



# KOH-LEARNING IN OUR WATERSHEDS

Transforming education by connecting students, communities, and waterways



*Above: Nautley River (photo by Diana Kutzner)*

*Top Left: Koh-Learning Logo (credit to SD91 students Niki MacKinley and Ronan Blattner; designed in collaboration with other SD91 students and Koh-Learning team members)*

## Shen\* (Summer) Gathering

On August 23, 2021, *Koh-Learning in our Watersheds* hosted our third annual summer gathering to bring together teachers, principals, and other community members in preparation for the upcoming school year. In keeping with other years, the 2021 Shen (summer) gathering was designed as an opportunity to share ongoing Koh-Learning initiatives that are connecting students, communities, and waterways. Our Koh-Learning summer gatherings also aim to support SD91 educators in identifying and accessing relevant resources to enhance student success.



This year, as in 2019, we were fortunate to hold our gathering at Nadleh Whut'en First Nation by the beautiful Nautley river. The following pages include highlights and insights from our day together.

*\*In conjunction with the Aboriginal Education Council of SD91, we are pleased to profile Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en language that is integral to the Koh-learning in our Watershed project. For example, Koh (waterways) and Shen (summer).*

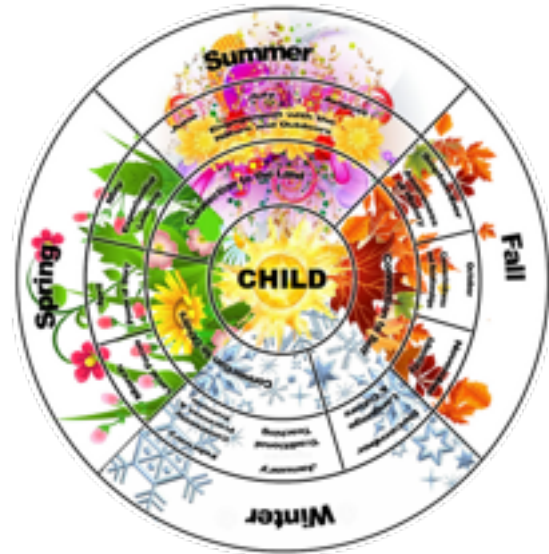
## Morning Activities

### Introductions and Setting the Stage

Our Summer Gathering day began near the Nautley river, with each participant introducing themselves and their own connection to land.

Leona Prince (SD91 Principal of Aboriginal Education) and Dustin Louie (Professor at the University of Calgary) helped to ground our day in Nadleh Whut'en Territory through stories of the land and of summer activities connected to the seasonal rounds (pictured on the right).

These morning discussions fit well with an emerging priority of the Koh-Learning program to enhance student success by modelling decolonizing education practices (see page 3).



### Trail Camera Demonstration

Vanessa Uschenko of the CNC Research Forest led a presentation on the use of trail cameras (aka camera trapping) with an outdoor demo of a camera she had set up on the Nautley river. She shared tips on trail cam placement to capture shots of different animals. Upon our return to our indoor space, she showed a video of a black bear, captured on the trail cam at Nadleh Whut'en just a few days before!

### Lunch - Sharing of Traditional Food!

Nancy Louie's Catering from Nadleh Whut'en provided a traditional meal for our gathering, including delicious homemade moose stew, bannock, and salmon. Mussih cho!

*Top Right: The Seasonal Rounds diagram for education, used to help guide Koh-Learning activities (developed by Leona Prince)*

*Bottom Right: Participants at summer gathering (photo by Ella Parker)*

*Above: Vanessa presents about camera trapping by the Nautley river (photo by Ella Parker)*

## Afternoon Activities

### Local Knowledge Sharing

After lunch, Nadleh Whut'en Elders Roy Nooski and Margaret Luggi shared stories and teachings about water, the history of where we were gathered, and teachings about plants while passing around gathered samples for everyone to see. Elder Roy also shared a song and dance.



### Introduction of the Dakelh Language App

Eleanor Nooski (Nadleh Whut'en First Nation) and Dennis Patrick (Stellat'en First Nation) introduced us to a new Dakelh language app. The app is available for Android devices [here](#). You can also learn through [First Voices](#), a web-based language site.

### Discussions Related to Reconciliation

Dustin Louie presented two frameworks for walking through reconciliation. In addition to decolonizing and Indigenizing education, he talked about the responsibilities of being a keyoh holder and ways that keyoh principles can guide land-based learning and healing (keyoh is the Dakelh word for territory).

Dustin's presentation added fuel to three years of Koh-Learning interactions that have highlighted the value of connecting across ways of knowing, academic disciplines, and community sectors to contribute to reconciliation (see also prior [Updates](#)). As the Koh-Learning program develops, we are increasingly orienting to an emerging priority: *To contribute to decolonizing and Indigenizing the curriculum for enhanced student success*. Currently, we are learning about contributing in this way by honouring diverse ways of knowing, supporting student voice, and centering well-being in education.

### Sneak Peek: New Book by Local Author

Leona Prince read from her upcoming book, *Be a Good Ancestor* (co-authored with Gabrielle Prince and illustrated by Carla Joseph). You can find out more about the book [here](#)!

### Youth Engagement

Moving outside in the late afternoon, Koh-Learning team members Ella Parker and Jordan Cranmer spoke about their recent work with youth in the Nechako watershed, including a canoe day trip with youth on the Nechako and Ella's graduate research with youth mentors at Nechako Valley Secondary School.

*Top: Elder Margaret Luggi, Elder Roy Nooski, and Eleanor Nooski share stories, teachings, and music (photo by Diana Kutzner)*

*Right: Spotted tussock moth caterpillar near the Nautley river (photo by Ella Parker)*



