



I would like to thank the **Laidlaw Foundation** and the **UofT Laidlaw Scholars Program** for supporting me to become an ethical leader.

I would also like to thank my supervisor, **Professor Richard Sommer**, for providing me with this opportunity to work on this inspiring project.

Reflection

Even though I was familiar with the CampNC project, my previous role was focused on the design of digital media like websites in the first phase. Thus, this was a new experience for me in a challenging environment since I never got the chance to work with communities throughout this project. The skills and knowledge required for the second phase of the project completely differs from the first phase – where the second phase involves communication, collaboration, and interaction with communities.

As an international student from Turkey, where there are no known impacts of settler-colonialism, it was also my first time learning in-depth about indigenous and colonial communities and their histories. This was a challenging environment for me since I'm not very familiar with the needs and wants of the groups I'm working with – so I had to do thorough research and connect with knowledgeable people to overcome this challenge.

One of the discussions we had during the project was the representations of communities. As I'm not someone from the community, a wrong depiction or assumption about the community's wants or needs would be incorrect. Therefore, we had to include lots of research to better understand what potential sites mean to the community. However, one challenge we faced was the reliability of sources. For example, I was looking at the results of a community survey for Sorauren Park, and even though the impressions of the park by the respondents were similar, they were only a selection of people's ideas. Therefore, we decided to use that source as a vague reference and decided to focus more on the lived experiences at the park - which would be more accurate than a relatively biased survey.

PROJECT DEFINITION

CampNC is a mobile troop dedicated to collective idling, dream-sharing, and recording the exquisite life of stories/dreams as they evolve through time and place.

Feel (about the space): Connected (with the outdoors, dreams, etc.) yet disconnected (from the real world); light without worries, peaceful, safe, protected, separated from time and space

Feel (about the project): Trustworthy, genuine, warm, connecting, meticulous, unassuming



PROBLEM SPACE

There is a lack of a space that instigates, gathers, and circulates cross-cultural practices that focus on restorative repose, sleep, and dreaming

Wants & Needs: Engagement and mobility with various communities, achieved through a physical space

Pain Points: There are not many spaces that provide this environment, and even if there are, they are hard to access for most people

Working in the communications area of this project has greatly improved my creativity in designing for new audiences. As a product designer, my role involves designing with and for people - and this project has allowed me to better develop the skills required. Moreover, reporting to my supervisor and getting the insights of project partners has immensely improved my project management and leadership skills. By being able to present my progress and findings in an engaging and condensed manner, I was able to become a better communicator, presenter, and leader.

Thus, I believe this project was an unmatched opportunity for me to develop and demonstrate my leadership skills, attributes, and Laidlaw values because I was the main lead for community involvement/ collaboration, which was a challenging environment for me to showcase different skills from my existing role. Moreover, by getting to work on another side of the project, I was able to gain a better in-depth understanding of the project's local and global impacts, especially on vulnerable communities, and contribute to it.