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## Project profile #5 - October 2010

## Improving access to university education in the Canadian Arctic

## Summary

The goal of this research proposal is to provide evidence-based research on Inuit participation in University education throughout Inuit Nunangat and to promote a national discussion amongst provider of university program in Inuit Nunangat, Northern institutions and Inuit organizations in order to develop a more coordinated effort in program delivery and curriculum development.



**Workshop held during the National Inuit Youth Summit in Inuvik**

This research has three objectives:

- 1) Make an inventory and evaluation of past and present university initiatives in Inuit Nunangat or for Inuit in term of curriculum, delivery methods and success.



Workshop held during Nunavut  
Sivuniksavut 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion

- 2) Evaluate the Inuit student's needs and experiences with postsecondary programs or courses in order to better understand educational paths and university successes from the point of view of the Inuit.
- 3) Develop different scenarios to improve access to university education for Inuit and Northerners in Inuit Nunangat.

The data will be collected through surveys and in-depth interviews. A workshop convening all the stakeholders in University education in the Canadian arctic will also be organized. We expect this research to provide evidence-based data on the Inuit student's university experience.

## Study site locations



Iqaluit  
Kuujuaq  
Inuvik

## Local collaborations

Nunavut Arctic College,  
National Inuit Youth Council,  
Nunavut Sivuniksavut,  
Kativik School Board.

## Questions to Researchers

ArcticNet recognizes the importance of framing climate change issues from various perspectives. Below we are asking a few questions to the project leaders in order to identify scientific priority issues and demonstrate how the research results can be used by policy and decision-makers in terms of community and climate change adaptation planning in the Eastern Canadian Arctic.

*1) From your own research perspective can you identify and describe the key issues that are (will be?) affecting social, economic or environmental conditions in the Eastern Canadian Arctic?*

Inuit people face numerous environmental, social, political and economic challenges. Enabling greater university access will increase Inuit capacity to face these challenges. Moreover, increased university access could contribute to the development of a new generation of Inuit leaders and decision makers.

*2) How will your ArcticNet project contribute to a better understanding of these issues affecting the Eastern Canadian Arctic?*

This research will provide evidence-based data on the experience of the Inuit student's at the university. More specifically it will:

- Provide data on Inuit participation in university programs;
- Define university and educative success from a point of view of Inuit. This will help university program providers to deliver programs better adapted to the needs of Inuit students;
- Monitor the success of Inuit student according to their definition of success.

- Create an inventory of the university programs delivered in Inuit Nunangat or designed for Inuit students and evaluate them;

- Develop scenarios to improve access to University program for Inuit students.

*3) Provide an example of how the results of your project may contribute to the decision-making process with respect to these issues.*

Education is a priority for Northern governments and Inuit organizations and some southern universities have developed program for Inuit and Northerners.

However, there is a lack of data and a lack of coordination between the different initiatives. This research addresses these two issues and thus will give tools for decision-maker to improve access to university education for Inuit students.

## General information

Contact us if you have suggestions, feedback or questions regarding the research projects presented in this newsletter.

## Project contact information:

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## Upcoming Newsletter

### Researcher

**Paul Myers**

### Research project

*Past and present changes to the ocean and sea-ice in the Arctic Archipelago*

