



**Advancing the
2030 Agenda in
Nogojiwanong |
Peterborough**

Final Report

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Gchi-miigwetch to the Indigenous Leadership Action Team, the four priority SDG Action Teams, the Coordinating Committee, and the Masters of Sustainability Studies students at Trent University for their additional guidance and support.

This project was funded by the Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Funding Program.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC) and GreenUP are located on Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa First Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

KWIC and GreenUP respectfully acknowledge that the Williams Treaties First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

KEY

PRINCIPLES

The SDG 2030 agenda “recognizes that the dignity of the individual is fundamental and the goals and targets should be met for all nations and people and for all segments of society”. This project was centred on leaving no one behind and centering Indigenous leadership, key principles identified at the 2019 Community Forum for continuing this work, locally.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

What are the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

The 2030 Agenda was adopted by the United Nations general assembly in 2015. It is a framework of seventeen interconnected goals, referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs focus on economic, social and environmental themes including sustainable development, poverty, and climate change. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda is the idea of equity, or 'Leaving No One Behind.' For more information about leaving no one behind and the Sustainable Development Goals Framework, please visit the UN SDG website.

About this project

In March 2019, Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC), GreenUP, Fleming College, and Trent University hosted a Community Forum called Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Canada's Commitment and the Local Connections. Later that year, KWIC applied for Sustainable Development Goals Program Funding, in partnership with GreenUP, to build upon the foundation established at this forum. The grant was awarded in March 2020, which coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances created unique challenges, constraints and opportunities for the project, which was reorganized to become fully virtual.

Advancing the 2030 Agenda Nogojiwanong / Peterborough has four main objectives:

1. Raise awareness of and support for the 2030 Agenda;
2. Enhance multi-stakeholder efforts toward the Agenda by building partnerships and bridging efforts across sectors;
3. Ensure that progress on the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind, including vulnerable and marginalized groups; and,
4. Foster and integrate Indigenous knowledge into approaches and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Project Structure

Five Action Teams were established to further these objectives in relation to priorities identified at the 2019 forum. Four of the teams focused on specific SDGs: No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), and Climate Action (SDG 13). The fifth group, called the Indigenous Leadership Action Team (ILAT), guided and supported the work of the other four teams. Each Action Team met remotely three times, and worked toward the results shared at the 2021 Forum and in this report.

The Project Coordinators, Hayley Goodchild and Shaelyn Wabegijig, led all grant activities and provided essential facilitation support and capacity. Their work was supported by the Steering Team that included KWIC and GreenUP's Executive Directors, Julie Cosgrove and Brianna Salmon, as well as Project Researcher, Margaret Zou. The Indigenous Project Consultants, Gary Pritchard and Anne Taylor, and Elder Advisor, Phyllis Williams, from Curve Lake First Nation, provided guidance for major project activities. The Coordinating Committee, which included the Chairs from each Action Team as well as a number of additional community members, represented key sectors and stakeholders and worked to provide guidance for the project's philosophy, key direction, and community activities.

Each person has made remarkable contributions, particularly given the constraints of the pandemic, and we are extremely grateful for their expertise, experience, and generosity.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1 Stakeholder Convening

To support this project, five diverse Action Teams were convened. More than fifty people participated in fifteen Action Team meetings throughout the project. These teams built the foundation of localizing our priorities in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Sioux Lily,
Artist &
Accessibility Advocate

“As a member of the No Poverty Action Team, I appreciated seeing the faces of so many impassioned people who were quietly working to enrich our community. I am hopeful that we are on the precipice of a paradigm shift given the collective energy present in these forums. After listening to such essential conversations, I think we are in agreement that reintroducing equity universally will solve many of our sustainable development goals.”

“Participating in the Climate Action Team was an empowering experience where I was able to connect with other like minded community members to collectively offer insight and participate in discussions surrounding our common goal of advancing climate action in our community. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the conversations, activities and actions that emerged and am thankful I was able to participate and offer my knowledge and experience on the topic.”

Malaika Collette,
Peterborough Youth
Empowerment

2 Project Publications

We published a 3-part series about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - also known as the 2030 Agenda - and how our community is working together to implement them in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough and the Kawarthas. These articles were featured in the GreenUP monthly column in *Kawartha Now* and the *Peterborough Examiner*.

In Part 1, December 2020, we explained what the Sustainable Development Goals are and how the Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC) and GreenUP are working together to advance them locally.

In Part 2, January 2021, we interviewed members of the project's Indigenous Leadership Action Team to discuss why Indigenous leadership is necessary for guiding our local SDG process.

And finally, in Part 3, March 2021, we reviewed the SDG Community Forum, which focused on Centering Indigenous Leadership and Diverse Perspectives to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough, to further community awareness and collaboration on this important initiative.

3 Youth Engagement

As part of the project's ongoing objective of building awareness of the SDGs in Nogojiwanong / Peterborough, we launched a series of interactive online workshops targeting university and high school level students, the latter in partnership with Pathways to Stewardship and Kinship. These workshops are aimed at expanding students' knowledge of the SDGs, and empowering youth to make informed decisions and to take action in building a sustainable future. Moreover, the workshops provide an invaluable opportunity for students to participate in the local SDG movement. It is critical to actively engage young people in the implementation of sustainable development efforts and central to achieving inclusivity and advancing the overarching goal of leaving no one behind.

4 International Networking

Voluntary Local Reviews: In October 2020, the SDG team participated in a national conversation on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) organized by SDSN Canada, Green Beacon and WGSJ. The discussions clearly showed that the momentum is building quickly in Canada to localize the SDGs at the municipal/ community level.

International Momentum on the SDGs: We had the opportunity to highlight this project at the United Nations University's Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) conference on Education on Sustainable Development in the Americas, and to share our goals with RCE's across the continent. There was tremendous interest in our local work, particularly our project's goal and actions to prioritize Indigenous knowledge and leadership.



Centering Indigenous Leadership
and Diverse Perspectives to Advance
the Priority Sustainable Development
Goals in Nogojiwanong / Peterborough

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COMMUNITY FORUM

Funded by the
Government
of Canada | Canada



Wed. Feb. 24, 2021

10am-12:30pm | 7-8:30pm

Thurs. Feb. 25, 2021

10am-12:30pm

SUMMARY

On February 24th and 25th, 2021, KWIC and GreenUP hosted a Community Forum called “Centering Indigenous Leadership and Diverse Perspectives to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough”. This was a free virtual event, held through Zoom, designed to share and build on the collective work of the five local Priority Action Teams. We came together to learn, share and deepen our understanding of advancing the SDGs in a way that leaves no one behind and prioritizes Indigenous leadership for success in this work. The forum hosted three interconnected sessions over two days that welcomed two hundred and twenty guests from far and wide to join our Nogojiwanong/ Peterborough and Kawartha community in this process. This diverse group represented many communities and sectors, including local First Nations and municipal governments, the business sector, non-profit organizations, post-secondary institutions, youth, and the general community.



Seven Grandfather Teachings

The forum was hosted by Shaelyn Wabegijig, the KWIC Project Coordinator, who began each session with an introduction to the Seven Grandfather Teachings, the principles to guide the forum and how we would work together. These teachings are the foundation of local Indigenous ways of life and our blueprint on how to live a good, healthy life. They include: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth.



Minwaadendamowin - Respect
Zaagidiwin - Love
Debwewin - Truth
Aakodewewin - Bravery
Nibwaakawin - Wisdom
Dibaadendiziwin - Humility
Gwayakwaadiziwin - Honesty

“ I especially appreciated the fact that the event was guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Respect, kindness, and inclusivity were evident throughout the three sessions, even in the Zoom chat section. ”

Anca Pascalau
Sustainable Peterborough

Workshop Session Summaries

The workshops were framed by words offered by Michi Saagiig Elders, leaders, and knowledge keepers. The intention of this gift was to ground the sessions in a good way, ensuring we worked together in a meaningful, grateful, and present mindset.

Each workshop had a distinct focus. The first session included a presentation by the project’s Indigenous Consultants, Anne Taylor and Gary Pritchard, and Elder Advisor, Phyllis Williams, looking to the past to move us forward. This was followed by an interactive session in which participants worked together to identify groups that had not yet been included in the development of local SDG initiatives.

In the second session, which opened with the Hiawatha drum group Michi Saagiig Manoomin, attendees heard from three speakers who identified why Indigenous leadership and an intersectional approach are central to leaving no one behind in advancing the goals. The first speaker of the evening was S.S. Ahmad, founder of Green Beacon. Ahmad shared why empathy and a human-rights based focus is essential to advancing the SDGs. Next we heard from Jaida Ponce, a Kichi Siibi Anishinabe-Kwe from Ardoch Algonquin First Nation. Ponce, who works with the Oshkwazin Indigenous Youth Leadership Program, shared stories that explained the need for strong and open relationships and communication between settler institutions and Indigenous communities. The third speaker was Dr. Alan Corbiere, a well-respected Anishinaabe historian and teacher from M’Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island. Dr. Corbiere explained how Indigenous knowledge and language can help us to better understand and advance sustainability goals.

The final session of the forum began with a Welcome to the Territory by Chief Whetung of Curve Lake First Nation. The session featured the culminating work of the Project Action Teams: No Poverty, Quality Education, Clean Water and Sanitization, and Climate Action. Team Chairs shared how the focus areas are being localized to ensure outcomes relevant to Nogojiwanong / Peterborough. The presentations emphasized leaving no one behind and centering Indigenous knowledge and leadership.



End Poverty in all its forms Everywhere

The No Poverty Action Team met three times between December 2020 and March 2021. The team engaged in a series of conversations about what poverty means in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough, what the community will be like when we eradicate poverty, and what the community will look like when everyone thrives. They also considered specific strategies and principles that anti-poverty organizations and movements can incorporate into their work, in order to more effectively centre Indigenous leadership, and prioritize leaving no one behind.

[Click here to view the No Poverty Action Team Final Report](#)

Breakout room discussions about No Poverty (SDG 1) at the 2021 Community Forum generated the following common themes:

- The definition of poverty to Indigenous peoples includes an emphasis on having good relationships with each other and the natural world.
- Poverty is interconnected with all the SDGs and people who experience poverty are more vulnerable to other forms of marginalization.
- Diverse groups (Indigenous people, Black people, new Canadians, etc.) must lead the prioritization, planning, and implementation of community action.
- Communication and collaboration among organizations and across sectors is essential. For example, creating an umbrella organization to convene anti-poverty actions and commitments.
- Individual awareness, self education and compassion are essential.



Ensure Equitable and Quality Education Opportunities For All

The Quality Education Action Team met three times between October 2020 and January 2021. Together, they discussed what quality education means within their communities, began adapting the global SDG Framework to the local level. Through a community mapping exercise, they identified dozens of initiatives that support quality education in this region, particularly place-based and experiential education. Leaving no one behind and centering Indigenous knowledge and leadership were prioritized throughout the discussions.

[Click here to view the No Poverty Action Team Final Report](#)

Breakout room discussions about Quality Education (SDG 4) at the 2021 Community Forum generated the following common themes:

- There are many local resources and initiatives that model Indigenous pedagogies to support learning.
- Intersectional education, outdoor classrooms, and learning on the land need to be more accessible to all children. Legislation such as Jordan's Principle need to ensure that First Nations children have equal access.
- The curricula and structure of the current public education system needs to be formally reviewed and updated to achieve the following goals: inclusive, decolonial, and culturally appropriate education for all; partnerships with local Indigenous communities and knowledge-holders to lead education at all levels and support the integration native languages; and, integrate accessible and community-based opportunities for experiential learning (outdoor education and land-based learning).



Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water

The Clean Water and Sanitation Action Team met three times between October 2020 and January 2021. They discussed how local efforts for nibi (water) can be centred around Indigenous knowledge and leadership. They also began 'localizing' or adapting the SDG Framework to better reflect the needs and priorities within their communities. They ended each meeting by singing the Nibi Song to remind themselves that nibi has spirit, to express gratitude to nibi, and to commit to protecting the health of nibi.

Click here to view the [Clean Water Action Team Final Report](#)

Breakout room discussions about Clean Water (SDG 6) at the 2021 Community Forum generated the following common themes:

- Many people call water a resource, but to Indigenous Peoples water is a relation and a living spirit.
- Education and awareness about water relationships and regulations is needed.
- We must protect and co-govern watersheds effectively to ensure their health and to support equitable, long-term access.
- Communities and groups that are currently left behind in the development of water conservation solutions and education, or that are differently impacted by water quality issues must be prioritized.
- Interconnections between poverty, climate vulnerability, and access to clean water must be researched and better understood in our communities.



Take Urgent Action to combat Climate Change and its Impacts

The Climate Action Team met three times between October 2020 and January 2021. They discussed how local climate action can be centred around Indigenous knowledge and leadership and ensure that no one is left behind. The team also began 'localizing' or adapting the SDG 13 Targets to better reflect the needs and priorities within their communities.

Breakout room discussions about Climate Action (SDG 13) at the 2021 Community Forum generated the following common themes:

- Recognize that all SDGs are interconnected, and specifically that climate change impacts progress on all other SDGs.
- Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in developing solutions to climate-related risks (adaptation and mitigation).
- Increase synergy and collaboration among organizations and other actors working on climate-related issues.
- Enhance relationships and engagement with decision makers at all levels of government to support broad and bi-partisan action on the climate.
- Increase management best-practices connected to climate change, like wetland restoration and afforestation.
- Provide education focused on best practices related to low-carbon urban and rural development, including food production.

Click here to view the [Climate Action Team Final Report](#)

WHO IS

LEFT

BEHIND

At the Forum, we asked participants to identify who in our community is, or is at risk of, being left behind. We identified: First Nation communities; Black, racialized communities, and new Canadians; Persons experiencing poverty, housing insecurity, or employment insecurity; People experiencing addictions and/or mental illness; People who are involved with the criminal justice system; Youth and children; People who do not have access to the internet; Persons with disabilities; and, Rural communities and the agricultural community.

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP ACTION TEAM



Center Indigenous knowledge and leadership

The Indigenous Leadership Action Team met three times between October 2020 and January 2021. They discussed how local efforts to advance the SDGs can and should be centred around Indigenous Knowledge and leadership and ensure that no one is left behind. They considered how the SDG Framework could better reflect needs and priorities within their communities. They looked at each priority SDG to consider the ways it impacted Indigenous communities and to identify what local First Nations are doing to further the targets.

Click here to view the **Indigenous Leadership Action Team Final Report**

Breakout room discussions about Indigenous Leadership at the 2021 Community Forum generated the following common themes:

- Meaningful Indigenous engagement and partnership are central to any approach to sustainable development.
- Building and maintaining meaningful relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships with local First Nations people and communities in our treaty area is required to make progress.
- Land Acknowledgements are a reminder of the gifts we are given from creation, and of our responsibilities and relationships. They allow us to do this good work together and we must respect and include these teachings.
- Indigenous leadership that is offered comes from a strong relationship with the land and all our relations; this kind of leadership is needed.
- More work needs to be done to localize the SDG framework with Indigenous leadership and knowledge at the centre.

Centering the Experience of Indigenous Communities

It was highlighted that local Indigenous communities experience unique inequities related to infrastructure, education, and access to clean water, among others, due to colonization.

“In my community, our biggest conversation is about clean water; it has become a struggle in the last hundred years and has been amplified by the pandemic. Long term, we have a goal to protect and preserve lands where our traditions, ceremonies and relationships can be practiced; where we can exercise our ability to be caretakers of our land and remove the paternalistic system imposed upon us.”

Chief Emily Whetung
Curve Lake First Nation

Chief Whetung’s powerful words communicate how clean water (SDG 6) is inseparable from climate change (SDG #13), and the historic and ongoing injustices that have pushed many Indigenous communities into poverty (SDG #1). In the presentations that followed, it became clear that quality education (SDG #4) is central to the fulfillment of the other local SDGs.

Interconnectedness was a recurring theme in this project. All of the issues addressed in the SDGs are interdependent. The action teams shared how their local priorities and UN SDGs are related; the SDGs one cannot be achieved without local action the others. Locally, we believe that the steps we take in our community will ripple out into the world in a good way.

By the end of the forum, the urgent need to reach the SDG targets was evident. We have nine years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda; there is much important work to be done.

CONCLUSIONS

This project was successful in building momentum, creating a strong foundation and establishing relationships towards locally advancing the 2030 Agenda. We hope that local strategies moving forward can build upon our work towards the SDGs.

Despite this project beginning just as the COVID-19 pandemic was emerging, we pivoted to adopt appropriate tools and develop new skills to support what became a virtual project. We missed the richness of in-person conversations, however, we did discover success in creating inclusive spaces that allowed for accessibility and meaningful conversations. This context created both unique opportunities and challenges for broad community participation and documentation of the project.

We'd like to recognize the demand placed on Indigenous communities and peoples for teachings and consultation, especially in these years following the TRC Report. We are truly grateful for the participation of the local First Nations communities, specifically Hiawatha and Curve Lake First Nations, as well as other communities, to ensure that Indigenous consultants, Elders and knowledge holders were involved throughout the project. When considering future initiatives, we wish to build on these relationships to involve communities earlier in the co-development of a project and to support full community partnerships in this work. One of our desires for this project was to include participants who represent the beauty of the diversity of our community, and we recognize that there is room for strengthening participation from historically underrepresented groups in our community.

Based on this project, some overarching recommendations for next steps include:

- Recognize the local work that is already advancing the SDGs and our local priorities, although it may not be articulated as such. This includes the need to develop a local framework with the community to capture and measure this work.
- Learn from and build upon this project to ensure future work advancing the SDGs centers Indigenous leadership and ensures no one is left behind.
- Use the SDG Framework to build local capacity, strengthening community resilience and stability.
- Continue to raise awareness about the importance of the SDGs at the local level to further the outcome of, and to support, the goals.
- Explore intersectional approaches to implement the local goals, taking into consideration synergies and co-benefits between the goals.

The Project's Steering Team offers our sincerest thanks to all the organizers, partners, action team members, volunteers, guest speakers, funders, leaders and event participants that helped bring this memorable project together. We look forward to seeing what comes next!

PROJECT

INFORMATION &

RESOURCES

For more project information and resources, please visit the KWIC and GreenUP project pages. Read our other project reports, including: the Indigenous Collaborative Programming Report, and the 5 Priority Action Team Reports.

SOURCES

Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, “RoadMap for Localizing the SDGs: Implementation and Monitoring at the Subnational Level”, July 6, 2016. Source: https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/roadmap_for_localizing_the_sdgs_0.pdf

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Peterborough Examiner, “GreenUp: Community forum localizes sustainable development goals” by Shaelyn Wabegijig, Fri., March 26, 2021. Source: www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/opinion/contributors/2021/03/26/greenup-community-forum-localizes-sustainable-development-goals.html

RESOURCES

On the SDGs

- An introduction to the global goals for sustainable development: www.globalgoals.org
- Getting to know the SDGs: sdg.guide/chapter-1-getting-to-know-the-sustainable-development-goals-e05b9d17801
- Track the progress of SDGs across the globe: sdg-tracker.org/
- United Nations SDG knowledge platform: sdgs.un.org/

On localizing the SDGs

- Local2030: Localizing the SDGs, a network and platform: www.local2030.org/
- Localizing the 2030 Agenda in Canada: www.bccic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Canada-localization.pdf
- The Trainer’s Guide - Learning to Localize the SDGs: <https://www.uclg-learning.org/localizing-the-sdgs>

The SDGs in Canada

- Moving Forward Together - Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy: www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/moving-forward.html
- Canada takes action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030.html
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network: <https://www.unsdsn.org/canada>

Free online training courses on the SDGs

- Organising for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): www.futurelearn.com/courses/organising-for-sustainable-development-goals
- SDG Academy: www.edx.org/school/sdgacademyx
- UN SDG: Learn. SDG-related learning products and services: www.unsdglearn.org/courses/
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 2030 Agenda Online Courses: www.unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/accelerating-sdg-implementation/our-portfolio/2030-agenda-online-courses



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