

COMMUNITY KITS

2019 - 2020



A project made possible by

LUSH
FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS



Water Rangers empowers citizens to collect water quality observations and view open data using our web platform, app, water stewardship training, and water quality testkits. We envision a future where Canada is a world leader in environmental stewardship through innovation, and where water-based research and crowdsourced information make it easy for all Canadians to understand when water is healthy and when it needs help.

**Water Rangers makes
water testing accessible,
affordable, and accurate.**

About this project

Thanks to this grant, we sent 30 testkits to 12 Indigenous communities in 4 provinces and 1 territory. We were able to provide these communities with tools to test water quality now and for years to come. These testkits also helped provide a safe and exciting learning opportunity for many Indigenous youth while respecting Covid-19 restrictions. These testkits will stay in communities and be used next year to train more people! We've been able to show that weekly water testing increases people's sense of connection with nature which has been proven to increase overall wellbeing! Although we love open data, a lot of our Indigenous partners have concerns about data sovereignty so we made sure to address these concerns. Most of the groups kept detailed private logs of the tests they did instead of using our public online platform. They told us they tested in over 30 water bodies!





12

Indigenous
communities

30

Water quality
testkits



274

People trained in water testing

“The water is where I feel most at peace and being able to share these experiences with others is what I enjoy most. Working to provide long term data for a lot of water bodies can address a lot of gaps in current water governance mechanisms.”

- Lucas King, Manitoba



90%

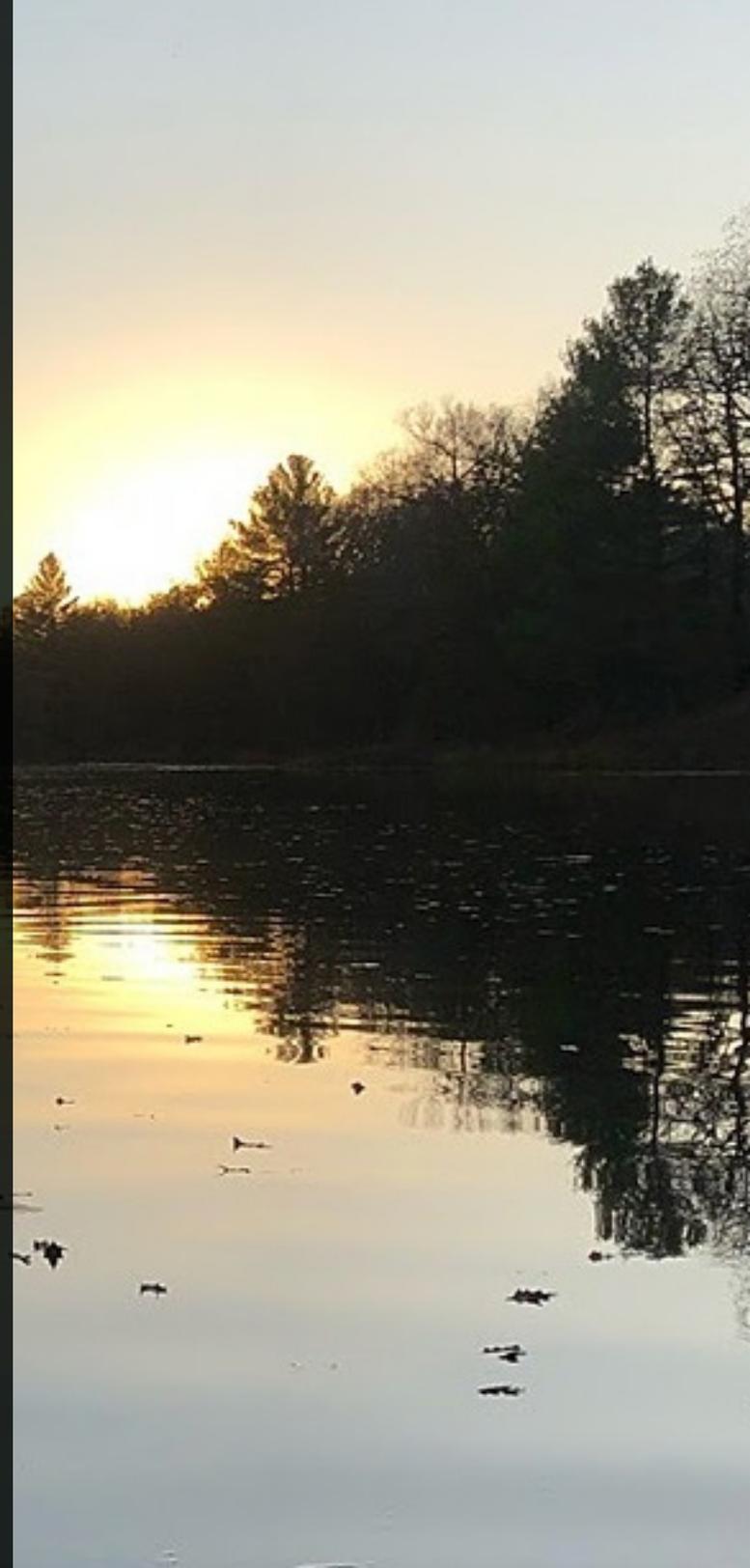
visited new places that they had never been before

Testing builds connections with nature

We observed a statistically significant increase in how people personally relate to nature for people who tested weekly. Nature relatedness has been proven to increase wellbeing, happiness and promote pro-environmental behaviour.

Erin Goose Government of the Northwest Territories (Deline, NWT)

"This past visit to Deline was great, the kids were very well behaved and we had so much fun. The kits were great as well. The kids were mostly interested in the pH water sampling strips. We also had fun trying to get water from the choppy lake with the small containers. All in all the kits are a great way for young people to see how water samples are an important part of Aquatic life, especially in communities like Deline, where it is surrounded by a lot of water."



Gillian Leitch

AlterEden

(Cambridge, Ontario)

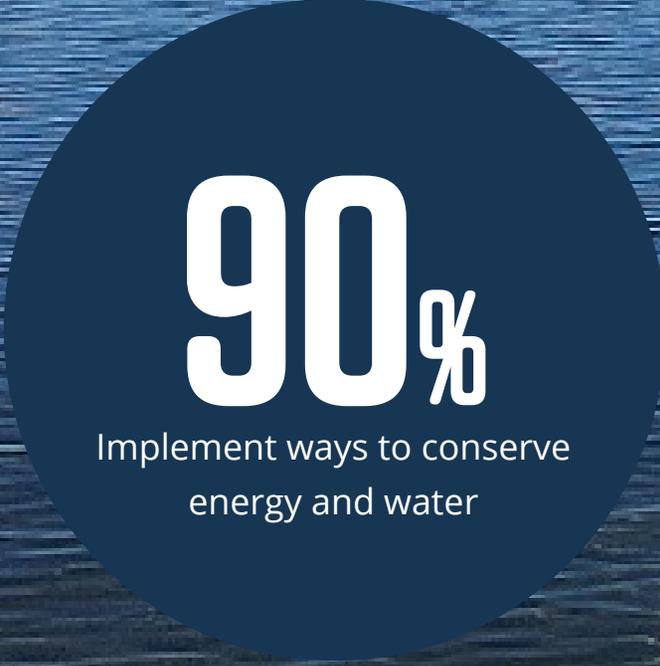
“We have just shared a mini test kit with the science teacher at our partner location Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, which will increase our reach to over 150 young Indigenous people. We are partnered with them in the AlterEden project Minogin Gitiganis where we share skills and TEK among Indigenous youth participants.”





100%

believe it is important to do what
we can to preserve the natural
environment



90%

Implement ways to conserve
energy and water

“I have grown up on the shores of Lake Superior and am very committed to being a voice for this watershed. I was a part of Ocean Bridge 2019 cohort, have sailed Lake Superior participating in citizen science, have led shoreline cleanups, and am pretty much always on or in the water- be it my sailboat, a canoe, swimming, scuba diving. I am curious to continue my learning about the water quality, and to share the stories of the results. I am VERY curious, and have been hoping to get my hands on a water test kit for a while now to quench some of my questions.

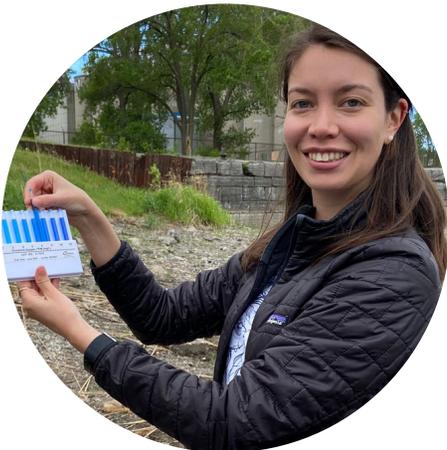
-Marison Dyck (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

Expanding our team



Kat Kavanagh

This grant allowed our Executive Director, Kat Kavanagh, to further expand her team and become a more influential leader in the community. The team grew with the addition of Laura Gilbert, a Ph.D. Candidate at McGill University focusing on water stewardship. She co-led the project with Kat. This gave her the chance to gain experience in leading community based research projects. Laura also worked with Juno Garrah, our education coordinator, to provide communities with added education resources. Emelia Duguay, our sustainability intern, worked on the user flows by writing content to answer people's most frequent questions when they use our testkits, app, and online platform. Cassidy, our communications coordinator, helped with recruiting, and crafting thoughtful social media posts to keep our community informed about the amazing work of those who received testkits. Together Kat, Laura, Juno, Emelia and Cassidy learnt from one another and from the influential women who received testkits, like Gillian Leitch who started the not-for-profit AlterEden and Kimbaya Carriere who helps run land learning camps for Indigenous youth.



Laura Gilbert



Juno Garrah



Cassidy Swanston



Emelia Duguay



THANKS!

Thank you to all the participants for their enthusiasm. Thanks, too, to LUSH for supporting this project! We couldn't have done this without your help!

read more at waterrangers.ca

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