

The Délı̄ne mapping project: Language, Culture, History

This presentation introduces a community mapping project based in Délı̄ne, a First Nations community in the North of Canada. The mapping project brings together experts from various fields, Elders and other knowledge keepers from the community and draws from rich experiences from more than three decades of research. To date more than 240 Dene place names have been collected and their locations have been mapped using Google Earth together with GPS data. In a separate database cultural, historic and land use information about the places has been gathered. In yet another step more than 200 audio and video recordings, some dating back to the 70ties as well as others that were recorded in recent years specifically for the purpose of this project, are searched for narratives connected to these places. At the moment a team of Elders and other knowledge keepers, linguists and computer experts are working to combine the rich information including transcribed and translated narratives as well as photographs on an online map that will be made accessible to the community.