

The Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium 7 (CATS7)
Connection through and with Generations

Symposium Report
BGCY, Yukon
September 18-20, 2019

Written and compiled by: Lindsay Cornell and our collective steering committee



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Yukon



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Event Overview

The Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium (CATS) started in 2009 in Victoria, BC, in collaboration with Royal Roads University and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Victoria, and many others, as a way to identify trends and address the needs of those currently practicing, and those interested in, adventure therapy. Seventy-eight practitioners, academics and students from across the country attended the symposium and shared their interests in utilizing adventure therapy within health, mental health, education, justice and related human service fields.

CATS was established to promote the following intentions on a national scale. The CATS Conference is a national gathering of Educators, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, diverse gathering of Practitioners, Therapists, Professionals, Students, committed to using the land as a means of growth, connection and healing, with a commitment to support a future strengthen and healthier humanity.

- 1) To develop an interactive national networking forum to allow adventure therapy practitioners, academics, students and partnering organizations to communicate and share their expertise and resources and to develop partnerships and opportunities to advance the Field.
- 2) To continue meeting at a national level to strengthen the field through sharing our knowledge and stories while honouring our diversity
- 3) To investigate liability and insurance issues in adventure therapy with professional human service associations and insurance providers.
- 4) To diversify the populations served by adventure therapy and better understand how to serve each population.
- 5) To develop a national body for the oversight and development of adventure therapy in Canada.

CATS has been successful hosted 6 times over the last 10 years in regions all over the country including Quebec, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. In 2019 it is our great privilege to be hosting the 7th CATS in Whitehorse from September 19 - 21.

This two day conference will bring over 100 delegate from all over the Yukon, Canada and some international attendees, to join an essential conversation about connecting all people of all generation to the land as a means to connect to oneself and their community.

BGCY and 5 other youth serving non-profit organizations are hosting the Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium in Whitehorse Sept. 18-20 2019, with a goal to deepen connections and celebrate the great work being done in the Yukon supporting healthier Communities through deepening the connection between individuals, communities and to our Land.





These local youth serving non-profit organizations have chosen to host 7 conference as we believe that this event will serve to (a) continue to support and strengthen the great work of Yukon serving organizations through deepening connections and sharing on a local and National platform; (b) bring light and increased economic opportunity to the Yukon; (c) serve to inspire our youth, young adults and Yukon community to have a stronger sense of confidence and view of the future through mentorship, celebration, training and workshops which we might not otherwise be able to access. Moreover, due to the fact that participants attend from all over Canada, it allows people of like mind both from inside and outside of the host region to network and establish new connections and alliances that can prove deeply beneficial for all involved.

These 6 organizations came together in the summer of 2018 to form the CATS7 steering committee. The core member of the steering committee are Boys & Girls Club of Yukon, Big Brothers Big Sisters Yukon, Youth of Today's Society, BYTE KDFN Youth Council and Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. The steering committee is also attended by representatives from City of Whitehorse Recreation Department, CATS Board member, Outdoor Council of Canada representative and individual volunteers. The Committee agreed to host CATS7 and focus on the theme of generation connections and how this is vital to the continued deepening connection to self, community and our land, as well as the impacts to a future healthy national and local society.

The Steering committee has focused the planning on inclusion of all organizations and individual who have expressed interest and ensuring the benefits of hosting this event are shared with all aspects of our Yukon community, including the business community.

The CATS7 event was held at KDCC on September 19 & 20th 2019. It was a great success that brought folks from all walks of life and all areas of Canada together. The event was well attended and had over 78 delegates (60% outside of the Yukon and 40% Yukonners)

The Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium included speakers and workshops from our local Yukon expertise and across Canada. CATS7 was a wonderful place for sharing, learning and continually inspiring folks on the value of people and land connected work.

The event was host to some very special moments including:

1. The event kicked off with a beautiful meet & greet hosted by Lumel Studios, Wandering Bison Catering and Winterlong Brewing.
2. Main Symposium Event – Sept. 18-20
 - a. The 'main event' takes place at KDCC and includes 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches for all delegates. The day is the start of the symposium and hosts the keynote speaker, workshops and recognition awards. The 20th is the final day of the symposium and hosts more workshops and the
3. Sept. 19th is also host the first *Wisdom keepers Banquet* hosted by Yukon youth (led by KDFN Youth Council).
4. Youth inclusion
 - a. The event hosted activities and support for youth around the country ages 16-18 to join. The event was attended by 50 youth for 1 or more of the session. Youth activities also included activity support from special guests such as Taking it Global and Roger Giles.
5. The Townhall/World Conversation. This is a highlight as it builds on the Millennial Youth Townhall and create an inter-generational and National Townhall/world conversation on '*what we see as our collective positive future and how do we get there*'. Local and National leaders and delegates have been invited to join this discussion. This will be a live feed film so all communities and other areas of Canada can join





- 6. The CATS7 Steering committee also presented the Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium – Recognition Award. This award recognizes local organizations for their demonstrated success in the work of deepening individuals’ connection to themselves, their community and their land.

Hosting this event in Whitehorse provided a unique opportunity to highlight the incredible work being done local organizations to engage youth, adults and elders in reconnection to the land and to their communities. For example the CATS7 steering committee will be presenting a award to 1 local Yukon serving organization as recognition of their contributions over time. In addition, our collective youth, led by KDFN Youth Council. Will host the first Wisdom Keepers Recognition banquet, at this event, and further recognize and celebrate the great work our Elders and Seniors, in contributing to a healthier and more connected Yukon.

Special thanks to the Steering Committee members Youths of Today’s Society, BYTE, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, Kwanlin Dün Youth Advisory Council Big Brothers and Big Sisters Yukon and the Boys & Girls Club, West Coast Cancer Kids, Outdoor Council of Canada, City of Whitehorse, Air North and the CATS Board of Directors.

We would also like to extend our gratitude’s to all our local leaders support including Chief Doris Bill, Jessie James, Mayor Dan Curtis, Larry Bagnell MP, Jonas Smith, Justin Lemphers and our Firekeepers Phil and Jack.

Key Outcomes:

Networking across disciplines of practitioners working with people outside

Connecting regions and practitioners in the Yukon on a common ground

The only gathering of its kind in the Yukon

Focus on bridging the values of generational connection both in traditional knowledge and future success

Supported emerging conversations and connections focusing on future societal health and well-being that included a cross section of industry

Celebrate and bring National light to the great work and connections happening in the Yukon



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Yukon



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Yukon

Acknowledgements

Host Organizations:



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Yukon

Boys & Girls Club of Yukon

To provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, develop positive relationships and build confidence and skills of life

Big Brothers Big Sisters Yukon



BBBS creates individual and group mentoring relationships amongst adults and youth.

Mentorship is a two-way, learning and development partnership where the young person needs are placed at the centre. Because young people’s brains are still developing, mentoring can support that process through back-and-forth interaction like the volley in a good game of ping-pong. Mentoring is an important way to give youth experience with these essential back-and-forth relationships, developing them into healthy young people better able to deal with and overcome life’s adversities.

Youth of Today’s Society (YOTS)



To provide a safe nurturing environment for high-risk youth in our community and to assist in their growth physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

BYTE



BYTE is a “by youth, for youth” organization that focuses on empowering and promoting youth throughout the Yukon and Canada’s north. Our facilitation team travels to communities throughout the Yukon and to some areas of Northern BC and NWT to deliver innovative and relevant [workshops](#) to northern youth. We also host events and conferences in Whitehorse that foster creativity and culture. Everything we do is about helping youth to develop confidence, skills, openness, and a sense of belonging.

Skookum Jim Friendship Centre



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Yukon



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Yukon

We are a non-profit organization committed to a vision of bettering the spiritual, emotional, mental & physical well being of First Nations peoples, fostering the way of Friendship & understanding between people.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation – Youth Advisory Council



The Kwanlin Dün First Nation Youth Council advises and provides guidance to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, in particular with regard to:

- i. programs and services to meet the needs of youth;
- ii. assistance to young people desiring to learn about the Kwanlin Dün clan system, traditions, and culture or the operations of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation; and
- iii. any other matter that the Youth Council considers important;

Planning Committee:

Lindsay Cornell – Executive Director – Boys & Girls Club of Yukon (Chair/Conference Coordinator)

Angela Kruger – Big Brothers Big Sisters Yukon (Co-Chair)

Franz Plangger – Outdoor Council of Canada (Secretary and Presenter in-take)

Tammy McKeown – Skookum Jim Friendship Centre (Elder and youth zone support)

Shelby Maunder – BYTE (Youth zone support)

Shannon Hartwig – WCK (Grant writing, presenter intake, recruitment and youth zone)

Eilieen Dushene – KDFN – Youth Advisory Counsel Representative (Elder Banquet and Youth Zone)

Paige Hopkins and Lance Burton – Youth of Today’s Society (YOTS) & Shakat Media

Jayme Henderson – Volunteer (Volunteer Coordinator)

Volunteers:

This event could not happen without the support of our volunteers. Special thanks to Jayme, Ian Cooper, Bethanne Masselink, Brendan Madden, Steve Ritchie and of course many more!



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With support from the C.A.T.S. Advisory Committee:

Tony Cox – Executive Director, Leaders of the Day

Dr. Nevin Harper- Chair and Professor at Camosun College, Adjunct Professor at University of Victoria; Research Coordinator for Outward Bound Canada

Core Event Sponsor:

Yukon Government Community Development Fund

Taking It Global

Air North

Summary of CATS7 Details and Flow

Demographic & Audience:

As the 7th and first CATS in the north we expected to be a popular event. We also choose to do things a little differently so we elected to do things ‘northern style’ and (a) embrace and include as many organizations and individuals that see the value of deepening connection to self, land and community; and (b)

As Such we drew the ‘usual suspects’ and many more new ones. Our conference also embrace d the local Yukon Community and those folks walk in and joined. CATS7 attracted practitioners from the following disciplines:

1. First Nation Governments
2. Field Practitioners
3. Teachers and Educators
4. Organizational leaders and Administrators
5. Students
6. Academics and Researchers
7. Mental Health Professionals
8. Professional Adventurers
9. Professionals from other peripheral disciplines
10. Business (local like the Chamber of Mines)

The CATS7 had 71 registered delegates, we had 35 walk-in and invited guest for a total of 106 participants. Of which we had 41 delegates join from outside the Territory.



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Registration Process:

CATS7 entered this knowing we had many strengths, but administration was not ours. We attempted to hire a conference coordinator, but this was very unsuccessful. Moreover, we intentionally had our local youth create the website and information. This is a great engagement, but needs to have a lot of mentorship, coaching and available oversight.

As such, CATS7 administration was OK, but future CATS teams would benefit from focusing and engaging a expert early on to oversee this process. continued to offer a highly accessible program for our audience by keeping registration costs low, offering a variety of program packages and offering discount incentives and travel bursaries for volunteers, presenters and students. The on-site accommodations at Brigadoon Village included dorm-style and semi-private rooms and all food and extra-curricular activities such as yoga, canoeing, music and film screenings were included in the price.

Online registration was set up through the CATS website (www.canadianadventuretherapysymposium.ca) using Paypal and Google forms; cash and cheque payments were accepted at the conference. The current CATS website was not compatible with today’s changing online platforms. Lance and the youth team had to create a new site and have it feed through the CATS url. This should be addressed early in the planning sessions.

Registration fro CATS7 was littered with challenge. PayPal was used first, but the registration process had to change half way through registration to use EventBrite, as Paypal had significant issues.

EventBrite was great, easy to use and smooth. EventBrite has a new local Canadian Representative and she was a great help. We were able to negotiate a lower percentage for this 1 time event of 2.7%. We would highly recommend considering the use of EvenBrite.

In addition, the website was intentionally done by one of our steering committee members and was made and maintained by local Yukon youth. This process has taught us that guidance and oversight is needed. The organization of the information for many delegates and invitees was found to be confusing and hard to navigate. We suggest investing in a website and social media professional conference support. This would ensure the integrity of the pre-conference and conference welcoming process. This is a very important aspect to get right.

Registration participant Feedback Testimonial Summary

1. "Registration and administration" = EventBrite? That's pretty standard. I found it challenging that there were no descriptions for the speakers, workshops, or events on the second day. It made it difficult to decide whether to prioritize attending CATS7 over other demands on my time.
Anonymous, 2019
2. Hi- I think there were some technical glitches that made it challenging (with payment, etc). I also found that I didn't know if I could come to the meet and greet, and was not totally clear on information prior to the event. I recognize that this is a challenge for a local organization to do for a one off conference.
Anonymous, 2019





3. website was a little clunky and it was tough to navigate to specific areas...ie.schedule/presenter lists/bios, location etc
Anonymous, 2019
4. the registration process was confusing and did not seem well organized. The website was not compatible with smart phone viewing, and the schedule and payment was not able to be processed until a few weeks prior to the event. I wanted to share the event with my friends but the website was down so they weren't able to see what it was all about in order to plan a trip up to Whitehorse
Anonymous, 2019
5. Registration was easy to do online. The material on the website (workshop descriptions, itinerary) I felt was weak and not reflective of the actual symposium roll-out in some cases.
Anonymous, 2019

Symposium Length:

The event began the evening of the 18th with a gathering at our local glass blowing studio on the Yukon River, Lumel Studios. This event was catered by Wandering Bison and beverages hosted by Winterlong Brewing. The main symposium began Thursday am with breakfast, our eternal fire and some river time. The main conference ran Sept. 19 & 20 2019.

Pre-symposium Workshops:

The CATS7 Steering Committee focused on honouring the celebration of the Yukon and all our Territory has to offer. CATS7 collaborated with local business and communities to provide delegates with a variety of local pre and post conference experiences. The pre and post conference experiences were:

1. Takhini Hot Pools & dinner in Whitehorse
2. Winterlong Brewing Tour & dinner
3. Vitality Spectrum with Margo Talbot
4. Archery Tag and Swim – Hosted by the Canada Games Centre
5. Grey Mt – Guided Mt. Bike – Boreal Adventures
6. Aurora Viewing – Up North Adventures
7. 2 X paddling session on the Yukon River – Up North Adventures
8. Haines Junction Community experience – Hosted by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

These events served well to share the benefits beyond the symposium delivery dates and show off the Yukon. Unfortunately, not all delegates choose to partake and some events were cancelled and we had two events cancelled due to facilitator illness or family emergency. The River Paddles were the most popular.

Schedule:

The conference utilized a collaborative approach in all aspects. The Schedule was made as a collective. Future conference might consider using more of a collective impact process when collaborating to ensure shared vision and outcomes consistently. to sharing information where presenters were invited to submit a workshop proposal. Proposals were decided on through a committee based on needs / outcomes of the conference and fell under the categories of





hands-on learning, research, current trends, soft skill and hard skill development. There were also opportunities for recreation, networking and fun!

The schedule can be seen in attached Appendix 4

The CATS7 Steering Committee had an intention to engage youth ages 16-18 and deepen the generations connection. This did occur but not in the way we expected. They youth zone did not have its own space and camping experience. Due to resources and weather the youth joined the main conference and had some individual sessions. Attached Appendix 5 is the Youth zone schedule as we originally intended.

Reflections

Keynote:

1. Margo Talbot

Margo Talbot is an author, speaker and climber based in Canmore, Alberta. She works with youth-at-risk, addictions programs, and organizations looking to enhance their wellbeing through a focus on vitality in the work place.

A sponsored athlete with Outdoor Research, her travels have taken her from the High Arctic to Antarctica, and the mountain ranges in between.

She is the co-author of Waterfall Ice Climbs in the Canadian Rockies, the author of All That Glitters: A Climber's Journey Through Addiction and Depression, and the creator of The Vitality Spectrum, an essential tool for both recovery and optimal mental health as outlined in her 2013 TEDx talk (150,000+ views as of August 2018).

Margo's keynote was well received and both Warren and Margo were very nice to work with. They were very patient with the organizing team in preparation, as well as very self-sufficient and competent. Their requirements for support are reasonable, but they are expensive.

2. Grand Chief Peter Johnston – Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN)

Peter Johnston was elected Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations in June, 2016. Peter is a member of the Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) and a member of the Yanyedi clan. Peter's 12 years of service in Teslin Tlingit Council Government has provided him opportunities to sit in many capacities ranging from Education, Investments to Economic Development. He has several years of proven leadership abilities at the highest levels of First Nations Governance. Peter is passionate about passing on his cultural teachings to his four children. He enjoys playing hockey, hunting, fishing and living a traditional lifestyle.

Grand Chief Peter was our most popular keynote and he spoke to the land engagement value in our lives, health and process forward in society. Grand Chief Johnston also educated and spoke to the Yukon First Nations treaty agreements and the power of self-governance.





Plenary Sessions:

Plenary 1: World Conversation – An Inter-generational conversation on how deepening our connections to self land and community in pact our future societal health

Townhall & Peace Circle models were used. The audience was an invitation to all sectors to broaden the conversation of land-based, outdoor education and adventure therapy and respect the inter and intra connected nature of these practices intended outcome. In addition to our traditional CATS audience (as identified earlier in this report), the circle included Government at all levels, First Nation Government, Individuals with lived experience, health and social, education, Yukon recreation, Yukon communities representation, youth and some of our local Elders.

Plenary 2: Future of CATS – Introduction and discussion of the Canadian Outdoor Summit

Dr. Nevin Harper convened the first CATS gathering at Royal Roads University and Metchosin Wilderness Camp in March 2009. There were 80 delegates, and 78% were from the host province, British Columbia. Dr. Mario Bilodeau was the convener of CATS 2 hosted by the Université du Québec at Chicoutimi (UQAC) in October 2010. There were 62 delegates attending, 65% were from the host province of Quebec, and the symposium theme was: *Exploring Diversity in Adventure Therapy*. Ms. Virginie Gargano, current doctoral student and professor, shared the exciting news of plans to develop a graduate program in adventure therapy at UQAC. Mr. Tony Cox was the convener of CATS 3 with support from Mr. Stephen Glass and Wendigo Lake Expeditions. There were 60 delegates attending, 67% were from the host province of Ontario, and the symposium theme was: *Exploring our Common Ground*. Mr. Adam Ross convened CATS 4, sponsored by Enviros Wilderness School and hosted by Camp Horizon, in May 2013. There were 76 delegates, 58% were from the host province of Alberta, and the symposium theme was: *Nothing (ad)Ventured Nothing Gained*. Four of the panel presentations were made in-person, one was a taped video (Bilodeau), and one was presented by Dr. Ritchie (Harper).

There were a total of 239 delegates from various organizations and institutions that attended the four CATS in different regions across Canada since 2009. It was clear that the majority of delegates attending each CATS were from the host province. Thus, the intentional plan to host CATS at different regions across Canada seems to have attracted significant regional interest. A further examination of the websites of the organizations represented by many of these delegates revealed that approximately half used the terms *therapy* or *therapeutic* to describe what they do. This is interesting because approximately half of the delegates attending the four CATS were representing organizations that did not seem to identify with the use of the terms therapy or therapeutic.

This session brought into focus the Outdoor Summit of Canada and the intention for CATS to support this event. In fall of 2020 delegates will gather in Gatineau, Quebec and through a collaborative collective impact process, will look at the strategic future of the outdoor and education practice. This gathering has been intentionally designed to focus the target audience on individuals engaged in land-based therapy, education, governance and conservation to look at the inter-connected issues and begin to strategically negotiate a different path to working stronger together and finding innovative solutions.





Overview of Workshops

Please see attached Appendix 5 – CATS7 Presenter Summary

The major feedback was that although the collective of presenters were wonderful, there were too many and as such folks did not get to see them all and we had many sessions receive low or zero attendance. This is significant impact on the delegate and the presenter experience. We suggest less is more in the presentation world. For example: Consider 2 sessions coinciding in 1 time for a conference attendance between 50-100 delegates.

Presenter Feedback

Our challenges and learnings are best identified with the following participant feedback:

I wish the workshops took place at separate times so that we could attend more of them. I also wish the information was available for those workshops that we were not able to attend. I only got to see about 30% of the ones that I wanted because they were all taking place simultaneously

Anonymous, 2019



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2019 Canadian Adventure Therapy Recognition Awards

There was 1 awards given at this year's symposium:

Organizational Award: Yukon Youth Achievement Centre

The Organizational Award was presented to Yukon Youth Achievement Centre who have been long-time leaders in the field of outdoor and adventure therapy.

Youth Achievement Centre (YAC) provides day and after-school programs that promote:

- trust;
- respect; and
- responsibility

These programs are for youth-at-risk and young people in the youth justice system.

Day programs, such as:

- education outreach;
- fitness and nutrition;
- woodworking; and
- other life-skills programs

After-school programs, such as:

- pottery;
- woodworking;
- community service work; and
- recreational opportunities.
- Prevention programs, such as:
 - frustration management;
 - alcohol and drug awareness; and
 - self-esteem

Note: CATS7 Committee elected to only support an organizational award





Evaluative Summaries & Participant Testimonials

Survey Results:

Following CATS 5 we used the Survey Monkey tool to gather feedback; reminder emails were sent out twice. 27 people responded using the tool. Included here is a synopsis of the responses; the full survey results can be read in a separate document.

Participant Testimonials

Future Development Testimonials

1. Thank you for weaving in strong Indigenous voices, presence and stories. The involvement of your community and the warm welcome that was extended made for a very rich gathering with tangible learnings and heartfelt connections. Thank you! Mussi Cho!
Anonymous, 2019
2. Thank you for a great Symposium experience! The pre and post conference experiences were well conceived and well enjoyed and helped people sample some of the local sights and tastes. The Meet and Greet at the studio was really awesome and the food was incredible. Signature experiences!
Anonymous, 2019
- 3.

These testimonials are not of the most positive nature, but represent feedback and reminders of some of the key values to organized and clear logistics and the impacts of an experience led event





Looking Forward

Conference Key Learning's: Past and Present

- **Conference Coordination:** This was a role we intended to hire and see as invaluable to the conference process. Due to significant HR and hiring issues in the Yukon we had 3 people accept the position and due to various personal challenges all declined the position within first 2 weeks of hiring. This ended with the Committee Chair taking a larger role in conference coordination. We were successful with a coordination support role beginning August 7th 2019, but this person was able to help with delivery logistics and could not support the delegate pre conference communication and support. This role is vital and funds should be sought and allocated very early in the process to secure the position and ensure smooth conference logistics and oversee the delegate experience.
- **Administration:** Program Schedule and pre-conference preparations. Program schedule and features developed in prior CATS conferences have proven to be most effective, specifically regarding the amount of days for the conference, presenter submission process, offering pre-symposiums, running the conference at a camp or isolated location. Attention should be given to deadlines for registration, presenter submissions etc. we found ourselves pulling this together a little too last minute by the fault of our capacity and many presenters having to cancel due to illness and family emergency conflicts. Again – this area would be significantly impacted by the presence of a strong conference coordinator.
- **Plenary sessions** were regarded as highly valuable and an opportunity for the community of practitioners to connect and discuss the big picture. The world conversation gave an opportunity to develop national and local networks. In addition this session gave light and support to the organizers of the Canadian Outdoor Summit. All folks appreciated this session. Learning - more time and not as the last session of the conference.
- **Website and registration process** needs to be re-vamped. Paypal should not be used. The website needs work to exist in the our current IT era. Again – this area would be significantly impacted by the presence of a strong conference coordinator. In addition our website contact resigned in June of 2019 and this was very impactful to the 'last 3 months' preparations.
- **Industry awards** should continue to include an organizational AND practitioner award – This will allow the region to highlight either an organization or practitioner and for the advisory to acknowledge someone from the national level as well. CATS7 only had opportunity to present and organizational award and we would like to have recognized the work of great individuals.
- **Branding / Sponsorship** - This feedback CATS5 and is consistent. CATS needs a brand. CATS7 created a CATS Board logo and brand for our purposes. This brand is important to all local organizations applying to grants and seeking sponsors, etc. If CATS chooses to continue it needs to brand in order for communities to be able to support.
- CATS7 had the same issue as CATS5. Continue to pay careful attention to setting up detailed tracking and identify early those people responsible for the outcome products. This again links to the conference





coordination role and its high value. Become more systematic in our approach and how we archive the conference- We agree and reiterate the CATS5 feedback here: There were many tools, spreadsheets and forms etc that we developed on our own that can be utilized for future conferences. It is important that these tools are updated and passed along to each conference. This documentation will not only support running conferences for CATS but should be accessible to the broader CATS community should anyone be interested in running a conference of their own.

- Conference presenters – we had a number of presenters have little to no attendance. Participant and stakeholder feedback is that there were too many presentations and it became a challenge for delegates to attend these sessions, as well the low attendance impacted the experience for the presenters as well. The number and allocation of presentations and workshops should have a very strategic focus. Our suggestion is to host 2 sessions at each presenter timeslot so that the group is focused. CATS7 tried to ensure all were welcome and included and in doing so...we lost the audience. The importance of the networking is the vital aspect. Consider 'less is more' for presenters and presentation schedule.

Future of CATS – Canadian Outdoor Summit

The CATS board has chosen to take a year break off of CATS to support and focus all resources on the Canadian Outdoor Summit. The CATS Board has agreed this process will help shape the future of CATS and how to remain relevant, accessible and sustainable.

The Outdoor Summit of Canada in fall of 2020 delegates will gather in Gatineau, Quebec and through a collaborative collective impact process, will look at the strategic future of the outdoor and education practice. This gathering has been intentionally designed to focus the target audience on individuals engaged in land-based therapy, education, governance and conservation to look at the inter-connected issues and begin to strategically negotiate a different path to working stronger together and finding innovative solutions.



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Appendices

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