

ʔEHDZO GOT'INE GOTS'É NÁKEDI

- *Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (Chapters 1, 13, 14)*
- “Main instrument of wildlife management”
- Helpers of the “trappers” (way of life/self-sufficiency)





1. Conservation concern
2. Government of Nunavut proposal: TAH, NQL, and any alternative recommendations
3. Rethinking caribou co-management in the Sahtú Region
4. Indigenous knowledge of BNE caribou
5. Inter-jurisdictional considerations
6. Conclusion: a challenge for our time

OVERVIEW

1. CARIBOU ABUNDANCE

Science and Indigenous Knowledge



- Déline, Got'ine, and other community/ Indigenous knowledge
- Scientific monitoring results

SRRB DECISION: Bluenose East caribou are in the “red zone” (low and declining)

ACCWM MONITORING TABLE 2019

2. GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT PROPOSAL

TAH, NQL and any alternative recommendations



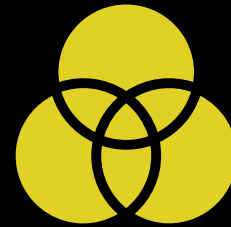
COMMON CARIBOU CONSERVATION VISION

DIFFERENT PATHS



Government of Nunavut *Proposal*

Science, surveillance and numbers
Focus on minimizing impact on rights
Focus on harvest
Partnership with GNWT



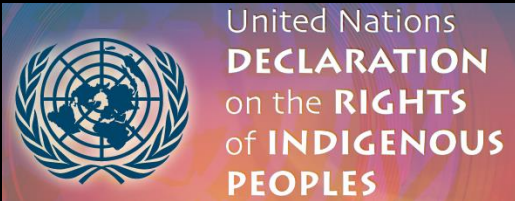
Kugluktuk/Kitikmeot/Inuit Parties *Response*

Inuit Qaujjimajatuqangit
Knowledge co-production
Focus on governance/responsibilities
Way of life and food security
Relationships with user groups and caribou

3. RETHINKING CARIBOU CO-MANAGEMENT IN THE SAHTÚ REGION

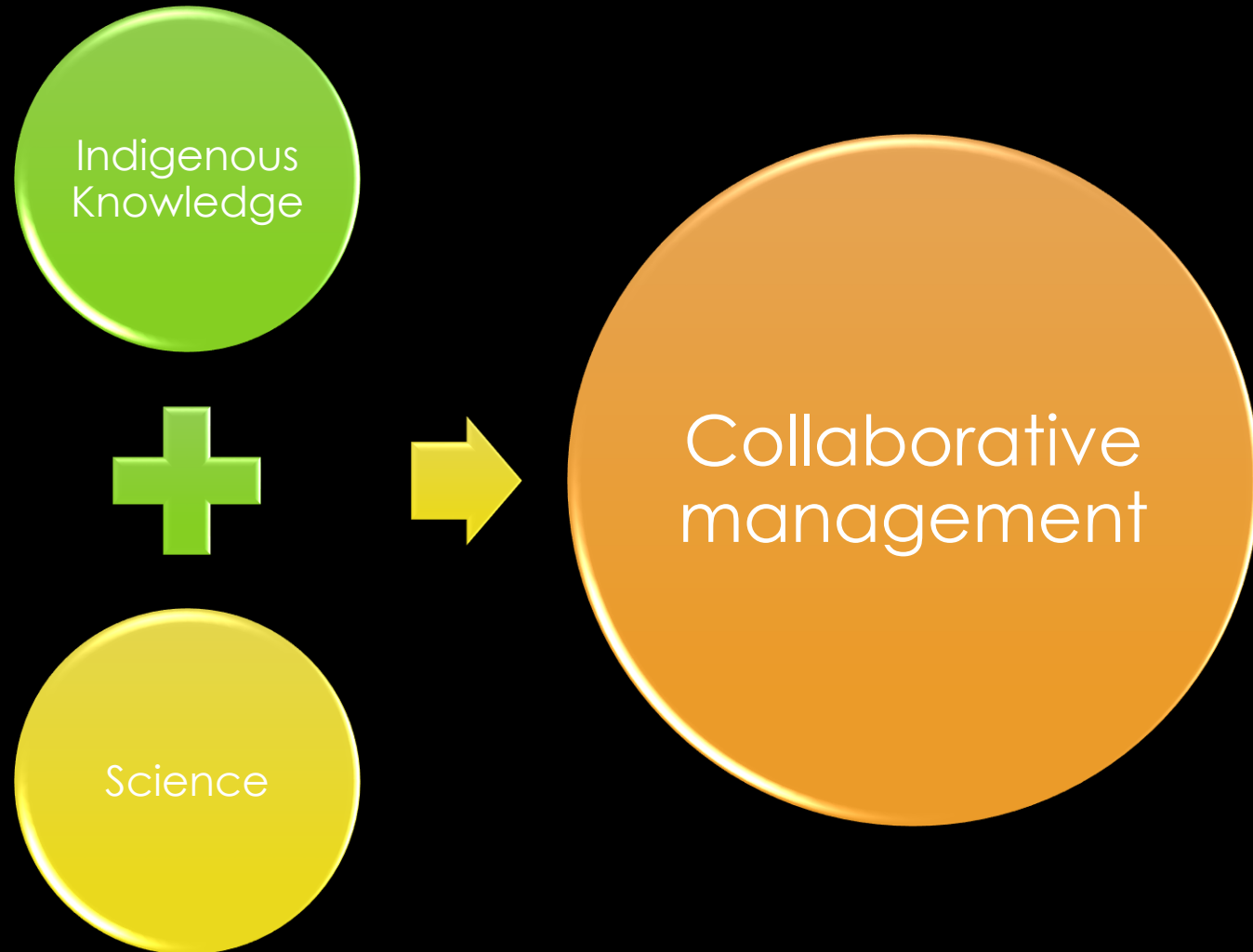


WHAT'S **RECONCILIATION** GOT TO DO WITH IT?



- Article 8(j), Convention on Biodiversity (1993)
 - Indigenous ways of life and knowledge – biocultural diversity
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015)
- *We Rise Together* Report (Indigenous Circle of Experts – Pathway to Canada Target 1, 2018)
- *Working Together: Indigenous Involvement in Caribou Stewardship* – Discussion Paper and Calls to Action, North American Caribou Workshop 2018

WHAT WE USED TO THINK





WHAT
ACTUALLY
HAPPENED



RECONCILIATION

“... Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour.”

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015

QUICK HISTORY



Indigenous Ways of
Life

NWT/Canada
Governance



Land Claims/
Co-
Management

THE PATH TO RECONCILIATION



AWARENESS



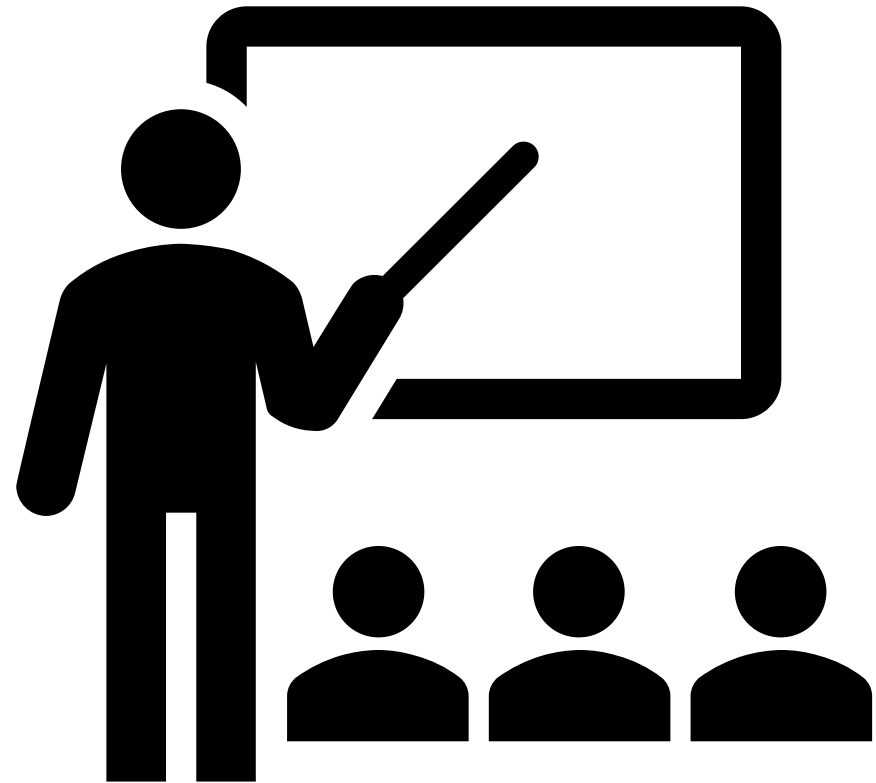
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
& ATONEMENT



ACTION

SAHTÚ STORY, 2015: AWARENESS

- TK and science evidence of BNE scarcity/decline, 2015
- Sahtú Leadership Caribou Gathering, Colville Lake, 2015
- Two Bluenose East caribou plans (Délı́ne, and GNWT)



SAHTÚ STORY, 2016-2017: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & ATONEMENT

- Bluenose East ʔekwé,
Hearing, Déline,
- ʔekwé, hé Dene Ts'ıllı -
Sustaining Relationships
Hearing Report
- GNWT Minister of ENR
approval



SUSTAINING RELATIONSHIPS DECISIONS 2016

- Biocultural approach (people and caribou)
- Community conservation planning
- Self-regulation, monitoring
- TAH as a last resort



SAHTÚ STORY 2017-2019: ACTION



FACETS OF RECONCILIATION

Catherine Lu



Existential (integrity)



Interactional (relationships)



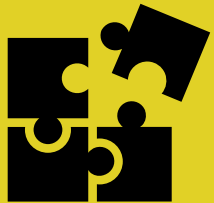
Structural (ethical spaces)

FACETS OF RECONCILIATION



Existential (integrity)

- Dene ts'ı́ı́ (identity, way of life)
- Dene ɁɁɁ (law)
- Dene náowerá (knowledge)



Interactional (relationships)

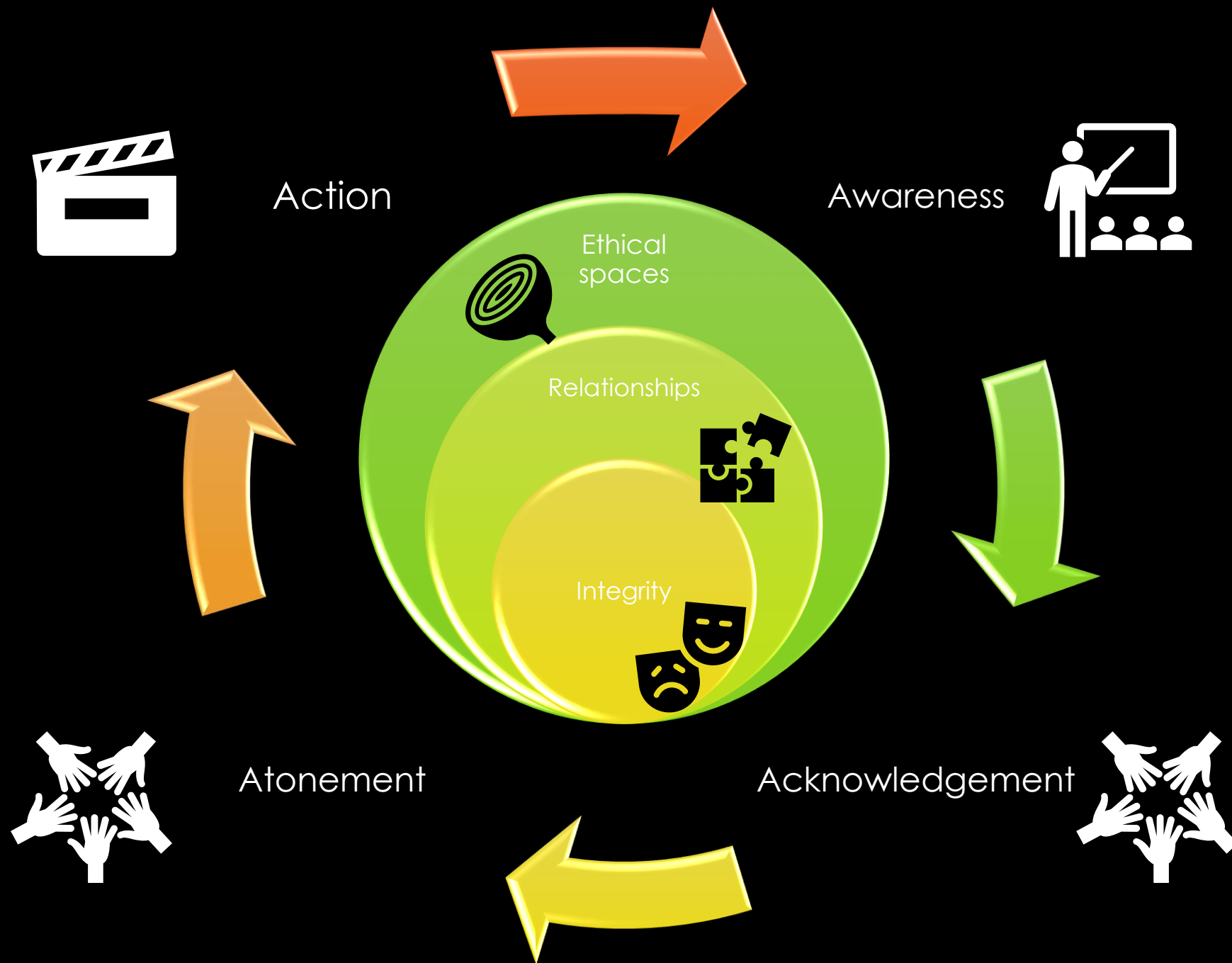
- Ne, K'ə Dene Ts'ı́ı́ Forum
- Sahtú Youth Network
- ACCWM
- North American Caribou Workshop



Structural (ethical spaces)

- Community conservation planning
- Ne, K'ádı́ Ke – Keepers of the Land
- Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- Five Public Listening Sessions

LEARNING CYCLE



APPROACHES

Building wellness,
leadership, skills



Knowledge co-
production



Cross-generational



On the land



Community planning

4. INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

- Conservation in times of decline
- Socio-cultural value
- Caribou behaviour



- Dene ts'ı́ı́ (way of life)
- Dene ɁeɁa (law) grounded in stories
 - Respect, sharing
- Four program areas (harvest, habitat, **governance**, knowledge)
 - Ɂekwé gha máhsı ts'ı́ı́we (ceremonial harvest)
 - Dene béré kats'ı́ı́we (alternative harvest)



- Traditional Dene structures more effective than TAH
- More comprehensive conservation tools
- Dene code or enforcement system (ENR as last resort)
- Majority yárégo (younger male) and minimal tsída (female) ceremonial harvest
- TAH “only if required for conservation” (SDMCLCA 13.5.2)

SRRB 2016 BLUENOSE EAST HEARING FINDINGS



RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITY, DENE TS'ILİ

“Dehlá Got'ine, have a constitutionally-protected right to hunt caribou, but hunting is integral to the culture and survival of Dehlá Got'ine. It is more than a right – it is a sacred responsibility that must be fulfilled for the Dehlá Got'ine and the caribou to maintain their relationship.”

– David Codzi, Colville Lake, 2016

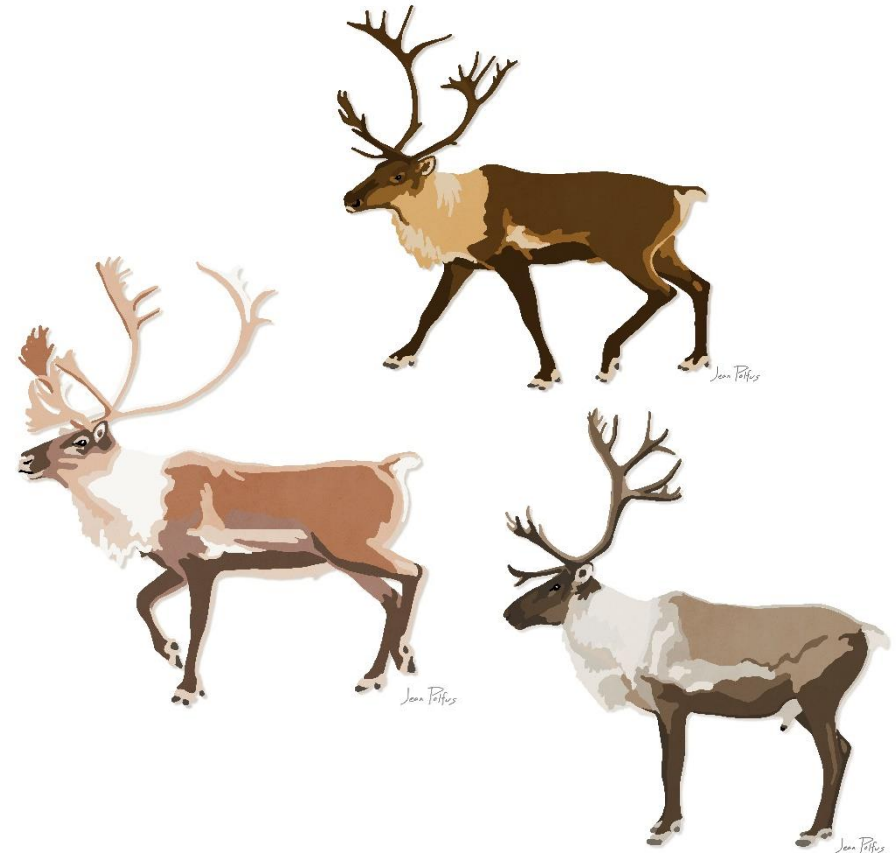
COLVILLE 2020 PUBLIC LISTENING

SAHTÚ RAGÓ?A (HUNTING LAWS) AND APPROACHES TO WILDLIFE HARVESTING



LOOKING FORWARD: “HOT TOPICS” PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS

1. Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting (Colville Lake, 2020)
2. Knowledge of Caribou and Landscapes (2021)
3. Wildfires and Climate Change (2022)
4. Predators (2023)
5. Mixed Economy (2024)
6. Final Hearing Report (2024)



5. INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Setting management actions for shared herds



INDIGENOUS
TALKING
CIRCLE



17th NORTH AMERICAN
CARIBOU WORKSHOP
2018 | Ottawa

WORKING
TOGETHER
DISCUSSION
PAPER AND
CALLS TO
ACTION

A new context (reconciliation)

Relationships with caribou

Indigenous responsibility

Governance

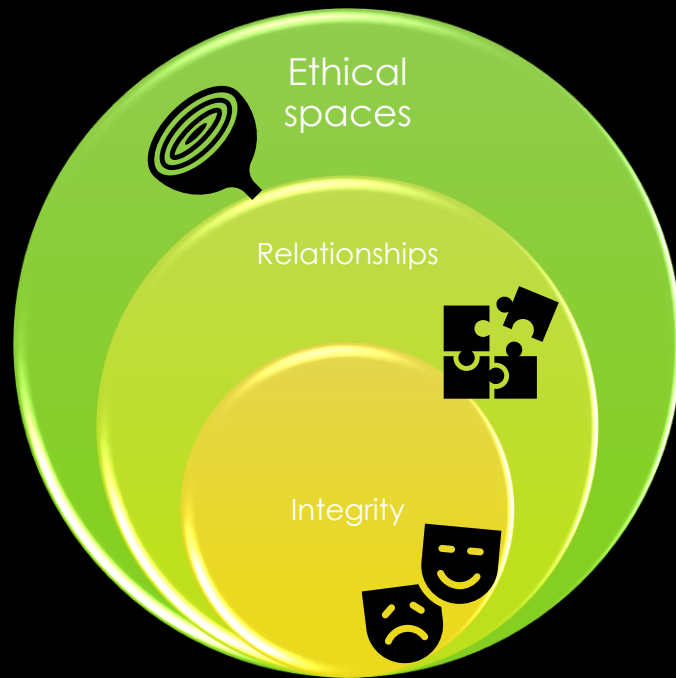
Gender roles

Youth

Indigenous knowledge

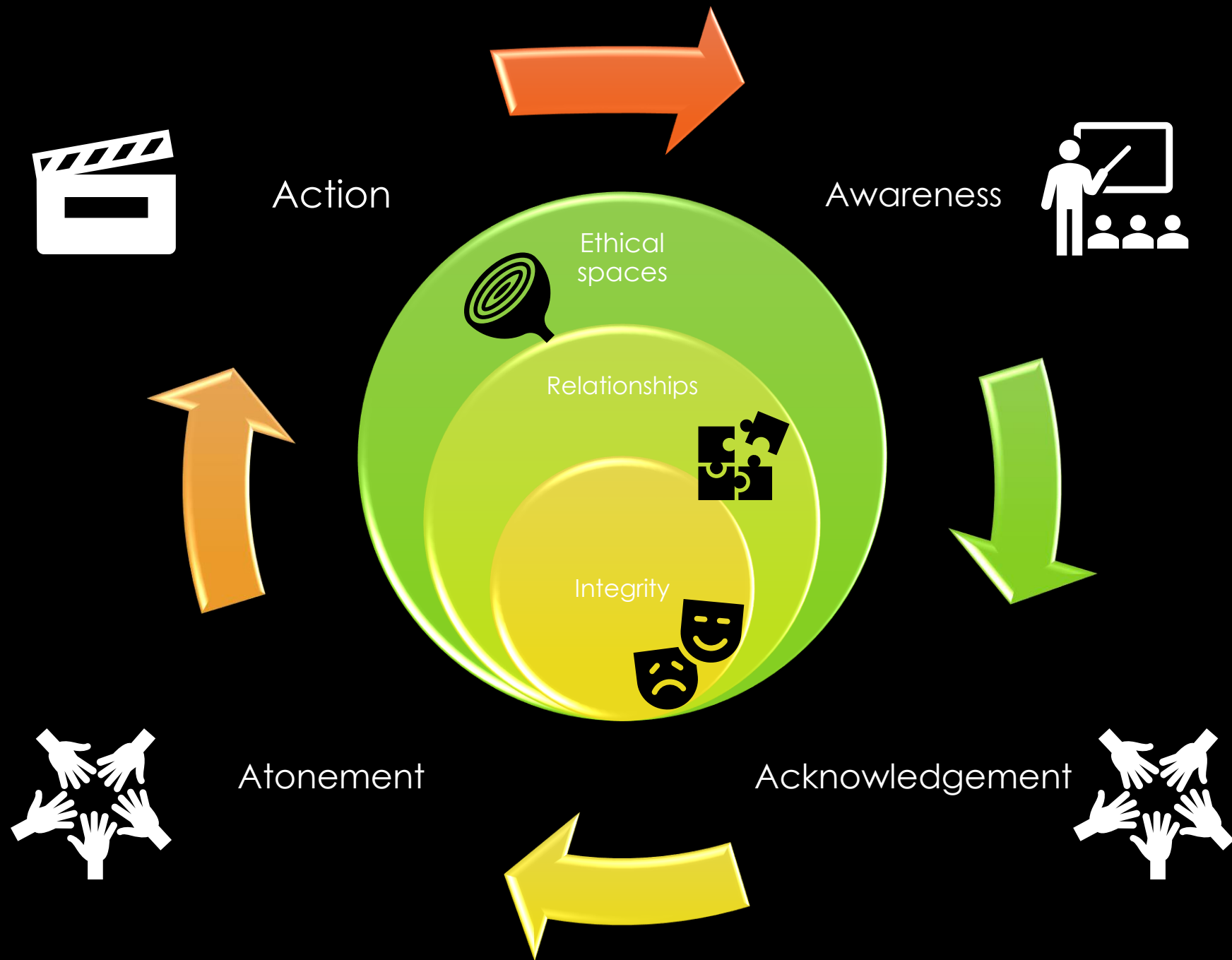
Time for action

OUR COLLECTIVE STRENGTHS



- Diversity of approaches, rooted in local ways of life and laws
- Community-to-community relationships
- Consensus-building: ACCWM (Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management)

LEARNING ACROSS REGIONS



6. CONCLUSION

A challenge for our time





SAHTÚ CO-MANAGEMENT IN A RECONCILIATION FRAME

- Approaching 30 years since the land claim agreement
- Ecological change and crises
- Resurgence in Indigenous environmental governance
- An exciting time – time for trying new things
- Learning by doing, evaluation and planning



MOVING FORWARD ACROSS BOUNDARIES: SAHTÚ LESSONS LEARNED

- Training for all partners in new-old approaches
- Community-to-community meetings and joint planning with respect to shared concerns
 - Ways of life
 - Indigenous laws
 - Shared territory and wildlife
- Community delegate participation in ACCWM meetings
- Annual Sahtú Public Listening Sessions and other Public Hearings
- Other forums for sharing knowledge

QUANA! MÁHSI!

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