

VISIONING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

A perspective on leadership and relationship building using community-based participatory research and two-eyed seeing

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Background

1 The Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations value **land, water,** and **all living things** around them.

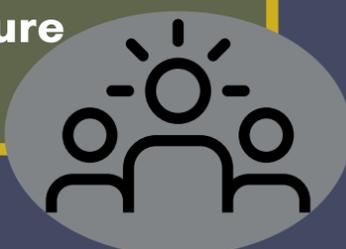


2 Nawalakw is an Indigenous-led social venture whose goal is to **preserve the way of life, culture and language** of their people through **immersion.**



4 6 young people from Carleton University with **unique academic and personal backgrounds** joined.

3 4 young people from Nawalakw joined the project. They were looking to **share** their story hoping to **inspire** their **community** and **future** generations.



Each team member was identified as a **leader** in their respective community.

Project Goals



- A mutually beneficial **youth-led collaboration** between Nawalakw youth and Carleton students
- A focus to **respect** and **preserve** Kwakwaka'wakw **values** and **traditions**
- Idea sharing through **multimedia storytelling**

Approach



- Discussions between the 2 groups were held over a 5 month period on Zoom
- Team members collaborated using Community-Based Participatory Research (**CBPR**) and Two-Eyed seeing (**Etuaptamumk**)

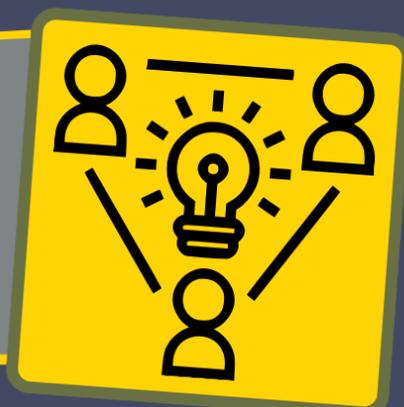
CBPR involves contributions from community members and involved partners to develop relationships.



Two-Eyed seeing involves taking into consideration the Indigenous and Western knowledge systems.

Outcomes

The meetings provided a **safe** and **empowering** space to share stories allowing the team members to form **strong relationships**.



The Nawalakw youth members wanted to share some **key lessons** they learned through their experiences for their community and future generations:

You Are Not Alone

Many Indigenous youth feel **isolated** from their identity, **disconnected** from their language and culture but it's a **shared experience**.

Focus On Your Unique Strengths

Pursue what you are **passionate** about as it may open **opportunities** in your community as a **leader**.

Be Knowledge Keepers

Preserve and **share** your **culture** and **language** with each other and future generations.

A **student produced documentary** was created to **highlight** the Nawalakw youth leaders' experiences giving them a platform to **amplify their voices**.

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The participants from Carleton learned of the importance of **relationships** in **working together** with First Nations young people.

All participants reported **self-growth** and greater awareness of their **leadership skills**.