



***“Not another interview!”***

**Photovoice modified to  
maintain cultural continuity  
and address inherent  
limitations with traditional  
research methods**



**Heather Castleden, PhD  
School for Resource and Environmental  
Studies**

**NELS-ICE  
March 31, 2010**

# Photo



What do you see?

Issues of logging and money issues  
Somebody is really happy  
In my mind this man has made his mark on  
the log  
In addition to the dollar signs are codes  
implying something is going to happen to  
them



# PhotoVoice



*Big trees mean big bucks. I thought [this picture] was the epitome of what is driving all [clear cuts]. When I think about management... I think that there needs to be a balance.*

*Management decisions need to be balanced in terms of the social, cultural, spiritual and economic circumstances that we require in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Huu-ay-ahts take those other considerations into account when we make decisions. We want to make informed decisions... and it is not just driven by the almighty dollar.*

- Hereditary Huu-ay-aht Whaling Chief



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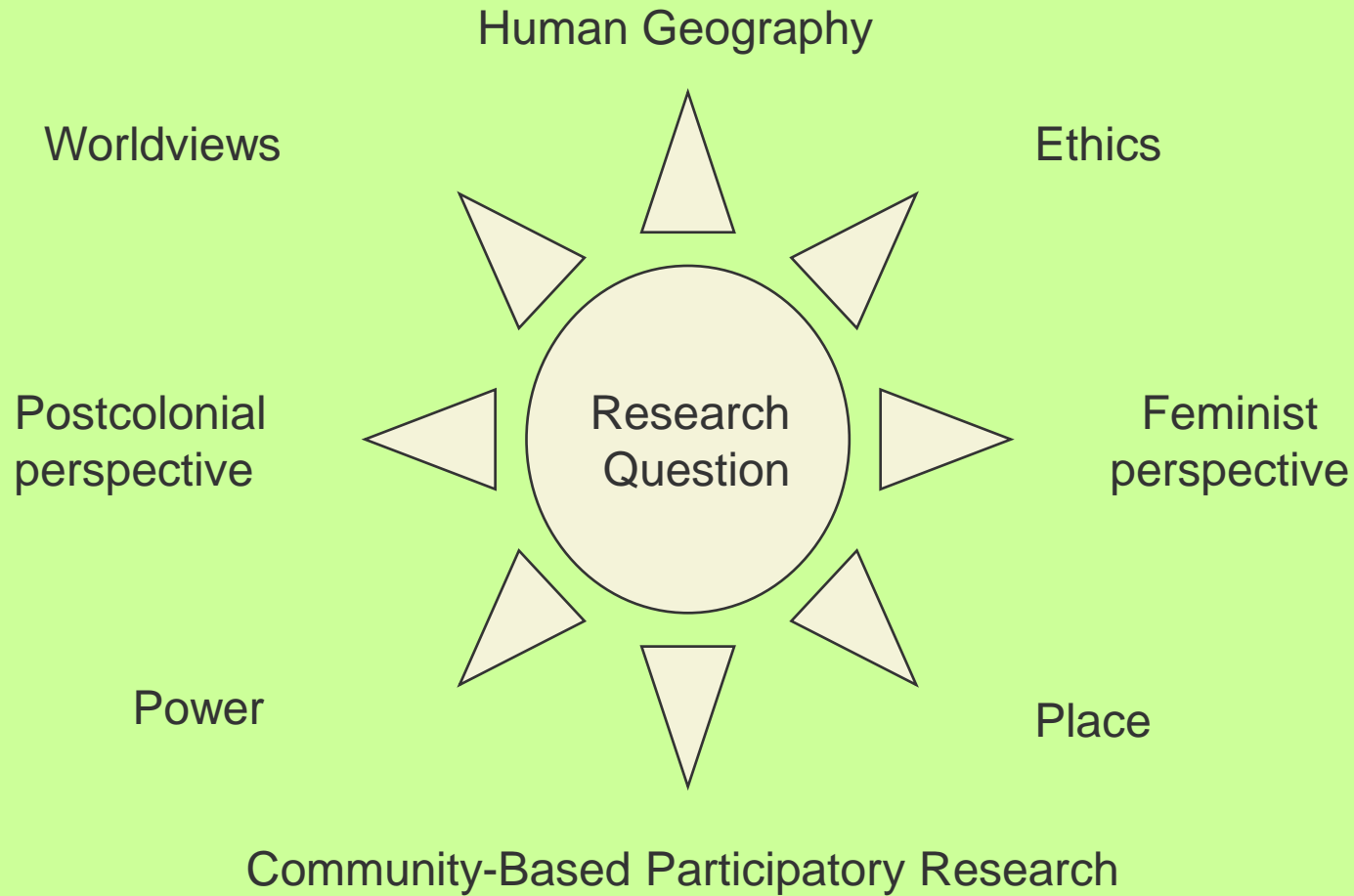
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# Background: An academic impetus





# Background: A policy impetus



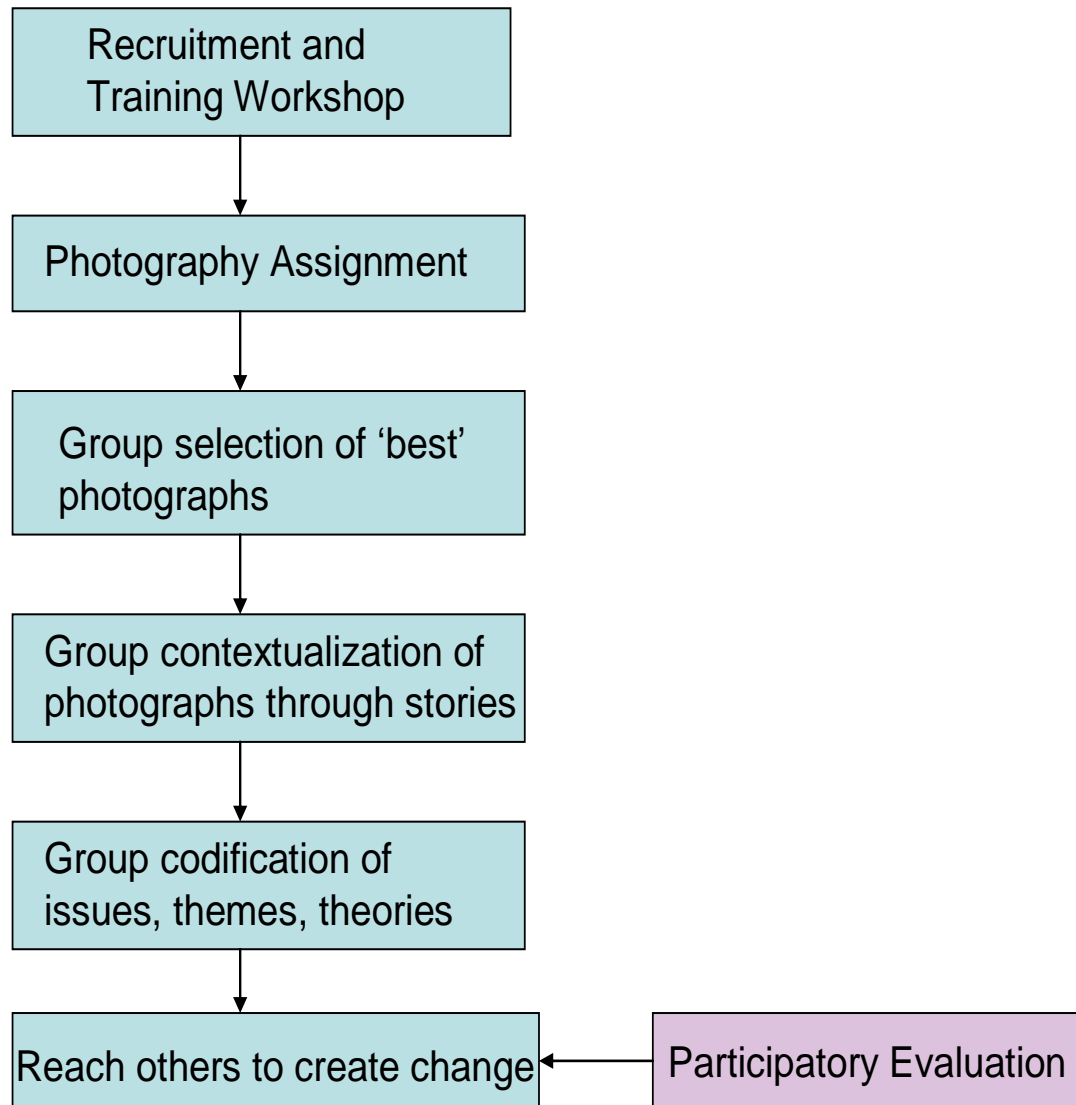
CIHR IRSC

Aboriginal  
Ethics Policy

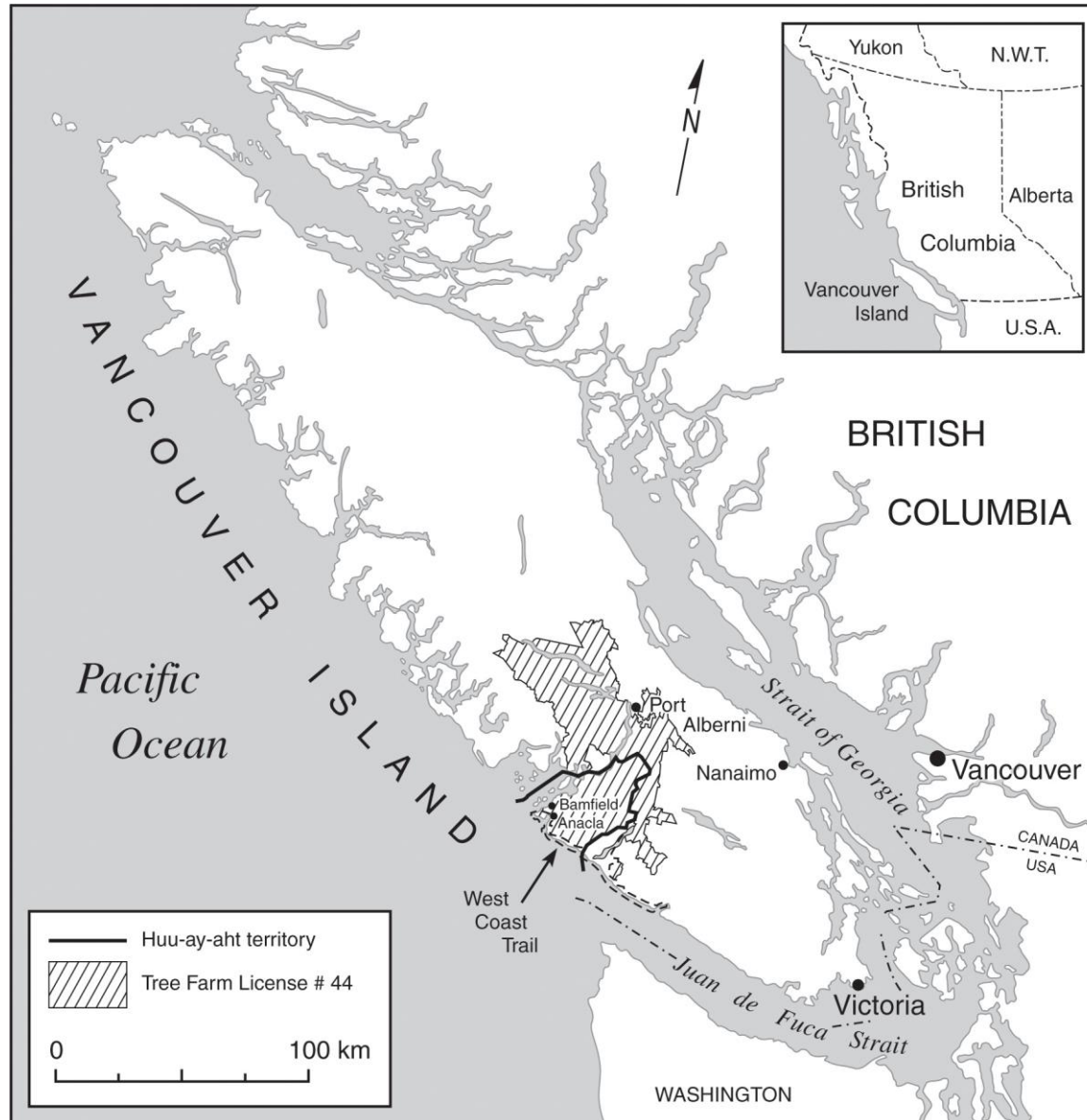
## CIHR GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH RESEARCH INVOLVING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE



## Wang's Stages of Photovoice



# Developing the partnership: Huu-ay-aht First Nation





# Community-based Participatory Research: *- share power, build trust, increase capacity*



Community Advisory Committee and PI

# CBPR: Flexibility...





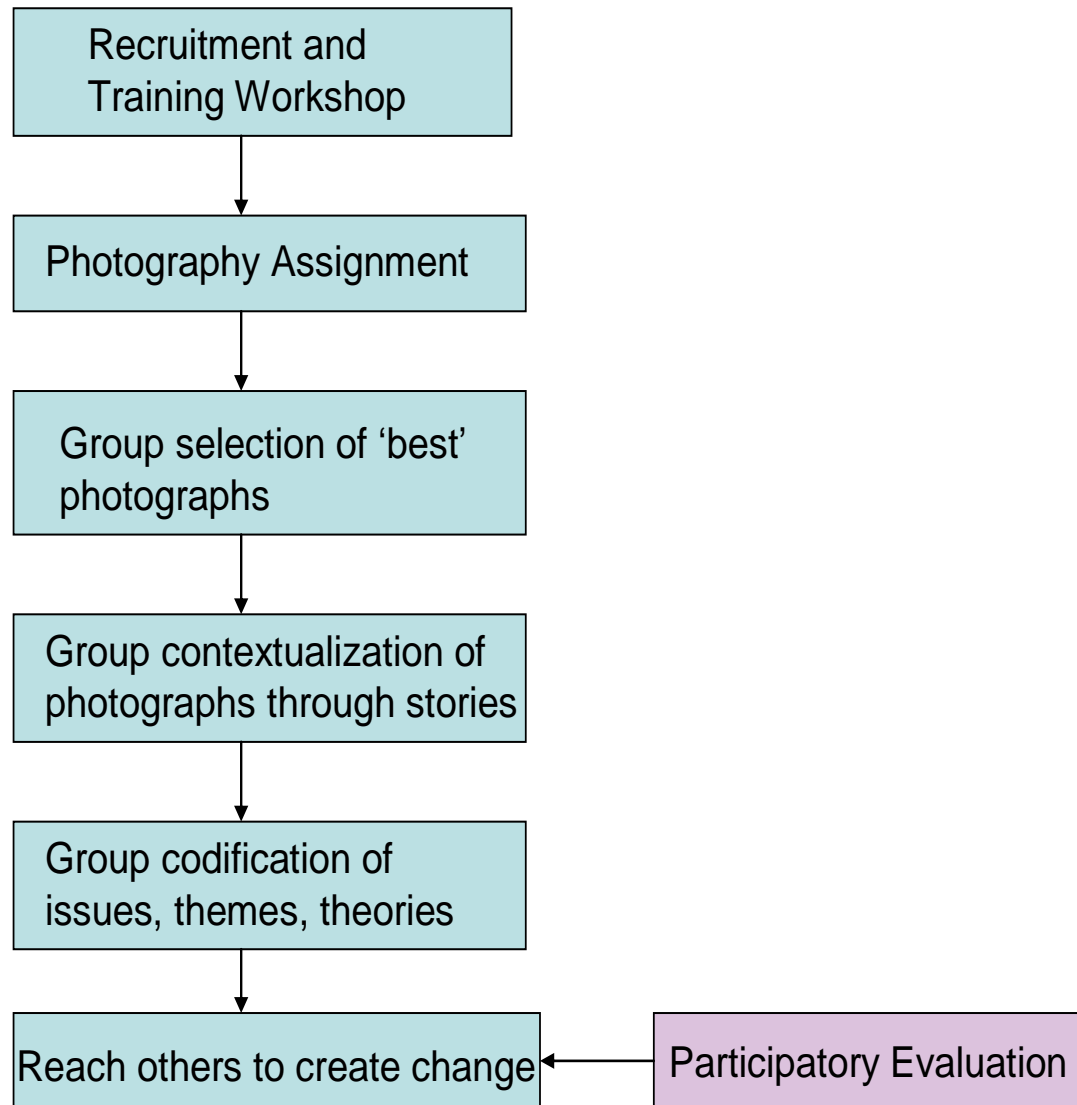
# Research Question



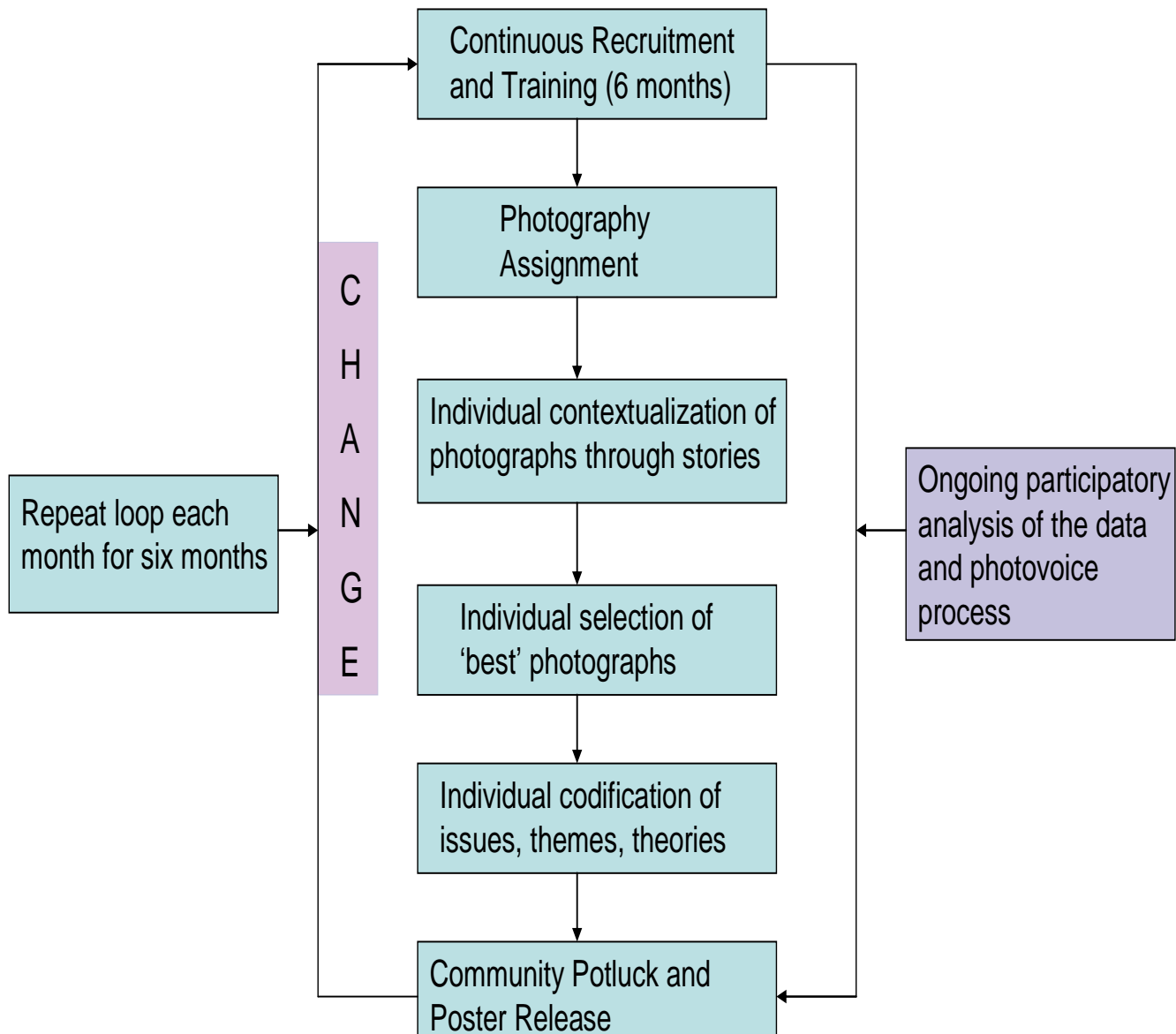
How do Huu-ay-ahts perceive cedar and salmon?



## Wang's Stages of Photovoice



## Huu-ay-aht First Nation Stages of Photovoice



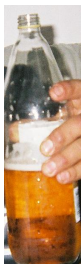
# Community Advisory, Potlucks, and Posters





# Environment and Health Risks ~ Photography Research Project (Direct Quotes):

## Come talk to us about what these pictures mean to you and how you can get still involved!



The alcohol, the drugs - really bothers me. For kids, it's no good for their health, their mind, their schooling and for parents, they go out drinking and the poor kids have no supper.



Logging and forestry: It's a pretty risky job. You have to be pretty quick and trust your co-workers.



We don't need to see this - these beer cans - that's not healthy for our children. There is the dumpster and there is the garbage - what is wrong with this picture?



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It's great that the Drifter is working - Clifford has kept the boat well-maintained.



This house was leaking and it is dangerous especially because there are kids there. It is a positive thing that the roofing was done.



This fishery represents our future - the salmon, fishing is very important to us.

The bridge gets so slippery - it needs more tiles and when the river gets really high, it floods right over it.



Even the islands where our people moved to during the summer months to hunt, fish and gather have been impacted by development.



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The dump is a human health and environment hazard - and it's near a fish-bearing stream



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Positive healthy physical activities for the family - it was a good day - quality time!



# Environment and Health Photography Research Project (Direct Quotes):

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This is a place to gather, to eat together, to spend time together, and enjoy the weather and the beach. It's also a place of shelter and rest. This is where we smoke and BBQ fish. We meet other people from other places. It's shaped like a long house so it's nice to see things like that.



The tides are getting awfully high, I've never seen such big waves come in before, it's pretty bad this year, I think the water levels are rising, it could be from the hurricanes, the tsunamis, the earthquakes around the world, it's all global changes.



This one was out on Mt. Michigan, I was doing creek-cleaning, removing debris, from logging to prevent landslides. I think we need to protect cedar more, I don't think there's enough out there.



This used to be our territory, the whole Inlet, years ago, and I took these pictures because there is no clam digging in Bamfield. I remember when everyone was digging up and down the Inlet but it's not happening anymore and this is one of the reasons why. We never had this problem when we were growing up. These septic fields are all draining raw sewage into the Inlet.



Rotten trees down the beach are ready to fall down – I think that's an environment and health concern because people could be walking by and it could fall.



The Pachena Creek needs to be better maintained - it just needs to be looked after for the future of our salmon.



I've gone on a canoe journey and I'm thinking about it again, it would be nice to get the youth out. These canoes show outsiders how we live - it was our way of life, our transportation and how we got our food.



I took this picture because it's pretty and I think people don't see that anymore - it's beautiful here. You forget until somebody reminds you and takes a picture.



Caught in the act (caught cleaning, that is)! We were driving home after a community potluck about the third research poster, which talked about 'youth and boredom' in relation to graffiti and we came across these amazing young women who were out in the cold, dark, and rain cleaning it off. WOW!!!



I really don't know what these are, we saw them and took a picture and we were hoping Heather could identify them... Can anyone identify this?



I needed to take this picture before these trees are gone because they are going to be clear-cut. It also makes me wonder how much longer we are going to have snow because everything is changing in the atmosphere and I worry about climate change.



We don't want to develop anymore down in the community because of tsunamis, we want to relocate up top but of course people have attachments, they don't all want to move and they say 'the tsunamis' never going to come'. It's a change and change is slow.



This view brings a sense of pride for our surroundings - this is where we are from, this is our territory. I don't want to lose trees but we are benefiting from it immensely - at one time we weren't - so it's a sense of accomplishment and economic health.



This was a place to dry seal meat because there was an abundance of seal in the area. But if you went there today you would wonder why because there are no Indians on the beach drying seal meat. I wanted to show that contrast. Why aren't the people living there anymore and what happened to the seal?



Some Maamulthni represent a risk. They say 'do it my way' with that condescending approach that says 'you Huu-ay-ahts don't know what you are doing without us'. When they came, that's when changes in the environment began.



I like the ocean, it doesn't matter where I am, I need to get my 'ocean-fix'. I get a lot of strength from the ocean. But the ocean can change so fast, especially this time of year. People need to see and understand that and respect the ocean because it can get you if you don't have respect for it.



Pollution from industry impacts the environment and our health.



The Grappler dock is sinking and needs to be repaired. The situation at Sugisaw – those run-down vehicles, the sinking boats, and the garbage on the dock all around the hatchery should be removed for the health of the fish.



This house is going to fall apart one day. There is a pile of wood holding up a beam. Someone told me not to crawl under the house. There's not much holding this house up.



We need to move the propane tank outside because of carbon monoxide poisoning. It's a health risk.



Our people still need cedar, not just any cedar, but the cedar that will be the right kind for a mask, a canoe, a totem. Those cedars are becoming hard to find, like a needle in a haystack, and we are now starting to take the second best, the third best, not the ideal. Without cedar we can't tell our story from the past to the present.



The tide is almost as high as the bridge. Kids play here all the time but it's too dangerous. Kids can't ride bikes across and old people can't use it - there should be a ramp there. The playground isn't safe for the kids either. There is a lot of broken equipment. They need to knock it down and build a new one.



This broken down canoe that was left on the rocks, it drifted away, broke and got towed in. That's probably where it's going to remain, it's one of the canoes from the canoe-quest that was left behind. It makes me want to fix it for kids to sit in and paddle - it wasn't taken care of respectfully.

# **Photovoice modified: to maintain cultural continuity and address inherent limitations with traditional research methods**

1. Balancing Power
2. Building Trust
3. Creating Ownership
4. Building Capacity
5. Cultural Sensitivity



# 1. Balancing Power

- I think it worked with pictures because it's official, obviously. I think if you do have [interview guide] questions it sort of limits it. For me, it feels like it would limit me... I think this is good, because it's more of the voluntary, sharing, and a picture - you choose what you take - it's up to that person to have to like think of what they want, find it for pictures.

## 2. Building Trust

- [Taking these pictures is helping people open up about issues that they wouldn't normally talk about.] I know for me, I have been dealing with my issues for a few years now... Trust issues. But, yeah. I think it was pretty good.
- You are involved with us. You go to basketball and join with the young adult people, which is great.
- We need to keep that [picture] because it totally captures you. Look at your face. How much fun you are having! Even though we were trucking through water, we should have been miserable, the water was cold at this time of the year, but no, I think that is a great picture.



### 3. Creating Ownership

- You have done so well in getting the whole community to participate... I am amazed and I think that the rest of the Council is too, because I hear them talking about the project more... the whole project, it is so amazing, being able to see something out of it. I was really anxious about the whole cedar thing. We are going to be able to do a book or something about all the uses of cedar... The way I see this project... I think the next step is going to be positive, good things out of it.



### 3. Creating Ownership

- [The research is] going to produce something that is going to be invaluable to our future generations. If you make a tape and put it in our archives, someone from 100 years from now might pull that out and go, 'Is that what it used to be like? Come and look at this, in 1990, this is what [it] look[ed] like and here is what it looks like now. [I] find real value in that.

## 4. Building Capacity



■ There is a slow learning to this, and you can see it... you can see the changes in some of our children... and some of our adults....

There [are] posters... to remind them, “okay, right, we’ve been there” – just to

make the reserve better... because it has gotten better, very slow, but it has. I’m not kidding you. I can even see it with our kids, the youngsters... It has brought a good thing. A lot of good things happening. Important stuff too. You notice that adults are getting more involved... which is good.

## 5. Cultural Sensitivity

- By [using] photography with Aboriginal persons who are more comfortable with oral and visual [forms of communication], then this way you are drawing out the information, this isn't intimidating. We are over-grilled right now, 'not another interview'.
- I'm really glad that you did it this way because it is a way of drawing out information rather than interviewing or having to answer a bunch of questions.
- It was a good way for us, as regular folks, living in an isolated community to express our thoughts and feelings about what has gone on. A picture is worth a thousand words.



# Photovoice: Ethical Considerations

- Modifying Photovoice
- Power of the camera
- Anonymity and confidentiality
- Limitations
- Publication

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# Creativity with Photovoice



**Next steps...**



# Digital Stories: Healing Stories

<http://www.storycenter.org/stories/index.php?cat=2>

*Are digital stories an effective way to engage Aboriginal youth with Elders in research while also creating space for them to teach/learn about their cultural beliefs regarding the (end of) life cycle?*

# Aboriginal ArtiSTories - - as Health Equity Intervention



*Thank You*

