and present and future generations;
- ★ Ensure ongoing review of Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans, activities, and reports of De Beers and the regulators in relation to the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine;
- ★ Develop and improve the capacity of the Indigenous Parties to participate in adaptive environmental management;
- ★ Make recommendations to De Beers with respect to these objectives;
- ★ Integrate and promote equal use of traditional knowledge in environmental monitoring and management; and
- ★ Communicate to the Parties and the public on activities and achievements of the above objectives.



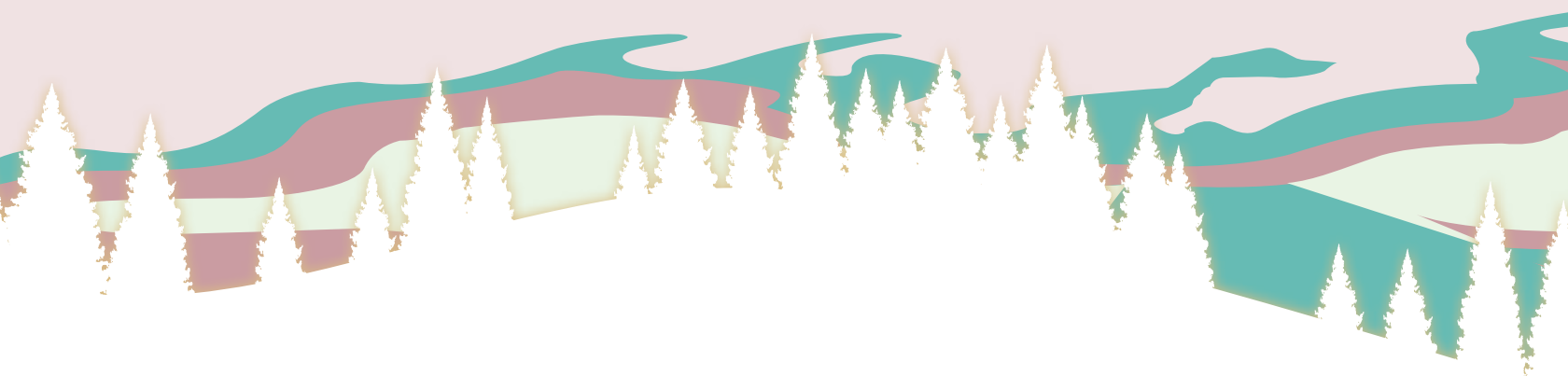


STRUCTURE

Ni Hadi Xa was established in December 2014. It is administered by a Governance Committee comprised of seven (7) land and environmental specialists appointed by each Party to the Agreement: six (6) Indigenous Party members, and one (1) member representing De Beers Canada. The committee makes decisions by motion and seeks to have consensus.

The Governance Committee exercises its will through Ni Hadi Xa staff who run the day-to-day operations. Staff monitor the impacts of Gahcho Kué in three different ways. The first is technical – reviewing the environmental monitoring and management plans; the second is observation – our staff will be on site, working with the De Beers environment staff to observe the actions that are occurring as part of the mining effort; while the third way is traditional knowledge monitoring – where our staff and land users are on the land, observing what's occurring in the area around Gahcho Kué.





- ★ **Technical Review:** NHX employs a Technical Coordinator who carries out technical reviews of permits, licences and regulatory documents and provides reports and recommendations. Additionally, we have dedicated resources to ensure that outside experts can be bought in to conduct external reviews.
- ★ **On-site Observation:** NHX has an Environmental Monitor who works on-site at the mine within the mine's environmental team. Their role is to observe what happens at the site, report observations and incidents and provide recommendations to the Ni Hadi Xa Leadership.
- ★ **Traditional Knowledge:** NHX employs two (2) part-time Traditional Knowledge Monitors and one (1) part-time Administrator who are responsible for the implementation of our traditional knowledge monitoring program. Traditional knowledge monitoring is carried out via two avenues: 1) through observations and data collected by the NHX TKM staff who spend approximately 12 weeks of the year on the land near the mine site, and 2) through observations and data collected by Indigenous Party beneficiaries who participate in our On-the-Land Travel Program (OTLTP).





NHX GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

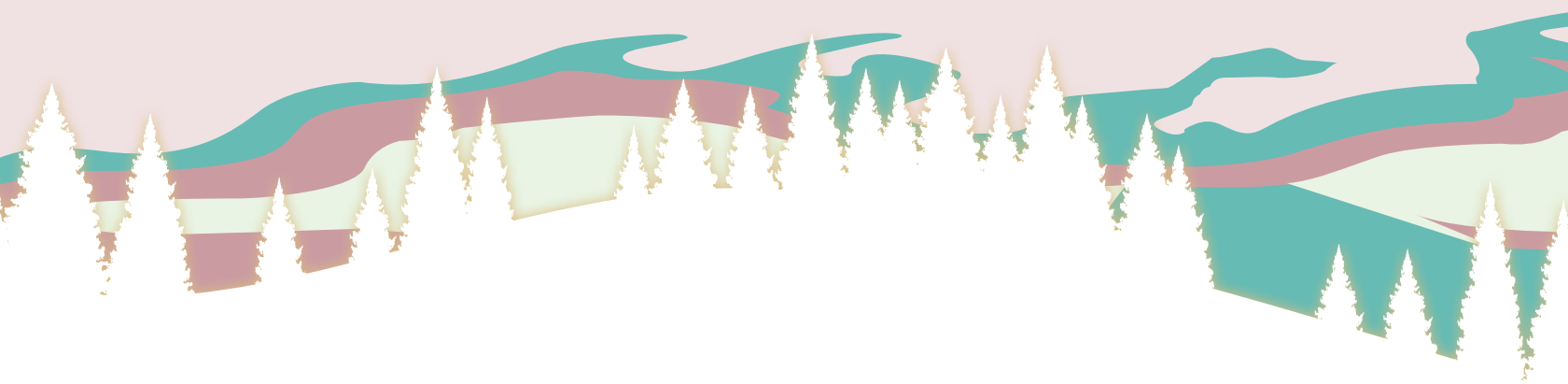


NHX hosted four Governance Committee meetings in 2021. First one was on January 20-21, 2021, via Google meets, both Tom Unka and Robert Sayine came to the DKFN Boardroom to meet. Second meeting took place April 22, 2021, also via Google meets, however this meeting took place from the Fort Resolution Métis Council environment boardroom, both Tom Unka and Robert Sayine came in person, everyone else participated via google meets. The third meeting took place in person at the Days Inn, Yellowknife on July 14, 2021. Both Robert Sayine and William Liu participated via Google meets.

In July 2021, NHX gained a newly appointed member Femi Baiyewun, Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Femi replaces Mrs. Sarah Gillis. Thank you, Sarah, for your hard work and effort towards the objectives of Ni Hadi Xa.

Recommendations made by the NHX Governance Committee are as follows:

- ★ Action items list is required, to better track action items throughout the year.
- ★ Work with the Chief Medical Officer's office to get approval to operate the On-the-Land Family Travel Program for the summer of 2021.



- ★ Applicants for the On-the-Land Family travel program must be in same household or immediate family, such as grandparents, sisters or brothers, mothers, or fathers.
- ★ Gahcho Kué, De Beers must consider bringing in more organic material for the packaging of food, Personal Protective Equipment and other materials used during their efforts faced in the COVID-19 pandemic, less oil-based materials such as plastics.
- ★ It had been recommended to meet and discuss the information request responses from De Beers regarding the Aquatic Effects Monitoring program design plan.
- ★ NHX Governance committee recommends that all Indigenous parties sign onto the incorporation to benefit the First Nation and Métis organization members in capacity building in environmental stewardship.
- ★ NHX to purchase a YETI 3000X for the cabin. All in favour and purchased November 2021.
- ★ NHX requested for a skidoo shelter to be researched and purchased in time to haul up on the winter road.



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One of the recommendations in **2020** was to set up a dialogue meeting with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Environment and Natural Resources Wildlife Division and gain insight of what types of monitoring programs conducted for barren ground caribou and wolves. This meeting took place on October 13, 2021, via Google meets. In attendance for ENR were as follows: Karin Clark, Dean Cluff, Bruno Croft and Jan Adamczewski. NHX expressed concerns around collared wolf mortality rates and methods of collaring, Air Quality and Caribou habitat, predictable outcomes of studies. Also concerns that studies regarding barren-ground Caribou aren't getting to the mine developers to assist in planning mitigation for their land use planning and a portal should be created to store this type of data for accessibility. How are Grizzly managed in NWT? NHX recommends to GNWT Wildlife division to work with other departments to develop restrictions when it comes to harvesting off winter ice roads. NHX asked about climate change studies and warble flies management plans. GNWT Wildlife Division made every effort to answer the questions and concerns with decorous explanations.



NHX Governance committee also recommended in **2020** that we have a dialogue meeting with the Lands Needs Guardians program. Rosy made initial contact via email. Once confirmation was received that they were available to meet, the meeting took place via Google meets on October 13, 2021. Mrs. Dahti Tetso did an informal talk on what the roles and responsibilities of the Indigenous Leadership Initiative. She explained her role and how she became involved. This was an introduction dialogue session, so it was informal. NHX has representatives from each of the indigenous groups and it was beneficial for all the groups to hear about the advocacy and funding that is available to the Indigenous peoples of Canada for guardianship programs.

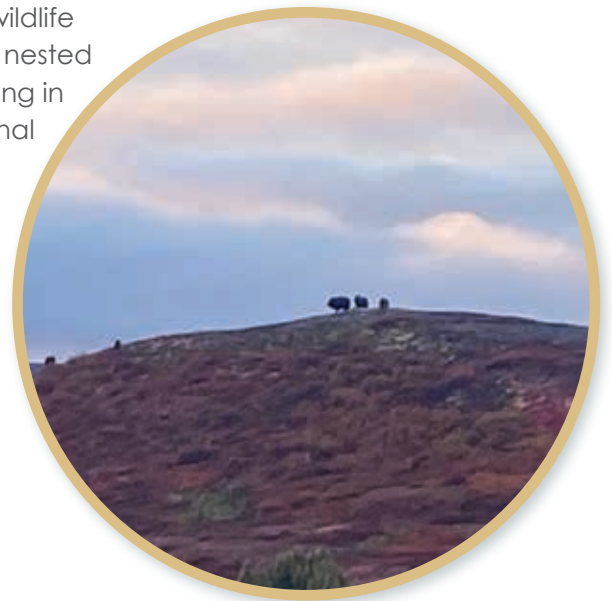


NHX ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR

Summary of 2021

Observations made during 2021 of Gahcho Kué mine operations and environmental monitoring. DeBeers has several monitoring programs of mine's effects on wildlife, aquatics, air, and soil I was able to observe all except the soil monitoring. DeBeers environmental compliance monitoring looks at waste management, hazardous material storage, and departmental work sites.

Wildlife at Gahcho Kué was not too abundant other than during the migratory bird season. A few instances of having to interact with wildlife DeBeers staff handled it adeptly. For instance, a Peregrine Falcon nested in 5034 despite DeBeers extensive effort to deter raptors from nesting in the 5034 pit; protective measures were put in place, and the juvenal falcons successfully left the nest. In all accounts that I observed DeBeers interactions with wildlife, great care and consideration was taken for the safety and health of the animal. When deterring wildlife, the reponse was measured and well thought out. December, I observed a small group of caribou to the Northwest of the mine footprint indicating that caribou may be returning to the Gahcho Kué surrounding area.



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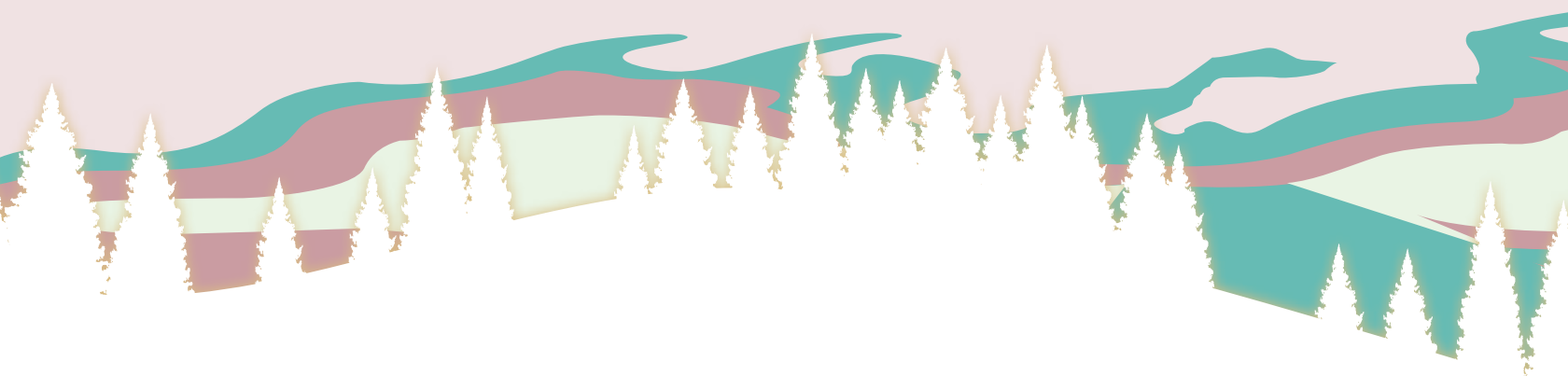
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The aquatics effects monitoring program (AEMP) was conducted on the core and reference lakes. I was able to observe the water quality (WQ), plankton, sediments, benthic, and fisheries monitoring. The WQ, plankton, sediments, and benthic samples were done in the same sampling program and from my observations the sampling was successful. The three-year fisheries health study was conducted this summer targeting nine spine stickleback for as an indicator species for fish health in each lake. From what I observed of the AEMP monitoring is in line with industry standards and was successful.



Air quality effects monitoring program (AQEMP) is running smoothly with samples taken in accordance with the sampling schedule. Two changes occurred in 2021 – the hill station meteorological station was moved, and new air particulate monitoring machines installed. The hill station was moved because of the expansion of the course process kimberlite pile. The continuous ambient particulate monitoring machines were replaced with newer machines for redundancy and reliability.

Spills at Gahcho Kué seem to have a seasonal pattern with increases in spills in the colder versus warmer temperatures. The factor likely to attribute to the increase in spills is the extra stress from extreme colder temperatures exposed on the machines. However, spills are cleaned up in a timely manner and are reported when they are noticed, and equipment operators are trained to minimize spills by shutting down as soon as it is noticed and deploy spill containment measures. DeBeers continues to adapt and learn from each spill to prevent similar spills from occurring in the future.



Inspections of site are conducted weekly and generally find small issues that are addressed in a timely manner. It also provides opportunities for the mine to make improvement and prevent future issues. The inspections are of tanks and work sites and the waste areas. Tanks inspections looks at the hydrocarbon storage and distribution areas. The work site inspections are of a different work area each week and produce positive outcomes. The waste areas are of the landfill and burn pit these areas have minor issues that are always addressed. DeBeers manages these areas well, but issues still arise mainly from human error which is addressed once discovered.





NHX TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING PROGRAM

Date	Time
January 8, 2021	10:00 am
February 1, 2021	10:00 am
February 25, 2021	10:00 am
March 10, 2021	10:00 am
March 29, 2021	10:00 am
April 19, 2021	10:00 am
May 11, 2021	10:00 am
May 27, 2021	10:00 am
July 7, 2021	10:00 am
July 13, 2021	11:00 am
July 23, 2021	10:00 am
August 10, 2021	10:00 am
August 18, 2021	10:00 am
September 1, 2021	10:00 am
September 14, 2021	10:00 am
October 20, 2021	10:00 am

NHX TKMP had a very slow year. However, we did get approval to go out to the cabin to continue the monitoring, our trips were cut short due to various unexpected situations.

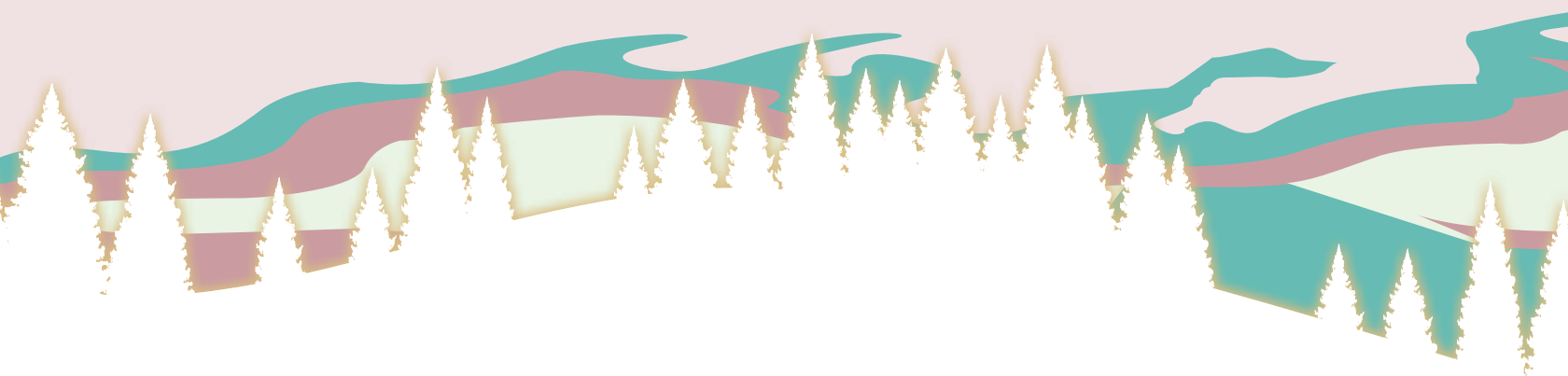
Trips to the cabin took place on March 3-8, 2021, August 21-29, 2021, September 15-27, 2021. With a special trip to Timber Bay with the Thai Dene Nene Ni Hati Rangers and Łutsel K'e Dene School teachers and students March 18-22, 2021.

NHX TKMP Staff meetings have been conducted once or twice a month throughout the year to keep everyone current on what is going on with travel arrangements, orders, equipment, and other human resource items.

The NHX TKMP monitors took part in the Indigenous Stewardship Gathering April 20-21, 2021.

Wilderness First Aid training with Arctic Response Ltd. In Yellowknife on February 8-10, 2021. Both Herman and Kyle passed their tests.

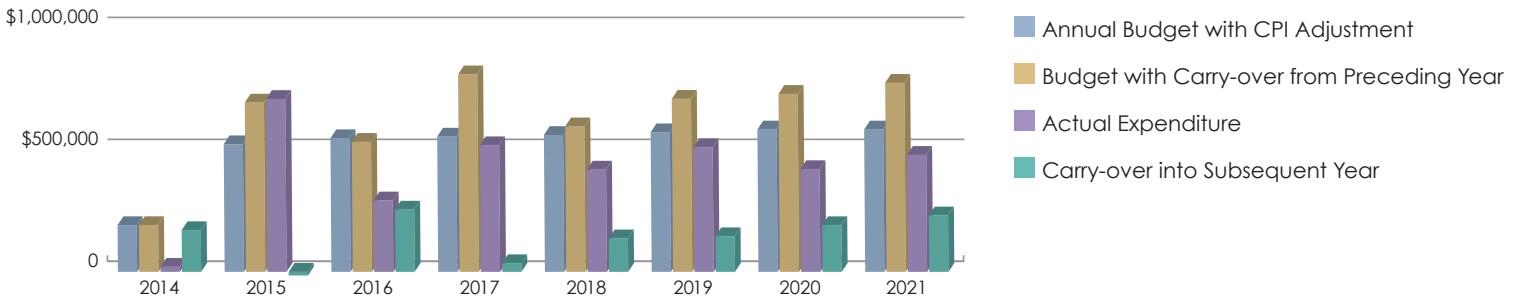
For further information on the NHX Traditional Knowledge Program, go to www.nihadixa.ca.



FINANCES

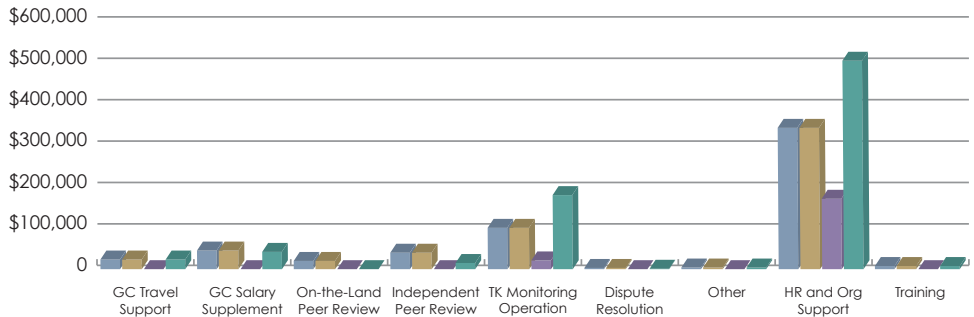
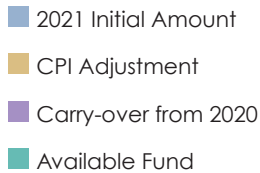
Annual Budget and Expenditure Summary

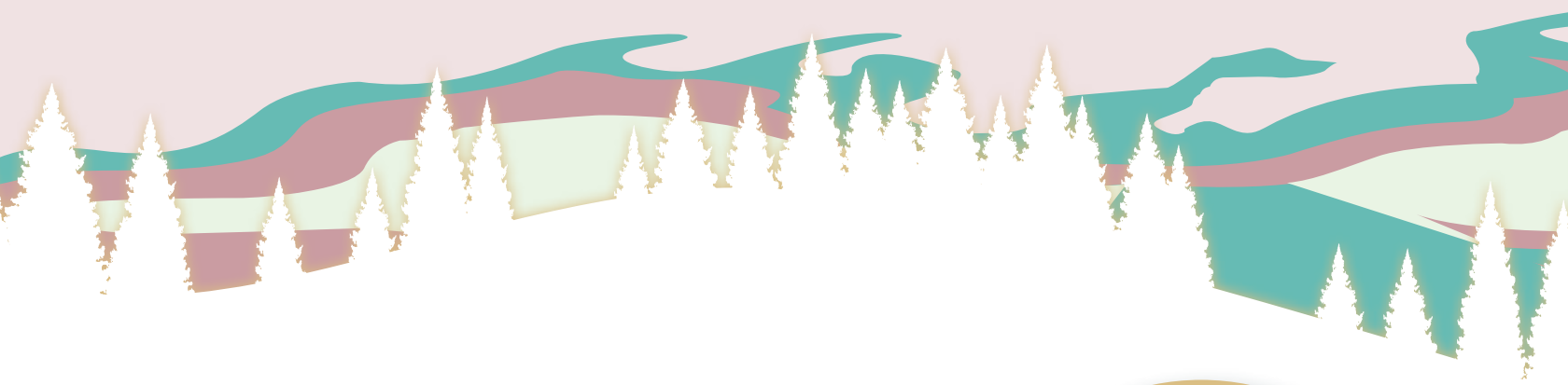
Calendar Year	Annual Budget with CPI Adjustment	Budget with Carry-over from Preceding Year	Actual Expenditure	Carry-over into Subsequent Year
2014	\$192,500	\$192,500	\$20,773	\$171,727
2015	\$526,025	\$697,752	\$712,749	-\$14,998
2016	\$550,925	\$535,927	\$294,342	\$256,583
2017	\$557,536	\$814,119	\$521,958	\$35,578
2018	\$564,147	\$599,725	\$421,533	\$137,900
2019	\$575,430	\$713,330	\$513,751	\$146,679
2020	\$586,939	\$733,618	\$423,456	\$192,318
2021	\$586,939	\$779,257	\$482,145	\$232,600



2021 Budget Summary

Budget Class Summary	2021 Initial Amount	CPI Adjustment	Carry-over from 2020	Available Fund
GC Travel Support	\$23,396	\$23,396	\$0	\$23,396
GC Salary Supplement	\$45,221	\$45,221	\$0	\$41,991
On-The-Land Meeting	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Independent Peer Review	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$15,000
TK Monitoring Operation	\$100,400	\$100,400	\$21,290	\$179,920
Dispute Resolution	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$1,000
Other	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
HR and Org Support	\$343,272	\$343,272	\$171,028	\$506,300
Training	\$7,650	\$7,650	\$0	\$7,650
TOTAL APPROVED	\$586,939	\$586,939	\$192,318	\$779,257







NHX GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Top, left to right:

Tom Unka, Northwest Territories Métis Nation

Stephanie Poole, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation

Jessica Hurtubise, North Slave Métis Alliance

Robert Sayine, Deninu Kųé First Nation

Bottom, left to right:

Joline Huskey, Tłıchų Government

Femi Baiyewun, Yellowknives Dene First Nation

William Liu, De Beers Canada Inc.