

Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre



Ittaq was founded by a group of Clyde River residents in 2005.



Eastern Arctic profile #1 - December 2010

Ittag Heritage and Research Centre in Clyde River, Nunavut

Summary

Ittaq supports, facilitates, and leads heritage and research activities in the community and surrounding areas of Clyde River, Nunavut. Our research mission is to increase local participation in, and direction of, research in Clyde, simultaneously creating training and local job opportunities and better research projects.



Ittaq has been managing a local sea ice monitoring program since 2006

Ittaq supports diverse research projects whether local, government, industry, or university-led by providing quality services such as researchers, research assistants, logistics support, local expert consultants, environmental monitoring, sample/data collection and processing, interpreting/translating, outreach design and facilitation, guiding, equipment rental, and more.

In addition to facilitating research, Ittaq has a strong media program with professional facilities including a soundbooth and video editing suite. We have been partners in producing several documentary films, television public service announcements, and Inuktitut versioning of a popular APTN children's program called "Wapos Bay".



Clyde River Elders work on kinship charts for a family tree project at Ittag

Our heritage component is growing at Ittaq with the current renovations of our building. Over time we expect to open our heritage/visitor centre area with displays of local heritage and material culture, alongside the results and products from our many research partnerships.

Once completed, Ittaq will house our media centre, heritage/visitor centre area, and research support services including computers, meeting space, and science laboratory. Even with our current limited facilities as we work toward our goals, we are actively facilitating many local and visiting projects.

Location



Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre is located in Clyde River, on the east coast of Baffin Island in Nunavut.

Collaborations

Ittaq is administered by and is part of Iliisaqsivik Society, a local non-profit organization that works on community wellness and development. We are proud that both Iliisaqsivik and Ittaq are true community-based efforts, started by and run by local people. Ittaq has a committee of nine residents that oversee the organization. Each Ittaq committee member represents another local organization (e.g. Elders' committee, Hunters and Trappers, Hamlet Council, etc.) so that we are linked to and collaborate with other local groups and initiatives.

In research, we have several collaborations with different organizations including Natural Resources Canada, University of Colorado, University of NY Buffalo, Nasivvik Centre, Trent University, Lakehead University, and others. We also support a number of local heritage and research projects led by local people and organizations including film projects, traditional knowledge projects, educational projects and courses, and science projects.

Question session

We ask each of our respondents to answer the same 3 questions to help identify knowledge opportunities and gaps and potential or existing collaborations with ArcticNet.

1) What types and sources of scientific data does your program use to inform policy/decision making?

We support research working with physical, natural, biological and social science data, and Inuit knowledge. We believe all of these can contribute to decision making and we encourage projects that bring all of these together. A good example of how we have used all of these data to inform policy/decision making was our work with Natural Resources Canada to complete an assessment of climate change impacts for the community (looking at present and potential impacts) and an action plan for the community to build on for responding to these impacts.

2) How does your organization link with knowledge produced by ArcticNet science and/or others?

We currently do not have any partnerships with ArcticNet, though we have had an information booth and presented at the last few ArcticNet Annual meetings. We have many active and productive partnerships with scientists and universities.

3) Can you identify knowledge gaps from your organization's perspective?

We believe that communities should be more actively involved in research leadership. For example, one area where we have seen the communities show great strength is in environmental monitoring. We have been running a successful sea ice monitoring project for several years and other communities have started to use our methodology and implement a similar program.

There are experts in the communities that can carry out various monitoring and data collection activities all year – this constant research can amass large datasets of huge value to science. What scientist wouldn't want a year's worth of data instead of the few weeks' worth they collect in their summer field season!

There is great potential there, for both science projects and the communities. We are open to working with any science projects that see the value in local leadership of research and are interested in a partnership approach.

General information

Contact us if you have feedback or questions.

I ttaq Contact information

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Visit us at: www.ittaq.ca
(website coming soon...)

The IRIS-2 team would like to thank Shari Gearheard who offered her time and insight to this "Eastern Arctic newsletter profile" series.

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Visit our website at:

www.arcticnet.ulaval.ca/research/iris_2_info.php

Upcoming Newsletter

Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory (NCRI)

