

**NI HADI XA**

Annual Report 2020

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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## Tom Unka, NWTMN

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is safe. As the world is amid the largest pandemic, we have to say thank you to all the front-line workers in the NWT, Canada, and the world for doing a tremendous job in keeping humanity safe. As a Governance committee, Ni Hadi Xa (NHX) had to make several decisions that would assist in keeping our employees safe. One decision was not to host the On the Land Family Travel program, and also not to co-host the De Beers Annual Fish tasting event.

In hopes that the Covid-19 pandemic calms down and the NWT stays at its low rate, in 2021 we will host the On the Land Family Travel program in relation to the Chief Medical Officer's rules and regulations. De Beers will be the ones to decide how they will implement the hosting of the Annual Fish Tasting.

NHX will continue to work with the Indigenous parties to implement the deliverables of the NHX Agreement. Thank you to the NHX Governance committee and staff on working together and keeping the lines of communication open with the support of virtual access and conference calls.

I would like to take this time to welcome Kyle Enzoe, LKDFN member to the team. Kyle is the new Jr. Part-time NHX TK Monitor.

Thank you all, and stay safe.



# MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

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## Rosy Bjornson, NHX Environmental Manager

As the second year of my time with the Ni Hadi Xa comes to an end, I want to say thank you to all the Indigenous parties and De Beers for allowing me to manage the programs. Also, for having the faith and trust in me to organize, coordinate, and manage the staff.

The challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic was met with great difficulty however NHX stood strong and made decisions to assist the staff in continuing to stay safe and ensure the work gets done.

I worked from home for 120 days, March to July 2020, The Environment Monitor was rotated to 28 day shifts and the NHX Traditional Knowledge (TK) Monitors were at a stand still until NHX hired a new Jr. Part-time TK Monitor, and until we got the go ahead from WCSS and Protect NWT to allow them to travel. The NHX TK Monitors have not been to the mine since January 2020. Over the summer, NHX Sub Committee for hiring worked effortlessly to review, screen and interview applications for the Jr. NHX TK Monitor and successfully hired Kyle Enzoe of the LKDFN. The TK Coordinator worked from home as well, preparing reports and assisting in setting up the logistics for travel of the TK Monitors.

It has been a year with differences, however working together has brought us through it, more stronger than ever before. Thank you to the NHX Governance Committee and NHX Staff, it is always a pleasure working alongside you all.



## OBJECTIVES

Ni Hadi Xa is a contractual agreement between six (6) Indigenous Nations; Deninu K'ue First Nation, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation and Tłı̨chǫ 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.

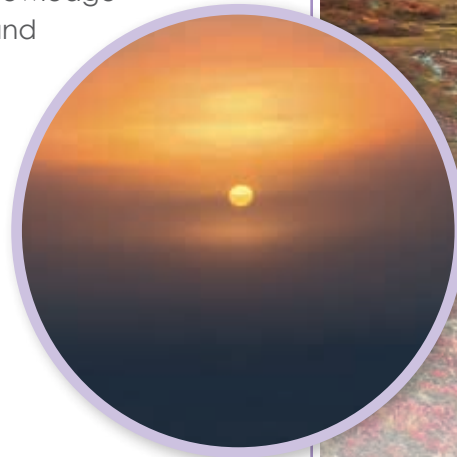
This effort aims to provide ways to avoid or minimize the impacts of Gahcho Kué on the rights of Indigenous Parties; their traditional lands; their relationship to the land, water and resources; their social, cultural, economic and spiritual values; their way of life; and the environment.

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:

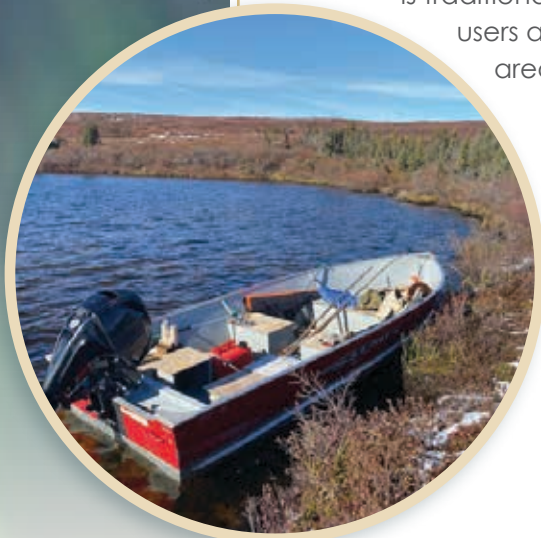
- ★ Respect and protect land, water, wildlife, plants and the land-based economy, essential to the way of life and well-being of the Indigenous Parties and present and future generations;
- ★ Ensure ongoing review of Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans, activities, and reports of De Beers and 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.



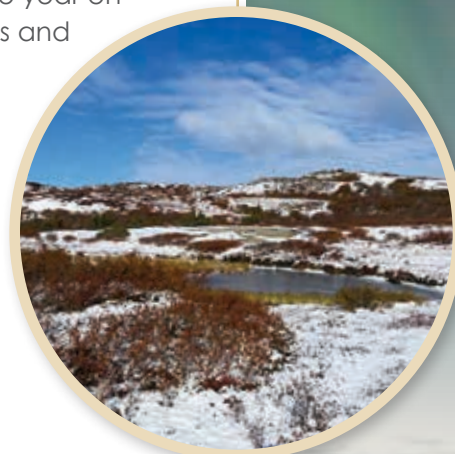
## STRUCTURE

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.



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- ★ **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 part-time Traditional Knowledge Monitors and one 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).





# GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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The NHX Governance Committee has been working hard at trying to get an Incorporation application process completed. Currently, the NHX have five indigenous parties signed on to the Incorporation application and De Beers. With one more signature, the NHX will be able to expand its ability to increase capacity within the indigenous communities with opportunities such as training in monitoring around a mine. This is a great opportunity to open many doors for environmental and traditional knowledge monitoring within indigenous territories.

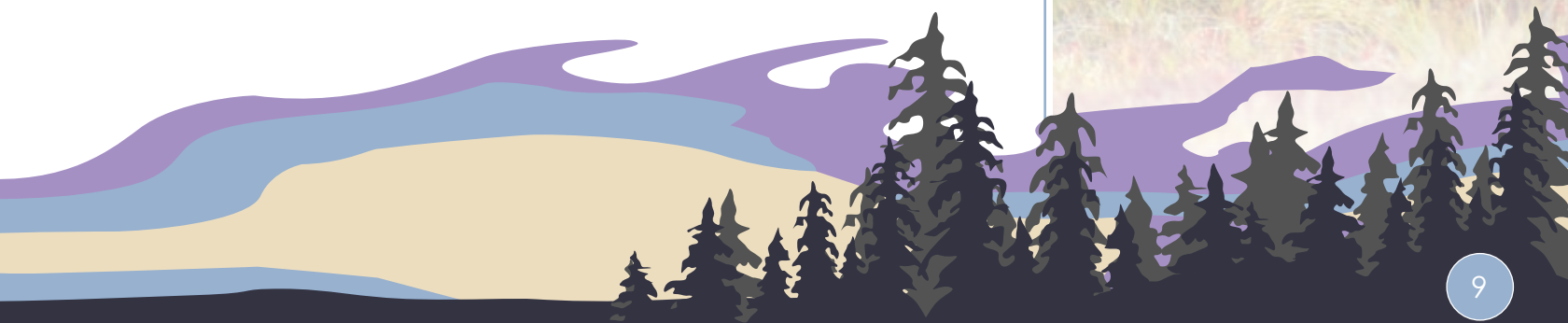
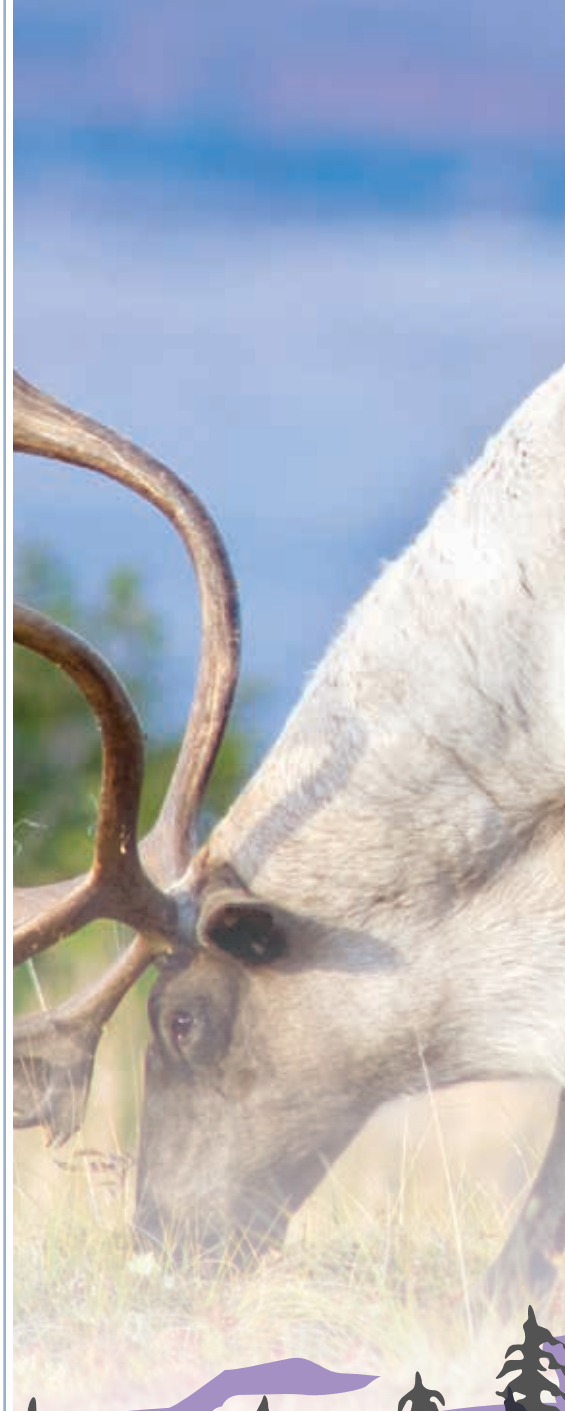
Although the Covid-19 pandemic is happening, NHX was able to meet via Zoom, Google meetings and telephone conferences. NHX hosted four regular governance committee meetings: in January, April, July, and October 2020. The January meeting was held in person at the Ndilo housing boardroom before the pandemic and in October 2020 the meeting was held in person at the Days Inn in Yellowknife with safety regulations in place.

## Recommendations made by the committee over the course of the year include:

- ★ Have a meeting set up via conference call with Voisey's Bay Monitors in Nain to gather information on their TK Monitoring Program and how it is working;
- ★ Get ENR to join the next meeting to discuss the collar of wolves and caribou monitoring programs and what they are doing on the winter road;
- ★ TK Monitoring Program study needs to be included in the closure and reclamation plan for Gahcho Kué;



- ★ Include Youth in Traditional Knowledge workshop as a learning experience;
- ★ Motion was passed on March 16, 2020 for the TK workers to use the trail between Łutsel K'e and Fletcher to avoid contact with the mine and mine staff during the pandemic;
- ★ De Beers to test mine workers before going to the mine;
- ★ De Beers to test wastewater for Covid-19;
- ★ April 6, 2020 the NHX Governance Committee made a motion to recommend De Beers Gahcho Kué Mine go into Care and Maintenance. However, it was not a unanimous decision and the motion was not passed;
- ★ To organize and develop protocols for Covid-19 to allow the on the land family travel program to continue this season during Covid-19;
- ★ Request for De Beers to share the reporting form of TK Comments on De Beers Fish Tasting event;
- ★ De Beers to have maps of the water around the mine and location of where fish were caught when hosting the annual Fish Tasting. This will be good for Elders to create discussion;
- ★ De Beers to create a timeline poster of past Fish Tasting to create discussions and allow for Elders to remember past visits; and
- ★ NHX requested to see results from the Fish Tasting event over the past years.

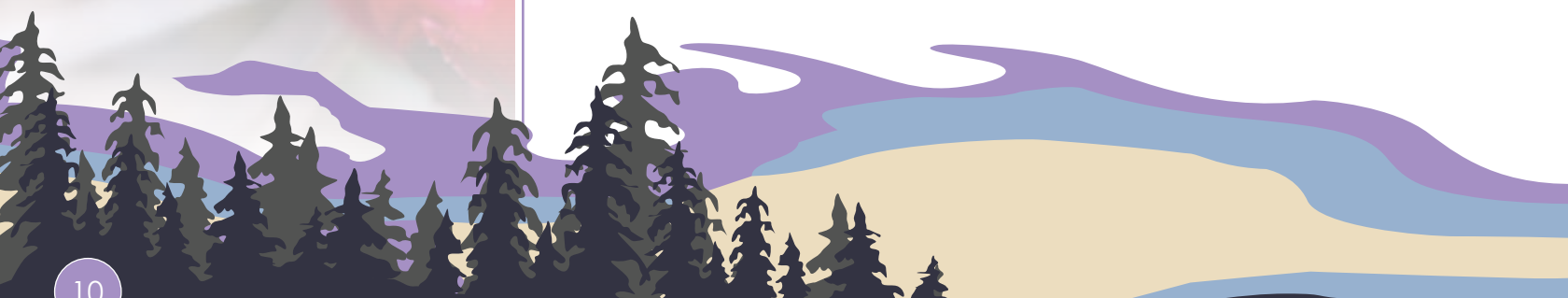




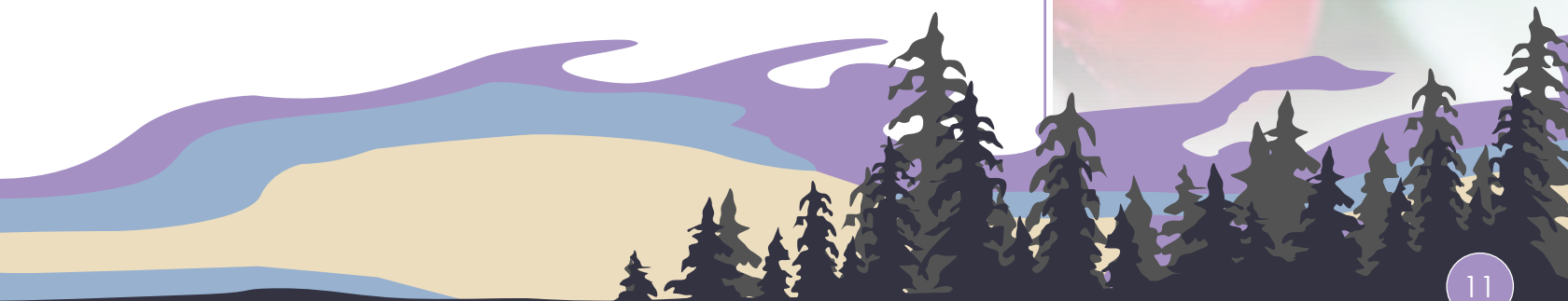
## THIRD PARTY REVIEW

Ni Hadi Xa hired Matrix Solution Inc. out of Calgary to assist in the review of all the documents and information in relation to the De Beers license and permit amendments for additional ore at the Gahcho Kué mine site. Matrix and Rosy began discussions on March 10, 2020. Moving forward Ni Hadi Xa hired Matrix Solutions to assist in a third-party review of the regulatory process for the amendment proposal presented to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB), MV2005C0032 and MV2005L2-0015 by De Beers Canada. You will find documentation of the entire process on the MVLWB public registry at [www.mvlwb.com](http://www.mvlwb.com).

Date of Call/Meeting	Participants	Time of Call/Meeting	Purpose of Call/Meeting
March 10, 2020	Kelly Osterman and Rosy Bjornson	8:00 am	Introduction and proposal
March 20, 2020	Rosy Bjornson and Shilo Brauer	11:00 am	Workplan
March 26, 2020	Kelly Ostermann; Delanie Player; Hugh Abercrombie; Shilo Brauer; Serge Metikosh; Sean Sullivan; William Liu; and Rosy Bjornson	11:00 am	Kick off call – to strategize on how the third-party review will be carried out and who will have what role in the process.



Date of Call/Meeting	Participants	Time of Call/Meeting	Purpose of Call/Meeting
July 8-10, 2020	Kelly Ostermann; Delanie Player; Hugh Abercrombie; Shilo Brauer; Serge Metikosh; Sean Sullivan; William Liu; and Rosy Bjornson		Technical sessions
September 29-30, 2020	Kelly Ostermann; Delanie Player; Hugh Abercrombie; Shilo Brauer; Serge Metikosh; Sean Sullivan; William Liu; and Rosy Bjornson	8:30 am	Public Hearing for the amendment application for Gahcho Kué Additional Ore.
November 17, 2020	Rosy Bjornson and Serge Mackintosh	8:30 am	Gahcho Kué AEMP Workshop



# NHX ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR ON SITE AT GAHCHO KUÉ MINE

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## Garrick Lafferty

Due to Covid-19 the Gahcho Kué mine has set up the work rotations to four weeks in and four weeks out. This way the workers going into the mine will have two weeks to self monitor for symptoms prior to going into the camp. Garrick has been able to adjust to the work schedule and is able to conduct the work he is supposed to fulfill. For each shift the Environment Monitor is directed to complete a shift report.

Each month the NHX Environment Monitor is off shift, is a month of monitoring that is not being done due to the lack of capacity within the NHX budget. With Incorporation for the Ni Hadi Xa, there will be more opportunities to apply for funding to train more indigenous party members in Environmental Monitoring and Mine safety.

You can view these NHX Environment Monitor Shift reports on the website at [www.nihadixa.ca](http://www.nihadixa.ca).



Garrick Lafferty

# TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING PROGRAM

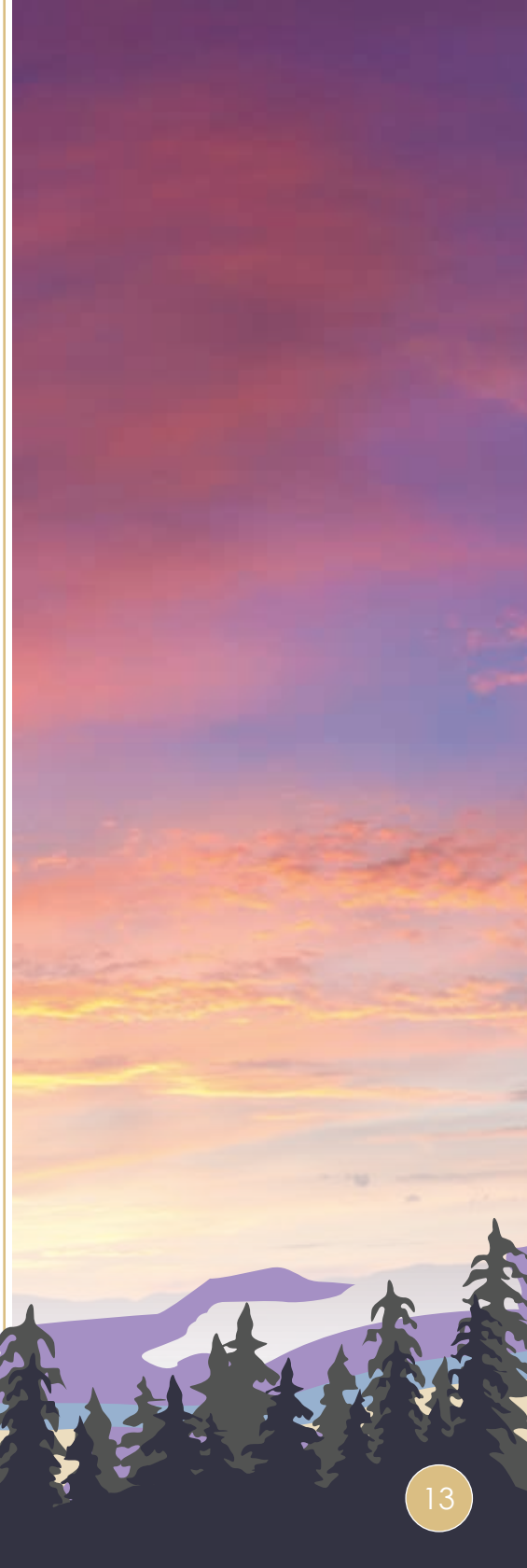
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In January 2020, NHX Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Program took a loss when Denecho Catholique moved on to another organization. This kicked off a hiring process. The sub committee for hiring consisted of Rosy Bjornson, NHX Manager, William Liu, De Beers, Jessica Hurtibuse, NSMA and Joline Huskey, Tłtchq Government. Advertisements were sent to each of the organizations, resumes were received and screened, and interviews were conducted over a three-month period. Once the selection was made, NHX hired Kyle Enzoe to fill the Jr. Part Time Traditional Knowledge Monitoring position. Two trips were conducted: September 12 to 20, 2020 and December 8 to 18, 2020. Throughout the year I hosted staff meetings with the staff to keep them informed, these staff meetings took place via Google meetings and one face to face in February 25 to 26, 2020. TKMP purchased new toboggans as well.

You can view these NHX TK Shift reports on the website at [www.nihadixa.ca](http://www.nihadixa.ca).

## Winter

- ★ The Ni Hadi Xa (NHX) Traditional Knowledge Monitors had a difficult year with the Covid-19 Pandemic hitting the world in March of this year. Despite the pandemic, we tried to roll with operations as best as we could.
- ★ TK Monitors made three trips to the cabin this year. A wolverine had gotten into the tent frame and made a mess. Sleeping bags and a few other materials had to be discarded and replaced.
- ★ Denecho left NHX and joined the Ni Hat Ni Dene Guardians in March after completing a trip with Herman and Angus with the Spur Caribou Monitoring Project.





# TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING PROGRAM CONTINUED

- ★ In February, the NHX Traditional Knowledge Monitors focused on the spur winter ice road that leads off the main Contwoyto road. They were able to observe caribou and hunting activities.
- ★ As per usual, there were foxes that were eating garbage and caribou carcasses. Wolves, wolverines and ravens were all spotted during the time out observing.
- ★ Just like last year, the traditional ways and practices of hunting is not being respected. The caribou are our way of life and need to be respected as stated in our Dene Laws and Practices.

## Summer

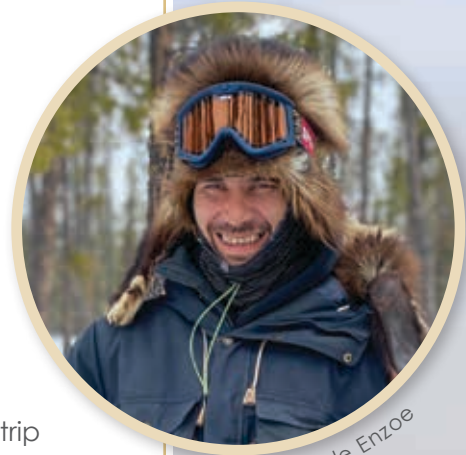
- ★ Summer months are usually a busy time for the NHX staff. The NHX typically hosts the summer family on the land travel program at the Fletcher lake cabin between July and August. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the committee, DeBeers and Monitors chose to proceed with the program.
- ★ NHX conducted and completed Covid-19 Risk assessments and workplace assessments in spring of this year. These were required if we were going to continue with the family program.
- ★ We are now prepared to deliver the program in the summer and fall of 2021.

## September 2020

- ★ This fall season was really windy and a lot of rain during the September trip.
- ★ Observations were minimal as weather was not great.
- ★ One of our Monitors fell ill during this trip and it was decided to get both of them back to Yellowknife a couple of days earlier.
- ★ A number of supplies and materials had to be replenished.
- ★ The TK Monitors compiled a list of materials and supplies and these were ordered and brought out to the cabin during this trip and more on the December Trip to the Cabin.

## Fall/Winter 2020

- ★ August 2020 – Kyle Enzoe was hired as the Junior Traditional Knowledge Monitor.
- ★ September 2020 – Herman and Kyle flew to the TK Cabin. This trip was cut short, one of the monitors had contracted a stomach flu. No caribou or tracks were spotted at this time.
- ★ September 2020 – Herman and Kyle were supposed to take training in Lutsel K'e with the Thaidene Nene and Ni Hat Ni guardians. They were unable to go to this training at this time.
- ★ December 2020 – Herman and Kyle flew into Gacho Kué and snowmobiled out to the cabin at Fletcher Lake. Minimal caribou tracks were spotted in the area.



Kyle Enzoe

# TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING PROGRAM CONTINUED

December 2020



The Monitors arriving at Gacho Kué Airport





*Tent frame view from the cabin*



*Herman getting the snowmobile ready*

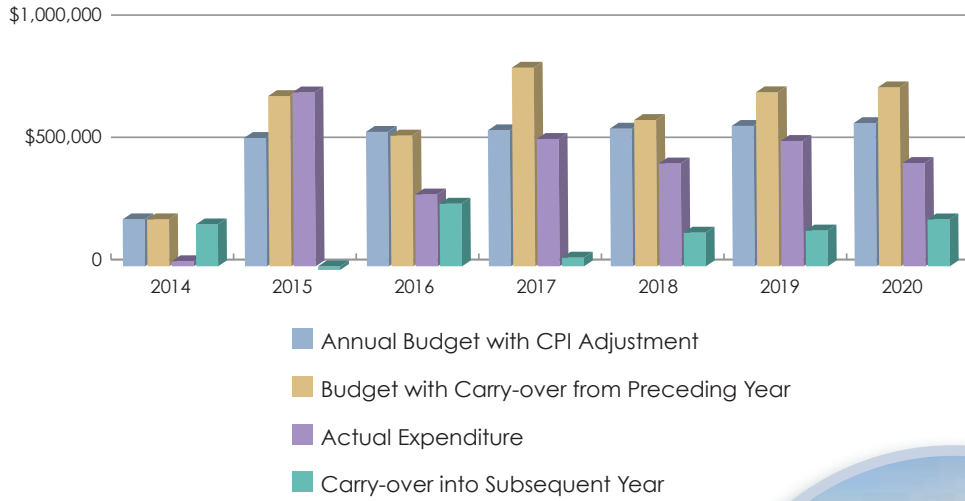
# FINANCES

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



TK Monitors transporting wood to the TK Monitoring cabin

## Annual Budget and Expenditure Summary





## NHX GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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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**, Tłıchǫ Government

**Sarah Gillis**, Yellowknives Dene First Nation

**William Liu**, De Beers Canada Inc.