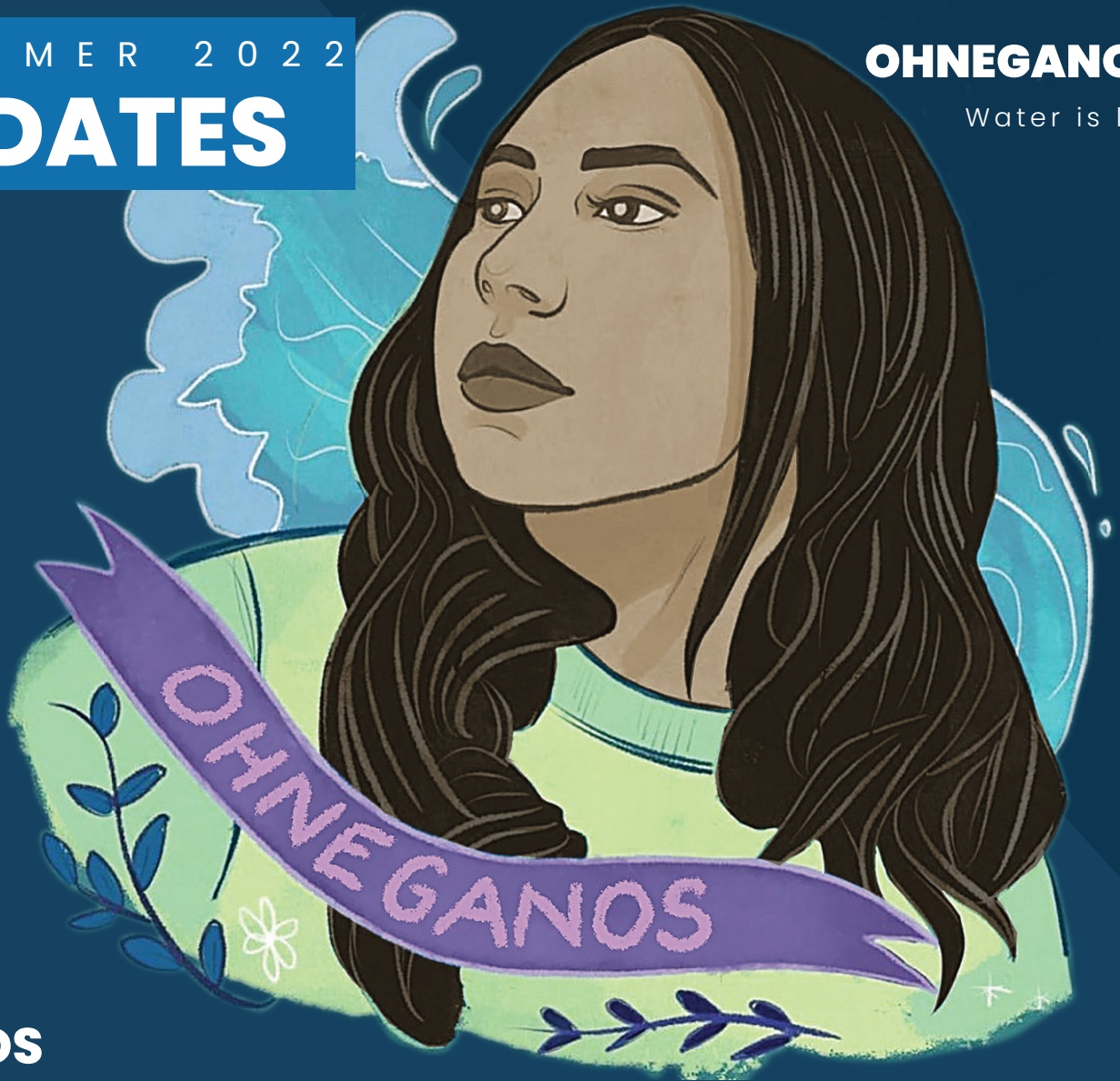


S U M M E R 2 0 2 2  
**UPDATES**

**OHNEGANOS**

Water is life



## AWARDS

Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill is the recipient of the **2022 University of Oklahoma (OU) International Water Prize** for her contributions to understanding how water quality and security are linked to Indigenous community culture, livelihood and health. More information about the prize can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/4hy2csre>

Ohneganos project is the **2021 winner of Princeton University Book Development Grant** for proposed book titled "*Ohneganos: Co-Creating Holistic Knowledge of Water, Environment, and Indigenous Health*."

Ohneganos: Let's Talk Water, hosted by Makasa Looking Horse, was named Winner of **David Suzuki Foundation People's Choice Award 2021**. To watch episodes:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycxs8e5>

**2021 PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER**

**FUTURE  
GROUND  
PRIZE**

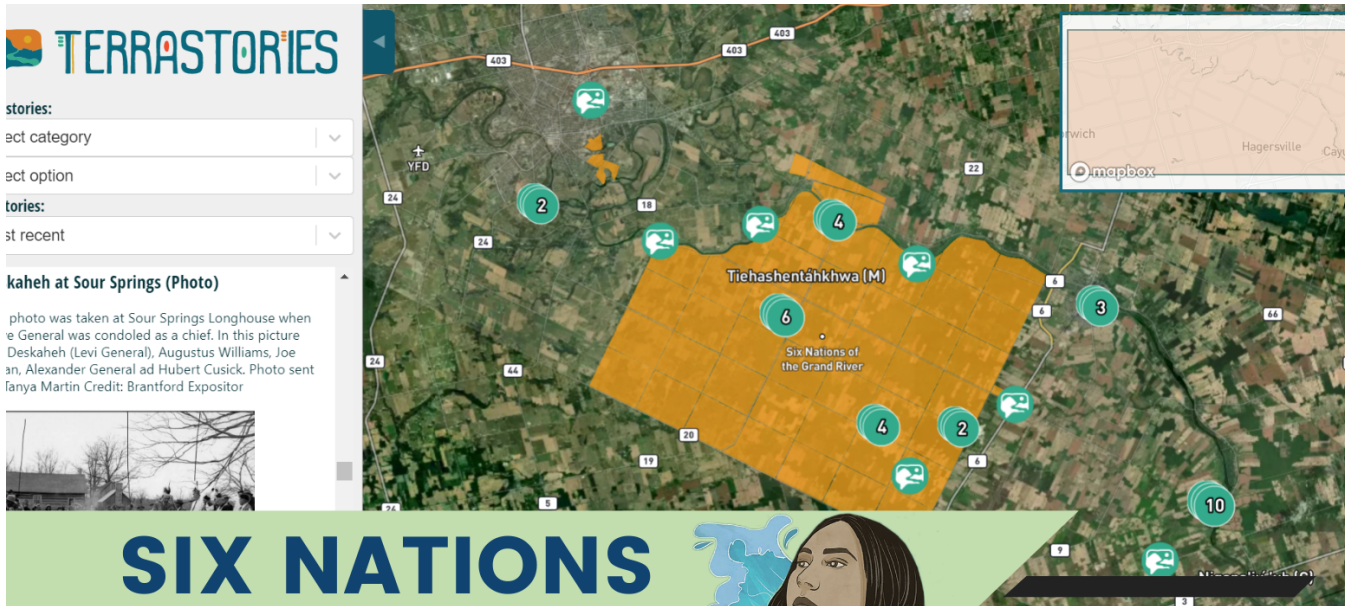


### Ohneganos Let's Talk Water

The video podcast "Ohneganos Let's Talk Water" was co-created as a response to COVID-19 to engage Indigenous communities and disseminate research findings by facilitating meaningful discussion about water issues and climate change. The podcast creates a dialogue between multiple sectors with an emphasis on developing youth leadership. We share digital stories, facilitate experiential learning and conduct interviews to translate western scientific research in an accessible and inclusive way.



# Do you have stories about the land / water / harvesting / homesteads / history / etc. you would like to share?



## SIX NATIONS COMMUNITY MAPPING

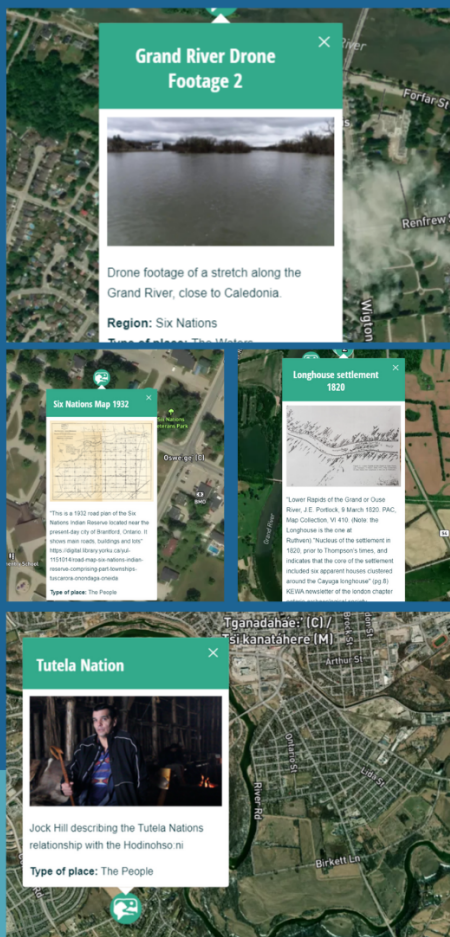





## OHNEGANOS PROJECT

## OUR STORIES OUR HISTORY

We are asking for community members to share stories with the Ohneganos mapping team. We are aiming to build a map with Six Nations community member perspectives, knowledge and history. All stories, pictures, videos and audio will be credited to the source.

-  Historical Pictures
-  Written, Audio
-  Recordings, Video
-  Recordings
-  Family Stories



-  Ohneganos Ohnegahdę:gyo
-  Ohneganos Ohnegahdę:gyo
-  cm.sixnations@gmail.com



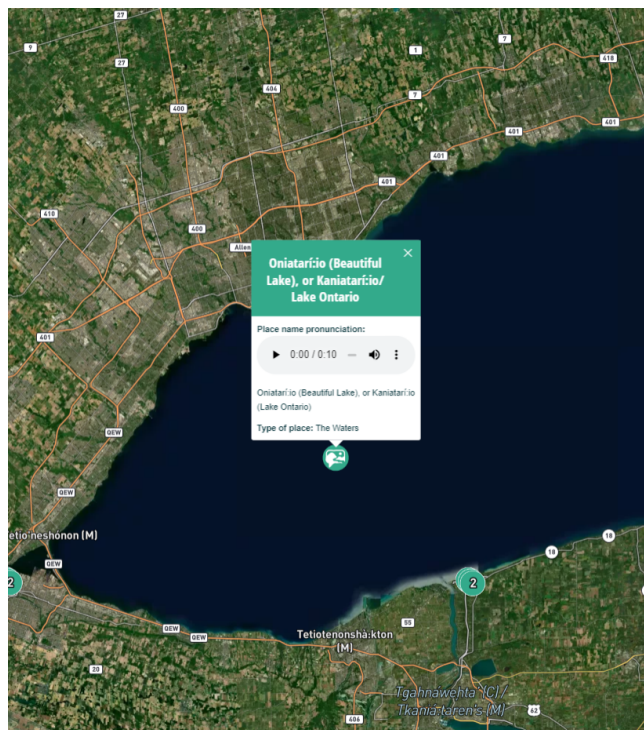
# Project Highlights

## Mapping

Ohneganos has built a partnership with Digital Democracy to develop an Indigenous map of the Haldimand Tract. Mapping lead Chris Martin organized and led Haldimand Tract Workshop/Symposium, and Indigenous Mapping Workshop 2021 - in partnership with Terrastories with Rudo Kemper from Digital Democracy. The Ohneganos Mapping Project is currently gathering resources to depict the history, ecology, archaeology and cultural knowledge of the Haldimand Tract area from Indigenous perspectives. The Ohneganos Mapping Project will also be conducting community interviews to gain a better understanding of Haudenosaunee lived experiences within the Haldimand Tract.

Terrastories mapping has the ability to embed multiple pieces of information in place. It will display images and recordings of cultural knowledge including Haudenosaunee language, medicine, and community knowledge holders sharing oral histories. Historical maps of the Haldimand tract will also be included.

Adding archaeological data to the Terrastories map is important in a number of ways: first and foremost, putting Haudenosaunee heritage back into the hands of the community is crucial and an important step for decolonizing archaeology. Second, archaeological data affirms the presence of the Haudenosaunee people on their land. Third, the rich archaeological history of the Grand River tract confirms the eco-centric lifeways of the Haudenosaunee people and highlights the ways in which the community has practiced ecology, science and sustainability throughout history. This supports the unique position the Haudenosaunee and other Indigenous peoples are in to combat climate change and share Indigenous science with the world.



## Water Testing

Installing our first two water quality sensor modules in the McKenzie creek for preliminary testing in collaboration with Six Nations + Using machine learning for prediction of river chloride - Prof. de Lannoy, Clynt King, Rod Whitlow, and Erik Frechette

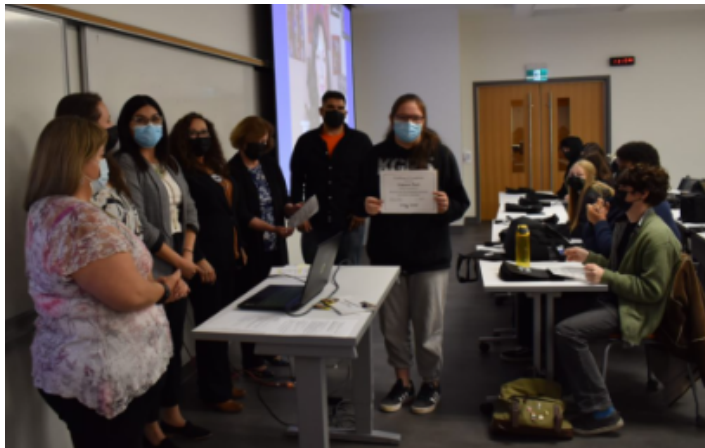
Completed water collection on the reserve from wells and cisterns - Prof. de Lannoy, Mike Montour, Denise McQueen, Hannah Grewal, and Erik Frechette

Initiated peatmoss wastewater system assessment on reserve - Prof. de Lannoy, Mike Montour, Steve Lickers, Steve Lickers Jr., Colin Gibson, Sheel Ayachi

Initiated treated water testing from wastewater lagoon on Six Nations - Prof. de Lannoy, Mike Montour, Steve Lickers, Steve Lickers Jr., Colin Gibson, Sheel Ayachi

Simulated future McKenzie Creek sub-watershed streamflow and hydrological processes under Representative Concentrations Pathways (RCP) 4.5 and 8.5 waring conditions

# Project Highlights



## Education Advancement

Dr. Charles de Lannoy led a two-day event for FN and settler youth from SNP STEAM academy in collaboration with Chris Martin, Julius Pasca-Hossu, Prof. Karen Kidd and Prof. Mark Servos. Day 1 was a field day at Six Nations (see story in link below). Day 2 was a lab day at STEAM Academy where we analyzed the samples collected from the river on Day 1.

<https://tinyurl.com/mw2mw6bz>

Ohneganos has collaborated with schools at Six Nations and Brantford to promote Indigenous research. Students have been awarded certificates of completion, with support from partners at McMaster University Continuing Education, for their work in environmental studies, mapping and digital stories. The research blends Indigenous cultural knowledge/ science with western sciences.

Grade 9/10 framework with Kawenni:io (Six Nations) Private School completed for a bilingual textbook building on existing Haudenosaunee sciences and ecological sciences with Indigenous stories, interactive maps and other educational resources with apps and governance materials

## Governance

SN on Nestle/Blue Triton groundwater extraction Youth lead secured cease and desist from Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Developed a Canadian Water Agency Indigenous governance SN response

Developed a network of scientist, university senior administration working group with elected Council to advance Indigenous management of waters



**Six Nations "Iroquois" Confederacy**  
GRAND RIVER COUNTRY

September 24, 2021

Ohswaken, Ontario

CEASE AND DESIST STATEMENT from Haudenosaunee Confederacy to Blue Triton, Well Site,  
101 Brock Road South, Aberfoyle

Water is sacred to all of creation. Water is sacred to our future generations. Water is Life.

We support the actions of our young people who took action and continue to take action on our collective responsibilities to protect the water. We are aware that your company is illegally taking 3.6 Million litres of water a day from beneath our feet. The majority (91 percent) of our people at Six Nations do not have access to clean drinking water.

Pursuant to the Haldimand Proclamation and the 1701 Nanfan Treaty, your company sits on our traditional territory upon which you are carrying out your illegal activity in removing aquifer waters from under our territory. We hold ancestral title to these lands, territories and waters. We wish to reiterate our clear objection to your continued activity.

You may have the permission of the settler colonial government to carry out this activity – but these are Haudenosaunee territories that you are operating on, and as the holders of ancestral title over this territory, we declare your activities to remove aquifer waters under our territories unpermitted and demand that you cease your activity immediately.

Nestle, this message is for you. We, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, will continue to assert our rights as the Indigenous Peoples of this territory. We will continue to assert our rights as those who have lived on these our territories for countless generations. We will continue to rise up for the rights of our people, for the rights of the life within our lands, territories and waters, and the coming faces of our future generations.

In Peace and Friendship,

Hohahes, Leroy Hill,

Council Secretary

## Project Highlights



### Indigenous Knowledge Exchange

From June 2-5, water protectors, knowledge holders, and Ohneganos team members hosted a knowledge exchange focused on river restoration and dam removal. Six individuals associated with the restoration of the Ottaway/Boardman River in Northwest Lower Michigan traveled to Six Nations to share their experiences and learn about water stewardship and protection efforts within the Haldimand Tract. Visitors included youth, core staff, and leadership from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) Natural Resource Department; a former GTB council member and media production specialist; and a public official from Traverse City, all of whom have played important roles in removing three dams from the Ottaway.

The event created connections that both groups can draw upon for help and inspiration into the future as we work to heal our rivers together. GTB plans to host their new friends from Six Nations in the near future to continue sharing knowledge and building the network needed for the complex work of dam removal.

### Wildlife

With the goal of censusing the fish species present throughout the Mckenzie creek subwatershed later this year, the fish species previously identified in the 1989 census of the Six Nations were reviewed to ensure that they could be identified using conventional survey methods and via environmental DNA (eDNA). While conventional survey methods involve handling fish to determine their species, eDNA is an emerging survey method that can detect the trace DNA left behind by fish in water, allowing fish species to be non-invasively monitored through stream water samples. Preliminary samples have been collected from Mckenzie Creek for pilot analysis to validate this eDNA method for local fish communities. A boat tour of the mouth of the Grand River was given to a group of community members and knowledge exchange visitors.

Meetings with hunters at Six Nations to discuss and coordinate turtle and fish sampling for contaminants analyses

Training community youth with turtle trackers and sensors (shared with GWF Co-Creation and Sensor team) Simplification, re-development, and initial deployment of turtle sensors

# Project Highlights

## Physical Health

Completion of pilot water use and health survey in 2019; analysis completed in 2020/2021 Dissemination of results with Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Six Nations Health Services, and Six Nations Band Council

Integration of water use survey results with household tap water contamination results for picture of who may be more at risk of contamination of household water

Identified water insecurity prevalence through pilot survey as a feasible metric to assess community demographics and understand who is most at risk/susceptible to water insecurity, and what factors inform this

Birthing Centre co-developed survey for new mothers on water access, 54 completed by midwives and co-publishing 'Impact of Water Insecurity on Mental Health of Young Mothers of Six Nations of the Grand River, Frontiers, Water-Gender-Migration: The Complex Nexus and Interlinkages, submitted

## Virtual Reality

We are creating a Virtual Reality (VR) experience about Haudenosaunee water teachings and the Skyworld story with a script in Mohawk language. Demos available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4bxy9u>

<https://tinyurl.com/24mc4z4e>

<https://tinyurl.com/3m926s6a>

Our Virtual Reality working group includes Indigenous knowledge holders, linguists, a tech and production team, as well as hired Haudenosaunee actors and artists.

## Mental Health

Established the Ohneganos Six Nations Youth Mental Wellness Advisory and Research Development Committee to inform and guide our work

Created new items to develop a culturally-relevant survey of youth water anxiety and water-related resilience factors

Adapting JoyPop app to integrate water-related elements to bolster resilience, making it the first Indigenous youth-oriented mental health app of its kind

We do have a series of 7 STEAM-based resilience curriculum that are on the ResilienceInYouth YouTube channel, open access for school class use, developed with the Six Nations Youth Mental Wellness Advisory Committee and McMaster University Health Sciences students:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdzy3z4>



# Knowledge Mobilization

Principal Investigator, Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill and Youth lead, Makasa Looking Horse have: engaged with local high schools; developed webinar on Indigenous water issues for Waterlution; been invited to present virtually in Sweden, Germany, Mexico, and at the Watershed Convention Global Climate Strike.

The work of Ohneganos has been featured by multiple local, national, and international media organizations.

## Recent Media Coverage

Environmental Activists of Color by Ananya Garg. YES! Magazine. 19 February 2020.

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/world-we-want/2020/02/19/environmental-activists-of-color/>

First Nations don't give up by Light Manuel. Climatica. 31 March 2020.

<https://www.climatica.lamarea.com/las-primeras-naciones-no-se-rinden/>

Water Is Life: Indigenous Women Are Fighting for Rivers, Lakes, and Oceans by Charnel Anderson and Kelly Boutsalis. Chatelaine. 21 April 2020. <https://www.chatelaine.com/living/water-is-life-part-two/>

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Indigenous action highlighted in new Wellington Water Watchers' billboard by Keegan Kozolanka. GuelphToday. 19 August 2020. <https://www.guelphtoday.com/amp/wellington-county/indigenous-action-highlighted-in-new-wellington-water-watchers-billboard-2647547>

Wellington Water Watchers continues billboard campaign; promotes Indigenous podcast by Advertiser Staff. The Wellington Advertiser. 9 September 2020.

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Why Makasa Looking Horse is Fighting for the Right to Water by Malika Ladha. The Ismaili Magazine. 30 September 2020. <https://iicanada.org/magazine/in-focus/why-maka%C5%9Ba-looking-horse-fighting-right-water> or <https://iicanada.org/magazine/digital-version>

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Climate, Community, and Indigenous Resilience: Impacts of Water Stress on Planning a Climate Secure Future by Dawn Martin-Hill, Tariq Deen, Nidhi Nagabhatla, Altaf Arain, Colin Gibson, Kathryn Chen. Global Water Futures Featured Science Outcomes. 23 October 2020. <https://gwf.usask.ca/outreach/science-features/climate-indigenous-resilience.php>

Focus on infrastructure, involved community to fix reserve water issues: observers by Holly McKenzie-Sutter. The Canadian Press. 28 October 2020. <https://theturtleislandnews.com/index.php/2020/10/28/focus-on-infrastructure-involve-community-to-fix-reserve-water-issues-observers/>

Indigenous Youth Want Deb Haaland to be Joe Biden's Interior Secretary by Cecilia Nowell. Teen Vogue. 19 November 2020. <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/indigenous-youth-interior-department-deb-haaland?fbclid=IwAR1sevH3GzkthKTDUQIFLu1AfqMYIiK91ujvegnRkoAJ4so3BHRLR5DTJ8eU>

GWF Highlight – Ohneganos: Water is Life by McMaster Water Network. December 2020. <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=f4af81022c327da635dfe84c9&id=da8ba45a1b>

New and existing partnerships and collaboration by Terrastories. December 2020. <https://mailchi.mp/d52026dd9a0a/open-source-volunteerism-and-oral-histories-mapping-during-a-pandemic-terrastories-2020-in-review?e=997445f378>

Anthropologist on AG's report blaming Ottawa for First Nations lacking clean water by Ginella Massa. Canada's Tonight CBC News. 26 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1867509827998>

2020 Changed Everything About Climate Justice by Maia Wikler. Vice World News. 9 March 2021. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/n7vp9b/2020-changed-everything-about-climate-justice>

Makasa Looking Horse: Why I Took on Nestle by Makasa Looking Horse. Rematriation. 9 March 2021. <https://rematriation.com/makasa-looking-horse-why-i-took-on-nestle/>

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What Does Mental Wellness Mean for Indigenous Youth? Research Background to the Adaptation of the Joypop™ App for Haudenosaunee Culture (pp. 32-41) by Christine Wekerle, Dawn Martin-Hill, Katherine Kim, and the Six Nations Youth Mental Wellness Advisory Committee. July 2021. <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=b43e8d51-b6f4-48ca-9e31-d7936ed7a950>



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What Does Mental Wellness Mean for Indigenous Youth? Research Background to the Adaptation of the Joypop™ App for Haudenosaunee Culture (pp. 32-41) by *Christine Wekerle, Dawn Martin-Hill, Katherine Kim, and the Six Nations Youth Mental Wellness Advisory Committee*. July 2021. <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=b43e8d51-b6f4-48ca-9e31-d7936ed7a950>

COP26: The Sacrifice of Indigenous People – An interview with Makasa Looking Horse by *Where the Leaves Fall*. Issue 8. October 2021. <https://wheretheleavesfall.com/explore/article-index/cop26-makasa/>

'The problem is we survived': Q&A with Dawn Martin-Hill about truth and reconciliation by *Alessia Passafiume*. Hamilton Spectator. 1 October 2021. <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/10/01/the-problem-is-we-survived-qa-with-dawn-martin-hill-about-truth-and-reconciliation.html?rf>

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Grand River is full of contaminants, says award-winning Indigenous McMaster prof. CBC News. 3 November 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/water-award-mcmaster-1.6234501>

Shedding light on Indigenous culture and traditions by Abonti Nur Ahmed. The Silhouette. 5 November 2021. <https://www.thesil.ca/shedding-light-on-indigenous-culture-and-traditions>

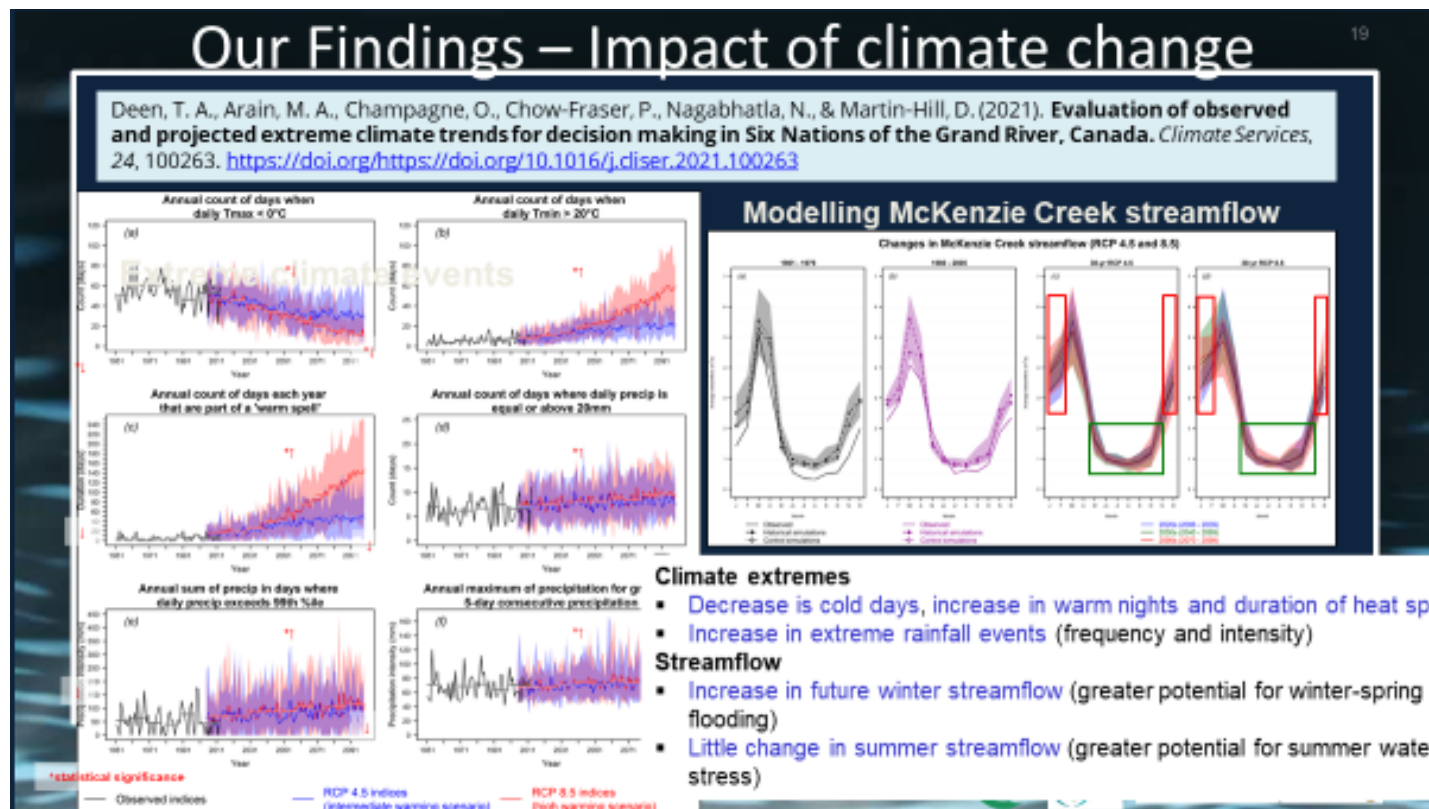
The new normal of 'Climate Grief': Why mental health must feature in adaptation and resilience planning. UNU-CRIS. 12 November 2021. <https://cris.unu.edu/new-normal-%E2%80%99climate-grief%E2%80%99-why-mental-health-must-feature-adaptation-and-resilience-planning>

'There's a lot of troubling findings': McMaster professor awarded international water prize for work at Six Nations by *Alessia Passafiume*. Hamilton Spectator. 23 November 2021. <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/23/theres-a-lot-of-troubling-findings-mcmaster-professor-awarded-international-water-prize-for-work-at-six-nations.html?rf>

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Announcing support from the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums by Mar Cartro. Digital Democracy. 6 March 2022. <https://wp.digital-democracy.org/announcing-support-from-the-association-of-tribal-archives-libraries-and-museums/>

Amplifying First Nations voices in water management by Lachlan Haycock. Australian Water Association. 12 May 2022. <https://www.awa.asn.au/resources/latest-news/amplifying-first-nations-in-water-management>



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Martin-Hill, D. (2021). Doctrine of Discovery: a Mohawk Feminist Response to Colonial Dominion and Violations to Indigenous Lands and Women. In H. T. Boursier (Ed.), *The Rowman & Littlefield Handbook of Women's Studies in Religion*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538154458/The-Rowman-and-Littlefield-Handbook-of-Women's-Studies-in-Religion>

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Duignan, S., Moffat, T., & Martin-Hill, D. (2022). Be like the running water: Assessing gendered and age-based water insecurity experiences with Six Nations First Nation. *Social Science & Medicine*, 298, 114864. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.114864>

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# Gado:geh Ögwahnigö:hah Gathering Good Minds

## Semiah Smith

Singer, Song writer, Artist,  
Mohawk Turtle clan from  
Six Nations, Ontario



## Keyhew Gopher

Proud Cree,  
Motivational Speaker,  
Life & Wellness coach,  
Mental Health Advocate



## Jordan Mowat

Jordan is a Mississauga Ojibwe  
Powwow & Round Dance  
Singer/composer, as well as a  
singer-songwriter from Alderville  
First nation, Ontario, Canada



## Eryn Wise

Eryn comes from the Jicarilla  
Apache Nation and Pueblo of  
Laguna. They are nonbinary  
community advocate Centering  
work they do around body  
Sovereignty

## The Gathering Place July 27th 2022

2593 Chiefswood Road  
Ohsweken, Six Nations  
11 am - 9pm

Live Performances, inspiring speakers &  
Artists for youth and young adults

Lunch and Dinner to be served

Lunch be served at 12:30pm

Dinner will be served 5:30pm

Hosted by River Rocks and  
Ohneganos Water Project



## Yung kitto

Santee sioux - Red Lake  
Anishinaabe Recording artist from  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Follow Gathering Good Minds Event Page  
on Facebook

**Please Register at  
Ohneganos@gmail.com to join!**



## Victor Lopez

Victor is a Dakota and Yaqui writer,  
health advocate, and medical student at  
Harvard Medical School and Co-Chair of  
the United Nations Global Indigenous  
Youth Caucus