



Lessons Learned and Existing Challenges in Ground Searches

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Who am I?

- Métis with deep family roots in Alberta and Red River
- Worked with many nations to use technology to detect possible unmarked graves since 2018
- Chair of the Canadian Archaeological Association Unmarked Graves Working Group
- Member of the National Advisory Committee on Missing Children and Unmarked Graves



*Prior to
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Sewepmec...*

Some projects
underway

Small capacity for
ground-
penetrating radar
surveys

Some use of other
technologies for
unmarked graves

Limited funding
and supports

Reflecting on the past year and a half

Huge growth in
projects

Commitment of
funding

Emphasis on
ground-
penetrating radar

Triggering of
trauma

Lessons Learned: Preparation

Establish Survivor and community support first

Need to sort out permissions and access

Background research can really help narrow down areas to search

Lessons
Learned:
Technologies

Technologies aren't always
the solution

Technologies don't work
the same everywhere

Technologies usually can't
provide concrete answers

Lessons Learned: Process

Every school landscape is
unique

Every community has
specific challenges

Every community has been
impacted

Lessons Learned: Data

Processing and interpreting GPR data is challenging

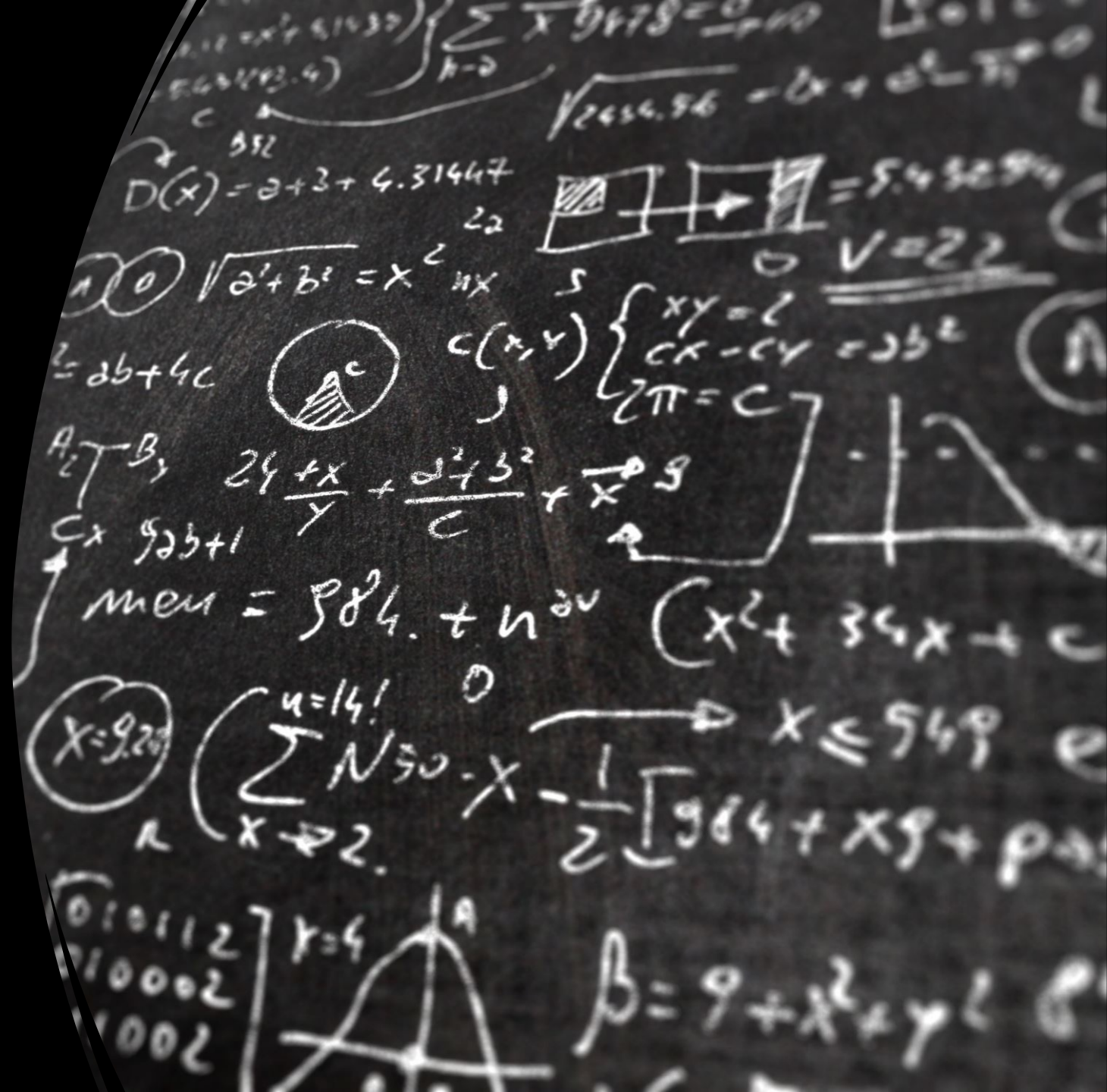
Using GPR for other purposes is not always transferable

Dealing with the volume of data is an issue

Existing Challenges: Time



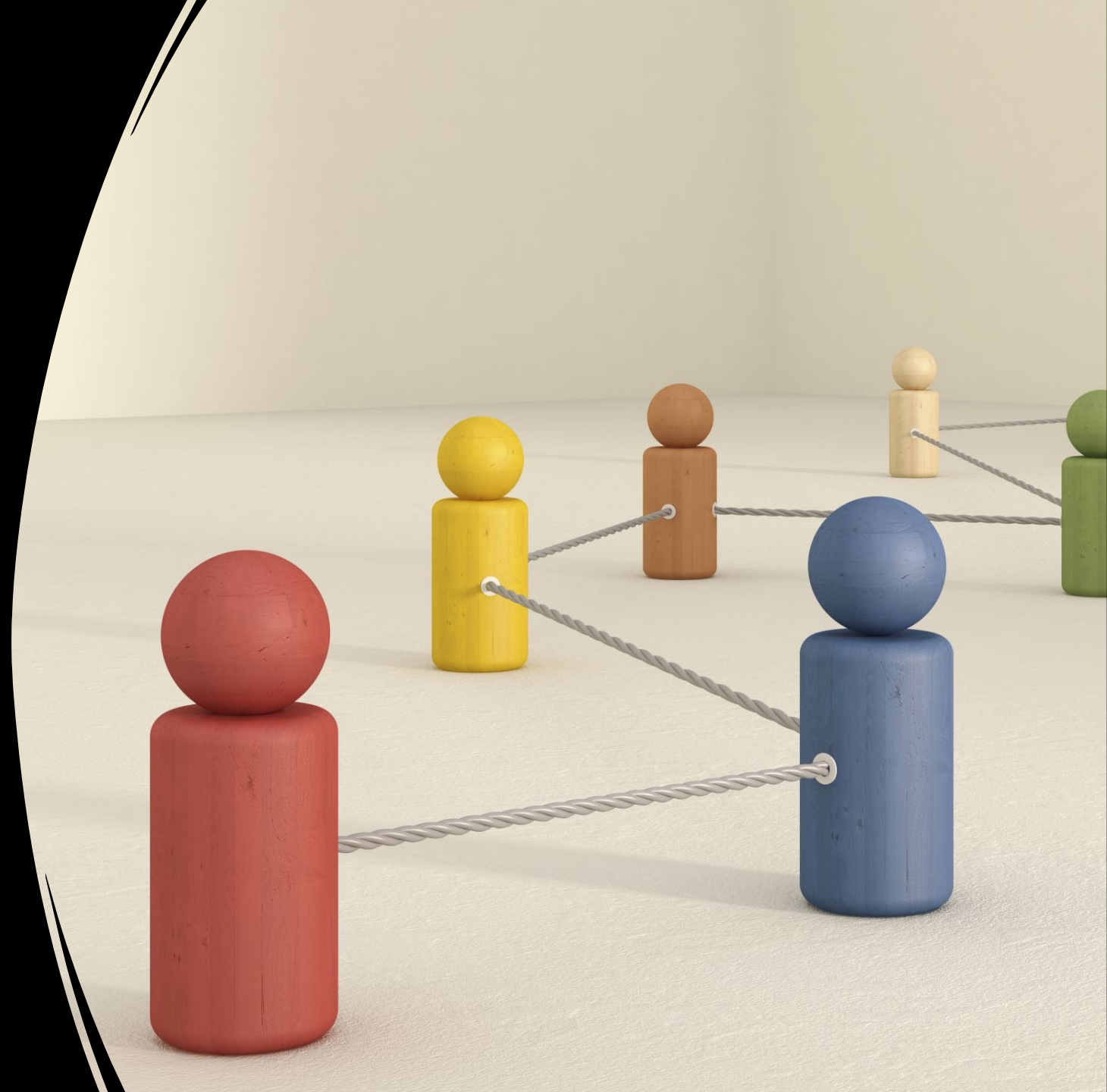
Existing Challenges: Capacity



Existing Challenges: Uncertainty



Existing Challenges: Coordination



Existing Challenges: Communication



CHECK LIST:

- chat
- share
- check -in

cloud

DOWNLOAD!
- files / photo
- song

Recommendations

Longer term funding is needed

Training programs for all aspects of the work is needed

Coordination between existing experts is needed

Equitable support is needed

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