Distant Voices – Return to Old Crow

Sun, February 12th

Online Video (YouTube)

Return to Old Crow begins with three teachers and a custodian from School District 23 who in late August 2019 traveled to the remote Vuntut Gwich'in outpost of Old Crow, the northernmost community in the Yukon, 120 kilometers (about 74.56 mi) north of the Arctic Circle. The video begins with the teachers and custodians sharing their excitement about what they will experience, the schools they will encounter, the history they will learn, the wildlife they will see, the land, the culture, and getting to see their families, the elders, and the youths again. They also shared some of the things that make them nervous like some of the differences that they may encounter. This video shows the importance of culture and community, in addition to how everything tells a story, including something as simple as an antler. In this program, we explore how to engage with Indigenous communities through the lenses of their own societies and cultural traditions and how to articulate the connections of Indigenous people to their lands and territories. This video directly demonstrates what that looks like. While observing, I saw different people and a different culture and I learned how indigenous philosophies and mindsets can be beneficial to the world, for instance when it comes to topics like climate change. One of the topics that I learned through the Indigenous Perspectives courses which were needed to be an active and engaged participant in this event was their value for the earth and all the things in it. Some themes that were emphasized in this event are that we are all dynamic and different in our respects and that although not every indigenous culture is the same there is a core belief system that makes a person indigenous for instance the connection to the land and animals.