



GIDT

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT TRUST

# Impact Report

2024

Supporting communities to  
thrive once more!

**TOGETHER TODAY,  
TOMORROW FOR ALL**

# OUR WHY

Indigenous Nations across Canada and around the globe once lived in complex societies, together with the land which was the source of abundance, with vast trade networks that facilitated the exchange of goods, teachings and understandings of how to live a good and healthy life.

Today, many Indigenous communities face significant challenges, including limited access to basic necessities such as healthy food, clean water, adequate housing, and dependable energy. Indigenous children are 89% more likely to develop diabetes in their lifetime. Inconsistent energy sources hinder access to education and stifle local economic opportunities. Overcrowding and unsafe housing conditions put families at constant risk, perpetuating insecurity and hardship.

What we also see is tremendous vision, strength, resiliency and ingenuity. By providing access to the skills, tools, and resources that empower young leaders to be decision makers, communities to rebuild sustainable foundations rooted in culture and the prosperity that the land provides, and ways of connecting, learning and sharing, we can support communities to thrive once again. The solutions are not external, they lie with the people who live this reality daily. There is a lot we can learn from each other. We believe that by working together we can build a future where all are able to flourish and reach their true potential.

# WHAT WE DO

Founded in 2014, Global Indigenous Development Trust (GIDT) is an Indigenous non-profit and registered charity created to support the re-building of healthy, natural and prosperous Indigenous communities. We build leadership and development capacity for productive local economies to flourish.

We combine traditional wisdom and contemporary technology and science, enabling Indigenous leaders and entrepreneurs to define their future on their own terms. We connect communities and leaders across the globe to learn from one another and develop a community of wise practice.

GIDT is led by some of Canada's most prominent Indigenous leaders with deep-rooted experience that has lifted entire nations out of poverty and innovated new ways of working together. Our organization has positively impacted more than 100,000 people across 89 communities, trained more than 500 leaders and implemented more than 2 dozen projects and partnerships in the 10 years since its inception.

**An estimated 100,000 People** Positively Impacted across **89 communities!**



**89**

Communities Involved



**100,000+**

People Positively Impacted

**Our vision** is a woven tapestry of self-determined people and communities, working together for the prosperity of all.



# Building Knowledge and Strengthening Connections

All our projects and programs are guided by Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers, with training for youth, developed through a values-based, cultural lens that prioritizes the inclusion of all voices. We take the time to listen, ensuring that perspectives and wisdom of community members are heard and respected. Our work is centered on providing training and apprenticeship opportunities throughout the entire project life cycle, ensuring that communities and entrepreneurs develop the capacity to lead and own their own projects. By sharing our learnings and project outcomes, we contribute to a national and global community of practice, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. There is much to learn from one another, and the support cultivated through these networks underscores the importance of building community wherever we go.

## Our Core Areas of Focus



### Youth Leadership for Community Impact

Empowering the next generation to take on leadership roles, drive positive change, and have a lasting impact on their communities.

### Land

Viewed through a cultural lens, land encompasses not only Mother Earth herself but also wildlife, biodiversity, water, and all of nature's resources. It is integral to the health and sustainability of communities.

### Community and True-Value Economies

Supporting the creation of true value economies that honor ecological and cultural assets, using the economy as a tool for enhancing community wellbeing.

### Outreach, Education, and Awareness

Building understanding and promoting action on critical issues, with a focus on strengthening connections and fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

# CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

The Champions of Change Leadership School at GIDT provides Indigenous leaders and aspiring leaders with leadership and entrepreneurship training through an "Indigenous-to-Indigenous" approach. This program is led by experienced Indigenous leaders and focuses on mentorship, community-building, and empowerment. Participants, drawn from diverse Indigenous communities, learn from each other in small cohorts, ensuring maximum engagement and support.

## Core Components

### **Virtual Leadership School:**

A comprehensive, live online learning platform that facilitates dynamic engagement and mentorship.

### **Online Community of Wise Practice and Learning Hub:**

A digital space where students, alumni, instructors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and mentors connect, share knowledge, and collaborate.

### **Un-Learning Resource Library:**

A curated collection of Indigenous and non-Indigenous resources, including case studies, templates, training videos, and links to initiatives in green technology, economic development, and more.



## Goals

**Deliver Advanced Leadership Training:** Offering education rooted in Indigenous knowledge and methodologies, aimed at advancing leadership skills.

**Build Capacity:** Empowering participants with skills in business, community re-building, economic development, and resource management.

### **Create a National Community of Wise Practice and Learning Hub:**

Establishing a robust network of Indigenous leaders, entrepreneurs, and mentors to foster continuous learning and collaboration.



# CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

## Impacts

To date, **64 participants have graduated** from the Champions of Change Leadership School, representing **33 Indigenous Nations across Canada**, with an additional 12 participants from 7 countries across 3 continents. Canadian graduates have come from 9 provinces and territories, with 20 participants graduating in the Spring 2024 cohort. These graduates have gone on to implement meaningful projects that support Indigenous sovereignty and community self-determination. Our success is their success, and the program's impact continues to grow as we empower the next generation of sovereign Indigenous leaders and decision-makers.



## Featured Graduate

"Champions of Change, the leadership development course was exceptional, it boldly shares the relationships amongst Indigenous peoples that span the globe, and inspires Indigenous youth to be active leaders in developing solutions for a global audience, it expands, engages and ensures the next generation of leaders are equipped with skills, lessons and methodology to be 'Champions of Change.'"

**Edgar Cruz**  
**Created Turtle Island Connection**

## Looking Forward

As we continue to evolve and enhance the Champions Leadership School, we are actively working to secure a sponsor for the annual delivery of the Champions of Change Master Class. Once we reach 100 graduates, we plan to host an in person gathering where Indigenous youth can come together, share ideas, and put their leadership and entrepreneurial skills into practice.

**As a Champion of Change the future is bright, join us!**  
**[globalindigenoustrust.org/champions-of-change](https://globalindigenoustrust.org/champions-of-change)**

# CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

## RESULTS

### BC:

Wei Wai Kum First Nation  
Tahltan Nation  
Nuxalk Nation  
Iskut Band  
Beecher Bay First Nation  
Nlaka'pamux Nation  
Namgis First Nation  
Toosey Band  
Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala  
First Nation

### Prairies:

Plains Cree  
Metis  
Louis Bull Tribe  
Pine Creek First Nation

### Ontario:

Six Nations, Oneida  
Six Nations, Cayuga  
Mattagami First Nation  
Wkwemikong First Nation  
Tyendinaga Mohawk  
Chippewas of Georgina Island  
Michipicoten First Nation  
Matachewan First Nation  
Wunnumin Lake First Nation  
Thessalon First Nation



### Quebec:

Cree Nation of Wemindji  
Mohawk

### East:

Kingsclear First Nation  
Mikmaw

### Territories:

Inuit  
Carmacks  
Dene Nation  
Tr'ondëk Hwechin

### International:

Garifuna  
Mayan  
Shuar  
Arawak  
Taino  
Carib  
African  
Macushi



# CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

## RESULTS

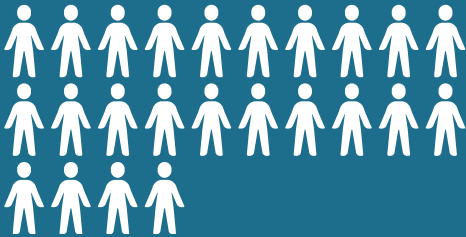
First Cohort September – December 2022  
20 participants:



Third Cohort Feb – May 2024  
20 participants:



Second Cohort April – June 2023  
24 participants:



As a result of the training received, here are the number of projects created or advanced:

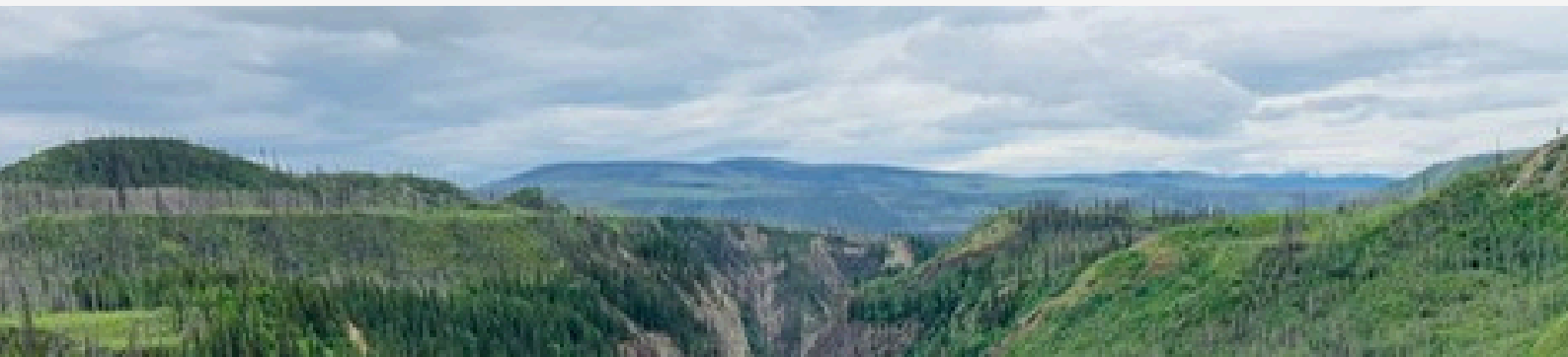
Land Stewardship, Environmental and Food Security



Healthy Housing



Green Energy





# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Mno Aki Land Trust



We are thrilled to share significant progress on our ongoing project to secure and maintain stewardship of a beautiful property along the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail in King Township. As a collaborative team, the Mno Aki Land Trust and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust are employing the Two-Eyed Seeing approach to bring this initiative to life.

Building on our initial phase of research, framework development, and outreach, we hosted an inaugural gathering on the lands being donated to Mno Aki in King Township. Supported by the Greenbelt Foundation, we supported Mno Aki to bring together members of the Grandmothers Council, Greenbelt Foundation, Oak Ridges Land Trust, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, City Council and Williams Treaty First Nations members. This exciting initiative blending Indigenous knowledge with Western scientific practices. Our goal is to inspire other landowners to join us in creating a meaningful legacy of reconciliation through conservation. [www.mnoaki.org](http://www.mnoaki.org)

We aim to ensure that land stewardship is truly inclusive and collaborative, respecting and protecting the natural environment. We are excited about the journey ahead and invite you to join us and support this important effort. Stay tuned for more updates on our progress!



**Together, we can create a lasting impact and protect the natural beauty and heritage of our lands for generations to come.**



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Mno Aki Land Trust



**"You are entering Indigenous Lands. Tread lightly. Steward accordingly."**



Mno Aki Grandmother Council Becky, Dawn and Beth, together with volunteers and partners, prepared the poles for the Tipis that will be a place of teaching and learning.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Critical Relationships



**CRITICAL  
RELATIONSHIPS**

We are thrilled to announce that we received funding from Natural Resources Canada to build and implement an Indigenous-led framework for mineral exploration that braids traditional knowledge, nature, Western science, and technology.

In our race to a decarbonized future, more minerals are being required than ever before. How do we ensure that we are considering the health and well-being of people and our vital ecosystems now and for future generations?

Led by Tahltan Nation members, guided by traditional wisdom, and working with Green Feet Ecosystem Services, Green Analytics (ecological economics), and leading technologies such as LIDAR, IoT and drones to support decades of traditional knowledge, our goal is to establish a strong reciprocal relationship between our natural world, Indigenous communities and the mining sector.

Our consortium of partners is redefining value and paving a new way of working with natural resources that values our living systems and the wellbeing of local communities.



### COMMUNITY

Representing the importance of Indigenous Knowledge.



### NATURE

Representing the integration with Environmental Stewardship.



### SCIENCE

Representing the support of Scientific & Technological Advancements.



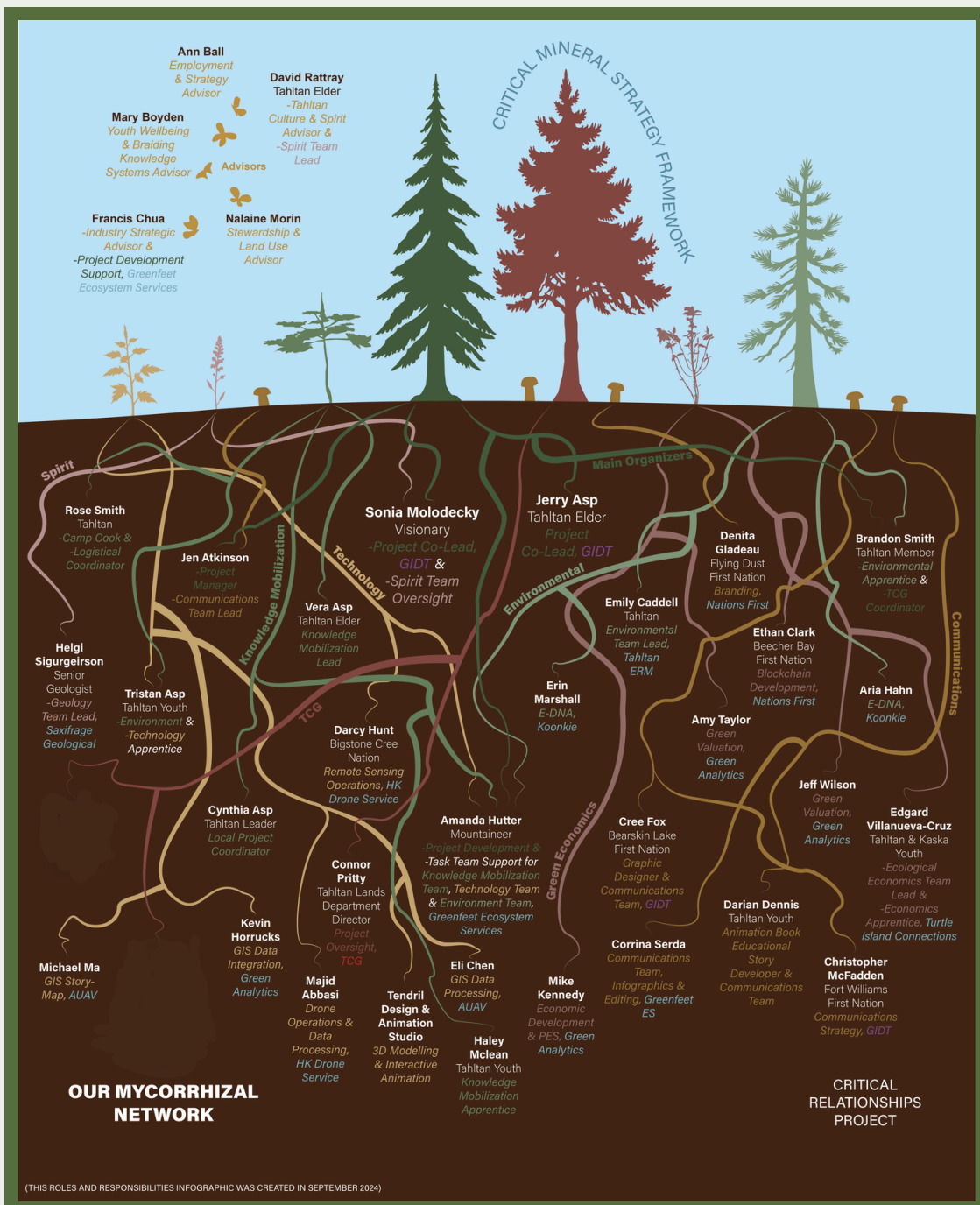


# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Critical Relationships



Our model is creating 30+ new career paths in a green economy and collaboration between knowledge systems. New opportunities are emerging in industry areas such as ecosystem services and biodiversity management. The project is engaging youth and providing training and apprenticeships at each stage of the process. Check out our ecosystem of collaborating partners and organizations!







**CRITICAL**  
RELATIONSHIPS

**“We are re-building our relationship  
with Mother Earth and each other.  
Through these relationships we  
ultimately heal ourselves.”**





# Focus on Strategic Growth and Development

Over the past year, GIDT has expanded our team, strengthened our partnerships and launched innovative apprenticeship positions in emerging fields such as technology (drones and lidar), ecological economics, ecosystem services, and ancestral knowledge mobilization.

Our efforts also extend to traditional sectors, such as mining, economic development, food and biomass systems, and communications, where we have enriched training with modern, culturally informed practices and values. These roles and initiatives are designed to empower the next generation of leaders, while also ensuring that communities are equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow.



## Vision Ahead

As we continue to evolve, GIDT remains focused on creating opportunities that are Indigenous led and bridge ancestral knowledge with innovative solutions. Our strategic growth is not just about expanding our organization, it is about nurturing new pathways for Indigenous leadership, creating long-lasting change, and ensuring that communities are empowered to shape their own future.

**GIDT is dedicated to fostering a more equitable society, where everyone has the opportunity to contribute their skills and create positive change for their communities. We believe education, awareness, and open dialogue are essential to building healthy, respectful relationships.**





# GIDT

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT TRUST

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

GIDT would like to acknowledge the incredible kindness, vision and generosity of its partners and sponsors. It is the strength and grounding of these pioneers that inspire us all to greatness.

**Del Zotto  
Family**



**Teck**



**LUSH** FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS



**AltaGas**



**TED  
ROGERS  
SCHOOL  
OF MANAGEMENT**

**Newmont**



**Northern  
COLLEGE**



**REDx  
TALKS**



**BG BEUTEL GOODMAN**  
Investment Counsel