

NACCB 2024 Interactive Session Wrap-Up Report, August 29, 2024

Conservation Towards Anti-Colonial, Action-Oriented Futures for Just and Inclusive Worlds

Organizers:

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Session Abstract:

This knowledge café will have key presenters to set the stage, get ideas flowing, and centre everyone in the realm of anti-colonial work. After presentations, breakout groups will be arranged to brainstorm action-oriented conservation ideas that work towards just and inclusive worlds targeting wicked conservation challenges that include all knowledge systems in parallel. All people from all backgrounds are welcome, as well as ideas that centre the voiceless (non-human relations, human relations yet to come, and all those without a voice). Through respectful, hopeful dialogue we hope to learn, share, and envision the needs of anti-colonial conservation futures.

Summary of Session:

Carmen Richter (Saulteau Cree), Mary Hostetter (Yup'ik), Jared Gonet (Taku River Tlingit / Carcross Tagish First Nation) began the workshop with a 40-minute presentation by a panel on their experiences in conservation, then 30 minutes in 'break out groups', where participants were encouraged to allow all to have a chance to speak. The breakout groups brainstormed ideas and lived experience on anticolonial strategies to advance action-oriented conservation that safeguards the braiding of multiple types of knowledge systems.

For **outcomes**, 50 participants took part, with good engagement. 5 breakout groups were formed and each group wrote ideas on a chart, with the ideas listed below. Participants ranged from Academia, First Nation Governments, Environment Canada, and Non-government organizations. People were engaged, respectful, and open to sharing. Many different ideas on how to practice anti-colonial conservation were shared, which leads to greater anti-colonial frameworks being enacted throughout North America, in whatever small way. People's worldviews were, hopefully, expanded or challenged.

The goal was working towards systemic change and getting people to share ideas and knowledge. Many participants noted their enjoyment of the session. A chair for the voiceless was represented by sea water from the Pacific Ocean. The sea water was returned to the Ocean with the group's intentions.

For **future plans**, the ideas from the group will be compiled into themes, including number of mentions of high themes, will be compiled into a short report which will be emailed back to participants who left their contact information in the coming months. 105 different ideas were written by breakout groups covering a wide range of topics.