

# THE ARCTIC TOGETHER

EPISODE TWO | FEBRUARY 2023

## PODCAST

## SHOW NOTES & RESOURCES

*Centering Indigenous community voices, getting to the root of research, and what it means to be “Arctic Together” through sharing story*

 Podcast Website

## This Episode

Indigenous Law

Land, Air, Water Stewardship

The RELAW Program

Intersectionality of Self & Community

Moonstone Drum Group



Navigating the New Arctic  
Community Office



ALASKA  
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# About

The *Arctic Together* podcast is a series that centers Indigenous community voices, Indigenous scholars, and highlights different approaches to issues and solutions in Arctic-based and Indigenous research. The Navigating the New Arctic (NNA) Community Extension Office at Alaska Pacific University is the content developer and host of the *Arctic Together* podcast, and aims to build awareness, partnerships, opportunities, and resources for collaboration. From local to international scales, to supporting the next generation of Arctic researchers, *Arctic Together* offers stories and wisdom towards a more holistic understanding of the Arctic. We also feature segments that share NNA community stories, science and research.

*Arctic Together* is a podcast series that features intersections of visual artists or musicians and research and science communication perspectives. Special guests will share gifts of wisdom, knowledge and lessons learned within their respective journeys through storytelling or dialogue. Each episode in the series will focus on topics such as co-production of knowledge, education and outreach, policy or data sovereignty, and will highlight rotating geographic regions, countries, peoples, and spaces within the Arctic and beyond. It is our hope to improve communications and dissemination about research processes or project-specific stories, and share personal testimonies about what it means to be in relationship with one another — to be *Arctic Together*.

In **this episode**, we feature guest speakers from the region that is now known as Canada, and the topics of Indigenous law, traditional law, and Tribal governance. Indigenous Peoples are diverse, multi-talented beings and often wear multiple hats and serve in many different roles in communities; our guest speakers are also part of a womxn's hand drumming and singing group called Moonstone Drum Group!

— Produced by *Arctic Together* Co-Hosts  
KARLI TYANCE HASSELL & JAMES TEMTE

NNA-CO Community Extension Office  
Alaska Pacific University





Arctic Together Podcast Feature:

# RELAW

*Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air & Water*

*“Decenter yourself as a researcher to prioritize the questions that the community is asking.” - Rayanna*



**Summer Tyance** is an Anishinaabekwe youth from Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay First Nation) located in Northwestern Ontario, CA. Her traditional name is Anongkwe and she is an artist, poet, podcaster, traditional fancy shawl dancer, and hand drummer. She also works at West Coast Environmental Law as the RELAW Communications Coordinator. Summer is a passionate being who is a strong advocate for Indigenous rights, and has hopes to pursue Indigenous law in the near future.



**Rayanna Seymour-Hourie** is Anishinaabe (Ojibway) from Lake of the Woods in Treaty #3 Territory (Northwestern Ontario). She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2015 from the University of Manitoba, and earned her Juris Doctor (law degree) from Robson Hall, University of Manitoba in 2018. She is now a Staff Lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law, managing the RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water) program in Coast Salish Territories, Vancouver BC. Rayanna's work has focused on water protection, and how the laws and teachings of water can inform humans of their responsibilities to each other, the natural world and spiritual world. Rayanna's dream is that all Indigenous nations protect their traditional lands against unwanted development, pollution and outside control with their own traditional laws. It is her career goal to support and work alongside Indigenous nations in achieving this dream. Rayanna is an Aunty, a jingle dress dancer, reader and thinker. She loves to travel and spend time with her family and friends.

# INDIGENOUS LAW

"Land means more than [ownership] – it encompasses culture, relationships, ecosystems, social systems, spirituality, and law."

- Indigenous Foundations (UBC, 2009)

## Indigenous Law Research Unit

(University of Victoria, 2015)



**Watch Here:** An Introduction to Indigenous Law with First Nation legal scholars. The video provides an introduction to legal tradition, story, and community in relationship to the land.



*Ahtna Diné Elder Wilson Justin says that, "These traditional laws apply regardless of what, when, and where we are."*

*(Alaska Forum on the Environment, 2023)*

There are over 40 different Indigenous groups in the Arctic and hundreds of communities that have distinct culture, language, and Tribal or traditional laws and governance. For example, there are the Sámi in circumpolar areas of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Northwest Russia, Nenets, Khanty, Evenk and Chukchi in Russia, Unanga/Aleut, Yup'ik and Inuit (Iñupiat) in Alaska (among other Alaska Native groups in Alaska and 229 federally recognized Tribes), Inuit (Inuvialuit) in Canada and Inuit (Kalaallit) in Greenland. If you are conducting research within Arctic spaces, please ensure you are aware of historical and contemporary Tribal governance, traditional territories, regions, and jurisdictions.

### Arctic Indigenous Peoples & International Law

- The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is a high-level advisory body with the mandate to deal with Indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.
- The legal and policy implications of Indigenous Data Sovereignty - Rebecca Tsosie, 2020
- There are ethical laws and implications that are unique to specific areas. Some nations and communities have direct Tribal laws and protocols related to research practices, Tribal engagement and collaborations. These ethical principles and laws can be administered by the community, Elders, knowledge keepers, Councils, corporations, regional or national bodies.





*"Indigenous law exists independently of recognition from the state. It is embodied in, among other sources, the stories and language of each Indigenous nation." - WCEL*



**RELAW:** Learn about inspiring ways that Indigenous nations are revitalizing and applying their own laws to environmental challenges in their territories.



**W**est Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) is a non-profit group of environmental lawyers and strategists dedicated to safeguarding the environment through law. Since 1974, they have successfully worked with communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all levels of government, including First Nations governments, to develop proactive legal solutions to protect and sustain the environment.

#### **Transforming the legal landscape by:**

- Developing cutting-edge solutions to strengthen environmental laws
- Revitalizing and holding up Indigenous laws
- Providing legal assistance to communities

**Connect Here:**





# INTERSECTIONS

A recurring podcast segment about the intersections of community, culture, and research with a focus on art, film, poetry, music or media.



## MOONSTONE DRUM GROUP

*From left to right: Casey Desjarlais, Claire Shannon-Akiwenzie, Jade Banshee-Brass, Elder Kelly White, Summer Tyance, Dakota Anderberg, Vanessa Chatelaine, Rayanna Seymour*

***We are grateful to lend our voices and prayers as we continue to heal ourselves, our community, and our ancestors.***

*- Moonstone Drum Group (Instagram, 2021)*



**Moonstone Drum Group** is a group of 8 womxn singers and hand drummers who come together with much pride, love and courage. They offer healing through voice, community interconnectedness and sisterhood. This episode, we discuss the intersections of identity, Indigenous law, and building community through singing and drumming.

Moonstone Drum Group is a strong and grounding presence in the community through prayer and healing. They perform at various spaces like the CIRCLES Festival, celebrations for Indigenous Peoples Day, Truth and Reconciliation events, community gatherings, and hosting workshops for traditional crafting and culture.



[MOONSTONE FACEBOOK](#)



[MOONSTONE INSTAGRAM](#)



[MOONSTONE EMAIL](#)



# Podcast Show Notes

Click the links below for more information & resources shared by guests.



- West Coast Environmental Law Website
  - Indigenous law & the RELAW Program
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
- Aki Kid - a short documentary by Summer Tyance ft. Moonstone Drum Group



## Featured Music

Moonstone Drum Group  
*Sakawhik* - Nehiyaw (Cree) song  
taught by Sandy Scofield  
*Water Song*

## Further Reading & Resources

- About the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
  - A brief history, timeline, land significance & mandates.
- Alaska Native Policy Center
  - Created to support the Native voice and perspective in the public policy-making process.
- Federal Indian Law & Tribal justice systems in Alaska
  - A collection of course units designed to share Alaska Tribal Governance, jurisdiction & sovereignty.
- The Arctic Institute: Indigenous Rights & Issues Library
  - A collection of resources, books, legal analysis, backgrounders and reports featuring Arctic Indigenous Peoples, law and policy with an international focus.





*I do want my art to have an impact. The law can be very rigid in some forms - how can I incorporate that spirit into this medium? I hope that my legacy can open doors that were once closed for us. I want to put heart knowledge and art knowledge into everything I do.*

*- Summer Tyance, Artist  
on art, law and leaving a legacy*

#### References

1. Indigenous Foundations, 2009. "Land & Rights", First Nations & Indigenous Studies, University of British Columbia, Retrieved from: [https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/land\\_rights/](https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/land_rights/)
2. Todd, K., Snyder, E., McBeth, R. 2015. "Indigenous Law Video On Demand", Indigenous Law Research Unit, University of Victoria, Retrieved from: <https://ilru.ca/indigenous-law-video-on-demand/>
3. Arctic Centre, n.d., "Arctic Indigenous Peoples", Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Retrieved from: <https://www.arcticcentre.org/EN/arcticregion/Arctic-Indigenous-Peoples>
4. Justin, W. Personal statement, "Climate Change: Our Ways Forward, Part II Session", Alaska Forum on the Environment, 2023.



## Navigating the New Arctic Community Office

The Navigating the New Arctic Community Office (NNA-CO) builds awareness, partnerships, opportunities, and resources for collaboration and equitable knowledge generation within, between, and beyond the research projects funded by the National Science Foundation's NNA Initiative. The office builds capacity in early career researchers and provides unique opportunities to inspire and engage a wide audience toward a more holistic understanding of the Arctic—its natural environment, built environment, and diverse cultures and communities.

The NNA-CO is supported through a cooperative agreement (Award # 2040729) with the U.S. National Science Foundation.

For more information, visit [nna-co.org](https://nna-co.org)