

Government of the Northwest Territories - Brock University Partnership Year-in-Review 2021

Partnership Overview & Official Launch

Brock University and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November of 2020, with the official partnership launch happening in December 2021. This exciting three-year partnership is between Brock’s Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ (ENR) On The Land Unit within the GNWT. Both organizations are enthusiastic about collaborating and co-creating courses based on traditional knowledge, including a focus on the people of the North and their important voices. Each organization will be contributing valuable skills to ensure the co-creation of course content that will eventually be available to the staff of the GNWT to facilitate ‘on the land’ environmental knowledge and leadership training. The main goals of the partnership between the ESRC and the GNWT include:



- co-creating a professional development social science course grounded in providing additional way of knowing to assist local leaders in sustainable community building
- co-creating accessible courses that will be part of a non-credit certificate to empower the next generation of environmental sustainability leaders in the Northwest Territories

Partnership Timeline



Workplace Needs Assessment (WNA) Results

In order to accomplish the partnership goals, the project team undertook a WNA, which is commonly used to better understand employee learning needs/interests, and to determine overall learning requirements and preferences. A WNA questionnaire was sent to GNWT staff within the Department of ENR.

Results demonstrated that all respondents (both employees and supervisors/managers+) had similar perceptions regarding the most important learning needs for employees, course delivery methods, and expectations for completing the courses. Employees and supervisor/managers+ had differing perceptions regarding the current level of knowledge held by employees in the proposed course topics. The results from the WNA will be used by the project team to make informed decisions on how to move forward with course content and design.

Employees and Supervisors had differing perceptions regarding the current level of knowledge held by employees in the proposed topics (see graphs below). However, all respondents agreed about which course topics are the highest priority or learning need for GNWT's ENR Department (i.e., Science Communication and Knowledge Mobilization).

The results from the WNA will be used by the project team to inform decisions on how to move forward with course content and design. Next steps involve reporting the findings, making informed team decisions on how to move forward with course content and design, and developing a collaborative action plan for content development. Content creation is expected to begin in early 2022.

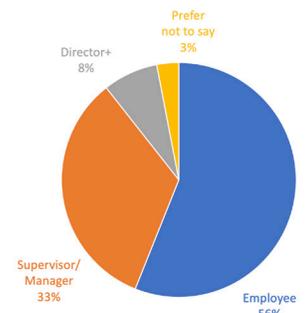
Employment

All respondents are employed full time.

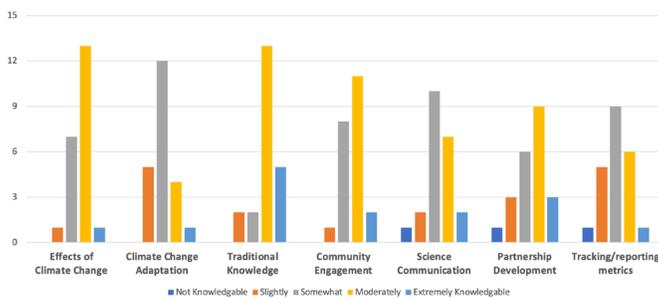
Majority of respondents (85%) are indeterminate.

50% of respondents have 1-3 years experience in their role.

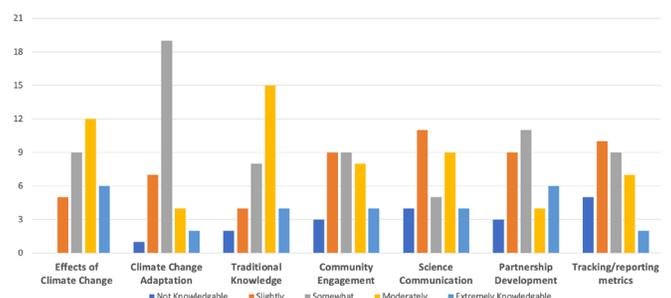
Almost half (47%) of respondents have over 12 years experience in their area/field.



Current Level of Team's Knowledge: Supervisor/Manager+



Current Level of Knowledge: Employee



Experiential Education Opportunities for Brock Students

Sustainability Seminar Series

In November 2021 members from the ESRC provided a presentation entitled, *Community Partnerships for Sustainability at Brock University* through the Sustainability Seminar Series. The presentation focused on partnership impacts and how you go about measuring the performance of partnerships, and included a focus on the GNWT-Brock Partnership.

Government of the Northwest Territories Lead By: Dr. Ryan Plummer

GNWT and Brock University signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2020 to co-create and pilot test professional development opportunities tailored to GNWT

- Co-create and implement two accessible courses in Leadership in Environmental Sustainability for non-credit certificate
- Develop a professional development course in social sciences that focuses on stakeholder engagement in the 21st century
- Promote collaboration within the GNWT, the Brock community, and informal networks locally and globally

Participants: Amanda Smith, Ryan Plummer, Samantha Witkowski

For more information visit: brocku.ca/esrc/government-of-the-northwest-territories/