



**Confederacy of Treaty
Six First Nations**



NSWA
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Drought Resiliency Needs Assessment in Treaty No. Six First Nations



ClimateWest

Forum 2025

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Territorial Acknowledgement

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance acknowledges that the traditional land on which our watershed resides is in Treaty 6 Territory, Treaty 8 Territory, and the Métis Homeland.

We deeply respect and wish to honour the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory since time immemorial, including the Nêhiyawak/Cree, Denesuliné/Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakotalsga/Nakota Sioux, and the Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples.

We further acknowledge this territory as the Métis homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel.

Drought Resiliency Needs Assessment

Outline

1. Introductions
2. Drought Needs Assessment
3. Lessons from the project
4. Questions / Discussion





CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS

The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations serves as a united political voice for the continued **protection of the fundamental Treaty, inherent, and Human Rights of the Treaty peoples** of member Nations.

- 16 Member Nations
- 5 Executive Chiefs
- 3 Tribal Councils
- 1 Grand Chief



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WATERSHED ALLIANCE

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, protection, and sustainable management of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed.



Drought Resiliency Needs Assessment

Background

- Critical gap in support mechanisms available to First Nations facing the challenges of climate adaptation, in the context of drought
- Alberta Water Council Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought project
 - Focus on municipalities

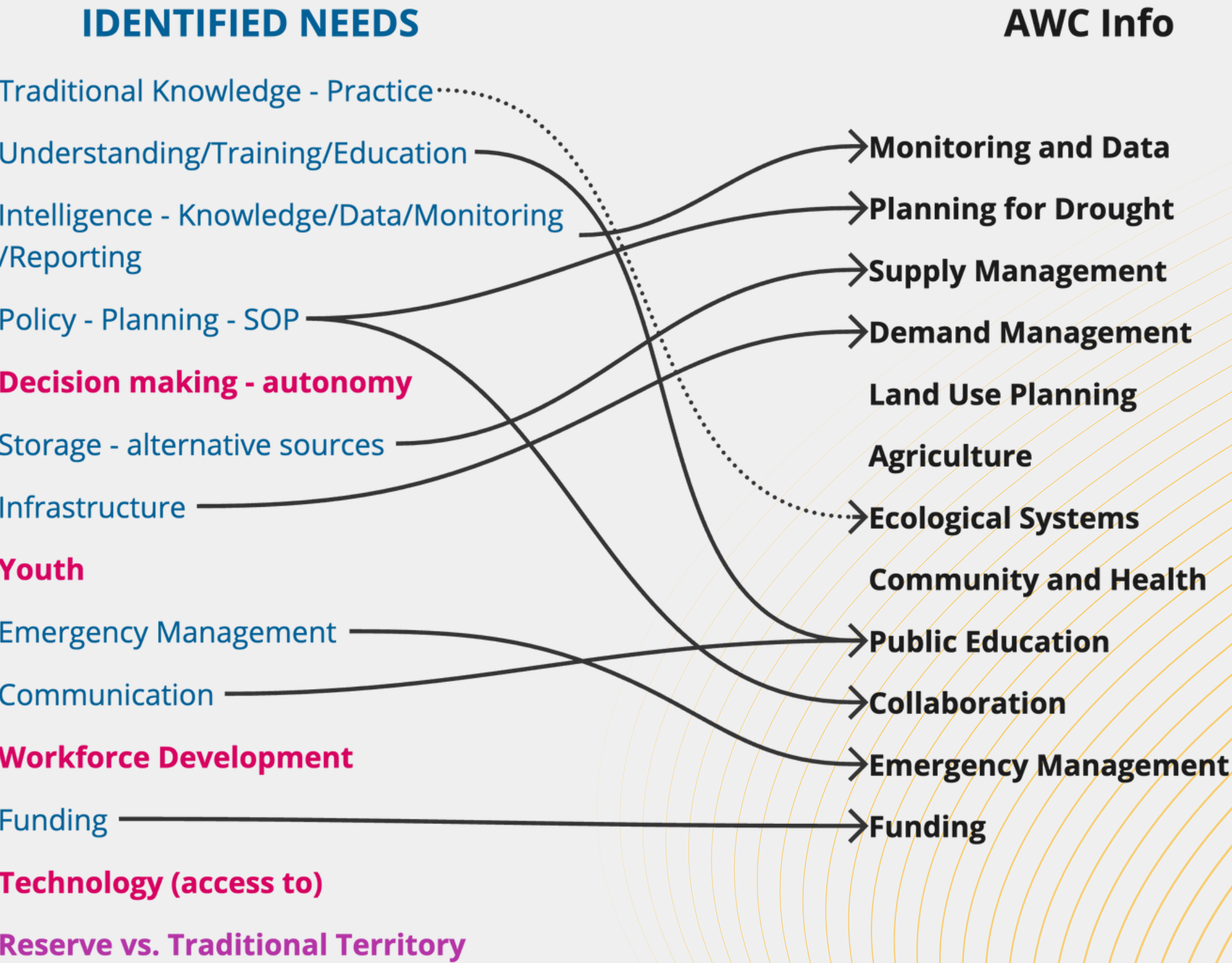
Needs Assessment

- Co-draft a **Drought Planning Needs Assessment**
 - Insights from First Nations within Treaty No. 6 territory in Alberta.
 - Review of existing materials
- Build awareness among First Nations for drought planning and enable collaboration.

This project aims to enhance the abilities of First Nations in the Treaty No. Six territory in the Alberta Region to adapt to changing climate conditions.



Needs Identified



Next Steps

Phase 2 Ideas

- Elder's and Knowledge Keepers Circle on Water
 - *Pipe Ceremony and set intentions*
- Awareness outreach to Confederacy member Nations
 - *In community events to show the needs work*
- Drought and Water Education Materials for communities
 - *Purpose built for communities, perhaps multiple languages*
- First Nations Drought Resource Toolkit
 - *Addressing drought related needs in communities*

Lessons

- **Worldviews**

- *Relations not Transactions*
- *Water is our relative, honoured through ceremony and care*
- *Everything is connected. We have a responsibility to water as part of a larger web of kinship with the land, the animals, the spirits, and one another*

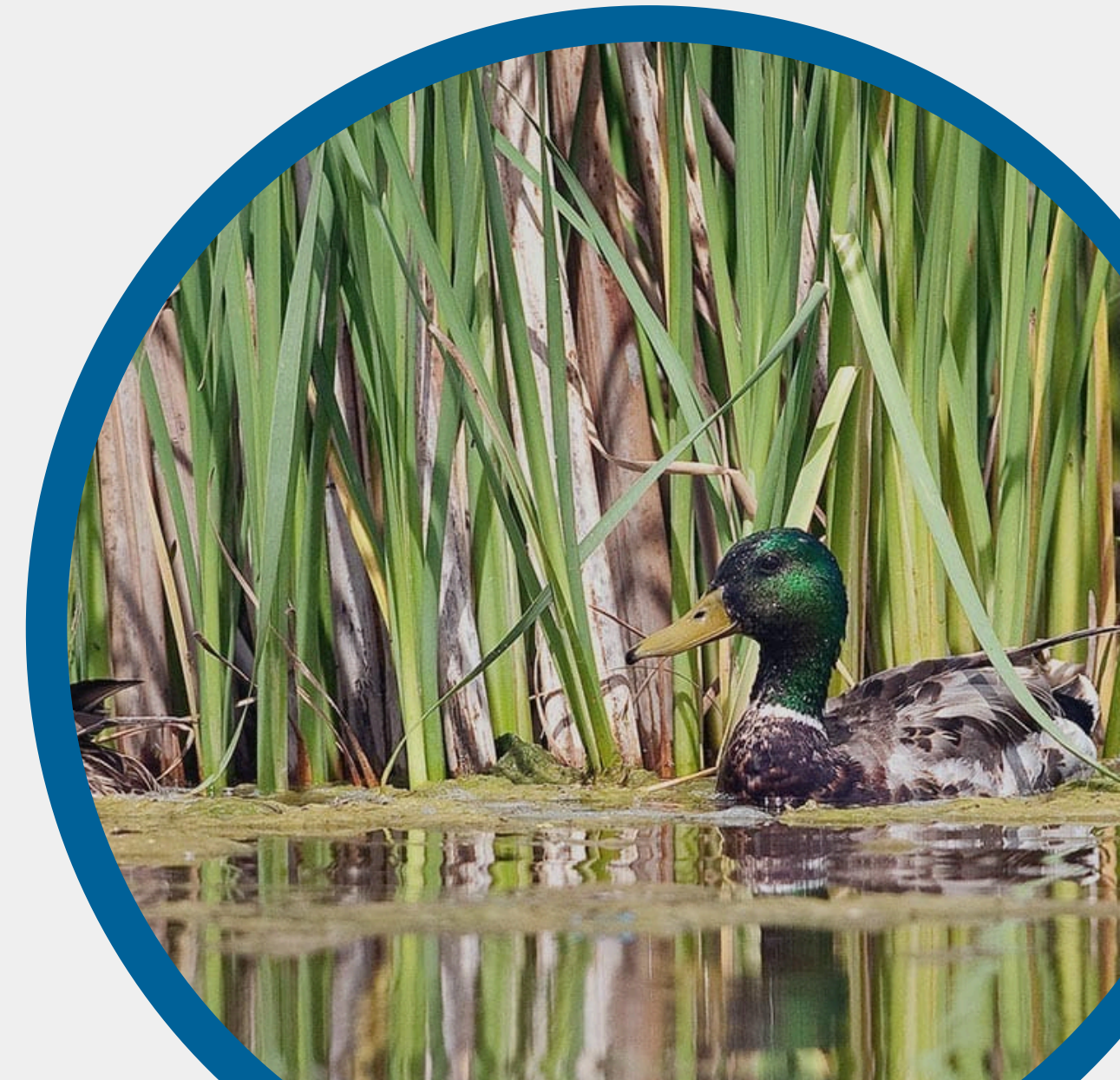
- **Trust**

- *Relations not Transactions*
- *Non-profit organization vs. government vs. industry*
- *Work is for First Nations, not an outside entity*
- *Time*



Lessons

- **Water Security vs. Drought Preparedness**
 - *Often high levels of water insecurity among communities*
 - *Connected to Emergency Management and ability to respond*
- **Sharing**
 - *Support and facilitate sharing amongst Nations*
 - *Indigenous project lead*
- **Capacity**
 - *Ability to attend and travel*
 - *Provide logistics support*





Questions & Discussion

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