



# LEO Workshop

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*The Local Environmental  
Observer Network*

[www.leonetnetwork.org](http://www.leonetnetwork.org)



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM



Permafrost Melt along the Yukon River. Courtesy of Jonathan Henzie



Shishmaref Coast, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Courtesy of Dennis Davis



Goals of Training:

Monthly Update

Working together on  
Observations

Break out rooms on  
Zoom

Review and discussion  
of workshop

*Where traditional, local, and scientific knowledge  
meet to learn and discuss a changing environment.*

# The Focus of LEO is Environmental Change

Local observers report on unusual environmental events that are time and location specific. These events may be personal observations or news articles describing an event.

The screenshot shows the LEO Network website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the LEO Network logo, a 'Sign In / Join' link, and a language dropdown set to 'English'. Below the navigation bar is a large map of Alaska and the surrounding regions, including parts of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The map is populated with numerous blue circular dots representing observations. Key locations labeled on the map include Utqiagvik, Nome, Bethel, Anchorage, Whitehorse, and Juneau. A prominent 'Join LEO' button is overlaid on the map. On the left side of the page, there is a section titled 'Observer Network' with a grid of small images and a text box that reads: 'Local environmental events that help us understand our world. Contribute your observations or news articles.' Below this is a video player with the text: 'Watch our short video to learn more about the LEO Network.'

Each one of these colored dots represents an observation.

To view observations, you must be a LEO member.

Sign up to become a LEO member at:

[www.leonetwork.org](http://www.leonetwork.org)

As of February 2024, there are 5000 LEO Members (local observers, interested viewers, and topic experts)



**The goal of LEO is to connect local observers and topic experts to share information about environmental change.  
There are four steps to the LEO process:**

LEO observer submits an observation



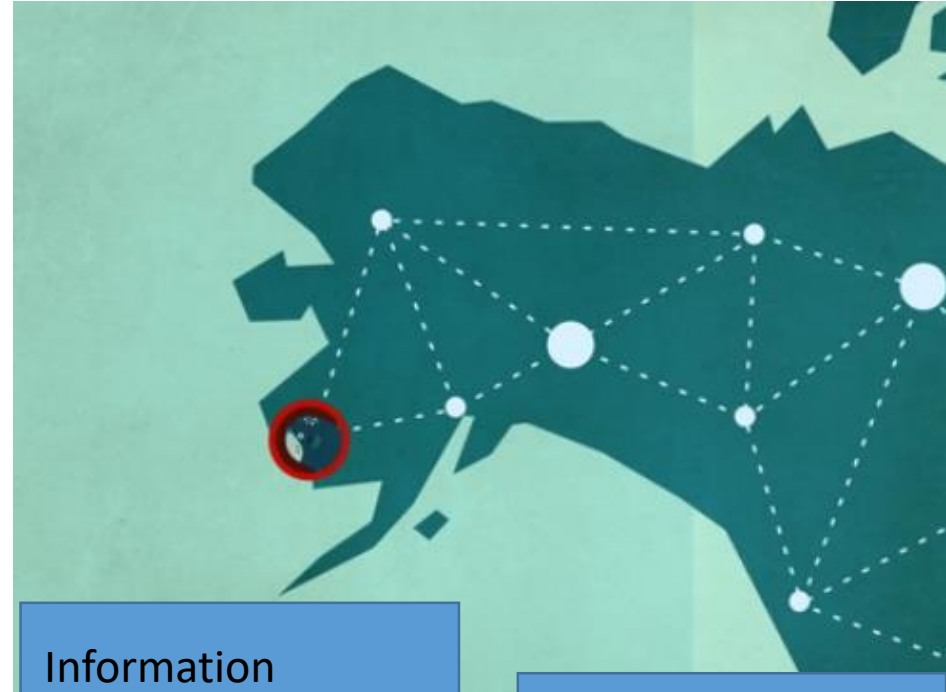
LEO editors add contextual information, and forward the observation to a topic expert to provide more information



Information provided by the topic expert is added to the LEO post and sent back to the observer



The post is reviewed, then published to the network and becomes available to other LEO members



# Climate Change: Our Ways Forward

Part 1 - 2.7.24

Speakers: Wilson Justin, Antra Elder  
Moderator: Victoria Hykes - Santa Tina Gay

our memory is in our blood.  
We cannot forget - victoria

it's making an impact here in AK  
**LEO NETWORK**  
use it post

please check it out!  
our knowledge shares with a simple and a simple package

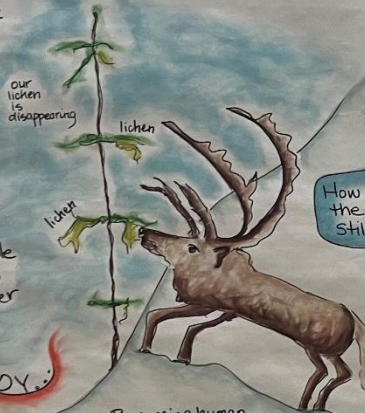
We have

one heart.  
there is no hierarchy here.

We can from people who valued two things - no matter what -  
**BEAUTY... JOY...**

We build forward with this

Modern English cannot capture our ways forward.  
- Wilson Justin -



our lichen is disappearing

lichen

Becoming human happened when we started taking care of each other.

And we are now needing to remember to do this again.  
- Victoria Hykes -

How do we protect our water?

- For:
- humans
- fish
- animals
- plants

What advice do you have for our youth as they carry our voices forward?

We need our state laws to be changed: our constitution is where the problem starts.

Education about how interconnected we are - biology, chemistry. We must learn to work without ego!

How do we save the caribou we still have?

In a rational, tribal world, we wouldn't be in this position. But here we are. We must ration.

Caribou management must change

We need to use USDA \$ to understand Caribou food sources: what kinds of lichen are they eating now?  
- water sources must be identified and protected

What do we do about our Beluga Whales - if we aren't getting fish, neither are they.

How do we help the kids today to be educated about these things and to care about our future?

What if we used our knowledge to help make things that help animals persist and thrive?

Traditional knowledge isn't being held with the same respect as science... but we know the land... we know what is changing. Our knowledge should be taken seriously.

Lori Rock  
BigIdeaZoo.com  
@bigideazoo

## Alaska Forum on the Environment

Coming up in March! **ATCEM**  
March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

# Climate Change: Our Ways Forward:

Part 2 - 2.7.24  
Moderator: Santa Tina Gay  
Speakers: Lindsey Pierce, Jeanette Carlson, Susan Fienburg

Collaboration in the Chignikriks - shared resiliency - Jeanette Carlson, Susan Fienburg



listen with your eyes  
see with your ears

The Vietnam War era took away the first-born helpers' engagement and ability to lead us in our ways of knowing. The lingering trauma stole this away. You - our youth can help us find this again.  
- Wilson Justin



- Water Quality Threats:
- climate change impacts
- bacterial or chemical contamination
- erosion and sedimentation
- stormwater runoff
- oil and fuel spills
- mining impacts

Arctic Youth Ambassadors

Seth: we are trying to respond to how the archie is changing - our voices must be included

Lakerzie: I listen to how my grandpa would be leading

Rodney: we are facing a lot of change on the Yukon River - caribou are disappearing. These animals are part of who we are.

Taylor: it is good to speak on our native lands. We are on our native lands. We are on our native lands. We know our lands give us peace, include us. We are all a team.

18 to 22 yrs  
18 month ambassadorship

get in touch with Seth if you are interested

Watershed Plan

- cultural subsistence
- historical preservation

chignikwatershed.com

We must begin capturing water.  
We need our water to survive.



## Tingit & Haida Environmental Team

Ray Paddock  
Jesse, Jacyn, Brandi, Lindsey, Cer, Amy

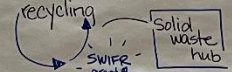
- Guardians Programs - build Stewardship
- Multiple Community programs
- Indian General Assistance Program IGAP
  - EPA programs help build capacity
  - data collection
  - ocean acidification
  - shellfish toxins
- Transboundary River Stewardship
  - multiple partners
  - baseline data collection through river sampling
  - creates jobs
  - provide scientific data
- Landslides and Extreme Weather Events
  - multiple collaborators
  - people in the communities

this allows us to hold climate project impacts account-able!

the cost of losing shellfish - irreplaceable

in-vessel Composting

email us: environmental@tingitandhaida.gov



Collaborative with our traditional foods program

Lori Rock  
BigIdeaZoo.com  
@bigideazoo

# Open Discussion on Environmental Changes

[www.leonetwork.org](http://www.leonetwork.org)

What has come into the [LEO Network](http://www.leonetwork.org) since the first  
of January?



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# Activity

# Observations in your community

LEO Observation: Divide up in Break out rooms



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# LEO Workshop Discussion

## Making an Observation: What did we learn together

- Present your scenario: Observation, and categories?
- What did you learn in your group?
- What were some barriers or obstacles to your scenario?
- Final thoughts?
- Example of 2023 [Year in review](#)





If you have any questions about LEO, or would like to set up a webinar to introduce your community members to LEO, please contact :

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Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

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