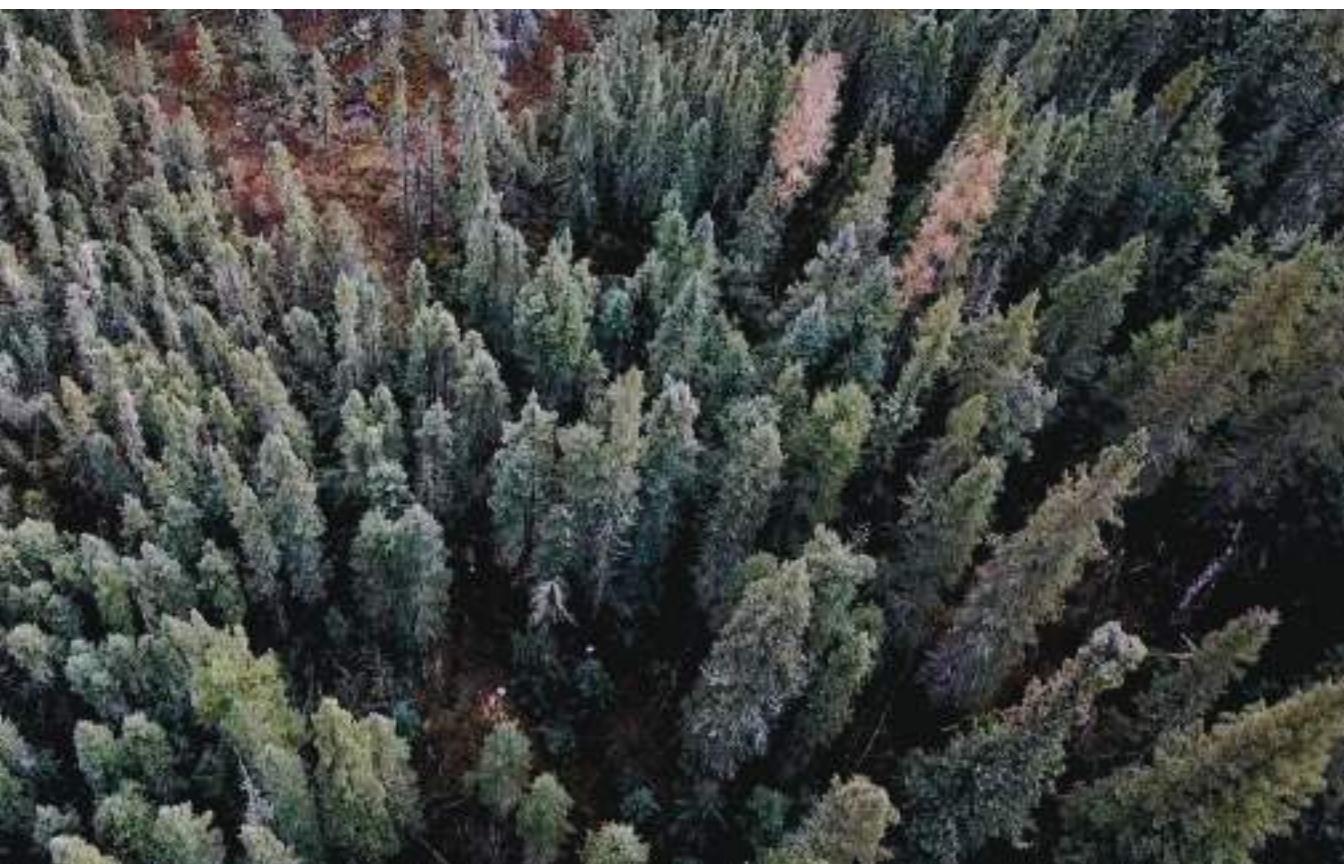


SPRUCE TREE

Ts'u



NAHE NÁHODHE - OUR WAY OF LIFE



PROJECT OF DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS

welcome

máhsı edi megháahnda

This project is dedicated to our ancestors. They show us the way through the stories they have told, the knowledge they have shared, and the children they have raised.

Edi tł'a nahecho gılé gonats'ęndíh t'áh mek'eh eghálats'ındá á qt'e. Gogondié gháadé goghánahonehtę, t'ahsíi goghágonétq kegogedjhshq nahets'ę kagedı, gots'ęh dáqondíh t'áh dezqę genehsheh.

To promote Dene Zhatie in the Dehcho region, Dehcho First Nations, in collaboration with partners and local communities, undertook this video and book project to share Dehcho Dene language, culture and knowledge of the land.

Dehcho zhíeh gozhatié k'éndah met'áh ats'et'ı gha, Dehcho First Nations, Dene ndaa gohéh eghálagenda, gots'ęh kúę zhágóla ndaa gots'ágendı t'áh Dehcho Dene zhatié, gonáhodhe, gots'ęh dáqondíh ndéh ts'ęh keots'edjhshq t'áh edi edjhtl'ěh náedah gots'ęh edjhtl'ěh mek'ezhats'ehtı k'eh eghálats'ıdá.





From October 1 to October 7th 2019, twenty-four participants including elders, fluent language speakers, youth and staff members gathered at the Katł'odeeche Dene Wellness Center. Videographers documented the knowledge shared during the week and produced six short videos. The videos were then developed into six booklets in Dene Zhatie entitled Moose Hide, Spruce Tree, Dene Laws, Dene Laws and Stories, Camp Setup, and Plant Wisdom.

/ts'éndaa Zaa ɬié gots'eh ɬáhdíl, 2019 gots'é ekúh Dene ɥkí honq ɂóó-díl ɬéthede, ɻondah, Dene amíí Dene zhatié t'áh nezuh ɻondah, dezqa ohndah gots'eh gohéh eghálagedéh Kátł'odeeche Dene Najéh K'é ɬégehdeh. Dene dáóndíh t'ahsíi kegogedlhshq gots'é kagedí t'áh Dene goedeht'éhíchchuh dek'ehnizhénidhah gots'eh mets'eh edjhtl'éh náedah ehts'étai aek'áhe ts'ehts|. Edí edjhtl'éh náedah ts'ets'í ts'eh edjhtl'éh mek'ezhats'ehtí aetsélia ts'ehts'|.

We hope that this project inspires our youth. Enjoy.

**Edí mets'eh keots'edúzah ts'enidhé t'áh mek'eh eghálats'índá.
Nezuh megháhnda.**



We, in the Northwest Territories, live among a lot of spruce trees like this.
NahⱩ, góhdłı ndéh náhthiédéh, ts'u Łq tah náhthidéh.

Wherever you travel, you always see spruce trees like this.
Godęg gok'eats'ededéh énídé dí ts'u kaqndíh gháts'enda.

A long time ago, when our relatives traveled on the land on foot,
Thaat'óh nahéot'łę ndéh k'eh deké t'áh gok'eagededéh,



if they came across a river and had to cross it, they didn't build rafts,
deh kéogedíhthí énídé, zhunáah noogeʔéh ghá énídé kí xeníh gedetsí íle

they would take this type of bark and make canoes just to get across.
t'áh dí kaqndíh t'áh eláa gehtsí, zhunáah noogeħħéh għa.

When they do cross the river, they leave the canoe there and keep on walking.

Zhunáah noogeħħe énídé kí eżħi thetq gots'ę́h ahsíi gogedehthi.



And my mother also takes a piece of this type of bark
Semq chu ḥimbéh énídé ts'u kaqndíh metú gýlì énídé

when the sap is running in the summer and she makes dry fish on it all summer.

sú̱vaecho kaqndíh ejíheht'áh gots'eh ḥimbéh igháadé zhek'eh tuedzeh zháíhtsi.

That's what they did, they just didn't throw things away.
Kaqndíh á ageatq, kí t'ahsíi hóozhíl óhgedehdéh íle.

Nowadays, we use a lot of paper products to wipe our hands and throw them away, they didn't do that.

Dúh, edíhtl'éh kaqndíh nahjlá k'eaítse gots'eh óhdídéh, dí kí kageat'í íle.

They used whatever they took from the land

Azhíi dechłtah zhet'áh ageat'í

until it got old and they placed it somewhere.

séé nezü zhet'áogedehthí gots'eh mezhqá atcjh énídé zq á t'ahsjí nígechu.

That's how I remember how important the spruce tree is.

Ezhí á ts'u kaqndíh séé nahegha met'áhodézá t'áh menahndíh.

It has lots of stories some people spoke about how, when they were out on the land, this type of spruce tree would all of a sudden shake.

Dí kaqndíh megqondié tq chu qt'e, dene dechłtah k'eogehthe énídé chu, kí xqñi á dí kaqndíh séé delóni (náedah).



There are stories like that – they belong to us Dene who live in our various communities; we keep these stories.

Dí kaqndíh megqndié gúlı á qt'e – Dene ídlı nahets'eh á qt'e t'áh godı náthídéh; mehxuıdih.

In this part of the land, it is a source I told you stories about things like this, it is a source of medicine for all of us.

Dí kaqndíh t'áh nahéh guınde, dí ndéh k'eh azhq met'áh athít'ı náidí á qt'e.

(Spruce) helps you in a lot of ways.

Azhq t'ahsíı t'áh gots'ándı.

If you have an open wound that does not heal, you take gum from a young spruce tree – the type that is clear like glass.

Gokáá nagojéh íle, ts'u dzéh dehdéhhaa ts'u k'ónı ts'eh ats'eleh.





This spruce gum is, for us, something very powerful.
Dí ts'u dzéh kaqndíh, séé nahegha t'ahsíi nátse á qt'e.

It is stronger than the (modern) medicines.
Náidí զóգ nátse.

Illnesses are healed with a boiled mixture of this.
Metú t'áh ezha éhsíi najéh héh andeh.

VOCABULARY

PAGE 4

nah̄ - we

ts' u - spruce tree

deké - their foot

gok'eats'ededé - when people traveled around

thaat'óh - long ago

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kéogedíhthí - when they get to the shore

zhunáah - across

nooge?éh - they boat across

xeníh - raft

eláa - canoe

gogedehthí - they start walking

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sú?aecho - big enough

metú - it's sap

łuedzeh/ehddháa - dryfish

ȳmbéh - summer

ejihgeht'áh - they cut off

qhgdededéh - they throw away

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edjhtl'éh - paper

óhdídéh - we throw away

mezhqä - it is old

megondié - it's story

nah̄lá - our hand

menahndíh – I remember

nátse – powerful/strong

delóní – it shakes

ezha - sickness

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ídl̄ - we are

nahéhguïnde – I told you all the story/I told you all about it

gots'ándí – it helps you

mehxuidíh – we observe

náíidí – medicine

nagojéh – it heals



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dzéh – gum

go?gó – more than

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Amíi Gots'ágıñdí

This project is grateful, first and foremost to our elders and fluent language speakers who shared their wealth of knowledge and experience; without your support this project would not be possible.

Mek'eh eghálats'lındá t'áh amíi gots'ágındíh tł'a, ala nahe qhndah gots'ęh Dene amíi dezhatié k'jí zháogíndehy edegondié gots'ęh azhíi egogedjhshq nahendáh agedí; azhq nahets'ágendi t'áh nezuh agújá.

A heartfelt thank you to Katł'odeeche First Nation for hosting this project in their home community.

Katł'odeeche chu máhsı nahendéh k'eh nahetah edi mek'eh eghálats'lındá.





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WE RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEI

Amíi edi k'eh eghálats'ęnda t'áh gots'ágın

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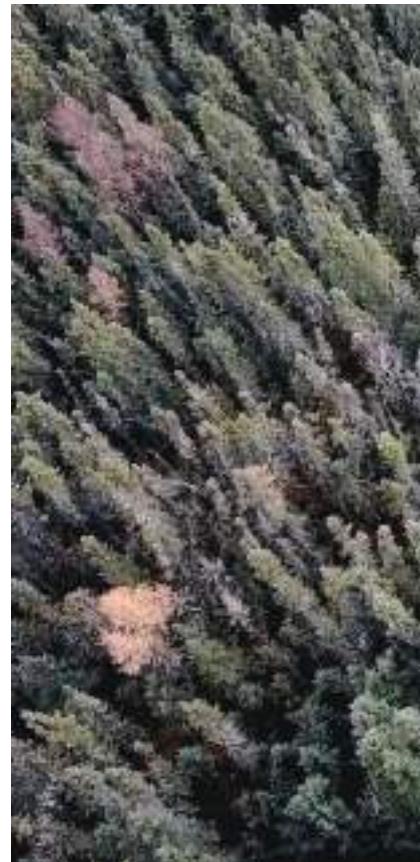


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dí gots'eh gotah ageat'í tł'a:



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