



WORKSHOP REPORT | DECEMBER 2023

**NORTHERN AND ARCTIC ISLANDS STUDIES
RESEARCH THEMATIC NETWORK**

SETTING THE RESEARCH AGENDA

The University of the Arctic and the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development at Memorial University of Newfoundland would like to thank the Office of Public Engagement at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Global Affairs Canada for the financial support that made this workshop possible.

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This report was prepared by Bojan Fürst, manager of knowledge mobilization with the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Development at Memorial University of Newfoundland and the facilitator for this workshop.

Northern and Arctic Islands Studies Research thematic network workshop

INTRODUCTION

On December 8-9, 2023, the Harris Centre facilitated a research planning workshop for the Northern and Arctic Islands Studies Research thematic network of the University of the Arctic (UArctic). The goals of the workshop was to help define a couple of potential projects that would provide a strategic research direction for the network. The workshops took place at the Signal Hill Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a network of universities, colleges, research institutes, and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the North. UArctic, through its collaborative activities in the fields of education, research, and outreach aims to enhance human capacity in the North.

Created through the Arctic Council, UArctic is committed to upholding its principles of sustainable development as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. UArctic is constituted as an international association based in Finland.

For more information on the University of the Arctic, please visit: <https://www.uarctic.org/>

NORTHERN AND ARCTIC ISLANDS STUDIES RESEARCH THEMATIC NETWORK

The Network supports Arctic and Northern Island communities to socially, materially, and culturally benefit from the discipline of Island Studies, which at its core believes that islands and islanders have the human and intellectual capacity to undertake research for themselves.

The Network is particularly interested in helping to develop resilient, dynamic, and sustainable communities, in the changing relationship between islanders and the sea, and exploring innovative ways of adapting to the effects of climate change. The Network engages in a range of activities from scholarly publications to public and citizen engagement events and collaborative engagement with policymakers, industry and NGOs.

For more details on the network activities, please visit: <https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/northern-and-arctic-island-studies-research/>

THE LESLIE HARRIS CENTRE OF REGIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development helps diverse groups and individuals from Newfoundland and Labrador connect with resources and research at Memorial University to help them address economic, cultural, social and ecological issues they face.

Working with all faculties and units at Memorial, the Centre builds connections, encourages informed debate and supports collaboration, enhancing the University and the Province through mutually beneficial partnerships.

For more information about The Harris Centre, please visit: <https://mun.ca/harriscentre/>

THE WORKSHOP

Dr. Andrew Jennings from the University of Highlights and Islands and the lead for the thematic network, Sheila Downer, VP Engagement for UArctic and the Northern Liaison for Memorial University, Dr. Laurie Brinklow from University of Prince Edward Island, and Bojan Fürst from The Harris Centre were the planning team for the workshop.

The workshop was structured around seven panel discussions followed by small table conversations among the participants who identified possible research projects in each of the themes. During the last two hours of the workshop on December 8, the participants identified two research projects they would like to pursue as a strategic direction for the thematic network.

A hybrid workshop model with some panelists and participants joining on-line was necessary to accommodate difficult travel schedules and other obligations among the participants. Those participating on-line had their own group facilitator and for the portion of the workshop they used interactive brainstorming platform called Mural to help to some extent mimic the experience of those participating in person at the Signal Hill Campus.

There were 30 registered participants at the workshop from around the North Atlantic rim. For the full list of participants see Appendix 1.

The next section lists all the themes with their associated panels and potential project ideas and research directions for each themes.

WORKSHOP THEMES

THEME 1: INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Moderator: *Andrew Jennings (University of Highlands and Islands (UHI))*

Panelists: *Dale Jarvis (HeritageNL); Linda Darling Stalker (St. Francis Xavier University); Andrew Lind (UHI), Siun Carden (UHI)*

The participants shared their experiences and examples of successful ICH projects from across the areas they work in. Much of the conversation focused on the role ICH can play in supporting a range of other activities that ensure community well being - economic and social as well as aspects of mental health and attraction and retention of new residents. The conversations around crafts and ICH also identified those aspects of the community knowledge as a useful tool to broaden island conversations to issues of climate change, island identities, language learning and preservation and economic and tourism development.

The Appendix 2.1 contains images of the ideas and conversations the participants contributed on this theme. In addition, the participants selected a heritage focused project as one of their strategic research directions.

THEME 2: TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FIXED LINKS

Moderator: *Bojan Fürst (Memorial University of Newfoundland)*

Panelists: *Laurie Brinklow (University of Prince Edward Island); Andrew Jennings (UHI); Firouz Gaini (University of the Faroe Islands)*

Transportation emerged as an important and complex conversation touching on economic, social and cultural impacts of transportation links between islands and islands and mainlands. The participants spoke about transportation impacts on demographics, food security tourism and migrations, but they also explored climate change effects on transportation links, changing island identities, and potential community-based governance systems for island transportation networks. Interestingly, the participants expanded the notion of island connectivity to include internet access as a form of connectivity that impacts every aspect of island lives in ways comparable to a fixed link or an unreliable ferry service.

The Appendix 2.2 contains images of the ideas and conversations the participants contributed on this theme.

THEME 3: FUTURE ISLAND INDUSTRIES (HYDROGEN, SPACE, ENERGY)

Moderator: *Ross Dwyer (UPEI)*

Panelists: *Simon Clarke (UHI); Nick Mercer (UPEI); Adele Lidderdale (UHI)*

The participants focused on a range of issues surrounding islands' industrial development. From NIMBY-ism to conflicts between traditional land uses and industrial impacts to the need for island-based case studies and a set of best-practices for island industrial development. They stressed the need for local and place-based solutions as well as for providing accurate and timely information to residents so they can assess impacts and risks of various industrial projects.

The full list of ideas and conversation notes on this topic is in the Appendix 2.3

THEME 4: CLIMATE CHANGE - INNOVATIVE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Moderator: *Bojan Fürst*

Presenter: *Ross Dwyer (UPEI)*

With some of the panelists absent due to other commitments, Climate Change conversation was more of a group discussion among all of the participants. It is important to note that climate change was also a part of EVERY conversations the participants had from traditional knowledge and languages to industrial development, transportation and blue economy.

The participants emphasized the need to build organizational and individual capacity in order to improve the retention of people on the island who can then contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. They also called for Northern and Arctic islands climate conversations that create an opportunity to share the stories and pass on intergenerational and community knowledge.

Appendix 2.4 contains the image summarizing this conversation.

THEME 5: INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Moderator: *Laurie Brinklow (UPEI)*

Panelists: *Amy Hudson (Memorial University of Newfoundland); Iain Caimbeul (UHI); Sylvia Moore (MUN); Viveka Velupillai (Giessen University)*

The participants had a complex and nuanced discussion around language preservation and acquisition as well as around different aspects of language politics. They draw connections between language and well being and community and cultural resilience as well as emphasized the need to find language transfer models that work for the island you. They call for case studies on approaches to increasing local language use that worked in various island jurisdictions and for virtual and physical spaces where islanders and island youth would have an opportunity to practice languages in supportive, multigenerational environment.

Appendix 2.5 contains the images summarizing this conversation.

THEME 6: BLUE ECONOMY

Moderator: *Rob Greenwood (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador)*

Panelists: *Kevin Anderson (Marin Institute - MUN); Andrew Halliday (UPEI)*

The blue economy discussions focused on the significant unrealized collaboration opportunities between the higher education institutions based on the participating islands. There was a clear emphasize on the significant opportunities blue economy represents for local economies if developed and managed for the benefit of local communities.

[I DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY FLIPCHARTS WITH THESE DISCUSSIONS]

THEME 7: ISLAND YOUTH

Moderator: *Bojan Fürst (MUN)*

Panelists: *Rosie Alexander (University of the West of Scotland); Eliza MacLaughlan (UPEI); Tara Keefe, (NunatuKavut)*

The conversation around island youth focused on provision of adequate services such as connectivity, transportation and culturally responsive mental health services as well as

the need for case studies on return migration, and the need address issues around credentialism and open ways to community-led approaches to education services.

These conversations are presented in the Appendix 2.7.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

During their stay on St. John's, the workshop participants had an opportunity to attend a storytelling circle event in the historic Crow's Nest naval officers' club organized in partnership with the St. John's Storytelling Association. They were also able to tour The Rooms provincial museum and gallery featuring the work of some of Newfoundland and Labrador's most prominent visual artists.

On Saturday, December 9, those who were able to stay for an additional day, had a chance to participate in St. John's Mumpers' Parade, a final part of the local Mumpers' Festival.

During the workshop, Dale Jarvis, executive director of the Heritage Association of Newfoundland and Labrador delivered a keynote address focusing on the Crafts at Risk program the organization was recently recognized for with the Governor General's medal.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

On Friday afternoon, the participants spent some time prioritizing and further developing two projects they felt would provide strong strategic direction for the research the thematic network is engaged in, create an opportunity to broaden the membership in the network and further engage with community partners.

The two projects the participants focused on are *Heritage as a Tool* and *O.C.E.A.N. – Offshore and Coastal Environments in the Atlantic North*.

HERITAGE AS A TOOL

This project grew from the discussions around intangible cultural heritage, languages, and island youth and intergenerational knowledge transfer. The participants envisioned *Heritage as a Tool* project as a comparative cross-island study of heritage as a tool in enhancing community vitality. The project would incorporate island youth exchange and intergenerational cross-island exchange opportunities.

The participants indicated that the Global Arctic Leadership Initiative Research and Education Fund (<https://mun.ca/uarctic/research-and-engagement-fund/>) as a potential funding opportunity. The Harris Centre administers the fund which supports the work of all Canadian UArctic members.

See appendix 3.2 for the image of the discussion summary.

O.C.E.A.N.

OFFSHORE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS IN THE ATLANTIC NORTH

The conversation around blue economy prompted a series of discussions and reflections around potential collaborations that are not realized at the moment between the UArctic members and their partners. The participants also saw a potential to shape this idea into a comprehensive research project that looks at blue economy not just through an economic lens, but also as a tool to create thriving island communities and help them grapple with climate change, youth retention, and service provision. The project would bring together multiple UArctic members and community partners.

The participants identified GALI funding (<https://mun.ca/uarctic/research-and-engagement-fund/>) as a potential resource that would help them bring together the partners in order to develop a larger research proposal potentially of interest to larger funders such as Canada's Tri-Council or Ocean Frontiers Institute (<https://www.ofi.ca/>).

The academic partners for the project would be: Memorial University of Newfoundland, Marine Institute at Memorial, University of Highlands and Islands, University of the Faroe Islands, and University of Prince Edward Island. Community and Industry partners would include NunatuKavut Community Council, PEI Bio-Alliance, Oceancluster House Iceland, and others.

See appendix 3.2 for the image of the discussion summary.

FACILITATOR'S REFLECTION

As the facilitator of the process, I would like to thank everybody for their participation and flexibility as we managed both the online and in-person discussion process. I particularly appreciated the collegiality of the group and openness to new ideas and new collaborations sometimes well outside of the participants' individual expertise. The two projects the participants selected feel like natural outcome of the complex discussions we heard throughout the day and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of those project ideas.

I would also like to acknowledge the help of Dr. Mandy Rowsell from the Office of Public Engagement at Memorial University and Janet Harron from the Harris Centre who managed the on-line discussions. This event would not be possible without the support of of the entire Harris Centre team who managed everything from hotel rooms to name tags and administrative aspects of the workshop.

Special thanks are due to Sheila Downer, the Vice-President of Northern Community Engagement with the UArctic and Northern Liaison for Memorial University, Dr. Andrew Jennings with the University of Highlands and Islands, and Dr. Laurie Brinklow with the Institute of Islands Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island and the president of the International Small Islands Studies Association. Without their work and guidance throughout the planning process this event would not have been possible.

APPENDIX 1

REGISTERED WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Avery	Velez	MUN
Simon	Clarke	UHI
Jo	Watson	UHI
Yusi	Cai	MUN
Nicholas	Mercer	UPEI
Kelly	Vodden	MUN
Andrea	O'Brien	HeritegeNL
Adele	Lidderdale	UHI
Eliza	MacLauchlan	UPEI
Ross	Dwyer	UPEI
Rosie	Alexander	UWS
Terra	Barrett	HeritegeNL
Sarah	Roberts	HeritegeNL
Juliet	Lanphear	HeritegeNL
Dale	Jarvis	HeritegeNL
Firouz	Gaini	U of Faroe Islands
Andrew	Halliday	UPEI
Laurie	Brinklow	UPEI
Siún	Carden	UHI
Lynda	Harling Stalker	StFX
Andrew	Lind	UHI
Andrew	Jennings	UHI
Iain	Campbell	UHI
Amy	Hudson	MUN

Kelly	Vodden	MUN
Julie	Pitcher Giles	MUN
Marc	Losier	MUN
Sabrina	Richard	
JINMING	YE	MUN
Janet	Hurd	MUN
Jillene	Marlowe	MUN

APPENDIX 2**PUBLISHED AGENDA**

**Northern and Arctic Islands Workshop:
Setting the Agenda**

Signal Hill Campus, Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

DECEMBER 6, 7 and 8 2023

Schedule of events

DECEMBER 6, 2023

6 to 7 pm	Meet and greet at Courtyard by Marriott bar (optional)
7 pm	Visit to The Rooms, provincial art gallery and museum (optional)

DECEMBER 7, 2023

Emera Innovation Exchange, Signal Hill Campus

8:30 to 9 am	Breakfast
9 to 9:15 am	Welcoming remarks and Land Acknowledgement - Sheila Downer (Memorial/UArctic) Introduction to NAISR - Andrew Jennings (University of the Highlands and Islands - UHI) Plan for the day - Bojan Furst (Memorial)
9:15 to 10 am	Panel #1 - Intangible Cultural Heritage Moderator: Andrew Jennings Panelists: Linda Harling Stalker (St. Francis Xavier University - StFX), Andrew Lind (UHI)



**Northern and Arctic Islands Workshop:
Setting the Agenda**



DECEMBER 7, 2023

Schedule of events (cont'd)

10 to 10:30 am	Small table discussion with coffee break
10:30 to 11:15 am	Panel #2 - Transport, Infrastructure and Fixed Links Moderator: Bojan Furst Panelists: Laurie Brinklow (University of Prince Edward Island - UPEI), Andrew Jennings, Firouz Gaini (University of the Faroe Islands - online)
11:15 to 11:45 am	Small table discussion with coffee break
11:45 am to 1:15 pm	Lunch with keynote speaker Dale Jarvis (Heritage NL)
1:15 to 2:15 pm	Panel #3 - Future Island Industries (hydrogen, space, energy) Moderator: Ross Dwyer (UPEI) Panelists: Simon Clarke (UHI Shetland - online), Nick Mercer (UPEI - online), Adele Lidderdale (UHI Orkney)
2:15 to 3 pm	Small table discussion with coffee break
3 to 4 pm	Panel #4 - Climate Change Innovative Adaptation Strategies Moderator: TBC Panelists: Joel Finnis (Memorial), Ross Dwyer (UPEI)
4 to 4:30 pm	Small table discussion
7 to 9 pm	Storytelling circle at Crow's Nest

DECEMBER 8, 2023

Emera Innovation Exchange, Signal Hill Campus

8:30 to 9 am	Breakfast
9 to 9:45 am	Panel #5 - Indigenous Languages Moderator: Laurie Brinklow (UPEI) Panelists: Iain Caimbeul (UHI Skye - online), Sylvia Moore (MUN Labrador Campus - online)



Northern and Arctic Islands Workshop: Setting the Agenda

DECEMBER 8, 2023

Schedule of events (cont'd)

9:45 to 10:30 am	Small table discussion with coffee break
10:30 to 10:45 am	Presentation by Mummer's Festival representatives
10:45 to 11:30 am	Panel #6 - Blue Economy Moderator: Rob Greenwood (NL) Panelists: Kevin Anderson (online), Andrew Halliday (UPEI - online)
11:30 am to 12 pm	Small table discussion
12 to 1 pm	Lunch
1 to 1:45 pm	Panel #7 - Island Youth Moderator: Kelly Vodden (MUN - Grenfell Campus) Panelists: Rosie Alexander (University of the West of Scotland - online), Eliza MacLaughlan (UPEI)
1:45 to 2:30 pm	Small table discussion with coffee break
2:30 to 4 pm	Research strategy planning
4 pm	Next steps and goodbyes

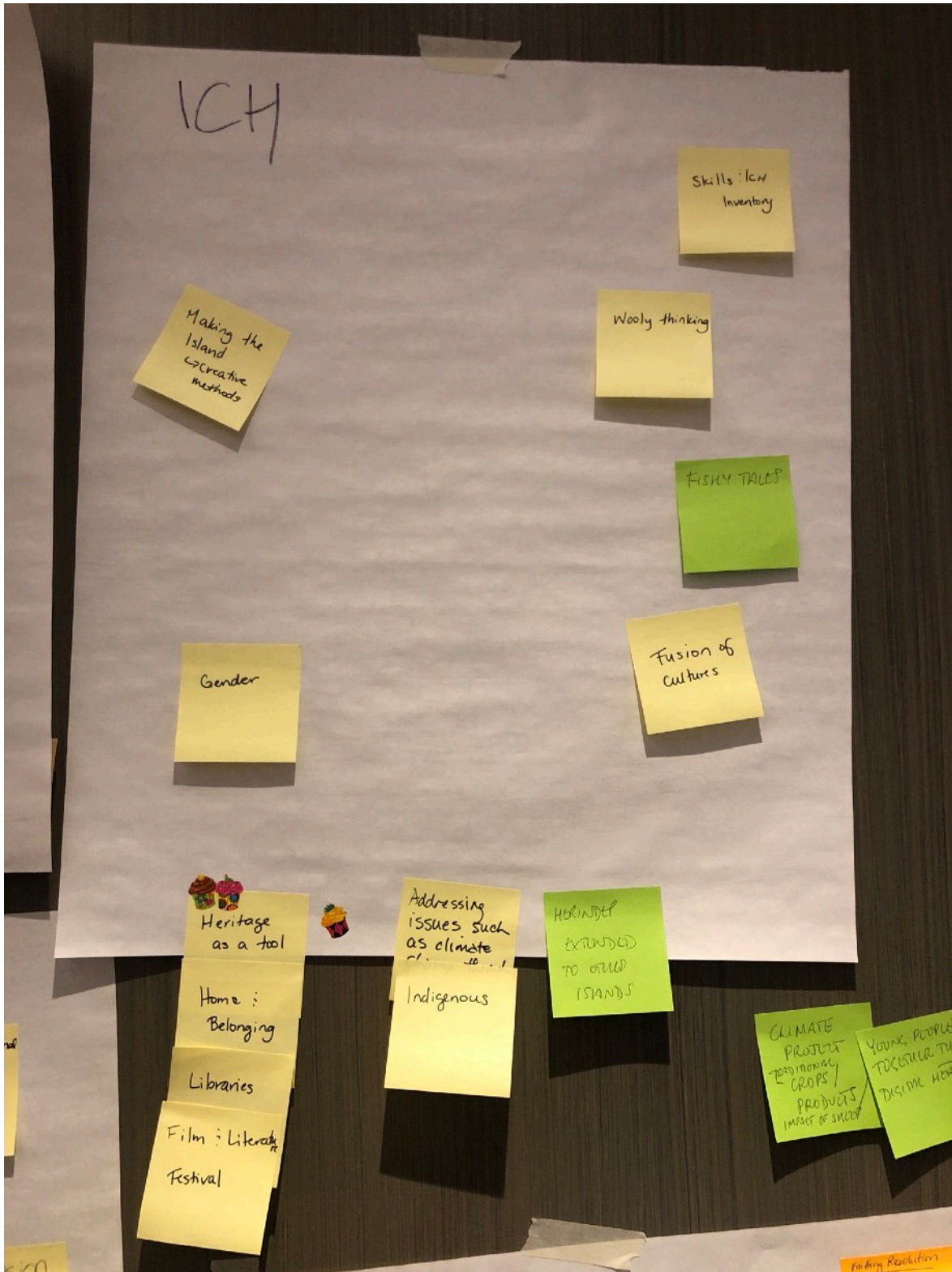
DECEMBER 9, 2023

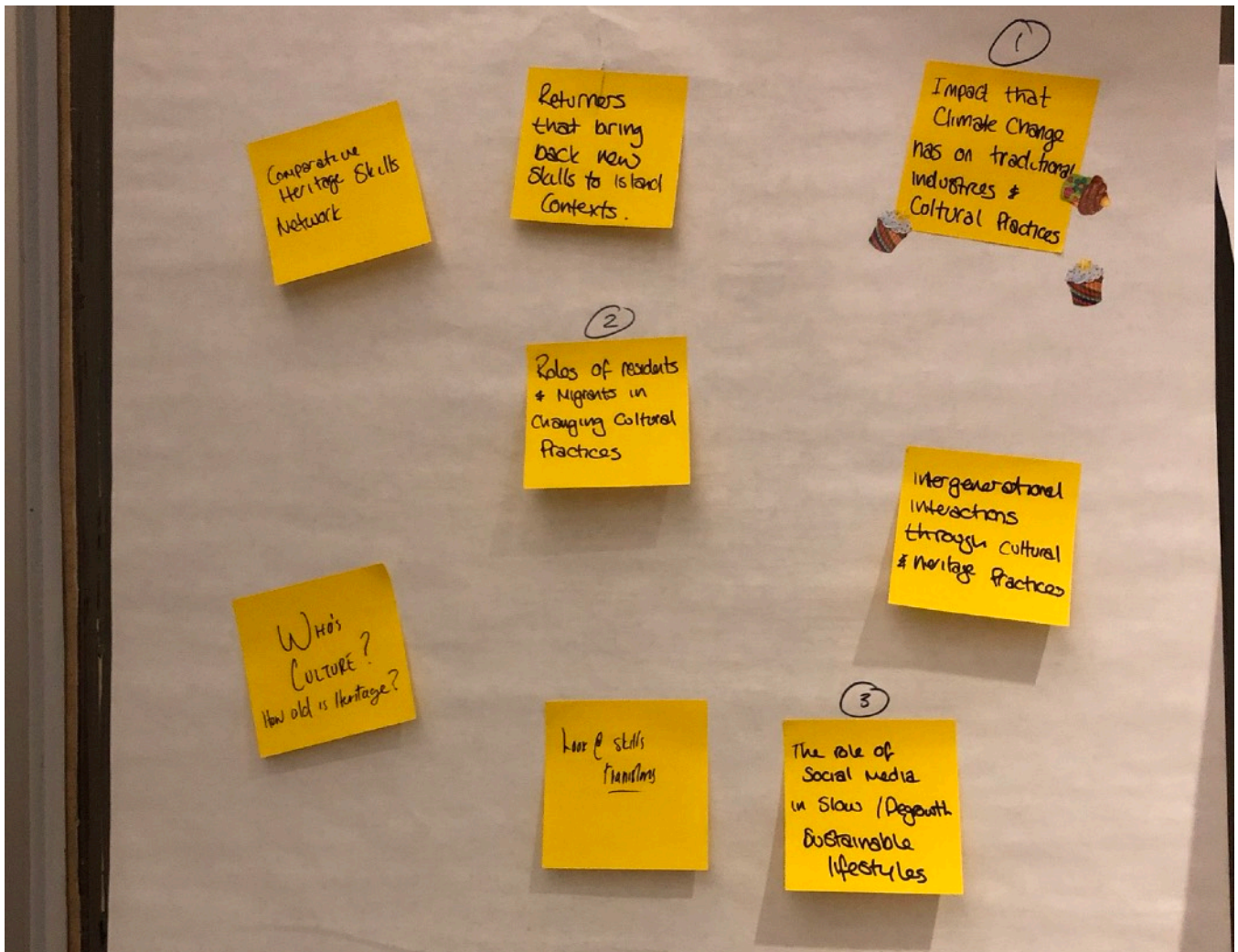
1:45 to 3 pm - Optional

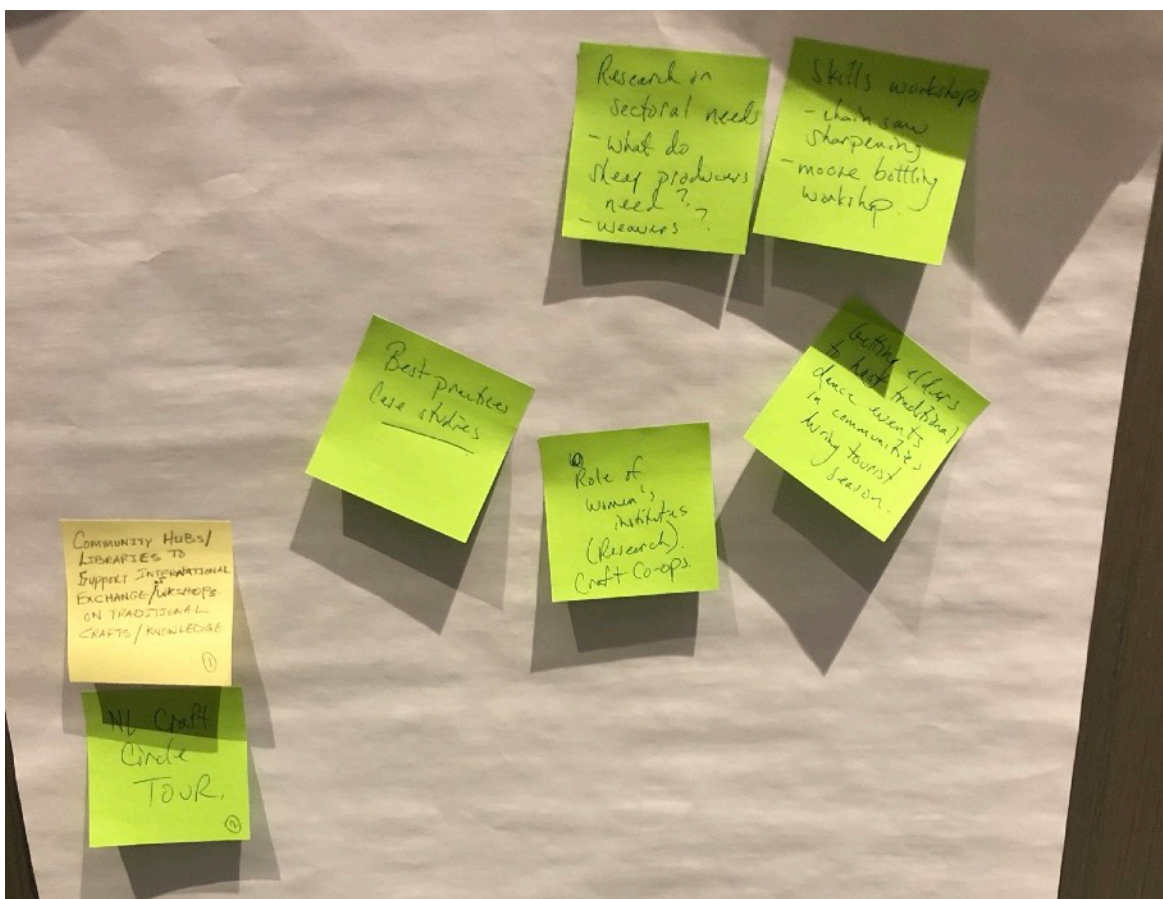
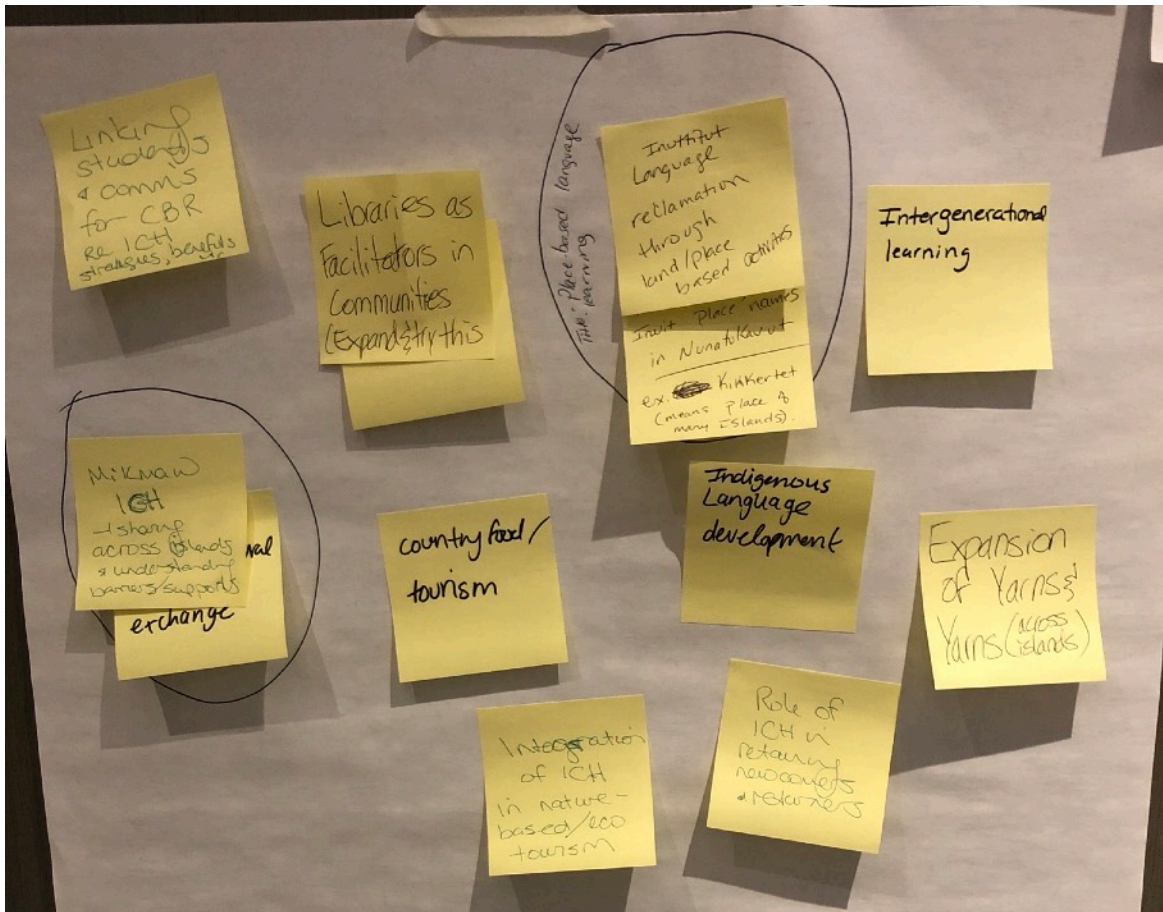
Mummer's Parade
Location: Cabot 500 Amphitheatre, Bowring Park

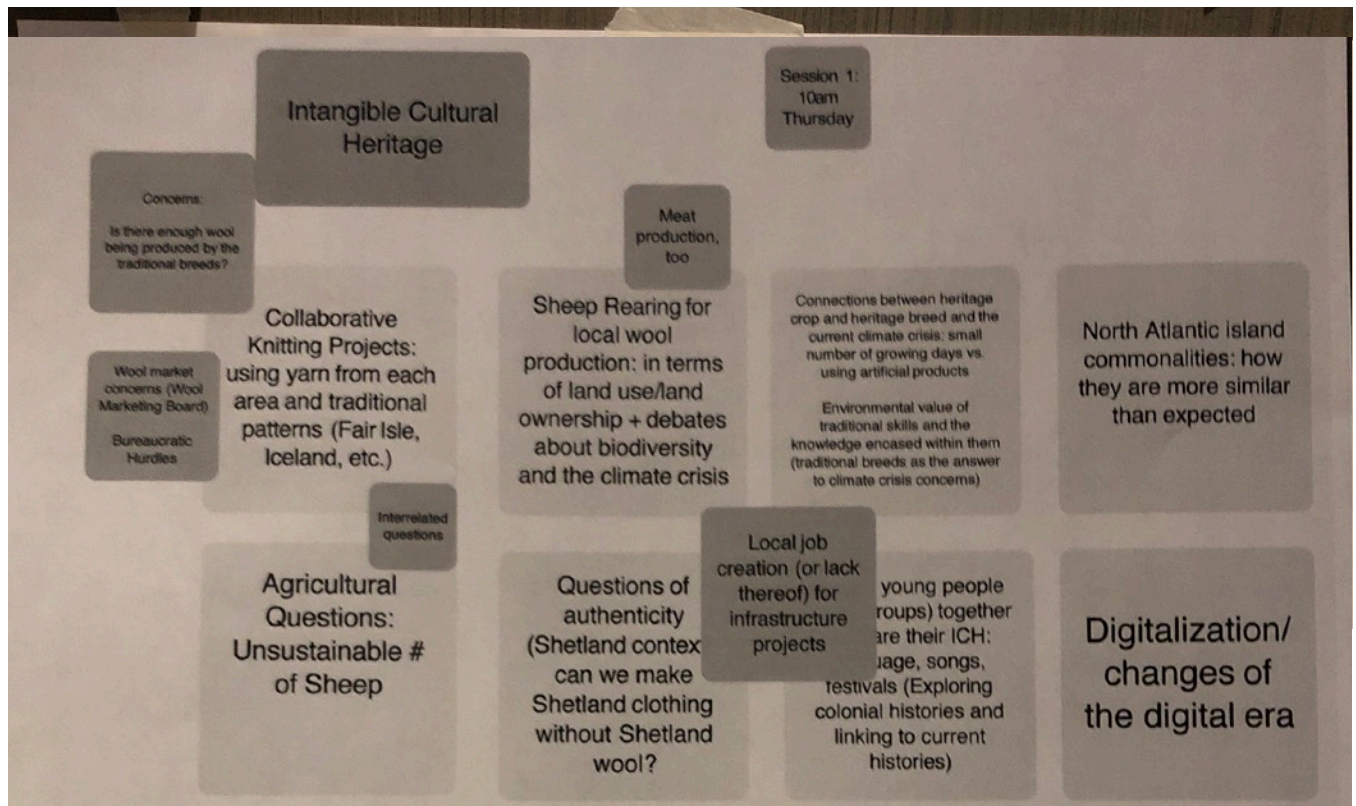
APPENDIX 2.1

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DISCUSSION



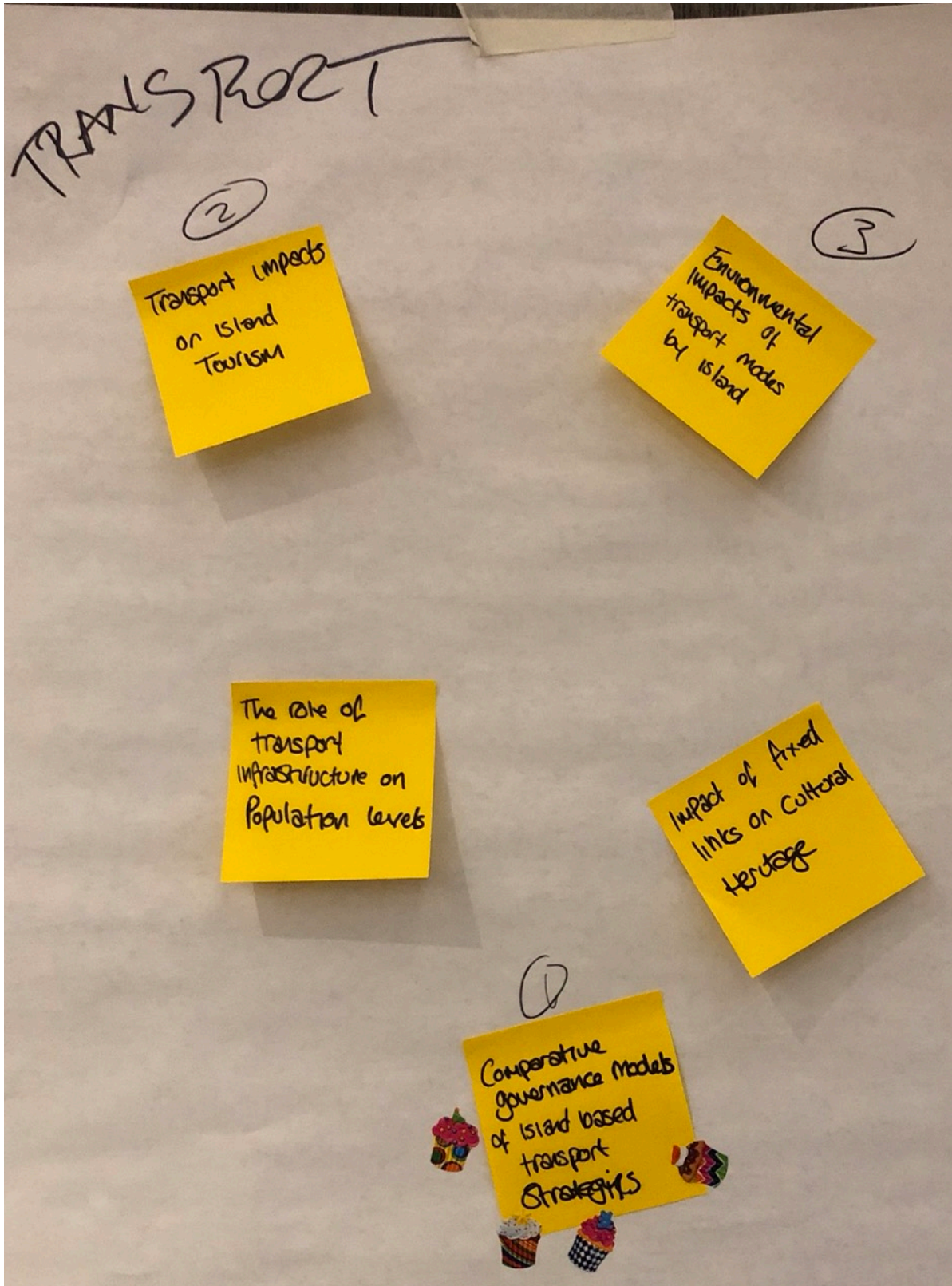


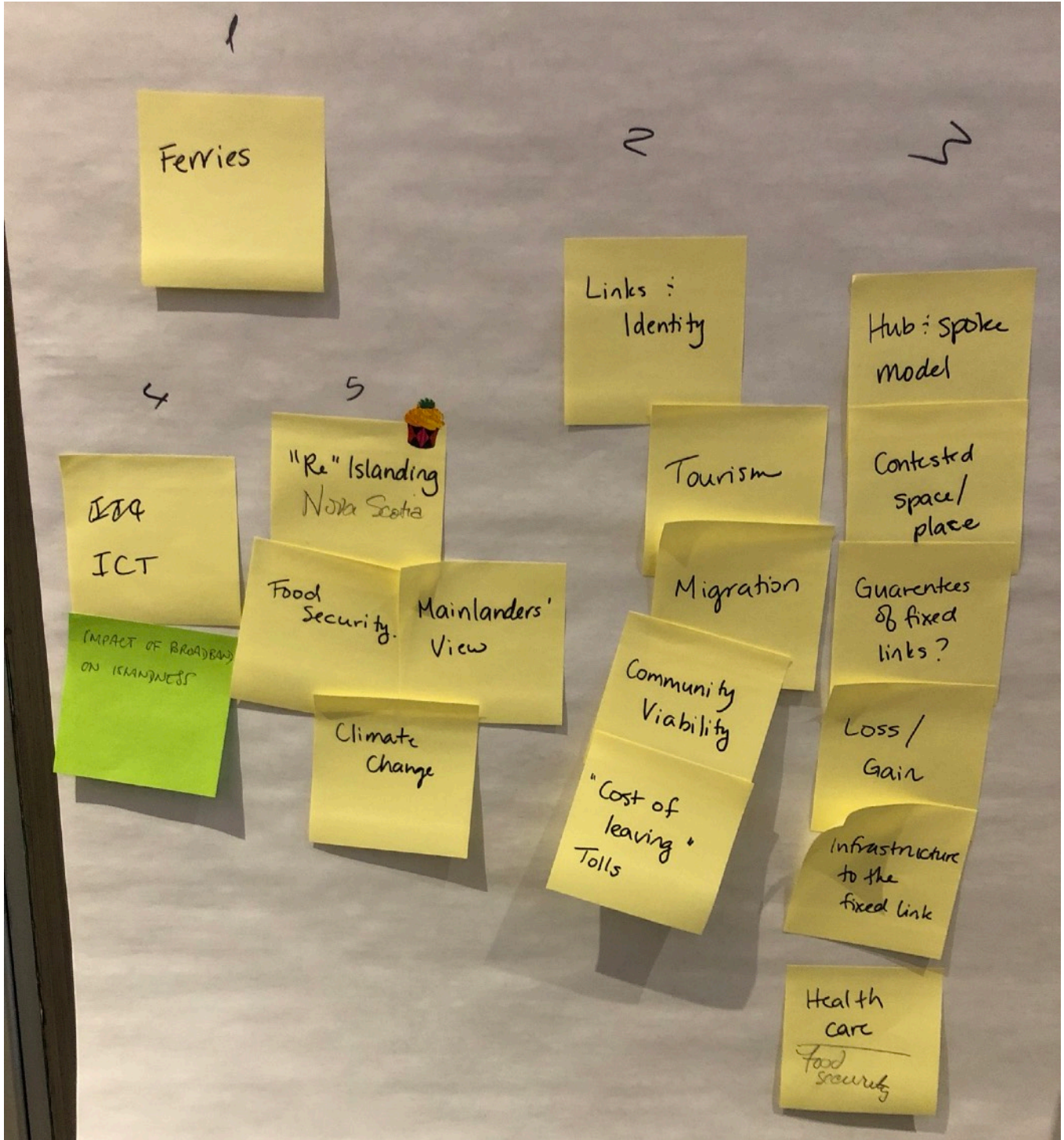


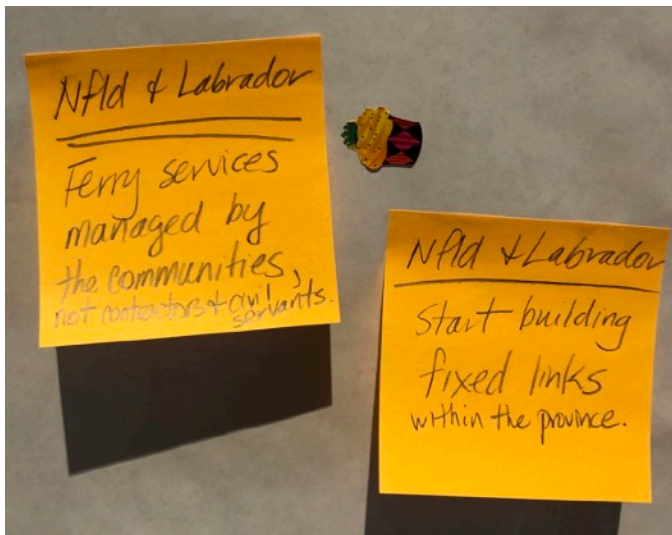
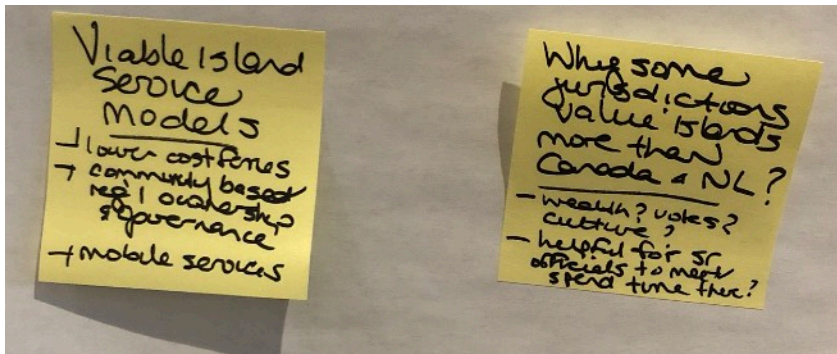
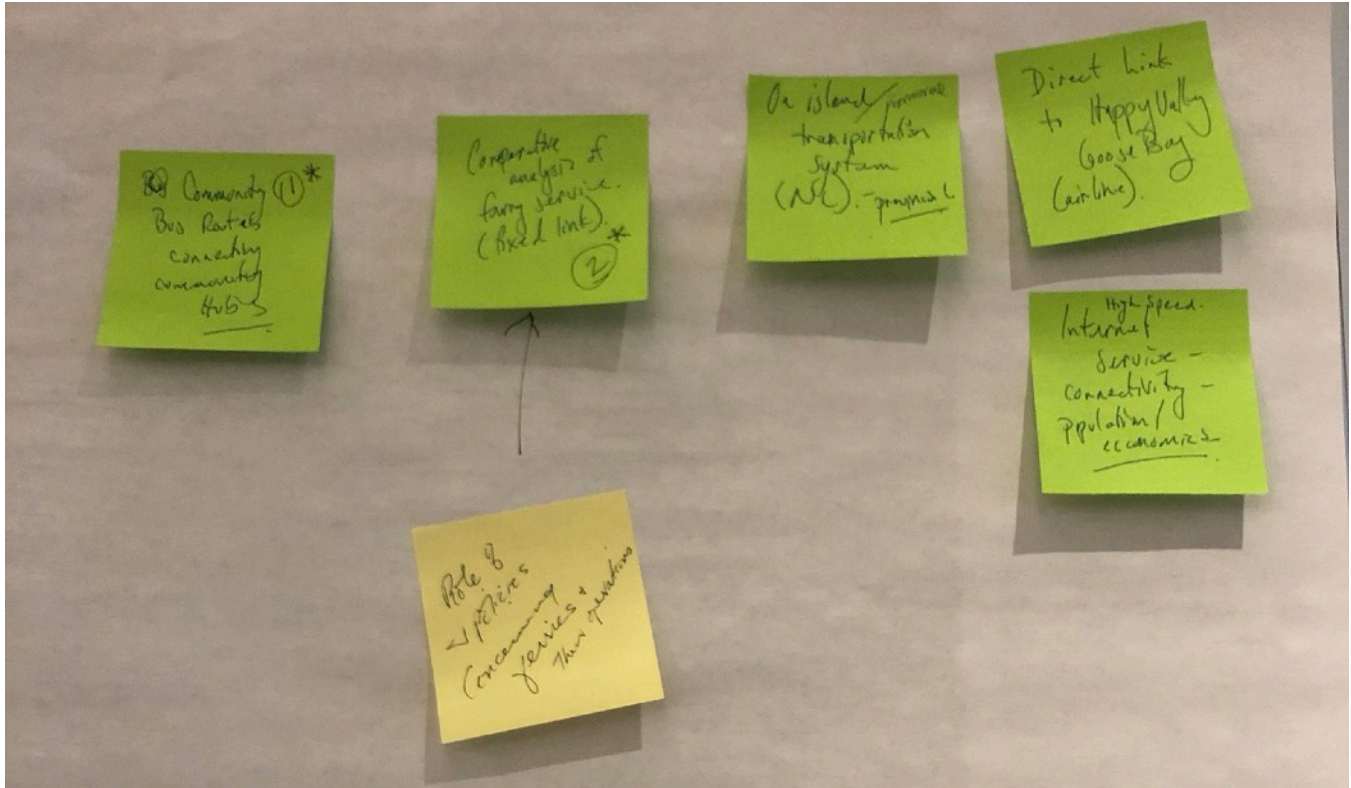


APPENDIX 2.2

TRANSPORTATION AND FIXED LINKS







Session 2: *Transport, Infrastructure, and Fixed Links*

1

A study of the remote west fjords (Isafjordur) infrastructure: a small community with fantastic infrastructure. What are they doing right? How can we learn from them?

2

Considering impact of infrastructure changes to the community: are the areas ready to handle the influx of, e.g., tourism? What are the actual impacts to the economy of the community? Changes of the ecology of transport and its massive implications.

3

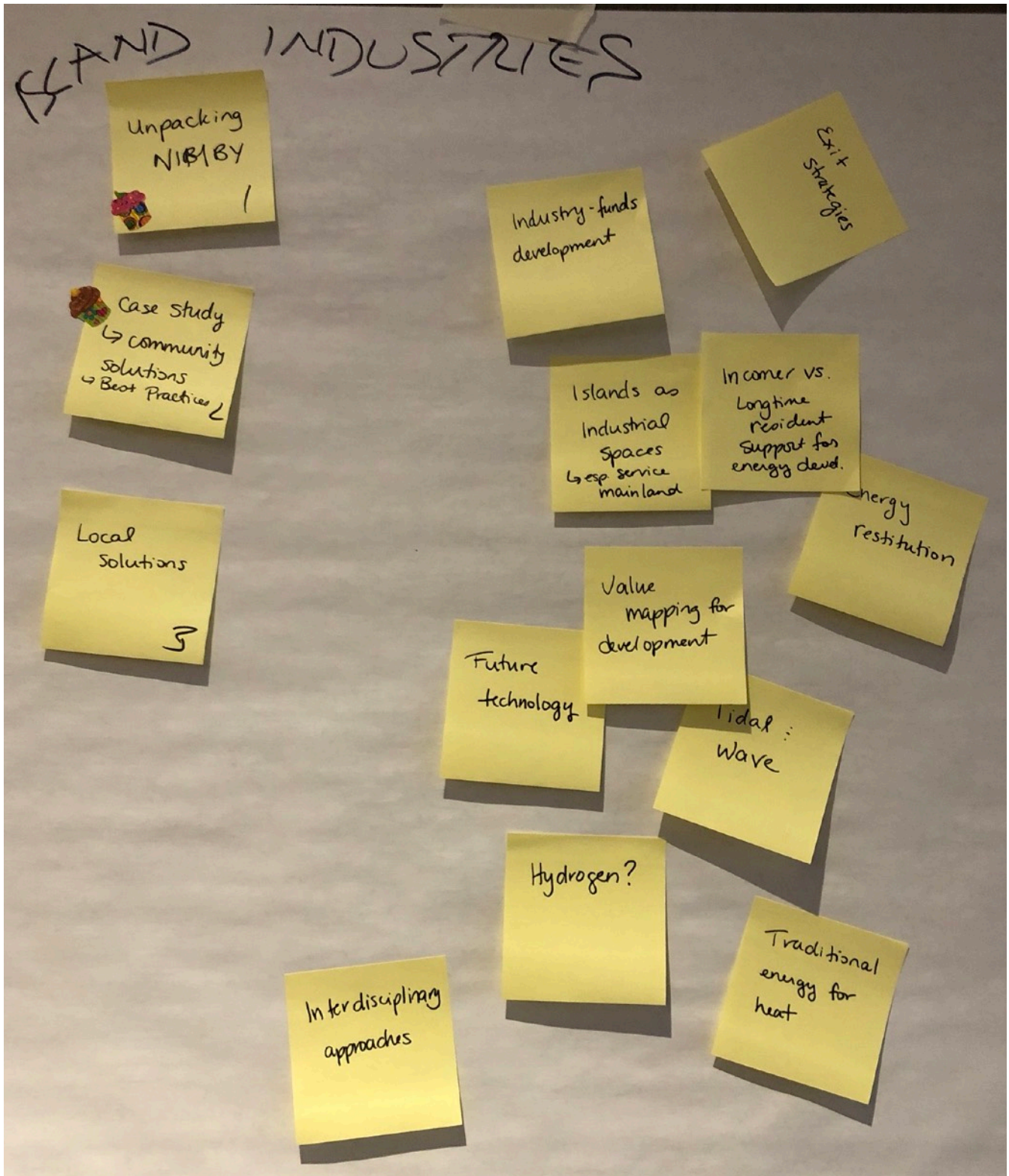
Media representations of islands/remote places and influence on tourism and impact on the communities

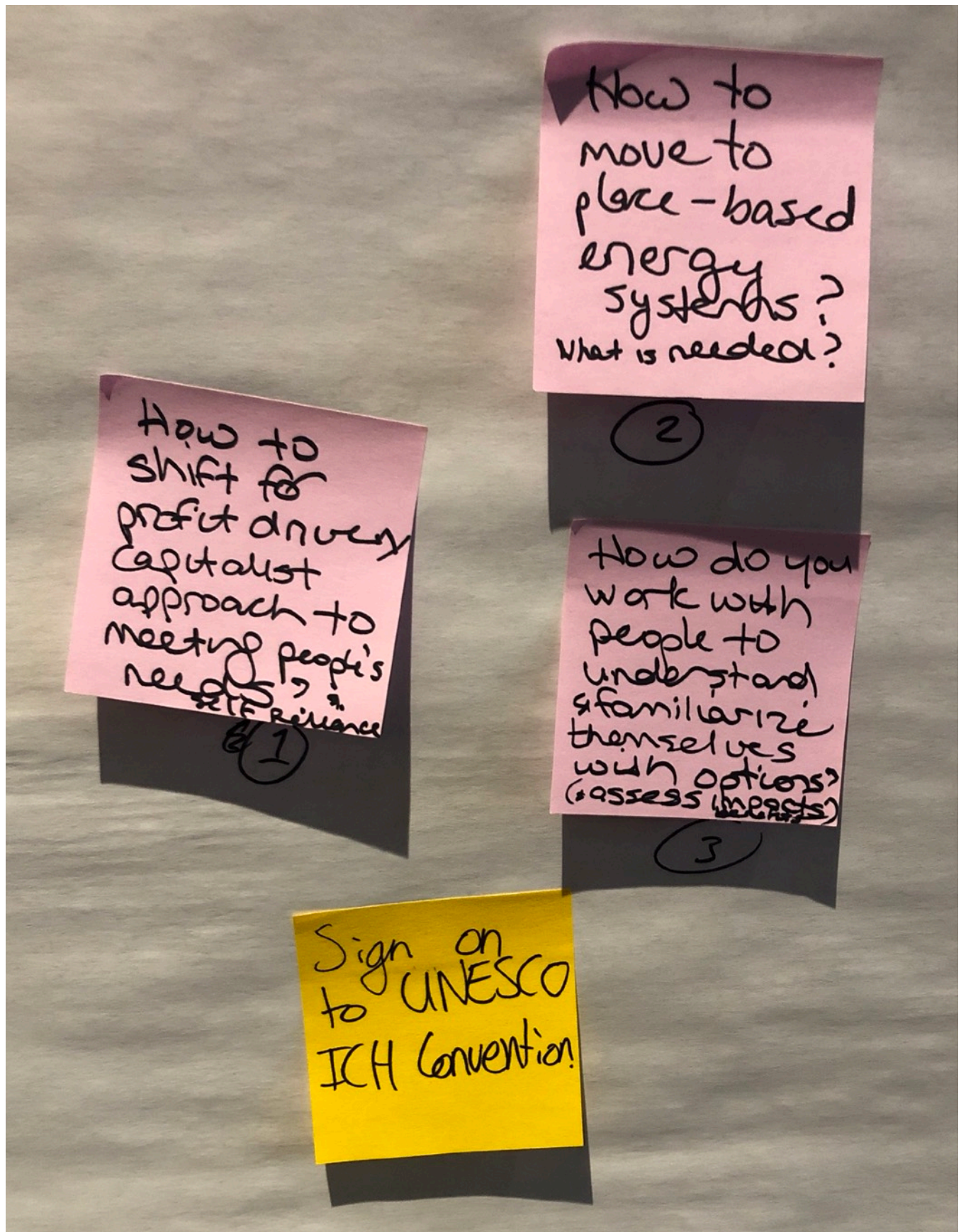
4

Unequal economic experience of locals re: tourism (Select group benefitting; highlights existent inequalities)

APPENDIX 2.3

FUTURE ISLANDS INDUSTRIES





How to
move to
place-based
energy
systems?
What is needed?

2

How to
shift from
profit driven
capitalist
approach to
meeting people's
needs?
self reliance

1

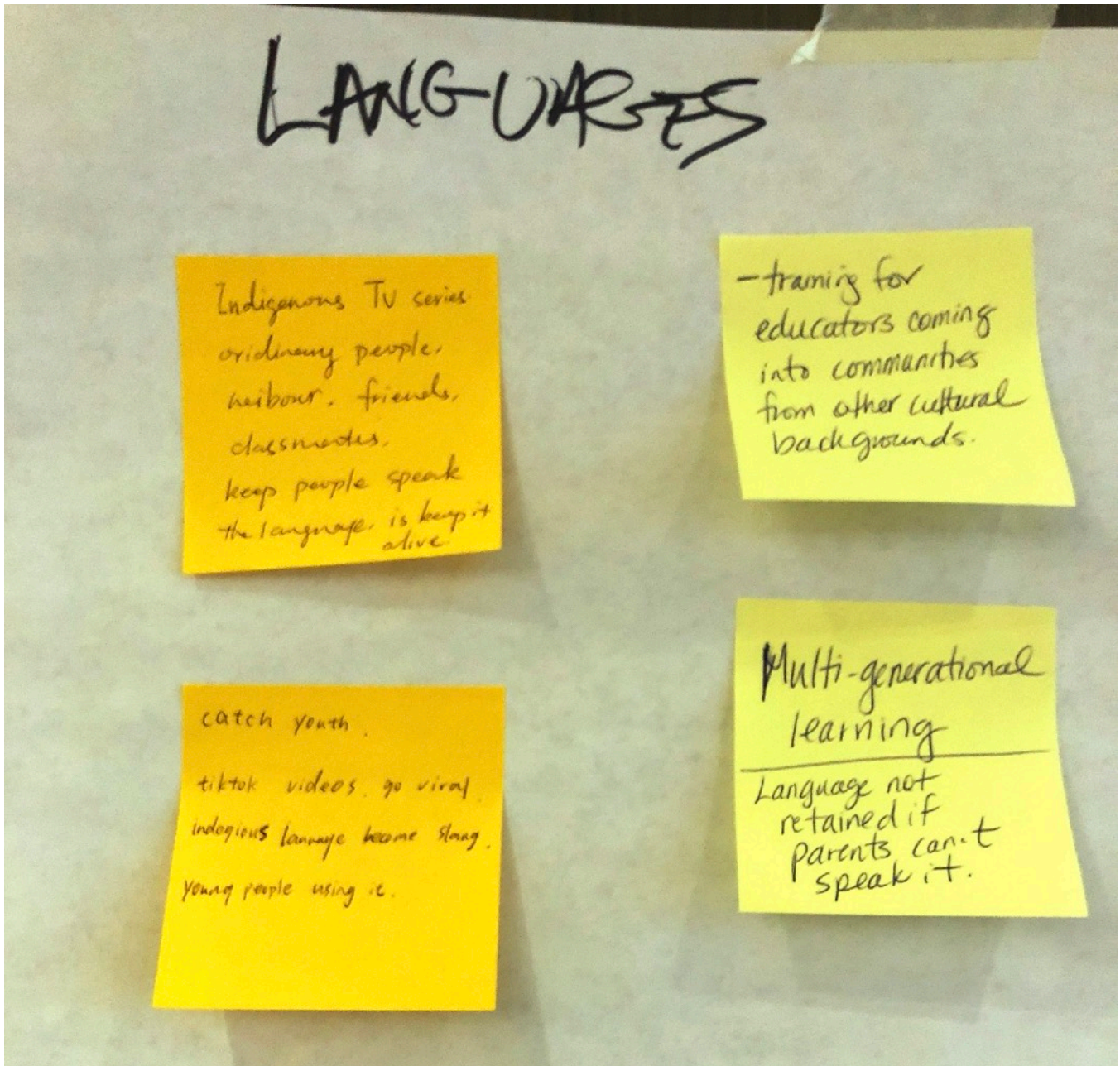
How do you
work with
people to
understand
& familiarize
themselves
with options?
(assess interests)

3

Sign on
to UNESCO
ICH Convention

APPENDIX 2.4

LANGUAGES



LANGUAGES

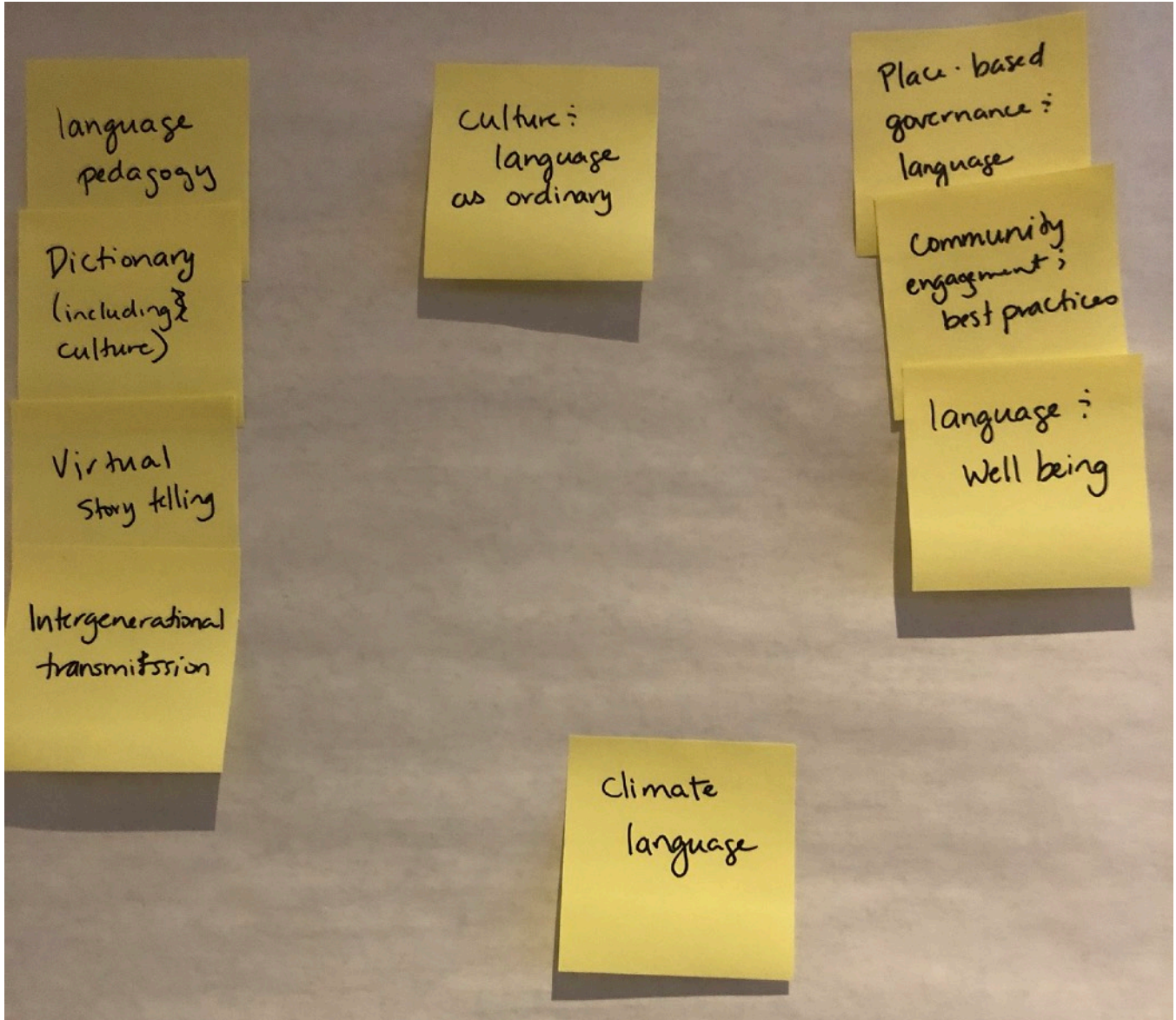
Indigenous TV series
ordinary people,
neighbour, friends,
classmates.
keep people speak
the language, is keep it
alive

- training for
educators coming
into communities
from other cultural
backgrounds.

catch youth
tiktok videos, go viral
indigenous language become slang
young people using it.

Multi-generational learning

Language not
retained if
parents can't
speak it.



Ideas: set of comparative Case Studies on practical regional approaches - what worked, what didn't?

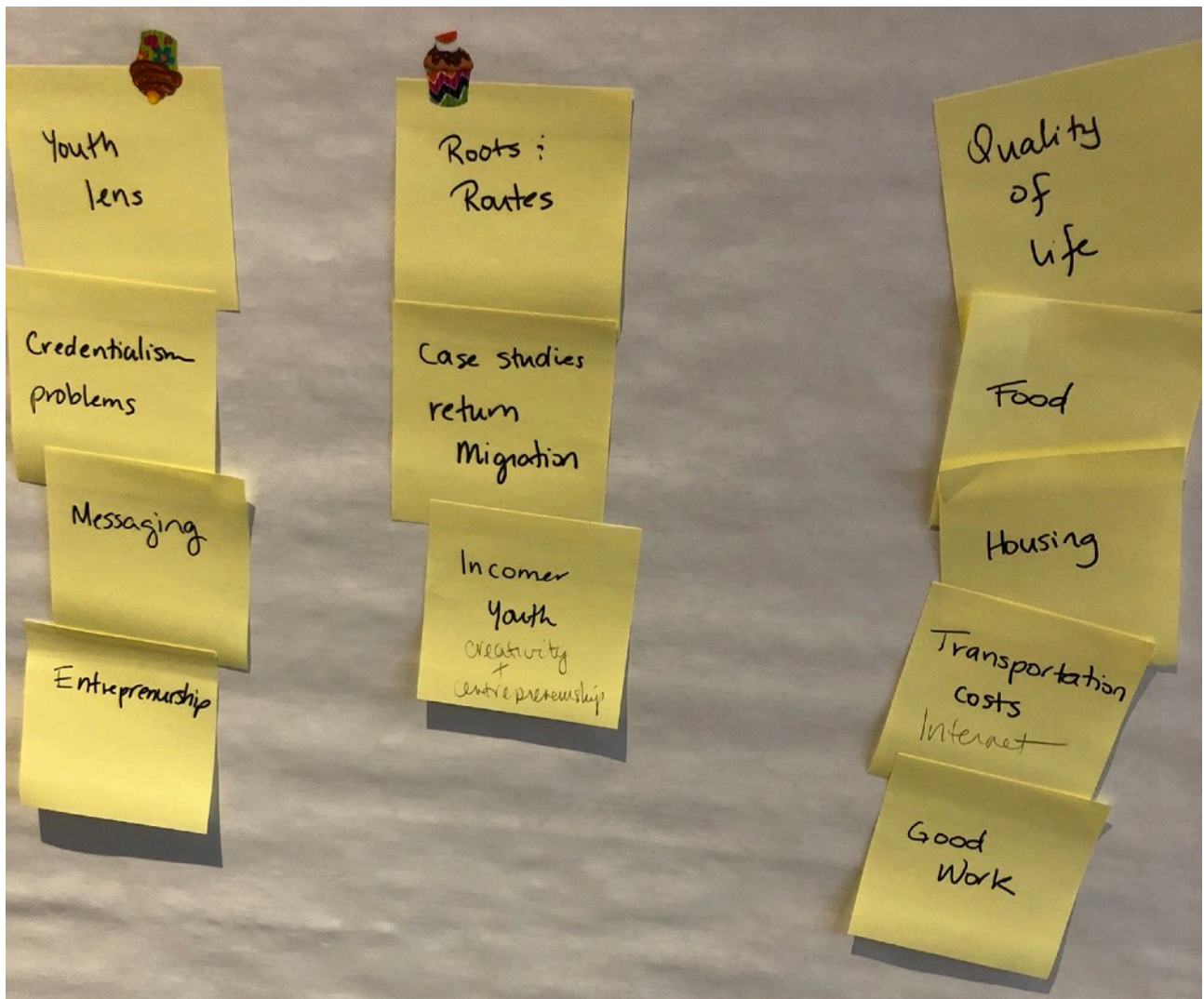
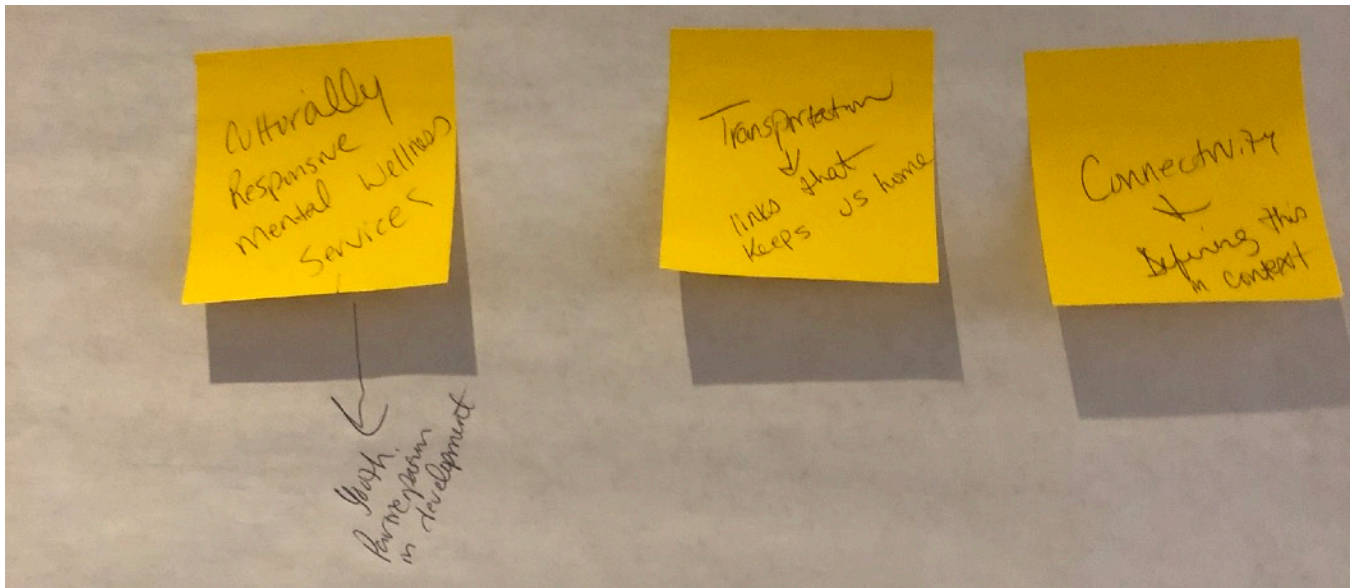
Highland Village at Iona, NS has been holding drop-in language chats, allowing virtual get togethers for language learners at a range of levels

Idea- young people's forum where they can discuss barriers to using their native languages and perhaps discuss why they prefer to use English / other language?

How do we make Culture Carriers aware of the fact that (1) they are Culture Carriers, (2) the importance of the knowledge they carry and (3) the vital place this knowledge has for realistic and sustainable solutions in the current biocultural crisis?

APPENDIX 2.5

YOUTH



The experience of staying –
research is assumption that young
people leave; what the experience
of staying is

Incoming young people to small
islands and what that experience is
about

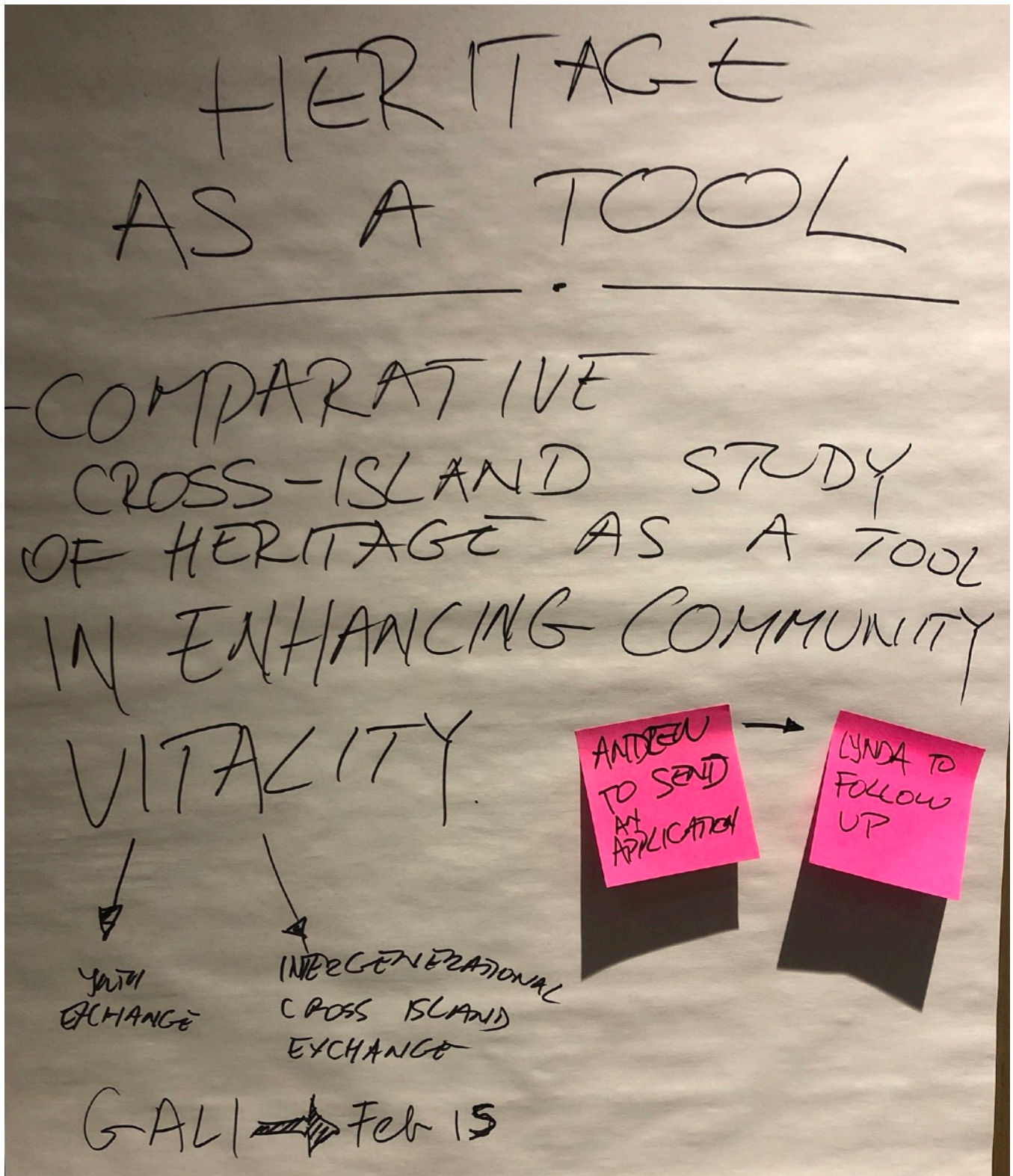
Structures of education and training
– implications for young people and
communities – a lack of teachers
and care; young children being
taught online;

More work/place-based routes for
people to train for

Looking at implications of
credentialism; training routes – you
can't use the resources within your
own community – interview people
who are interesting in teaching;
looking at community-led
innovations;

APPENDIX 3.1

HERITAGE AS A TOOL



APPENDIX 3.2
O.C.E.A.N.

