

THE IMPACT OF LAND-BASED EDUCATION

Łiwe camp is not just about catching fish and learning skills. It is about community, Dene ethics and law, self-determination, sustainable food, family relationships, teach traditional land-based knowledge, and passing down Indigenous and Dene knowledge and practices to Dene youth.



COMMUNITY

Dene communal practices have always sustained Dene life. It is through the land that we form community. We learn from the land how to live well with each other. At fish camp we practice community governance through the way that we operate at camp, and by sharing the harvest with the community.



ETHICS AND LAW

For thousands of years, Dene children grew up in an embedded community of learning, where in an immersive context, they would learn about governance and leadership by participating in a social organization that celebrated diversity, consensus, and accountability in the context of the Dene laws (Blondin 2006, 1997). The Dene traditionally learned their political and legal systems by being in meshed in community and by watching their Elders and older family members practice and live these laws daily. When we are at fish camp the elders, the land, and the fish teach us these Dene laws and ethics. We learn and practice how to be in this world in relation to others and the non-human in a Dene way.



SUSTAINABLE FOOD

The Dene have always been sustained by the land. At fish camp we engage in the Dene practices that sustain our relationship to the land and the sustenance it provides. These practices are sustainable for future generations and work towards the political aspirations of the Dene, creating a future of freedom to live in relationship with Dene land in a safe, healthy, and sustainable manner. At fish camp we learn to feed and take care of ourselves and our families by living responsibly on the land and with each other.



TEACHING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

As fish camp we work to restore the knowledge, skills, and spirituality of going out on the land. Elders teach traditional skills such as how to deploy a fishnet under the ice, how to clean a fish, and how to preserve fish. Learning occurs across generations and considers past, present and future. Elders are respected for their borne knowledge, ability to share it through storytelling, and as models for appropriate conduct.



SELF-DETERMINATION

Dechinta knows that it is not enough to simply imagine or theorize an Indigenous future. We cannot just rely on re-imagining how power, politics and life could take shape outside of settler colonial structure and thought, we must also strive toward this vision on the ground. Fish camp is an example of this. As a land-based university we work to restore the relationships, and the practices associated with these relationships, that Indigenous and Dene people have to each other and to the land.

FAMILY

Dene children historically grew up on their land lovingly attached to their families and their homeland and immersed in the intelligence of their own people. At fish camp we work to create this embedded community of learning by encouraging families to come out on the land together and by providing childcare that allows for the entire family to participate in camp teachings and activities.



INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

Before the imposition of colonialism in the North, Children grew up embedded in a Dene educational system that was designed to give them the necessary skills and knowledge to uphold the very best of Dene ethical and political practices and to promote the sanctity of the land, the water, the plants and the animals for the generations to come. This built strong, healthy Dene individuals, families, communities and nations, intimately attached to their homeland. At fish camp we work to restore this form of Dene education and foster a future of Dene nationhood by prioritizing intergenerational learning -teaching kids and young people Dene knowledge and ways of living on the land and with each other.



LAND-BASED EDUCATION VIDEO AND MEDIA RESOURCES

Introduction to Land-Based Education

(Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, NCCIE)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4F6hg8uwZuQ3>

What is Land-Based Learning? A Digital Forum

(National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOUBbsNswLY&t=294s>

Fort Good Hope Fish Camp -The Importance of Camp

(National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-lUlfSyUCc&feature=emb_logo

Luge k'e rahtse deh - "We live with the fish"

(National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education)

Link: <https://www.nccie.ca/story/luge-ke-rahtse-deh-we-live-withthe-fish/>

Reciprocity: Dene Relationships with Fish

(National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5Nk1Vujli0&feature=emb_logo

Leanne Simpson and Glen Coulthard on Dechinta Bush University, Indigenous land-based education and embodied resurgence.

(Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education and Society)

Link: <https://decolonization.wordpress.com/2014/11/26/leanne-simpson-and-glen-coulthard-on-dechinta-bush-university-indigenous-land-based-education-and-embodied-resurgence/>



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