

Can Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) teach us to be more sustainable?



Can Place-Based Education inform our interaction with the natural world?



Can an understanding of the Indigenous World View heal the human-nature relationship?



Can Indigenous people offer ideas which teach us to respect the natural world as a community, not a commodity?



My intention is to engage with people living in Vancouver today, offering them Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Place-based Education from local indigenous individuals.



I will investigate the participant's attitudes on sustainability before and after the sessions; analyzing and documenting responses, using interviews and participant observation to gauge qualitative transformations.



For the majority of urban residents in our present-day clearcut and paved-over environment, maintaining a direct connection with the natural landscape is challenging.



I believe fundamental change will happen when people engage personally and directly with the land and its indigenous communities. This will facilitate a 'return' to the more sustainable world view all our ancestors possessed at some point in human history.



In the Vancouver area we are blessed with remaining natural ecosystems and numerous indigenous communities who are actively practicing their traditional culture.



I have participated extensively with local First Nations who taught me their 'social-ecological' systems.



I was gradually 'transformed' and this deep-seated awareness shapes my daily life



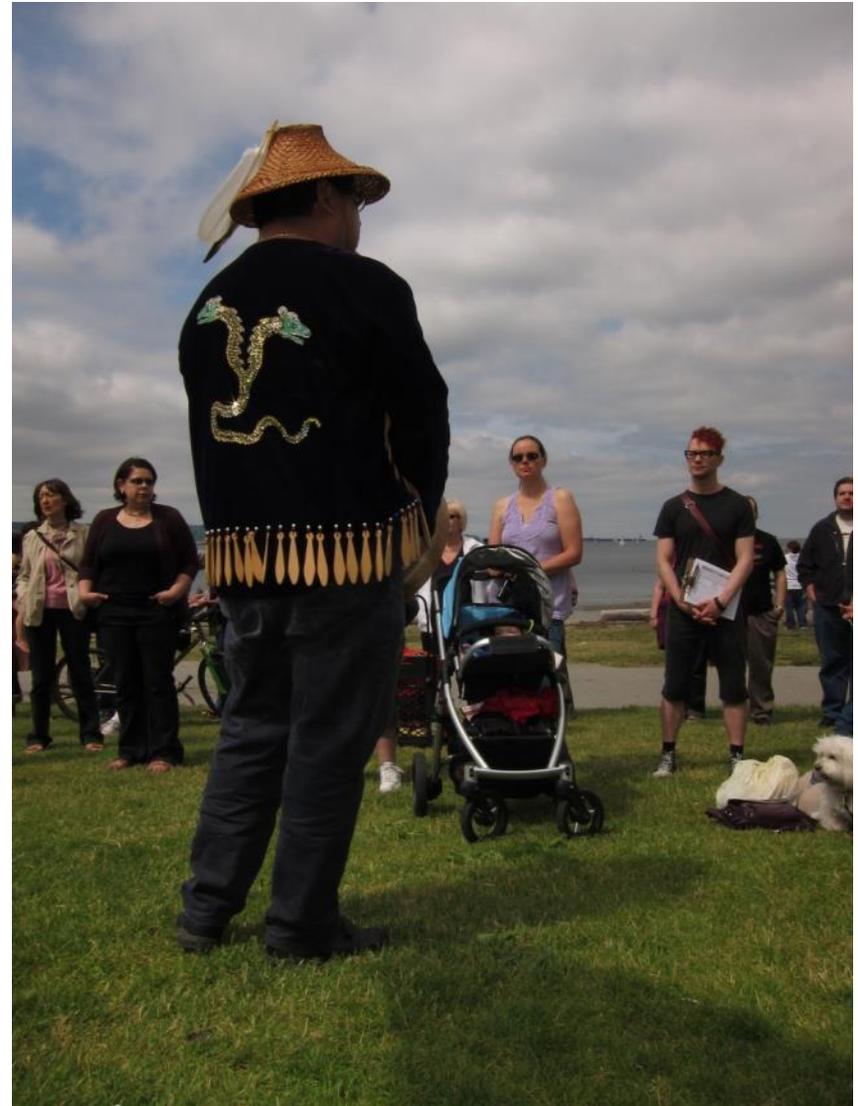
I believe this education is a crucial component of practicing sustainability and it will help re-create a more successful long term relationship between humans and the natural world.



Based on my experience, there is a lack of research examining the local interaction between individuals, not-for-profits and activist communities who have learned TEK.



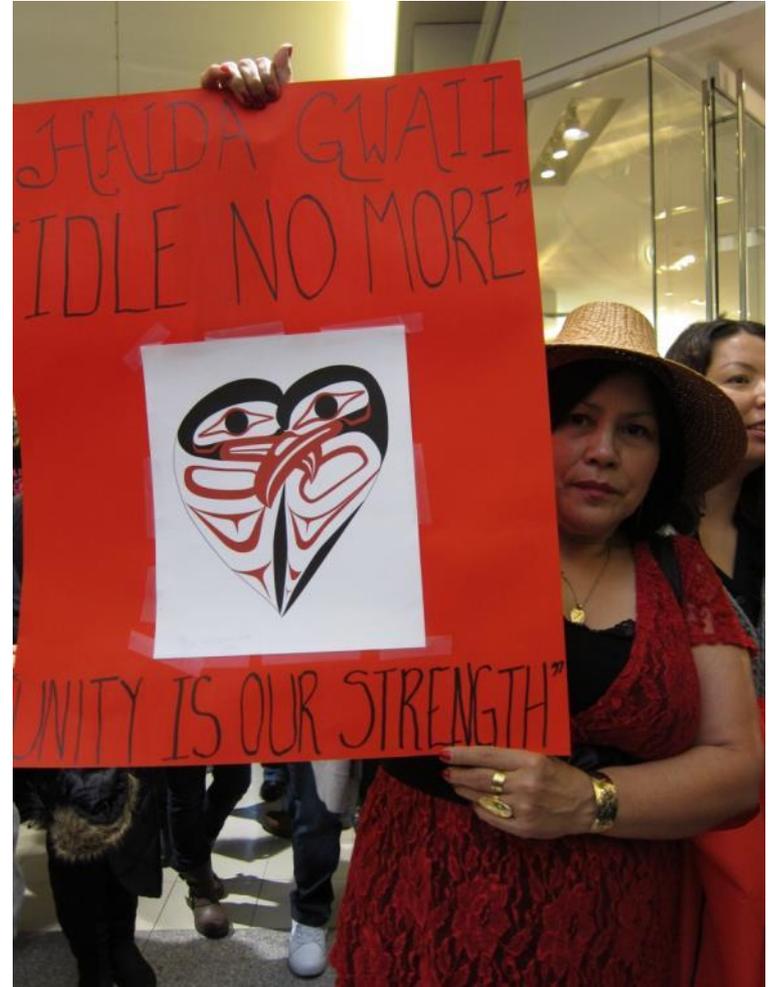
I believe my thesis will benefit this. Its intention is to show a positive 'way forward' using a traditional knowledge base.



















Photos by Celia Brauer, Richard Chu, Roland Rickus, Jeremy Williams