

# Ya'thi Néné Lands & Resources Research Protocol





## Introduction

The Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office (YNLR) is a non-profit organization owned by the three Athabasca Denesųłiné First Nation communities of Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Hatchet Lake, as well as the municipalities of Stony Rapids, Wollaston Lake, Uranium City and Camsell Portage. YNLR's mandate is protect the lands and waters of the Athabasca Basin for the long-term benefit of its communities and Nations. We are guided by the knowledge, traditions, and ambitions of our communities and Nations, while being a respected partner in relations with industries, governments and organizations who seek to develop the Basin's resources.

Nuhenéné, our vast territory, is home to pristine and important ecosystems and vibrant cultures. Research in Nuhenéné is welcome. However, YNLR has some protocols and codes of ethics in place to ensure respectful, responsible studies that are beneficial to the communities and members are conducted. YNLR welcomes the opportunity to participate in biophysical, traditional knowledge (TK) and human environmental research studies within Nuhenéné, whether they are required for regulatory purposes, land-use planning, environmental study, or academic pursuits.

This research protocol has been developed to help ensure that all land-based research conducted within Nuhenéné (SK) or involving the Communities or First Nations' Traditional (Local) Knowledge, is appropriate and that respect is given to the culture, languages, knowledge, land, waters and values of the Athabasca Denesųłiné First Nations and Athabasca community members, as well as meeting the standards used by YNLR.

## Guiding Principles

These following guidelines should guide research within Nuhenéné:

1. Respect for Denesųłiné culture and language.
2. Respect for traditional protocols including local traditions, language, and community. Research projects requiring the First Nations' TK and Athabasca communities' local knowledge must include YNLR in the research design stage. Researchers wishing to access TK information will be required to enter into an information-sharing and/or confidentiality agreement.
3. Respect for Elders. These members are very important to the Athabasca Denesųłiné and local communities and must be approached with openness, honesty, and proper protocols. Most Elders speak fluent Dene and will require translation. Honorariums are expected and appreciated.
4. Respect for leadership. Notice of research will be provided to the Chief and Council well before the study is scheduled to be conducted. This can be facilitated through YNLR if requested.
5. Respect for Ya'thi Néné and our mandate. Researchers may be asked to present their project to the Athabasca Land Protection Committee (ALPC) or other applicable committees or even the Board of Directors.
6. Respect for research best practices and ethical standards. TK and scientific studies methodology should be vetted through YNLR to ensure proper protocols are in place. Of particular importance is ensuring that any community and FN participants are representative of age, gender, and geographic experience, and knowledge.



7. Respect for intellectual property. The First Nations and local community members retain all rights to ownership, protection, and custody of their traditional or local knowledge. All data collected will need to be provided to the YNLR office (raw and analysed data), as well as any reports, publications, etc. that might arise from the research. YNLR will be provided with any photos and/or audio/video recordings taken within Nuhenéné. Any document developed that interprets Athabasca Denesų́liné TK must be vetted through YNLR prior to publication.
8. Respect for Youth. When requested, researchers will promote their studies and provide presentations and information to the schools and/or youth culture camps. Youth involvement is very important.
9. Researchers are granted license to publish the information they collected from the Athabasca Denesų́liné for scholarly and educational purposes only.

## Research Request for Approval

The First Nations and the Athabasca communities welcome the opportunity to participate in research being proposed within Nuhenéné. Requests for research on field and community-based research should be directed to YNLR for approval prior to undertaking the research program and will require the following information:

1. Requests for Research can be emailed in pdf format to: [admin@yathinene.com](mailto:admin@yathinene.com)
2. Requests for Research are to include the following information:
  - a. Research description (Type of study, objectives, methodology, anticipated start and end dates);
  - b. Research purpose and anticipated outcomes;
  - c. Maps or description of study area;
  - d. Proposed role of the First Nations and/or Athabasca communities in the research project;
  - e. Potential for capacity-building within the project;
  - f. If the research will involve Community and First Nations about their local or traditional knowledge, then prior research experience in TK studies and expected number of interviewees should be included.
  - g. Principal Researcher name and contact information; and
  - h. Whether permission is granted for YNLR to include research on website once completed.
  - i. Who are the funding partners?
3. Ya'thi Néné participation in the oversight or conduct of the research is compensated for according to the Ya'thi Néné Fee Schedule which is subject to modification annually (see below).
4. The applicant must read and agree to abide by the rules set out in this protocol document and any instructions provided in the research approval.



## Research Approval Process

1. YNLR staff and/or executive will review research application to ensure all information is included and complete.
2. Any concerns about project plans and methodology will be identified.
3. Opportunities for YNLR involvement will be identified, and decision will be made on how much interest there is to actively be involved in the project.
4. Research proposals will be forwarded to the Athabasca Land Protection Committee (ALPC) for review and comment.
5. YNLR will commit to providing a response and feedback within 45 days of receiving project proposal.
6. Research projects must receive consent for the project prior to commencement of the research.

## Ya'thi Néné Assistance with Data Collection

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources may be able to assist with aspects of your proposed research. Our staff are trained to gather biophysical, environmental, regulatory, and TK data/information using methods tailored to the needs of the communities. In addition, YNLR staff are also very skilled at on-the-land fieldwork, including field monitoring and data collection. Having strong knowledge of the land, safe travel protocols, logistics experience (in all seasons), our staff can be trained to collect information needed, or guide researchers safely and efficiently.

YNLR will monitor research and provide advice/assistance when needed.

## Ya'thi Néné TK Specific Guidelines

Any proposed TK study methodology must abide by the basic guidelines outlined in the categories below. The methodology must also be thoroughly reviewed by the YNLR before the study can take place.

### **1. Scope**

Researchers should have a specific idea of the project's scale, in terms of area, time and breadth of Traditional Knowledge covered by the report. These should be discussed with input from local community members to produce an impactful study that is considerate of community members. Areas broader than the initial project scope may need to be considered, as traditional activities related to the study may occur outside the proposed study area.

### **2. Interviews**

The conduct of one-on-one interviews should be the primary method of obtaining Traditional Knowledge. Methods such as focus groups may be used in tandem with personal interviews. To obtain the best results for a TK study, an adequate number of interviews need to take place. The number of interviews should be predetermined after discussion with YNLR.



Interviews should:

- Be in a comfortable location for the participants. This should be discussed with community members beforehand.
- Not be much longer than two hours. Incomplete interviews after this time should be arranged to be completed later, unless otherwise indicated by participants.
- Be considerate towards participants needs. If requested, the interview must stop at any point.
- Contain simple, understandable, and concise questions.
- Not contain leading questions.

Before interviews are conducted, the questions must be reviewed by the YNLR.

### **3. Elders**

Elders should always be treated with respect. Important considerations for interviews with Elders are:

- Many Elders do not speak English and the measures outlined in the language section will often apply.
- Honorariums are expected and appreciated. Appropriate amounts should be discussed with the YNLR beforehand.

### **4. Informed Consent and Participant (Interviewee Agreement)**

Before interviews take place, the researcher must ensure that the interviewees understand that their participation is voluntary. The participant must acknowledge that:

- Their participation is voluntary;
- They have the right to refuse to answer any questions; and
- They may stop the interview at anytime.

The researcher must ensure that the participants understand the scope of the project and what the information they provide will be used for. As well, the project should protect the anonymity of the participants unless express permission is obtained. Specifically, participants must be made aware of:

- The goals of the project;
- The use case of the information provided; and,
- Where/if their name will appear in any public documents.

These requirements could be met through the use of a prepared consent form that could be signed by the participant. Researchers who are seeking written consent from individuals should provide a readable and easy to understand document and ensure the document is thoroughly explained. Details such as what the research is for, what will be required of the participants, duration of the study and who will be conducting the research, including any affiliation, how their information will be protected and how the results of the study will be used. Potential participants require time to consider their participation based on the information provided by the researcher and may decline participation.

### **5. Language**

Some community members do not speak English, or not well enough to participate in interviews on more involved topics discussed in TK studies. To ensure the comprehension of participants, local translators will often be necessary. This will be an additional cost for researchers.

Local translators may be required for the following project related activities:

- The conduct of interviews
- The preparation of maps and reports. (These should include appropriate place and animal names)
- The preparation of consent forms



- Translation and transcription of interviews

The overall understanding of the report with community members involved.

## **6. Privacy and Confidentiality**

7. The privacy and confidentiality of participants and important geographic sites should be protected at all times. The following measures should be used to maintain this privacy:
  - Certain sites (archeological or other important sites) included in the report may need to be described in general terms in order to protect the site.
  - The names of participants should not be included in any public reports or documentation, unless otherwise indicated by the participant.

## **8. Ownership**

The traditional knowledge included in any report is the property of the individuals and the community who provided it. Ya'thi Nene has been trusted to hold this Traditional Knowledge on behalf of the communities.

## **9. Publishing**

A study or report containing TK must be given the express permission by the YNLR in order to be published. This permission will only be given in academic or educational contexts.

## **10. Access to community data**

Any GIS data collected specific to TK holders and the areas frequented by them should be made available to the YNLR for use in any circumstance (other studies, etc.). Any photos, videos, or audio recordings should also be provided to YNLR.

## **11. Community and Youth involvement**

If requested, researchers should be prepared to do the following for community involvement:

- Presentations for the general community
- Presentations specific to youth
- Presentations to panels/committees
- Workshops
- Public Meetings
- Etc.



## Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources 2023 Fee Schedule

Cost Item	Rate	Unit
<b>Labour</b>		
Management Staff	140.00	\$/hr
Technical Staff	110.00	\$/hr
Field Staff	85.00	\$/hr
Honourarium > 2 hrs	400.00	\$/day
Honourarium < 2 hrs	200.00	\$/meeting
Honourarium - Interview	225.00	\$/interview
Translators	600.00	\$/day
Advisors (legal, tech, contractors)	Cost +5%	
<b>Equipment</b>		
Vehicle Mileage	0.62	\$/km (sliding scale)
Motor Boat includes Fuel	350.00	\$/day
Snowmobile includes Fuel	300.00	\$/day
Snowmobile Toboggan	75.00	\$/day
ATV includes Fuel	300.00	\$/day
Canoe	65.00	\$/day
Translation equipment	250.00	\$/day
YeaLink A/V system	250.00	\$/event
Rentals (trucks, flights, etc.)	Cost +5%	
<b>Material</b>		
Community Meal	2,500.00	\$/event
Hall Rental	600.00	\$/event
Per Diem (Meals & Accommodation)	375.00	\$/day
Per Diem (Meals only)	125.00	\$/day

### NOTE:

All other expenses incurred are charged at cost plus 5%

Equipment rates for motorized vehicles may be adjusted based on fuel consumption

Labour rates for field staff include required PPE and field equipment (i.e. GPS, sat phone, etc.)

Community meal and hall rental may vary per community