MODERN TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION
RESEARCH PROJECT

PRELIMINARY RESULTS: MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES

Monica Pishew, MA, and Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, PhD

February 2020

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

- Introduction
- Research Methods
- Observations
- Findings
- Examples

INTRODUCTION

MODERN TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION
RESEARCH PROJECT

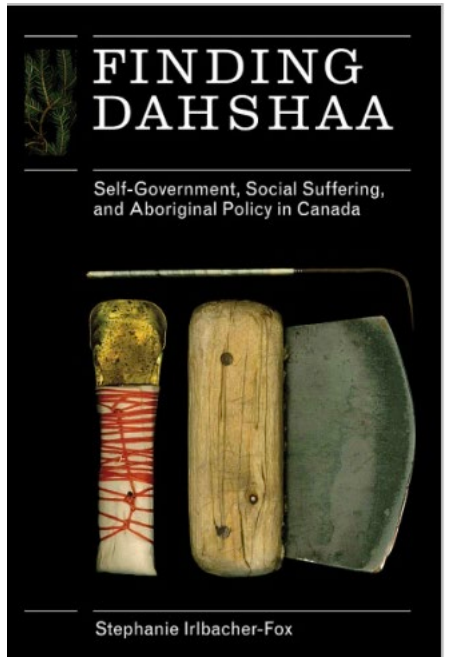
Carleton University Northern Studies M.A. Program
Field Course

Family gathering in Sioux Lookout, Ontario
before heading to Trent University in 2017

INTRODUCTION

MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

- Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, PhD
- Raised in Inuvik, NT (non-Indigenous); PhD from Cambridge University, England
- Principal Investigator of Modern Treaties Implementation Research Project, hosted by Tlicho Government, Yellowknife NT
- Lives in Yellowknife, 25 years experience as a practitioner working with all NWT Modern Treaties at different times; focus on self government negotiations and implementation, social and health research



RESEARCH METHODS

MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

- LCAC website
- Indigenous Government websites
  1) existing culturally appropriate programs, services, and initiatives;
  2) prioritized innovative programs and initiatives developed by Modern Treaty holders to meet the needs of their membership;
  3) Indigenous models to governance in decision-making or in the development of programs and initiatives, particularly notable cultural customs and practices of Elder and knowledge keeper consultation and community engagement.
- Departmental organizations, boards, and committees
  1) past, existing, future, or ongoing innovative programs and initiatives delivered
- Lobbying agencies and regional organizations
  1) active priorities relevant to this assignment
- Territorial and Federal Government websites
  1) responses to items relevant to this assignment
- Academic Search
  1) Modern Treaty implementation

OBSERVATIONS ON PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES

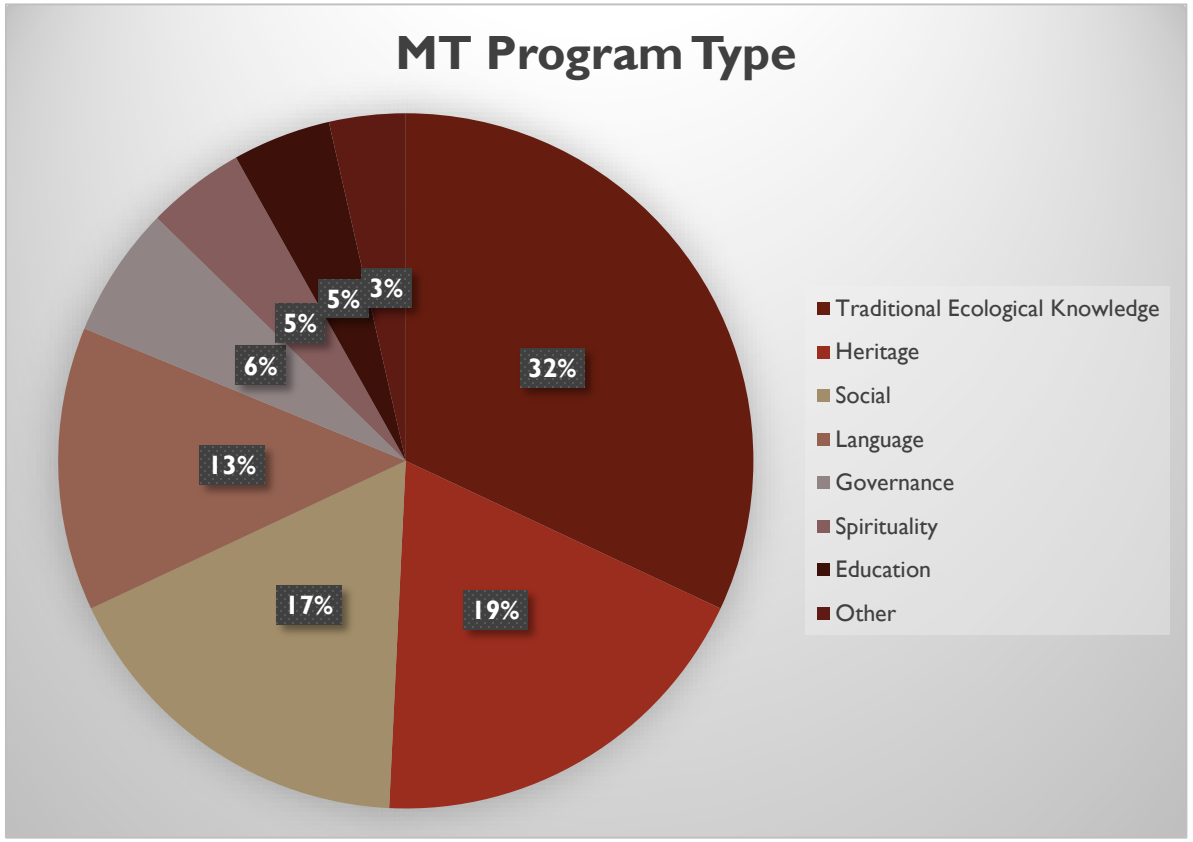
MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

- Culture, language, and land-based ways of life are at the foundation of MT approaches to developing and delivering programs: land claims implementation approaches are shaped primarily by culture, not by non-Indigenous values or principles;
- Where structural approaches reflect hierarchies and bureaucracies, the "how" of programs and services are largely rooted in local norms and cultural values which shape approaches to understanding and fulfilling legal obligations and authorities;
- MT holders often have contextual information for their governance and program delivery structures reflecting that responsibilities under the land claims, and how those are implemented, are understood through their unique cultural understandings and world views;
- The way MTs organize their governments and responsibilities prioritizes cultural values and practices;
- Programs and services highlighted on websites often respond directly to specific local concerns through the lens of culture, and reflect cultural values, practices, and protocol in terms of design and delivery;
- Programs also reflect a significant burden in all areas – land, health, education, governance – resulting from colonization impacts.

MODERN TREATY HOLDERS' PROGRAMS: FINDINGS

MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

Traditional Ecological Knowledge	63
Heritage	37
Social	34
Language	26
Governance	12
Spirituality	9
Education	9
Other	7
	197



EXAMPLES

MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

Dene Laws

1) Share what you have
2) Help each other
3) Love each other as much as possible
4) Be respectful of elders & everything around you
5) Pass on the teaching
6) Be happy at all times
7) Sleep at nights and work during the day
8) Be polite and don't argue with anyone
9) Young girls and boys should behave respectfully

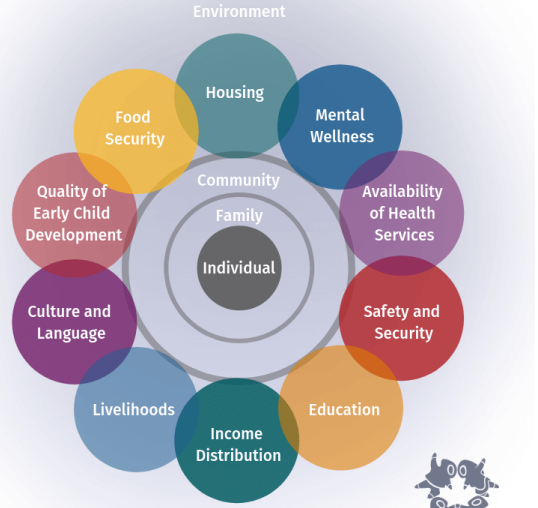
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit "that which Inuit have always known to be true" **Principles**:

1) Inuuqatigiitsiarniq: Respecting others, relationships and caring for people.
2) Tunnganarniq: Fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming and inclusive.
3) Pijitsirniq: Serving and providing for family and/or community.
4) Aajiiqatigiinniq: Decision making through discussion and consensus.
5) Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq: Development of skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort.
6) Piliriqatigiinniq/Ikajuqtigiinniq: Working together for a common cause.
7) Qanuqtuurniq: Being innovative and resourceful.
8) Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq: Respect and care for the land, animals and the environment.

Maligait (four big laws) contribute to living a good life which is the purpose of being:

1) Working for the common good
2) Respecting all living things
3) Maintaining harmony and balance
4) Continually planning and preparing for the future

Social Determinants of Inuit Health



FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED AND USES

MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

- Identify why programs with favorable outcomes are no longer provided and what can be done to sustain such programs;
- Determine the best way to capture Indigenous approaches to MT implementation that reflects the fundamental values and principles of Nations found in the 26 MTs examined;
- The colonization impact burden on implementing treaties is a significant area that needs to be better understood;
- This research will be used to develop a literature review and provide background information for a edited volume on best practices in modern treaty implementation.

THANK YOU

moderntreaties.tlicho.ca

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS COALITION

Dedats'eetsaa: Tłı̨chǫ Research & Training Institute

Carleton UNIVERSITY Canada's Capital University

Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'àowo Tłı̨chǫ Government

This research was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada | Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada | Canada