Year In Review

Verdde Indigenous Education

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The Vision of the Verdde Indigenous Education

The vision of the Verdde Indigenous Education Thematic Network is to foster collaboration across Northern Indigenous communities, strengthen the resilience and determination of the educators who work with us, and to develop strategies for embedding Indigenous knowledges, languages, and cultures across our education systems.

Collaborative projects

- ***A Model of Life Long Learning for Indigenous Educators***; a collaboration involving 12 Indigenous educators from across Northern Sápmi and Canada.
- ***Duodji and Ilusivut (Art and Crafts) as Indigenous Pedagogy***; a GALI funded knowledge- sharing project with six online Indigenous education seminars, hosted by Labrador Campus, Memorial University.
- ***Sharing and strengthening Indigenous knowledges on Land through the searvelatnja principle***: Norwegian UArctic-funded development project with pre-and post online seminars and a workshop in person. Hosted by Sámi allaskuvla.



UArctic Congress 2026*. Photo: Katie Olson

Conference presentations

- ***Indigenous knowledges and languages in Indigenous Education*** presentation and workshop at the UArctic Congress Tørshavn, May 2026. Angela Lunda, University of Alaska Southeast; Buddy North, University of Alaska, Anchorage; Amy Topkok, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Marikaisa Laiti, Sámi allaskuvla; Sylvia Moore, Heather Angnatok, Labrador Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland. *See photo above.
- ***Duodji and Ilusivut (Arts and Crafts) as Pedagogy in the Circumpolar North***. at Sámi and Indigenous Education Conference, Guovdageaidnu, October 2026. Angela Lunda, University of Alaska Southeast; Marikaisa Laiti, Sámi allaskuvla; Sylvia Moore, Ola Andersen,Labrador Campus, Memorial university of Newfoundland; Heather Angnatok, Memorial University of Newfoundland & Becky Mearns, Nunavut Arctic College.

Gatherings and Knowledge Sharing

- ***Lighting the Fire Within***: a collaborative, Land-based workshop convened in Guovdageaidnu, Norway by Verdde lead Marikaisa Laiti and the Sámi University of Applied Science (see above Norwegian UArctic-funded development project).
- ***Indigenous Crafters Panel***: The first of a series of three panels featuring Indigenous crafters and educators from Canada, Alaska, and Sápmi. The first session spotlighted the work and knowledges of Inuit crafters from Nunavut and Nunatsiavut, Canada.

Highlights 2025-2026

Throughout the past year we have brought together Indigenous students, educators, knowledge holders, and education researchers across the Circumpolar North through collaborative inquiry, land-based gatherings, and online knowledge sharing. Network members have expired Indigenous pedagogies through arts and crafts, storytelling, and relationships with Land, while creating opportunities for educators to share their knowledge and experiences. A highlight was the Indigenous Educators of the Arctic Conference (online) in February 2026, which brought together 24 presenters from four counties and more than 130 attendees. Collaborative projects and gatherings have supported continuing relationships among educators and helped make Indigenous educational practices more visible.



At the UArctic Congress 2026. Photo: Ole Sammol Buljo.



Angela Lunda and Laila Aleksandersen Nutti cleaning fish after checking the fishing nets. Guovdageaidnu 2025. Photo: Amy Topkok

Impact on Indigenous Education Across the Circumpolar North

Verdde has expanded opportunities for Indigenous educators to connect across the Circumpolar North. Through collaborative inquiry, crafting, storytelling, and land-based gatherings, participants have shared and examined education knowledge grounded in their communities, languages, cultures, and relationships with Land. These activities have underscored the importance of Indigenous educators as cultural and educational leaders and the need for sustained spaces in which educators can reflect together on local practices. The network's combination of online and in-person activities has supported participation across geographic distances while strengthening relationships among educators. Our goal is to have more Indigenous members and member institutions to participate this work.



Meeting with knowledge holder in Sámi food Ellen Cecilie Triumf-Buljo. Angie Lunda, Sylvia Moore, Amy Topkok, Ola Andersen and Ellen Cecilia Triumf-Buljo. Photo: Marikaisa Laiti



Amy Topkok and Angie Lunda removing fish from the nets. Photo: Marikaisa Laiti

Anticipated impact of current and planned activities

Verdde hopes to continue strengthening a circumpolar community of Indigenous educators through collaborative inquiry, land-based learning, and shared reflection. By documenting and sharing pedagogical knowledge already lived in Indigenous communities, the network aims to increase its visibility and recognition in educational practice, scholarship, and policy, while supporting educators' ongoing leadership.

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Sámi University of Applied Sciences

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/verdde-indigenous-education/