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HARVARD Kennedy School

BELFER CENTER

for Science and International Affairs

Exploring Arctic Sustainability: Enhancing Resilience, Addressing Land Degradation and Permafrost Thaw through Indigenous Youth Empowerment

Are you an Indigenous youth passionate about making a positive impact on your community and the world?

The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and the Arctic Initiative at the Harvard Belfer Center Kennedy School invite you to participate in an extraordinary opportunity for growth, learning, and empowerment.

We are pleased to announce the **Indigenous Youth Leadership Course on Resilience, Land Degradation, and Permafrost Thaw**, a collaborative initiative aimed at equipping young Indigenous leaders with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to navigate the challenges of the future.

The training course on resilience and land degradation, and capacity-building in the Arctic is a comprehensive program designed to empower and educate young people living in the northern regions about the challenges and opportunities related to climate and environmental change in the Arctic.

This course aims to foster a deeper understanding of the complex interactions between environmental processes and land changes, leadership and innovation, and resilience-building

strategies specific to the Arctic context. It is tailored to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to actively contribute to sustainable land management and create a room for the synergy of traditional Indigenous knowledge and science. It is a platform for Indigenous youth to speak and be heard. Participants will engage in a series of interactive workshops, field exercises, and knowledge-sharing sessions.

The Indigenous Youth Training program is a result of long-term partnerships between the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, UArctic EÁLAT Institute, and the Arctic Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Centre. The course is a part of the global 10545 GEF-UNEP Reindeer Herding and Resilience project.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Indigenous youth between the ages of 18 and 30.
- Demonstrated commitment to Indigenous rights, traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples, sustainability, and community development.
- Strong communication skills in English (verbal and written).
- Availability to participate in the entire duration of the program.

Application Process:

To apply for the Indigenous Youth Leadership Training program, please submit the following documents:

- Completed application form: <https://forms.gle/taQECUTHV277m4G8>
- Curriculum vitae/resume outlining your educational background, leadership experiences, and community involvement.
- Personal statement (maximum 500 words) explaining your motivation to participate in the program and your vision for the future.
- Letter of recommendation from a community leader, mentor, or organization supporting your application.

Please send your complete application package to mt@reindeercentre.org by July 31, 2023.

Important Dates:

Application Deadline: July 31, 2023

Course Dates: August 13-18, 2023

Notification of Selection: August 5, 2023

Note: Travel, accommodation, and meals during the training program will be covered for selected participants. All participants are required to participate in all the course activities.

Contact:







Marina Tonkopeeva, ICR, mt@reindeercentre.org, +4745658752

Svein Mathiesen, ICR, svein.d.mathiesen@reindeercentre.org, +4790524116

We look forward to receiving your applications and witnessing the immense potential and leadership capabilities of Indigenous youth in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future in the Arctic. Together, let us pave the way for innovation, resilience, and diplomacy!

August 14, 2023

Monday

- 09:00-10:00 Introduction to the Training Program
Svein D. Mathiesen, ICR
 **Fevik**
- 10:00-10:30 Introduction to the Reindeer Herding & Resilience GEF-UNEP Project
Marina Tonkopeeva, ICR
 **Fevik**
- 10:30-13:00 Video Production Workshop
Rosa-Máren Magga, IPS
Anna Degteva, IPS
Andreas Ausland, ICR
 **Fevik**
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch & Networking
- 15:00-17:00 Arctic Youth Session: Introduction to Norway's Chairship in the Arctic Council
Morten Høglund, Arctic Council SAO Chair TBC
GEF Session
Janabazar Tuvdendorj, Mongolian Ambassador in Sweden TBC
 **Fløyheia**
- 17:00-18:00 Video Production Workshop
Rosa-Máren Magga, IPS
Anna Degteva, IPS
Andreas Ausland, ICR
 **Fløyheia**
- 19:00-21:00 Dinner & Networking with OVDDOS TBC
 **Lavvu**


August 15, 2023

Tuesday

- 09:00-10:30 Social-Ecological Resilience in the Arctic
Johan Rockström, PIK
 **Fevik**
- 10:30-12:00 Hands-on Workshop on Participatory Mapping
Kathrine Ivsett Johnsen, NIVA
 **Fevik**
- 12:00-14:00 Lunch & Networking
- 14:00-16:00 Hands-on Workshop on Participatory Mapping
Kathrine Ivsett Johnsen, NIVA
 **Fevik**
- 17:15-19:00 Technical Solutions to Future Land Conflicts and Challenges
Svein D. Mathiesen, ICR
Marina Tonkopeeva, ICR
Kathrine Ivsett Johnsen, NIVA
Mirjam Fredriksen, NILU
Melissa Shapiro, Woodwell Climate Research Center
 **Lavvu**
- 19:00-21:00 Dinner & Networking

August 16, 2023

Wednesday

- 10:00-10:45 That's why you should care about the tipping point
Bjerknes Center for Climate Research, ICR, Nordic Research,
Norwegian Polar Institute, University of the Arctic
 **Lavvu**

11:00-12:00 Hands-On Workshop in Technologies for Global Environmental Monitoring
Mirjam Fredriksen, NILU



Fløyheia

12:00-14:30 Lunch & Networking
ICR FoodLab Innovation session
Anders Oskal, ICR



Lavvu

15:00-16:00 Thawing Futures: Empowering Youth in Permafrost Decision-Making
for Sustainable Solutions
Melissa Shapiro, Woodwell Climate Research Center



GRID Arendal

16:00-17:00 Arctic Research - Who Rules?
**University of the Arctic - UArctic, Northern Area Partnership,
Norwegian Academy of Sciences for Polar Research**



Lavvu

19:00-21:00 Dinner & Networking

August 17, 2023

Thursday

08:30-09:30 Diplomatic Breakfast
Embassy of Canada to Norway, Embassy of the USA to Norway, ICR



Lavvu

09:45-10:45 Understanding the North American Arctic
Embassy of Canada to Norway, Embassy of the USA to Norway



Lavvu

11:00-12:00 Perspectives on Arctic Governance
Embassy of Canada to Norway, Embassy of the USA to Norway



Lavvu

12:00-14:00 Lunch & Networking

14:00-16:00 Hands-On Workshop on Developing Indicators of
Global Land Degradation & Permafrost Thaw
Brittany Janis, Arctic Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center
Melissa Shapiro, Woodwell Climate Research Center



Fløyheia

16:00-17:30 Working in Small Groups
Youth Voices for the Arctic & Global Environmental Facility
Svein D. Mathiesen, ICR
Marina Tonkopeeva, ICR



Fløyheia

17:30-19:00 Reporting Session on Global Environmental Monitoring:
Feedback & Comments from the Users
Mirjam Fredriksen, NILU
Kathrine Ivsett Johnsen, NIVA
Svein D. Mathiesen, ICR
Marina Tonkopeeva, ICR



Fløyheia

19:00-21:00 Dinner & Networking

August 18, 2023

Friday

09:00-10:30 Reporting Session on Global Environmental Monitoring:
Feedback & Comments from the Users



Fevik

10:30-11:30 Reporting Session on the Program
Closing Ceremony



Fevik