

# MOOSE AND MINERALS: FIRST NATION OF NACHO NYÄK DUN ELDERS' PERSPECTIVES ON CHANGE



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LACE - LABOUR MOBILITY AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES (PI GERTRUDE SAXINGER)

EGU VIENNA 2020

# METHOD(OLOGY)

**LACE - Labour mobility and community participation in the extractive industries: case studies in the Canadian north Research Project 2014 – 2019; JOJO Fieldwork**

**Oral History Project – Elders' Opinions on the Impact of the Extractive Industry**

**aim: add to the understanding of the “complex pattern of mutual involvement and unequal impacts” (Winton and Hogan 2015:93)**

**13 Oral History Interviews; 30 - 90 minutes; mix between semi-structured and narrative/life-history interviews: 10 more narrative/life-history based, 2 more semi-structured, (depending on age and knowledge about the mining industry), 1 “ice-fishing” interview/discussion between 2015 and 2017**

**oral accounts and subjective memories accounts are treated as centre-piece to academic inquiry (Cruikshank 1990)**

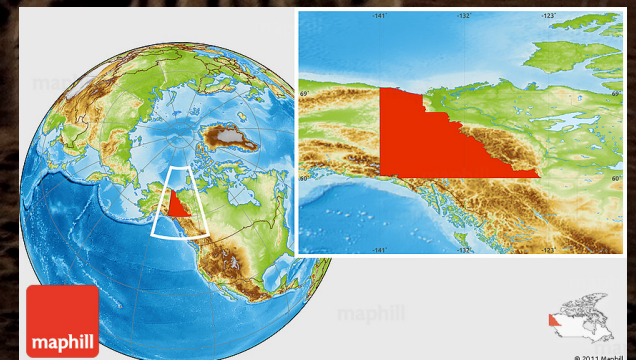
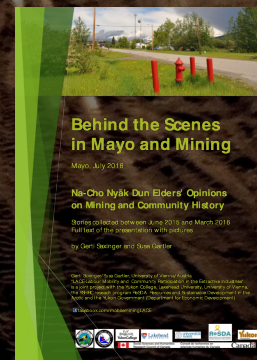
**Presentation of preliminary findings (booklet) to Elders in 2016**

**Verification of Transcripts in 2017 and 2018**

**Poster: Memories of Mining > Timeline of Major Events**

**Book: Dän Hùnày – Our People's Story 2019**

**Online @ [Dän Hùnày](#)**



# Memories of Mining: First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Elders' perspectives



Picture credits: © Susanna Gartler  
Map: www.yukoninfo.com  
Steamboat: www.hougengroup.com  
Mine Site: www.vitgoldcorp.com

Poster by Susanna Gartler, student investigator of ReSDA Project JACE - Labour Mobility and Community Participation in the Extractive Industry (2014-2019), and Gertrude Saxinger (Co-PI), in collaboration with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

Sources and further Readings  
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Canada

Yukon

Yukon

Lakehead University

ReSDA

ReSDA

Yukon College

A close-up photograph of a low-lying Arctic shrub with small, round, bright red berries and green leaves. The berries are clustered along the stems, and some are partially covered by small, brown, dried leaves. The background is a soft-focus view of more of the same vegetation.

# DÄN HÙNÀY OUR PEOPLE'S STORY

FIRST NATION OF NACHO NYÄK DUN ELDERS' MEMORIES  
AND OPINIONS ON MINING

FIRST NATION OF NACHO NYÄK DUN ELDERS  
WITH SUSANNA GARTLER, JOELLA HOGAN AND GERTRUDE SAXINGER

FIRST NATION OF NACHO NYÄK DUN ♦ REŠDA – RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC ♦ YUKON COLLEGE



Bella Peter



Simon Mervyn



Jimmy Johnny



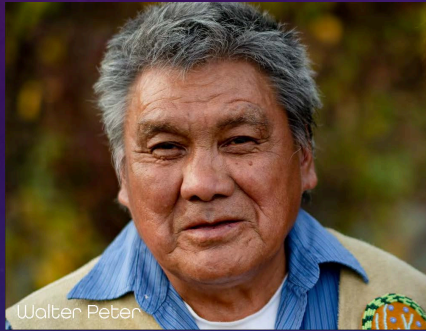
Nancy Hagen



Betty Lucas



Helen Buyck



Walter Peter



Lena Malcolm



Donnie Germaine



Simon Mervyn



Frank Patterson



Catherine Germaine



Rose Lemieux



Margaret Ball

FIRST NATION OF  
NACHO NYÄK DUN  
ELDERS who  
participated in the  
project

**Presentation and signing  
of books by Elders in  
Mayo in November 2019**



**Leonard Linklater from CBC  
Radio and Gertie in Mayo on  
the day of the presentation**





**Presenting the book in Dawson City at the Renewable Resource Council Meeting**



**Three happy co-authors : Joella Hogan, Gertrude Saxinger, Susa Gartler (left to right)**

**Book presentation in Whitehorse at the  
MacBride Museum with relatives of  
participants reading sections out loud**



# CONCLUSION

- Nacho Nyäk Dun Elders' perspectives shed very different light on recent history of the Yukon and contact than common narratives of 'discovery', 'empty lands' and previous accounts of past events that are purely oriented towards mining proponents and processes
- more nuanced understanding of how mining colonialism was/is experienced
- ONLINE VERSION OF Dän Hùrày is available on [fnnd.com/heritage](http://fnnd.com/heritage)
- Second print run already planned
- Continuing research relationship with First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun and other First Nations across the Yukon
- Continuing collaboration with individuals
- Next step: Write-up Dissertation, Presentation of Results to Community in Fall 2020.