

**“Traditional
Ecological
Knowledge; look to
the Future, Learn
from the past”**

**February 8, 2018
Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation
Workshop
Presented by: Carol Crowe, Indigenous Visions
Inc.**

Introduction – Who We are

- Indigenous Visions Inc. 2002 – we are an Indigenous Environmental Training and Consulting Company.
- In 2006 we delivered the first BEAHR Environmental Monitor Program at Bigstone Cree Nation and since then have graduated over 200 Indigenous Environmental Monitors in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick
- We have long-term relationships with the communities we work with and that has resulted in us assisting in long-term capacity building which is currently focussed on Indigenous Land Use Planning
- We assist First Nation as requested in Environmental and Sustainable projects or reviewing development projects concerns that they would like assistance with.



Topics

- Our Experience working with communities as they plan for the Future
- Respecting protocols with Traditional Knowledge holders and capacity building
- Linking the past



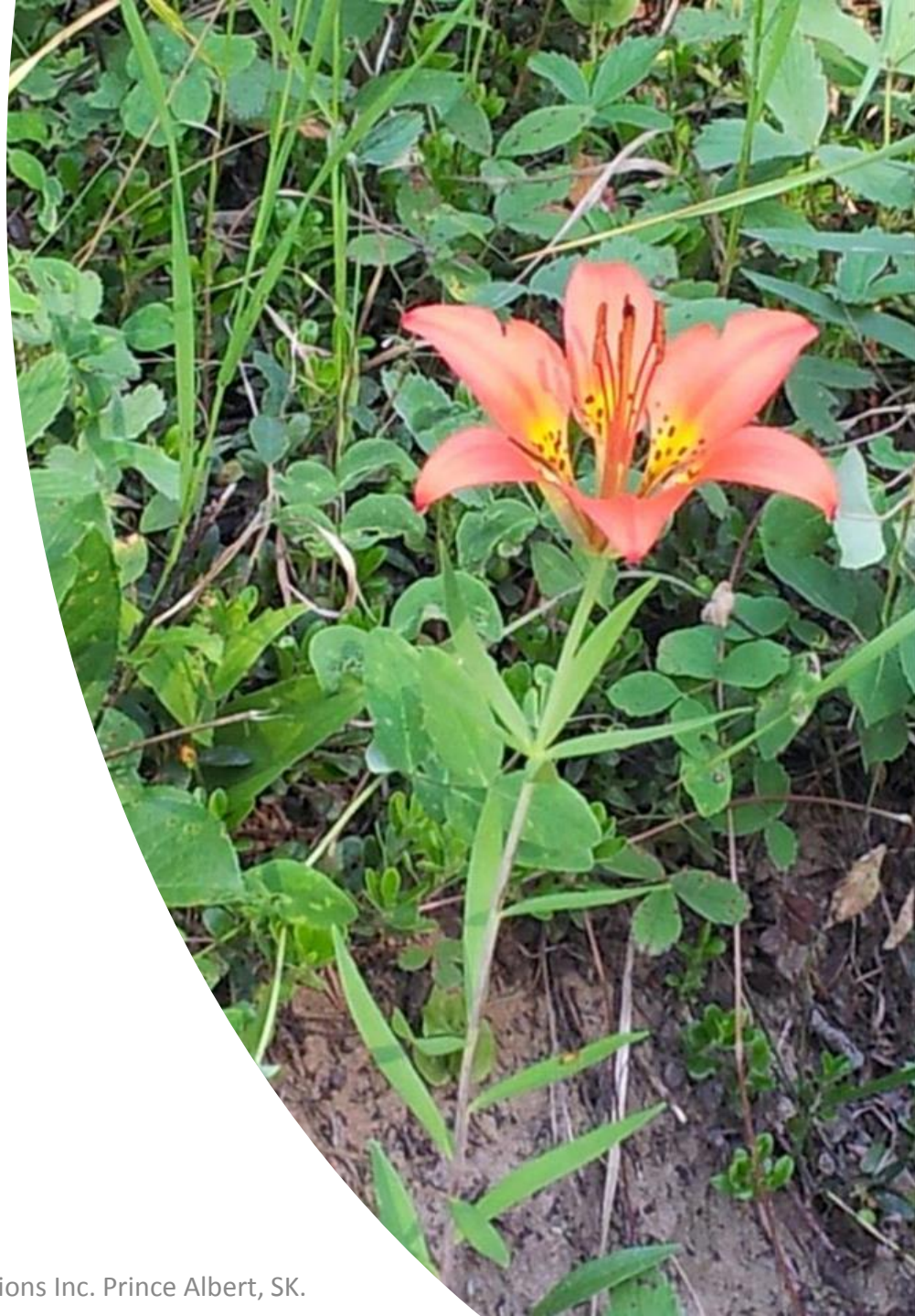
Look to the Future, Learn from the Past


- Looking to the Future for us is Land Use Planning with First Nation communities:
 - The Future is about Sustainability; each community will define differently, common themes
 - Food Security
 - Traditional Food and Medicines accessible and uncontaminated
 - Safe community
 - Cultural Protection and transfer
 - Economic Development with sustainable and green innovations



Working with Communities

- When we refer to community or First Nation community there are 608 First Nations, 52 Nations or cultural groups, & more than 50 languages
- In Saskatchewan there are 70 First Nation communities
- Here in Treaty 6 there are 29 community, Treaty 4 there are 33 First Nation communities
- Each are diverse in culture, area of ecosystems, capacity, interests and governance that it is not practical to document all processes as many are connected to spiritual practices. We approach each community .





Traditional
Life in the
past

*Philosophy of taking
only what was
needed, sharing the
rest.*

Protect Lands in Canada?

- In the prairies we can are:
 - Finding Proactive approach of inclusion of Indigenous world-view in the management of lands
 - #1 requires building community capacity to participate
 - Sharing western data and training opportunities
 - Best practices of First Nation communities who are leading these initiatives
 - Today we can only reduce impacts
 - Work towards defining what protecting land is by developing sustainable communities.

What do we Want to Protect?

- All of it, from the Prairies to the Boreal Forest
 - Watersheds
 - Wetlands, Muskeg – mother natures natural water filter
 - Source Water
 - Wildlife
 - Management of these areas to reduce over hunting/harvesting
 - Vegetation
 - Harvesting of medicinal and edible plants
 - Soil, air, human health

Protect Flora and Fauna

- Protect for future generations the flora or plant life in the region, and the fauna, the animals in a particular region or time.



What is Sustainability?



- To be Ecologically sustainable the ecosystem needs to maintain its function to continue to give and support life
- Social wellbeing is considered sustainable when the health and wellbeing of individual people and communities is good
- If the economy is sustainable the markets are profitable, an opportunity exists to create an investment and jobs

What is Sustainability?

- Indigenous World view involves the interrelationship with all life.
- It is the ecosystem, the economy, our spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- One cannot function without the other.



Future inclusion of Traditional Knowledge

- Hot topic these days!
- We think the inclusion of Traditional knowledge must be respected and requires 100% led by the community.
- This may requires an exchange of information requires data integrity as there are intellectual property issues
 - Risks of Exploitation
 - Past, present and future innovations
 - May miss the overall intent of inclusion

First Nation communities past experience with inclusion Traditional Knowledge or Traditional Land Use concerns in western decision-making

- Duty to Consult requirements by Government
 - Result of many court cases:
 - R. v. Sparrow [1990] SCC
 - R. v. Gladstone [1996] SCC
 - Delgamuukw v. British Columbia [1997] SCC
 - Halfway River First Nation v. BC [1999] BCCA
 - R. v. Marshall [1999] SCC
 - Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada [2001] FCC
 - Haida Nation v. B.C. and Weyerhaeuser [2002] BCCA
 - Over 300 court cases still waiting to be heard

Traditional Knowledge Inclusion concerns

- Indigenous laws involve Spiritual Laws
- Ceremony and cultural protocols require great care and respect
- Involving knowledge holders requires protocols and respect, sharing of traditional knowledge is not consent to use it



Elders tell stories about the gathering that took place on the land

- Traditional Knowledge is the customs, beliefs, spirituality and systems or processes of Indigenous Cultural
- It is the intellectual property of the community or Nation
- It cannot be learned from a book
- It is passed through kinship



Lessons learned from Elders

- Everything is connected, everything has a purpose
- For example, removal of wetlands, has a huge environmental consequence
- Elder and Environmental Monitors work together to “read the land”





Environmental Monitoring Coordinator

Graduates receive an ECOCanada & Indigenous Visions BEAHR Environmental Monitor Certificate specializing in both Regulatory and Research with the National Occupational Standards in Monitoring. Graduates observe the environment and the impacts of human and industrial activities through gathering western science and traditional ecological knowledge. Environmental Monitors are responsible for the collection of baseline data to assist communities in long-term observation in proposed projects, environmental assessments and concerns, and Land Use Planning.

Environmental Monitor works with Traditional Knowledge

- Working with communities we are:
 - Building local capacity, transfer of knowledge to community member
 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge can mean many subjects, primarily we look at:
 - Past, present, and future of land use
 - Community concerns
 - Health of water, soil, air
 - Harvesting of wild edible and medicinal plants and food sources
 - Managing Ecosystems
 - Seasonal Sites, residential & ceremonial



What have we learned in Environmental Monitoring?

- Community capacity is vital to the long-term inclusion of TEK in reducing impacts and developing future innovations or technologies from both western and traditional world views and methodologies.



Thank you!

