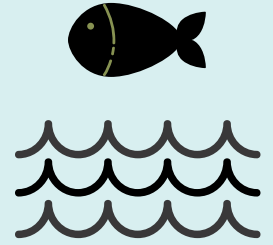




Koh-Learning Winter Gathering 2020



On February 26, 2020, approximately 45 students, teachers, and researchers gathered on Saik'uz First Nation traditional territory at Nechako Valley Secondary School in Vanderhoof, BC for the Koh-Learning Project's first annual Winter Gathering.

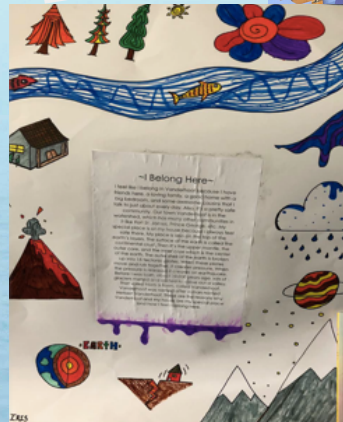
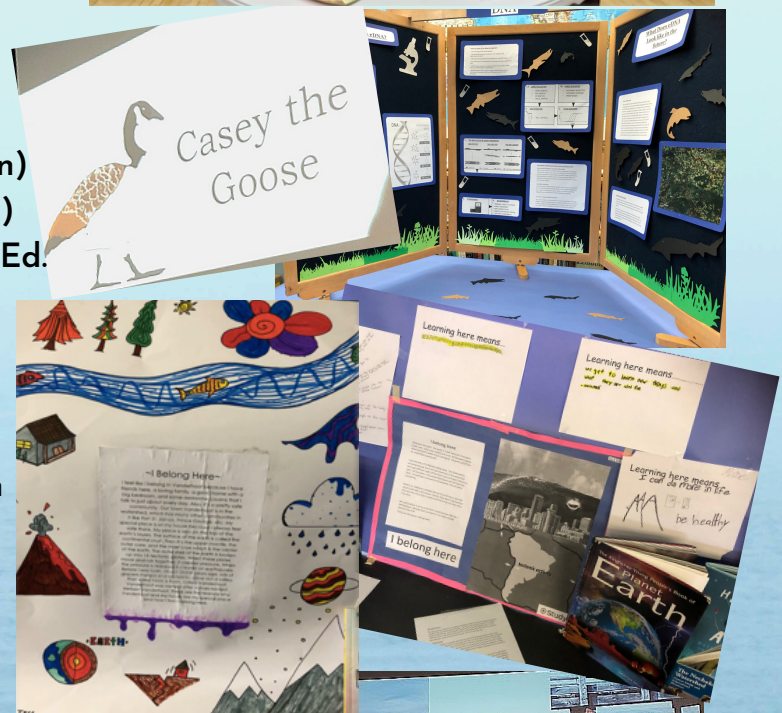


We were honoured by inspiring talks from multiple speakers, including:

- Ken Young, NVSS Principal
- Jasmine Thomas, Saik'uz Councillor (Frog Clan)
- Rodney Teed, Saik'uz Councillor (Grouse Clan)
- Leona Prince, District Principal of Aboriginal Ed.
- Wayne Salewski, NEWSS
- Kevin Moutray, Vanderhoof Councillor

The teachers and students from each school showcased their learning over the past year with photos, powerpoints, projects, displays, essays, stories, and drawings, including:

- "I Belong Here" essays
- "Casey the Goose" illustrated story
- Fraser Lake's powerpoint and mentorship program
- eDNA research project
- "If the Nechako River Could Talk ..." booklet
- and many more!



"Everything is connected one way or another."

When asked what the watershed means to them, the students overwhelmingly mentioned connectedness and interdependency.

"Everything that happens in the watershed affects everyone!"

"Loss of the watershed means loss of everything!"

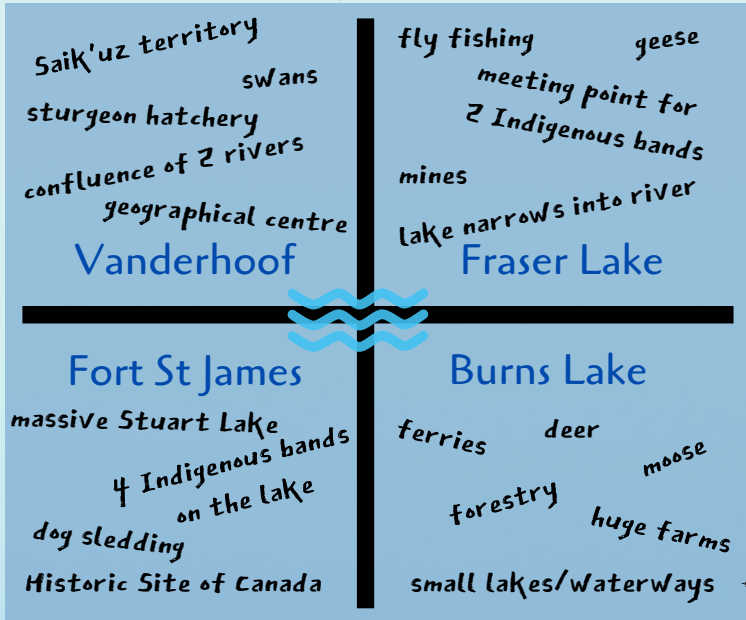
They also wrote about the watershed meaning **life, health, culture, respect, engagement, responsibility, community**, and a call to action.

Moving Forward ...

Our next step is to create a Koh-Learning Project logo!

Through written group activities, the students brainstormed many ideas for this logo, including unique and common qualities that make up these four communities within the Nechako Watershed, some of which are showcased below. We plan to use these ideas when we invite several students to Prince George to work with the Two Rivers Art Gallery on creating a meaningful and representative logo.

Uniqueness:



Commonalities:



The next Koh-Learning Gathering is planned for the end of Summer 2020.

We asked the students for some ideas for the next gathering and their answers included:

- **Involve more people**
(including students, government, and people with different perspectives)
- **Outside activities!**
(ex: hiking, camping, following a river, identifying animal tracks, canoeing, swimming, snorkeling, ph testing, comparing bodies of water)
- **Hands-on, creative, and student-led activities and open discussions**
(ex: tanning hides, traditional beading, drawing nature, telling a story, visual presentations, dissecting fish)
- **Learn more about ...**
(ex: the environment, Indigenous government, animals, fish, bugs, plants, algae, history, Carrier language, edible plants, medicinal plants, the territory the gathering is on)
- **Related games**
(ex: watershed wiggle, game about nature, game about why animals choose where to live)
- **Lunch or snacks in a forest or field**

To learn more, visit:
www.unbc.ca/integrated-watershed-research-group/koh-learning-our-watersheds

Thank you NVSS
 for hosting Koh-
 Learning's Winter
 Gathering 2020!

