

Newsletter

NOVEMBER RECAP 2023 | ISSUE 66

The fall season has flown by. In this newsletter, we'd like to share some community news and events that we've been grateful to be involved in over the last month.

Please also note the Strategies North team will be out of the office from Friday, December 22 to Tuesday, January 2nd for the winter holidays. We have had a wonderful year working with amazing communities and organizations, and supporting many inspiring projects. Now it's time to rest and recuperate—we wish you a joyful holiday season!

Celebrating Yukon Seed & Restoration's Integral Role in Award-Winning Environmental Stewardship

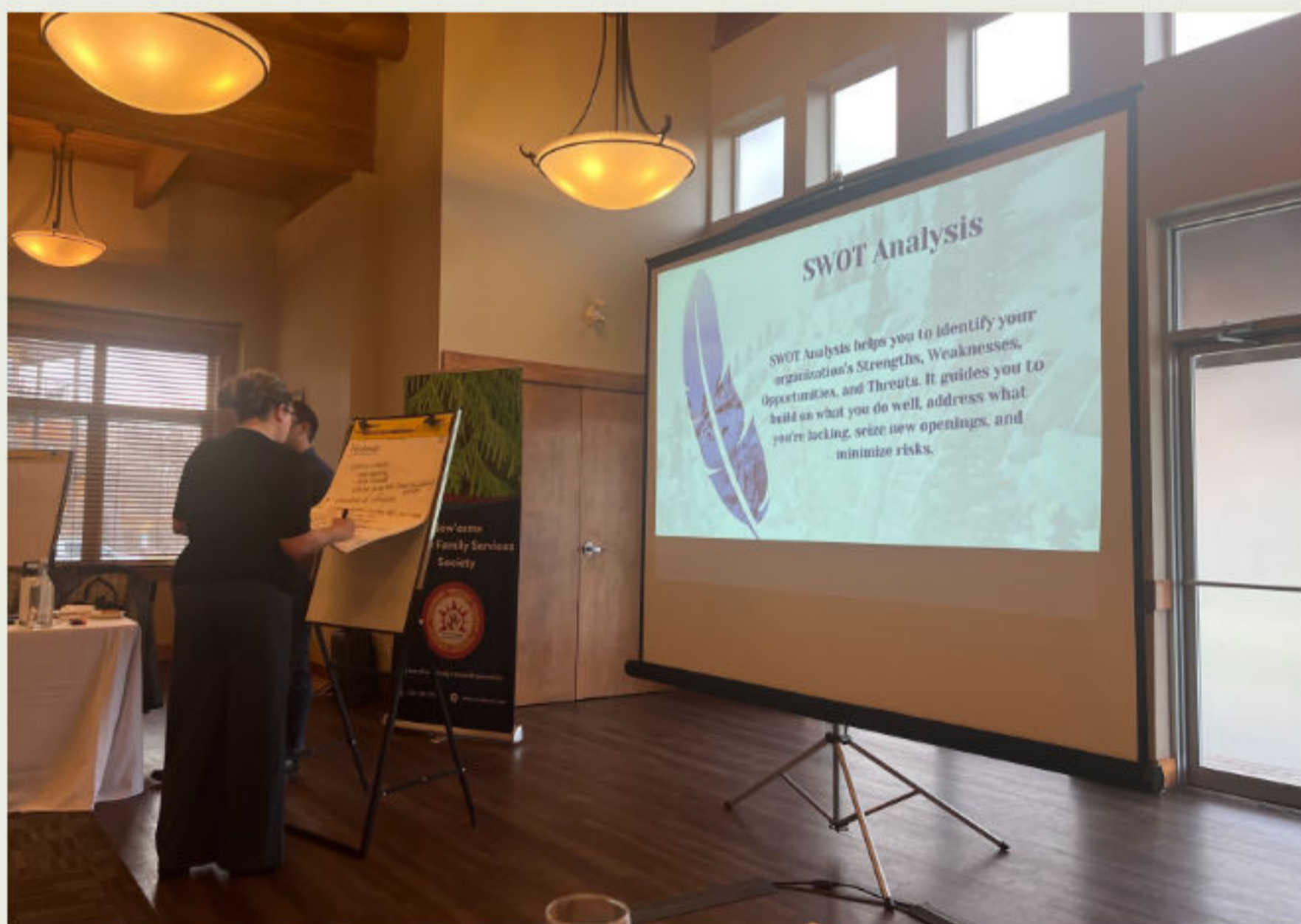


For their role in bridging the gap between responsible resource development and Indigenous stewardship, we would like to congratulate our friends at Yukon Seed & Restoration (YSR) for their collaboration with mining company Snowline Gold Corporation—a partnership that [recently earned Snowline the 2023 Robert E. Leckie Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship](#).

YSR, a Nacho Nyak Dun Development Corporation majority-owned environmental restoration company, sets the standard for building industry partnerships that are grounded in mutual respect, shared community values, and a joint commitment to doing things in a good way. The collaboration with Snowline Gold that contributed to this award spans several innovative projects in progressive land reclamation, including the development of the Yukon's first native seed bank. The seed bank project will ensure the use of resilient, locally adapted seeds in Snowline's land restoration work as they plan ahead for sustainable revegetation at sites impacted by mining.

The Yukon government-awarded Robert E. Leckie award honors mining outfits that foster socially responsible practices, environmental stewardship, and leadership in innovation. With a deep, community-led understanding of the land, and a dedication to responsible stewardship practices, First Nations-led organizations play no small part in helping mining nominees achieve these important goals. Collaborations like the one between YSR and Snowline play an important part in reshaping how the industry as a whole approaches land reclamation - for the ultimate benefit of the land and its people.

Congrats to everyone involved in achieving this award!



Strategic Planning with Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society (SCFSS)

REFLECTION BY EMILY HUNTINGHAWK, COMMUNITY ANALYST: On November 18th and 19th, Anna, Frank and myself had the opportunity to work with Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society (SCFSS) in a two-day strategic planning session. SCFSS serves and is guided by five bands of the Nicola Valley. As a fully delegated society, they provide programs and services to the Nicola Valley and offer support to both the on and off reserve population of the five member communities and the urban Indigenous population.

Throughout these sessions we guided discussions that allowed the group to reflect on the year they had and look to the year ahead hearing from their board of directors, chiefs and band administrators. This provided a unique opportunity to hear from various perspectives and roles

within the communities regarding child and family services. Having the opportunity to sit at a table and witness the five communities working together to create a sustainable and meaningful change for their children and the children to come is one I will always remember.

One message that I heard throughout the weekend and that resonated with me was their shift from protection to prevention. To make this shift, their methods integrate their traditional and cultural values into their programs and services which also includes the consultation of the communities. This is important because of the historical protection-based approach that is taken by agencies which result in taking the child out of the home and disregarding the root issue which is usually the need for support.

I am always appreciative when we get to work with communities and organizations that are working to create change. **Collaborating with SCFSS not only gave me additional knowledge surrounding child and family services but was an inspiration reminder that there are change makers out there benefitting entire generations to come.**



Frank Busch with Rose Paul, CEO of Bayside Development Corporation (left photo), and co-emcee Raylene Whitford, founder of INDIGI-X, a global network of Indigenous changemakers (right photo).

Recap of the Indigenomics on Bay Street Conference

The Indigenomics Institute held their inaugural Indigenomics conference on Bay Street in Toronto, and Strategies North's own Director of Economic Development served as volunteer co-emcee for the event. Elder Gary Sault of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation opened the proceedings with a prayer and smudge, likely a first on Bay Street. Some of the top economic minds from both the private and public sectors presented the latest developments and visions for a more inclusive economic future.

Indigenous rights lawyer and activist Bill Gallagher, author of "Resource Rulers" provided a glimpse into his latest work, "Resource Requiem" which is highly anticipated for release in 2024. Gallagher pulled no punches, and elicited audible gasps from the audience at times in his criticism of government and industry with regards to its past and ongoing treatment of Indigenous rights. Gallagher provided an overview of the now 356 legal victory "winning streak" of Indigenous communities over government and industry, and commented on how much economic opportunity has been lost while court processes have dragged on. He advised all in attendance to educate themselves on the current state of resource development in Canada and urged a more inclusive model for future projects.

The Indigenomics conference enabled vibrant dialogue between a variety of stakeholders, many of whom had never had access to leaders and senior administrators in the Indigenous community. Indigenous participants got to learn about the capital markets, both debt and equity markets

Indigenous participants got to learn about the capital markets, both debt and equity markets, while sharing what works and doesn't work in the Indigenous community. It quickly became apparent that all Canadians have a lot to learn from one another, and that a much brighter future is possible if we could learn to work together.

Keynote speeches were given by Bill Lomax, CEO of First Nations Bank; Hon. Patty Hadju, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada; John Mackenzie, CEO of the TMX Group (Toronto Stock Exchange); Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs/Northern Development (Ontario); Wil Jimmy, NeeStaNan Corridor; and many others. Breakout sessions allowed participants to delve into specific economic areas of interest including ESG investment, Indigenous procurement, partnering with Indigenous business, and Indigenous economic innovation.

The highlight of the event was the "Power Play Gala" dinner which featured Indigenous hockey heroes Bridgette Lacquette (Team Canada) and the legendary Ted Nolan (NHL). Both athletes spoke of the challenges facing Indigenous people entering mainstream spaces where few other Indigenous peoples have ventured and encouraged the sold-out crowd to "just go for it!" It was very reminiscent of Strategies North's own slogan, "We can, together!"

Uncertainties around Canada's political future seemed to be on everyone's mind, perhaps the only issue of common concern to all in attendance. The main takeaway from the event was that everyone would like to see a happier, more prosperous Canada, that would include Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples working together. Many more conversations will need to take place in order to achieve that outcome, but it seems a pebble has been dropped into a pond and a ripple effect has begun.

Welcome to Elizabeth, New SN Policy Analyst



Welcome Elizabeth! Elizabeth graduated from Western University with a Master of Arts Degree in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. Originally from North Vancouver, Elizabeth has lived and worked in multiple places across Canada. Elizabeth has experience within the non-profit and public sectors, where she has developed her policy development, government relations, and strategic communication skills. In her work with Strategies North, she is passionate about projects involving gender equality, community development, and governmental affairs.

Hiring Analysts!





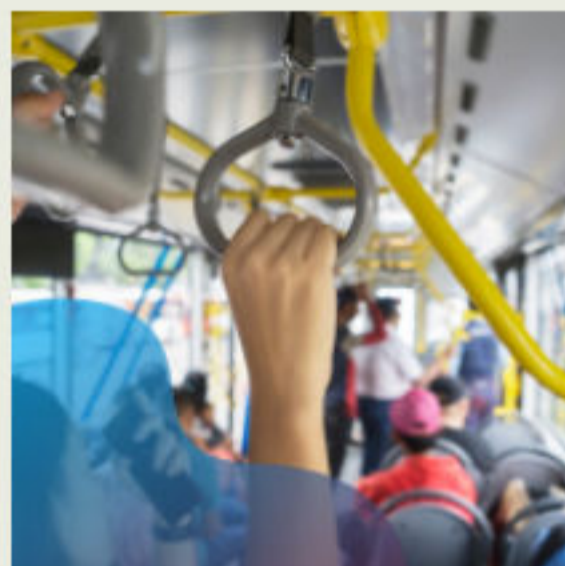
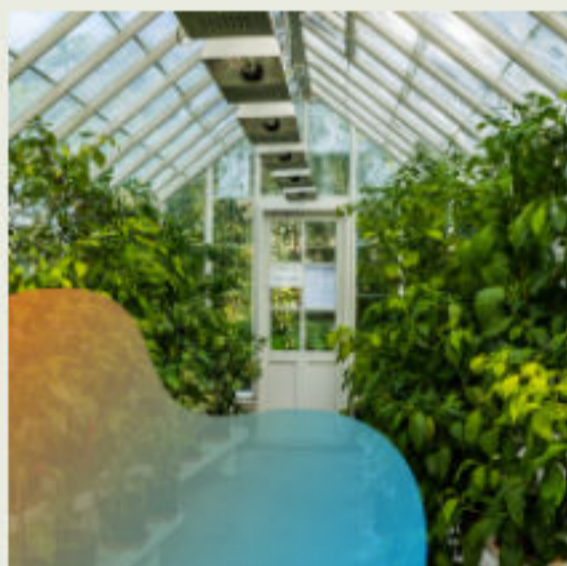
Want to see yourself featured in our newsletter? **We are hiring Community Analysts and Policy Analysts on a rolling basis!** We frequently seek to add more Analysts to our team as our clients take on more ambitious and exciting projects.

These remote roles are great for folks who are recent graduates or are early on in their career. We aim to cultivate a supportive and collaborative environment. Read more about these positions and learn how to apply below.

[Learn More](#)

Funds on Our Radar

Here are some funds to watch out for in the new year.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant: The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs. Eligible projects include schoolyard greening, park revitalization, community gardens, park programming and citizen science initiatives. **Due January 15, 2024.**

National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund: To help First Nations, Métis people and communities address the impacts of the Indian residential school's system, and to provide resourcing to create meaningful opportunities that improve the quality of life for First Nations and Métis people. **Due January 13, 2024.**

Rural Transit Solutions Fund: The Rural Transit Solutions Fund seeks to help Canadians living in rural and remote areas get around their communities more easily and connect with nearby communities. **This fund has an open deadline, but funding is reported to be 50% committed.**

Thanks for reading! See you next month.

