

Working and Growing Together

The Gordon Foundation Annual Report 2017



**THE
GORDON
FOUNDATION**

Annual Report 2017



Fishing boat outside of
Nain, Nunatsiavut, October 2017

The Gordon Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to protecting Canada's water and empowering Canada's North. We seek opportunities to amplify underrepresented voices, elevate emerging issues, and collaborate with like-minded organizations to drive powerful, sustainable outcomes.



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Thanks to our project funding partners including:

Canadian Internet Registry Agency
Community Foundations of Canada
Government of the Northwest Territories
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Maple Leaf Foods
Mitcas Canada
Nunatsiavut Government
The Purpleville Foundation
World Wildlife Fund Canada

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Special thanks to photographer Pat Kane for cover photo and many of the images included in this report.

Northern Programs



The Jane Glassco Northern Fellows Third Cohort meets in Déłjñę , NWT with Foundation staff and board on April 28, 2017.

2017 Northern Program Highlights:

The Gordon Foundation undertakes research, leadership development and public dialogue so that policies in Canada reflect a commitment to a people-driven, equitable and evolving North.

In 2017, The Gordon Foundation's Northern Programs focused on the following three initiatives.



Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship Program



We Are One Mind Report



Northern Policy Hackathon



Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship Program

The Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship is a two-year policy development program connecting and empowering the next generation of northern leaders between the ages of 25 and 35. Since 2010, the program has worked with more than thirty Fellows who are building a strong North by the North.

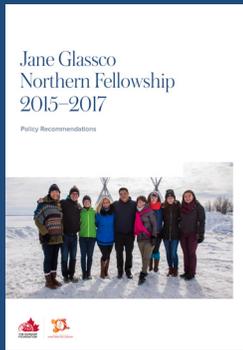
The program is built around four regional gatherings and offers skills training, mentorship and networking opportunities. Fellows collaborate with and are mentored by Elders, Traditional Knowledge Holders and territorial and national leaders.

The third cohort of Jane Glassco Northern Fellows completed the program in Spring 2017.

“If a policy isn't serving its purpose, I have the skills and abilities now to influence change for the future.”

– Clara Wingnek, Cambridge Bay, NU | 2015-2017 Fellow





Jane Glasco Northern Fellowship 2015-2017: Policy Recommendations. *Online now.*

<http://gordonfoundation.ca/resource/jane-glasco-northern-fellowship-2015-2017-policy-recommendations/>

Papers Include:

“Tupiq Nappaqtauliqtuq: Meeting Over-Incarceration and Trauma with Re-Centering Inuit Piusiit” by Jessica Black

“Addressing the Need for Indigenous Physicians in the Northwest Territories” by Thomsen D’Hont

“Recommendations for Modernizing the Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act” by Meagan Grabowski

“Breaking Down Colonial Borders in Inuit Nunaat Through Education” by Angela Nuliyok Rudolph

“Department of Justice Yukon Policy Memo” by Melaina Sheldon

“Watching our Waste-line: Used Electronics, Tires and Organics” by Dawn Tremblay

“Arctic Governance: An Examination of the Effectiveness of Governing Bodies in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut” by Clara Wingnek

“Implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action: Teach for Canada” by Thomsen D’Hont, Angela Nuliyok Rudolph, Dawn Tremblay & Clara Wingnek

“Nän K’alädäth’ät (Changing Times, Continuing Ways): A Re-evaluation of Court Options for Shadhäla, Äshèyi yè kwädän (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations)” by Jessica Black, Samantha Dawson, Meagan Grabowski, Jordan Peterson & Melaina Sheldon



Publication Of Policy Papers

For the first time, The Gordon Foundation compiled the Fellow’s public policy research into a compendium to provide an accessible and centralized resource to advance policy recommendations developed by and for the North.

A New Generation Of Fellows

Recruitment for the fourth cohort of the Jane Glasco Northern Fellowship concluded in October 2017. Gordon Foundation staff conducted interviews across Canada and are thrilled to introduce the 15 newest Jane Glasco Northern Fellows:

Yukon: Luke Campbell, Ashley Carvill, Alysha Kufeldt, Kelly Panchynshyn, Julianna Scramstad

Northwest Territories: Heather Bourassa, Don Couturier, Chloe Dragon Smith, Peter Greenland, Kristen Tanche

Nunavut: Laura Arngna’naaq, Tina Piulia Decouto, Marjorie Kaviq Kaluraq, Megan Pizzo-Lyall

Nunavik: Hilda Snowball

We Are One Mind: Perspectives From Emerging Indigenous Leaders on the Arctic Policy Framework

In December 2016, the federal government officially announced the development of a new framework to replace Canada's Northern Strategy.

In light of these developments, The Gordon Foundation supported Dene Nahjo, Our Voices and Qanak to come together to prepare recommendations for the new Arctic Policy Framework. We hosted gatherings in Yellowknife and Iqaluit.

The outcome was the "We Are One Mind" report. In Fall 2017, recommendations from the report were presented to the Government of Canada.

Dene Nahjo is a new generation of leaders working to advance social and environmental justice for Northern peoples and promote Indigenous leadership.

Our Voices is a collective of emerging Indigenous leaders from the Yukon and neighbouring First Nations.

Qanak was started to foster Inuit engagement with governance structures and to support valuable leadership skills development in the next generation of Inuit leaders.



We Are One Mind Report recommendations are focused on three themes:

- 1. Northerners leading northern policy engagement.**
- 2. Protecting future generations.**
- 3. Healthy lands, healthy economies.**

"Any decisions being made that impacts Northerners or Indigenous peoples must involve the active and meaningful engagement of Northern and Indigenous peoples, including the design of consultation processes specific to the North" - We Are One Mind report guiding principal

Read the full report online: <http://gordonfoundation.ca/resource/we-are-one-mind/>





First Annual Northern Policy Hackathon

On October 25-26, 2017, The Gordon Foundation hosted our first Northern Policy Hackathon in Nain, Nunatsiavut.

The Northern Policy Hackathon is a unique opportunity to convene key stakeholders from the three territories and Inuit Nunangat to build policy capacity and develop recommendations on important and relevant issues to the North. The aim is to ensure that policy decisions about the North are made for the North, by the North.

Our Hackathon brought together northerners from across the three territories and Inuit Nunangat as well as government officials, to develop innovative policy recommendations on country/traditional food. Recommendations include:

Create a new Country/Traditional Foods Policy Framework to optimize all aspects of country/traditional food. The recommendation is for this policy framework to be co-developed with Indigenous peoples.

Create a Federal Wild Foods Inspection Act which would enable Indigenous hunters to process and sell country/traditional foods that meet Food Safety Standards using Traditional Knowledge.

Support ongoing community-based education related to country/traditional foods and increase skills and knowledge of Indigenous language, cultural practices and values.



Water Programs



2017 Water Program Highlights:

The Gordon Foundation has made a longstanding commitment to protect Canada's water and empower Canada's North. In late 2016 and throughout 2017, we lead new initiatives and entered into exciting partnerships to expand that commitment.

We focused our efforts on the Mackenzie Basin – one of the largest watersheds in North America extending across large parts of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. We continue to support innovative research and communications to strengthen citizen engagement in freshwater management and to drive the development of sound freshwater policy.



Launching
Mackenzie DataStream



Supporting
Open Data



Transcending Boundaries
Guidebook



Mackenzie DataStream

Mackenzie DataStream is an open-access platform for sharing and exploring freshwater data in the Mackenzie River Basin.

It is built for both public audiences and decision makers and allows users to access, visualize and download full water quality datasets collected by 23 communities in the Northwest Territories, Alberta and British Columbia.

The program's vision is to strengthen community engagement in freshwater management and to help drive the development of sound freshwater policy.

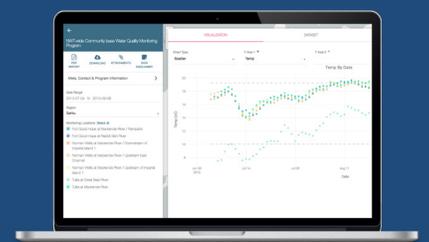
This interactive website was built in partnership with communities and the Government of the Northwest Territories. It launched in November 2016 with official events in Yellowknife, NWT and on Parliament Hill.

Users can access, visualize and download full water quality datasets collected by 23 communities in the Northwest Territories, Alberta and British Columbia.

Mackenzie
DataStream
www.MackenzieDataStream.ca

Types of water data available on DataStream include:

- Dissolved metals
 - Turbidity
- Temperature
- Chlorophyll-a
- Oil and gas chemicals



Mackenzie DataStream - Supporting Open Data

Governments, academics and community organizations are gathering important information about local watersheds – but too often the data are managed and stored in ways that make collaboration among programs difficult and expensive.

DataStream helps Canadians access, store and share data from watersheds across entire regions. It is bringing information about local rivers, lakes and wetlands together in one easily accessible location. It is an open-access, online platform for sharing information about freshwater health. There's no software to install. DataStream's always free and doesn't require passwords.

How DataStream works



Communities, governments and researchers collect water quality data through diverse monitoring initiatives.



DataStream is an open-data platform for organizing, storing, and visualizing the data that people want to share.



By bringing this data together in one place, we can get a clearer picture of watershed health from the local to regional scale.



What people are saying...

“Mackenzie DataStream will allow this data to be used in our community as well as by our neighbours downstream in Yukon, Alberta and the Northwest Territories.” – Chief Liz Logan, Fort Nelson First Nation

“We believe that Mackenzie DataStream will grow and inform the co-operative management of the Mackenzie Basin as a whole.” – Dr. Erin Kelly, Acting Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories.

“This represents an opportunity for communities within the Mackenzie Basin to get involved and play an important role in protecting one of the country's most vital ecosystems.” – Jonathan Wilkinson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change



Transcending Boundaries Guidebook

The Mackenzie Basin is one of the most intact large-scale ecosystems in North America. Flowing northwest 6,825 kilometers from the Columbia ice field in Jasper National Park to the Baufort Seat in the Arctic, the Basin drains 20 per cent of Canada's landmass.

The Gordon Foundation and the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW) published *Transcending Boundaries: A Guidebook to the Alberta-Northwest Territories Mackenzie Basin River Bilateral Water Management Agreement Guidebook*.

The Bilateral Agreement between Alberta and the Northwest Territories is one of the most comprehensive and progressive transboundary water agreements in the world. The two governments have committed to cooperative, integrated watershed management in the Mackenzie River Basin. Importantly, the Agreement engages Indigenous peoples in agreement implementation and provides opportunities for the public to get involved in decisions affecting their local watersheds.

Transcending Boundaries provides a detailed examination of key elements of the agreements, what will be achieved and how they will be implemented. The guidebook is a tool to increase awareness of these historic agreements, support their implementation and, inspire similar transboundary cooperation in other jurisdictions.



Other Updates



New Website

To support our outreach efforts, we are very pleased to have a new online home to showcase our work. The Foundation's new website is now live at www.GordonFoundation.ca.

