

## C10-O03

### **TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS, KNOWLEDGE AND CHANGE: INUIT PERSPECTIVES ON ARCTIC RESEARCH – THE INUIT EXPERIENCE OF THE ARCTICNET PROGRAM**

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Historically subjects of Arctic research, Inuit today are increasingly taking the role of “researcher” and are assuming more significant roles in directing, influencing, implementing and applying Arctic research in their communities, regions and countries. As Arctic ... living in remote areas, Inuit contend with many social, political, economic and environmental challenges that impact the capacity of Inuit at all levels to address the many pressing issues requiring knowledge based decision making and effective solutions. This includes how to gather and apply relevant knowledge or research for effective, relevant, Inuit-specific results.

The last decade in particular has seen a shift in the Arctic research community that increasingly recognizes the importance of Inuit priorities and concerns, Inuit knowledge, and Inuit partnerships to collect the best available information for a better understanding of changing economic, political and environmental conditions in the Arctic. Conducting research in the Arctic is a costly, time-consuming, and at times risky endeavour and has demanded that the research community innovate to reduce cost, time and risk while gathering the required data. One approach that has seen mutually beneficial outcomes to both the Canadian research and Inuit communities is that of partnership that meaningfully engages Inuit in the design and implementation of the largest Canadian coastal Arctic research program – ArcticNet.

Inuit are represented through every layer of governance in the ArcticNet program, ensuring Inuit concerns, priorities and ways are considered and respected. At the same time, Inuit organization representatives from regional, national and international Inuit organizations are members of the Research Management Committee and the Board of Directors and other sub-committees of the program. Most importantly, each of the four Inuit land claims organizations has established an Inuit Research Advisor position to liaise between communities and researchers in ArcticNet.

Representing more than 155,000 Inuit in Russia, the US, Canada and Greenland, ICC works internationally to advocate for the advancement of Inuit interests at fora such as the Arctic Council, the UNPFII, CBD, CITES, etc. The principal goals of ICC are to:

- Strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar region;
- Promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level;
- Develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and
- Seek full and active partnership in the political, economic, and social development of circumpolar regions

Priority areas of advocacy and research for Inuit drive the ICC agenda, developed collectively by Inuit of all four countries at quadrennial General Assemblies through Declarations, the most recent being the Kitigaaryuit Declaration (<http://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/declaration---2014.html>) endorsed in Inuvik, 2014.