

Truth and Reconciliation Environmental Issues Group:
Meeting 1-19-16

Strategic Framework to Begin Committee Work:

(Due to time constraints, initial ideas were mentioned pertaining to resources but further discussion is needed at upcoming meeting along with refining long and short-term goals)

Purpose? What do you hope to accomplish?

Enhance understanding of the cultural components of environmental problems and unsustainable trends locally and globally by:

- Recognizing that indigenous people are often the most vulnerable communities to environmental degradation
- Addressing environmental issues from the philosophical perspective of the 7th Generation (long-term responsibility to future generations and building sustainable community)
- Identifying mutual interests across demographic groups in respecting and protecting Mother Earth, having a healthy home promotes the common good in our community
- Educate the broader community on environmental ethics founded on indigenous environmental knowledge and indigenous worldviews

Increase awareness and action on environmental justice

Partnering with (not duplicating or fettering) existing efforts and organizations related to the environment and expanding the reach among those interested in Truth and Reconciliation

Translate the interest and engagement in environmental aspects of Truth and Reconciliation into stronger environmental activism

Building bridges among stake-holders in environmental quality

Identify long and short-term goals, Prioritize and select 2-3 to focus on

Long-term goals

Influence those involved in Truth and Reconciliation to enhance cultural and environmental understanding as foundations for sustainable community

Catalyze communities around critical issues

Short-term goals

Identify environmental issues that deserve attention for education and action which may be long-term efforts (preliminary discussion on threats to human health, mercury contamination of fish and other degradation of traditional foods, aquatic invasive species, climate change, oil pipelines, Cass Lake Super Fund site)

Establish a network for education about environmental problems - holding information session, panels, presenters with multiple areas of expertise or perspectives, articles in the print media, radio spots or excerpts from topical discussions

Provide safe space for broader community discussions about environmental issues from diverse cultural perspectives

Identify resources (people, orgs, agencies, funding, etc.) necessary to complete

Ebiyang and other efforts at teaching environmental and sustainability skills

Honor the Earth

Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)

Bemidji Statement on Sustainability (Group Process Led by Bob Shimek)

Vivian Delgado's BSU class "Indigenous Environmental Current Events"

Local media outlets

People with indigenous knowledge and environmental professionals, especially those working with local reservations/agencies

Facilitator and Recorder: Pat Welle