

POLAR YEAR Sea ice processes and conditions according to Inuit experts in Pangnirtung, Nunavut Carleton

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Extensive ice formation occurs around Pangnirtung, Nunavut, in Pangnirtung Fiord and Cumberland Sound. Through extensive travel on, and use of, the sea ice elders and hunters in Pangnirtung have developed detailed and sophisticated descriptions of sea ice processes and conditions based on experiential learning, and sea ice continues to be an important travel and hunting platform for the community. Collaborative research with these local experts was undertaken to learn about sea ice from Inuit perspectives, as the specifies of local characterizations and uses are not well understood by the scientific community. Over four separate field seasons (coinciding with different stages of sea ice formation/decay between May, 2004 and April, 2005), 30 semi-directed interviews, 5 sea ice trips, and 2 focus groups were conducted to document the sea ice conditions, Inuktitut terminology, and descriptions shown in this poster. This conceptions of sea ice we gain insights into Inuit knowledge, locally important ice conditions, and cross-cultural communication. Over the next few years we aim to expand, and improve upon, these results as part of the International Polar Year (IPY) Inuit Sea Ice Use and Occupancy Project (http://gcrc.carleton.ca/isiuop) "Mapping Inuit Sea Ice Knowledge and Use." We welcome ongoing community feedback and new contributors in this effort.

