



## Summer roaming

How time flies! Summer is here (and soon gone) and the Plant It North team is excited to provide you an update on our work. Change is constant, and in this edition you'll see fresh new faces on the Plant It North team. Over the previous months we've engaged in interesting team

training sessions, advanced numerous projects, and started a dedicated Environment and Research branch. We hope all our clients, colleagues and supporters can enjoy the fleeting summer weather and gets some rest and relaxation. - *The Plant It North team*

## WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO PLANIT NORTH'S NEWEST BRANCH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESEARCH

We know our clients are concerned about changes happening across the landscape and in the water. This work has kept us so busy that it has been difficult to keep up. We therefore welcomed Dr. Shannon Bower to the team in December to lead a new branch of our company to support local governments, organizations and communities in addressing those concerns and planning for a changing future.

Our goal is to provide scientific and research support to environmental projects in a manner that prioritizes and values local and traditional knowledge, promotes community leadership, and supports communities in decision-making. Our skills are here to support your projects and priorities, not to dictate to them.

We can support you in achieving your environmental planning and research goals through all stages, from funding proposal to publication and policy development, for interdisciplinary research and monitoring projects of all sizes. From natural and social science perspectives, we specialize in data analysis and management, community fisheries, natural resource management, sustainable development, climate change adaptation, and conservation.

### **Our skills and services include:**

- Research team building
- Research project planning and execution
- Monitoring project planning and execution
- Capacity building through training/courses, skills development, provision of research services
- Experimental design
- Data management
- Database creation
- Statistical analysis and modelling
- Survey and interview design and execution
- Data gathering, analysis, reporting
- Proposal development

# DESIGN SPOTLIGHT: THE CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE AND YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION / JOINT ECONOMIC BRANDING

The City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) have solidified a government-to-government relationship and created a Joint Economic Development Strategy to align their economic interests. Strong branding and graphic design work supports this new relationship and presents a unified front, visually representing this historic partnership. PlanIt North was thrilled to have the opportunity to work with this committee and team to create an illustrative look and feel for the project.

***"With the Beat of the Drum, Three Communities, One Heart."***

- three tipis to represent the three communities: Yellowknife, Dettah, and Ndilo
- the Dene rose artwork honours Indigenous strength and culture
- the colours are earthy, organic, bright, and colourful, incorporating colours from the logos of the City and YKDFN
- the rising sun symbolizes energy and unity
- the waves represent a forward movement of the three communities in the economic partnership

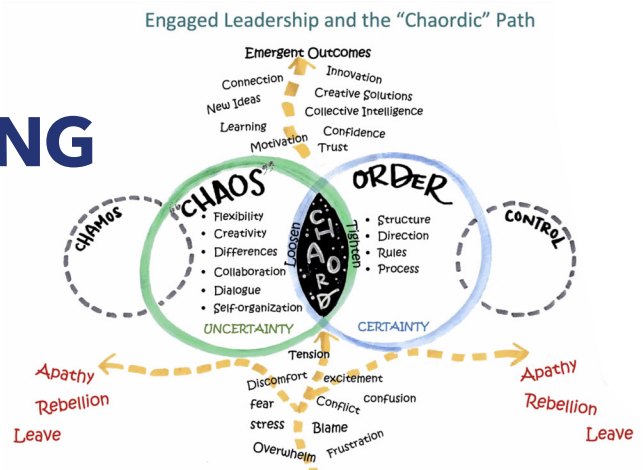


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Jennifer at [jen@planitnorth.ca](mailto:jen@planitnorth.ca)

## ART OF HOSTING - FACILITATION TRAINING

At the end of May, PlanIt North joined staff of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board in a three-day training course on the Art of Hosting, facilitation training. The course was delivered virtually by Harvest Moon Consultants out of British Columbia. The course included break-out sessions which encouraged us to look closer at facilitation approaches in our work and examined how to build more participatory and meaningful dialogue toward reaching consensus. Staff were able to take away a number of tips and techniques to add to their facilitation toolbox.

One useful theory we learned was about balancing our need for order and certainty (agendas, time schedules, etc...) with uncertainty and flexibility to allow for



unscheduled dialogue or processes. Sometimes the unscheduled occurrences lead to unplanned, beneficial outcomes. This sweet spot between chaos and order was labelled by our Harvest Moon teachers as the "chaord". It is from this "chaordic" space that creative and innovative ideas can emerge and be harvested through a more collaborative facilitation process.





# HOUSING DEEP DIVE

PlanIt North staff hosted and participated in a 'Housing Deep Dive' learning and strategizing session on May 12 and 13th, 2022. This was an opportunity for staff to reflect and share insights on our experience with housing needs assessments and planning work to date. We also developed tools and best practices to inform future work in the housing sector. PlanIt North also invited external collaborators and reviewed case studies that were relevant to our northern context.

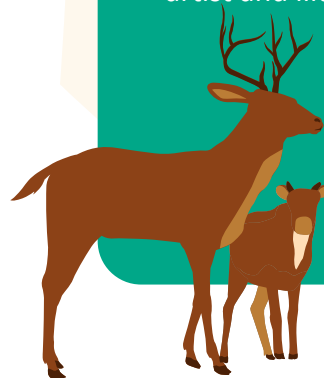
On the first day, the staff heard presentations from our external collaborators to learn about various programs and funds relevant to our work. We also discussed case studies to broaden our knowledge of northern housing issues. During the second day, we focused on the numerous PlanIt North NWT housing projects. Tom Parker and Brian Weadick presented their work on the Kakisa Housing Plan, and Darha Phillpot and Tom Parker discussed progress on the Hay River Housing Plan. Korry Garvey and Rabia Ahmed shared learnings from projects focused on strengthening the construction sector in Fort Good Hope. Learning from the two day session will strengthen PlanIt North's housing projects moving forward.

Some of the external collaborators that participated in or presented to the Housing Deep Dive were:

Darha Phillpot, Phillpot Consulting  
Kristel Derkowski, Taylor Architecture Group  
Chris Van Dyke and Jamie Fulford, NWT Housing  
Bright Lubansa, CMHC  
Rob Warburton, CloudWorks  
Mark Heyck, Arctic Energy Alliance  
Chrissy Diavatopoulos, Community Housing Transformation  
Ann Peters, Ann Peters Consulting

## *Artist Wanted!*

PlanIt North's art department is looking for talented digital artist and illustrators. If you are interested or know of anyone who is looking for freelance opportunities, please send an email to [jen@planitnorth.ca](mailto:jen@planitnorth.ca)



# Comings and Goings

PlanIt North is excited to welcome new team members! PlanIt North has added several new staff. Check out our website to learn more about them and reach out if you would like to see how we can help you with your next project.



**Shannon Bower:** joining our team in December from Ottawa, Shannon has taught and researched fish and wildlife conservation in Canada and around the world for more than 17 years. Since arriving in the north, Shannon has dived into

projects on environmental stewardship and local resource management, and is excited to work with communities to advance their conservation and environmental research goals. Shannon is enjoying the endless summer light while she gets settled into Yellowknife.



**Sanjana Sharma:** since arriving in May, Sanjana has been supporting a range of planning and research projects at PlanIt North. Sanjana joins the PlanIt North team this summer as an intern while she completes her graduate studies in Planning

at the University of Toronto; she is excited to learn how planning and development shapes communities in the north. Sanjana enjoys exploring her new surroundings, finding arts and music events to experience northern culture and paddling whenever she gets the chance.



**Sophie Maksimowski:** calling Yellowknife home since 2018, Sophie brings skills in resource management, policy and community development. Sophie has worked with northern communities across Canada, and is comfortable jumping in and

problem-solving with communities to design and implement projects to meet their needs. When not in the office, Sophie enjoys getting out on the land as much as possible.



**Prince Patel:** as the newest member of the team, Prince has already settled in and started working with Ben Russo, PlanIt North's Business Manager to keep the business and administrative side of things running smoothly. Since

coming to Yellowknife, Prince has been enchanted with the northern sky – enjoying the seasons of the Aurora Borealis and the endless summer light.

**Welcome to the team, Shannon, Sophie, Sanjana and Prince! We're excited to work with you.**

*While we welcome new team members, we are also saying goodbye to Tom Parker and Rabia Ahmed who are moving to Ontario to be closer to family. We are thrilled that we will continue to work with Amanda Blair on a contract basis. Tom, Amanda and Rabia have been an integral part of the PlanIt North team, and we have enjoyed working and learning with them. We wish them each luck as they move on to their next adventures.*

**PLANIT NORTH is a professional planning firm located wholly in Canada's North. For more information, or to discuss how we can help you with your planning needs, please email [christine@planitnorth.ca](mailto:christine@planitnorth.ca)**