Key Messages from:

Nunavut Research **Town Hall** McMaster





ArcticNet >1095P-74C 91C4504504c

Toronto, Ontario, December 7, 2022

Overview

A recent analysis of the Nunavut Research Licensing Database (now Isirvik) revealed that:

- community leadership in Nunavut research is not well understood;
- community organizations experience a high burden of research licensing review; and,
- research results are often inaccessible to community and territorial decision-makers.

These results highlight a critical need to engage in a broad consultation to understand a range of experiences with the research process in Nunavut.

We organized a town hall at the ArcticNet conference in December 2022 to provide an opportunity for researchers, community members, and decision-makers to ask questions, share experiences, and explore ideas with representatives of the Nunavut Research Institute, Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Aggiumavvik Society, McMaster University, and Carleton University.

This interactive discussion was designed to help inform a Nunavut-specific approach to implementing the National Inuit Strategy on Research with the goal of improving research engagement, relevance, capacity, and outcomes for Nunavummiut (people of Nunavut).

View Town Hall presentations and discussions:

https://vimeo.com/778997911

Questions? Suggestions?

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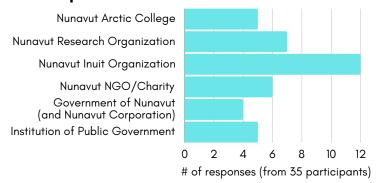


The 1.5 hour session began with opening remarks from Gita Ljubicic (moderator, McMaster University), **Jamal Shirley** (Nunavut Research Institute), Gwen Healey Akearok (Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre), and Peter Pulsifer (Carleton University). Mentimeter was used to compile feedback from the audience. Approximately **100 people** participated in the session.

When asked "Do you feel research is benefitting Nunavummiut?", the average response from the audience was 5 out of 10 (neither strongly agree nor disagree). This is a fairly neutral response, and shows there is a lot of room for improvement.

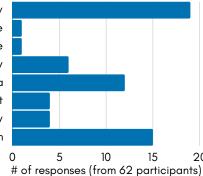
Key messages arising from Town Hall discussions are summarized on the back page.

Participants with Nunavut-based affiliations



Participants with affiliations outside Nunavut

Canadian University International University/College Other Northern University/College Canadian NGO/Charity Government of Canada Other Territorial/Prov. Government Consultant and Industry Other Inuit Organization



















Ways that research is working for Nunavummiut

- Increasing Nunavut-led research and collaborations
- Informing/impacting decisions made
- Building research capacity
- Funding and data to empower decision-making and programming
- Research becoming more aligned with local and regional priorities
- Opportunities for training, employment and knowledge exchange
- Expanding respect for and use of Inuit
 Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuktut language
- Addressing knowledge/information gaps
- Contributing to change/action
- Expanding connections and awareness within and beyond Nunavut communities



Resources needed to enhance research capacity

- Build on existing community strengths and capacity, engage youth
- Two-way capacity development for visiting researchers, as well as for Nunavummiut
- Continuing mentorship not "one off" activities
- Inuit Nunangat university
- Local research facilities/infrastructure/space
- Available child care and housing
- Improved education (in Nunavut schools, and southern universities) on Inuit culture, Inuktut language, Nunavut context, governance, research methods, etc.
- Training programs leading to certification and employment
- Long-term funding for continuity in community research leadership and training
- Lifelong learning approach



Factors contributing to research fatigue in Nunavut

- Too much! Too many projects!
- High workloads
- Administrative delays between decisionmakers (federal/territorial) and communities
- Coordination challenges
- Repetitive questions, overlap in research focus
- Lack of community infrastructure
- Lack of evaluation and accountability
- Results not communicated, hard to understand, or not meaningful for Inuit
- Research benefits/employment not distributed evenly
- Not enough time/attention dedicated to gaining context and building relationships
- Competing priorities and time pressures
- Research and community priorities not aligned



Improving research management to help achieve better outcomes

- Make information available on who is doing what research, and identify research overlap
- Help share community research priorities and promote collaboration (matching service)
- Develop and implement a mandatory orientation for all external researchers
- Emphasize cultural competency, research communication, and relationship-building
- Flag concerning research practices
- Coordinate with funding agencies
- Clearly define what "working with Inuit" means
- Empower reviewers to decline projects that are not seen as ethical or beneficial to Inuit
- Create simpler licensing forms/processes
- Reduce review burden in small communities
- Expand ethical considerations beyond work with people, to include to land and animals