

Project Overview

KRAIG MATTHEWS

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY - MASTER OF ARTS, GEOGRAPHY



conservation
through
reconciliation
partnership



Project title:

Decolonizing Ontario's Provincial parks: Building relationships and aligning with First Nations conservation initiatives in the Mnidoo Gamii region (Georgian Bay)

What am I hoping to learn?

After working at Grundy Lake Provincial Park since 2017, I would like to learn how Ontario Parks can better engage local First Nations governance and align with community-led conservation initiatives.

What is this project about?

The goal of this research is to contribute towards decolonizing Ontario Provincial Parks by learning about First Nations-led conservation initiatives and opportunities for collaboration across the Mnidoo Gamii region. Through engagement with First Nations and conservation leaders in the region, this work aims to provide recommendations to Ontario Parks regarding:

- ways to improve alignment with community conservation initiatives;
- appropriate approaches for better engaging local Indigenous governance, and;
- opportunities to strengthen relationships with First Nations communities/ organizations.

This project contributes to the Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership:

<https://conservation-reconciliation.ca>



Inviting contributions from First Nations leadership and conservation organizations

I hope to meet with First Nations leadership, lands managers, and conservation staff to learn about the conservation initiatives happening in the region, and how Ontario Parks can better align with and support Indigenous governance in traditional territories. Everyone involved in interviews will also be invited to review their contributions, provide feedback on results, and develop recommendations.

Regional Advisory Group

Samantha Noganosh - [Magnetawan First Nation](#), *Department of Lands, Resources & Environment*

Alanna Smolarz - [Magnetawan First Nation](#), *Department of Lands, Resources & Environment*

Sherrill Judge/Midwewekamigokwe - [Georgian Bay Biosphere, Mnidoo Gamii](#)

Greg Mason - [Georgian Bay Biosphere, Mnidoo Gamii](#)

Dr. Deborah McGregor - [York University, Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership](#)

Contact Information

Kraig Matthews (MA Student)

Email: matthk1@mcmaster.ca

Phone: (289) 439-2321

Website: straightupnorth.ca/kraig-matthews/

Dr. Gita Ljubicic (Supervisor)

Email: gita.ljubicic@mcmaster.ca

Phone: (289) 659-2074

Website: straightupnorth.ca/gita-ljubicic/

For more information and project updates, please visit:
<https://straightupnorth.ca/decolonizing-ontarios-provincial-parks/>

