



Fiona is an associate professor of education at the University of Prince Edward Island and the coordinator of the Master of Education program in Nunavut. Jukeepa Hainnu (right) is the principal of Quluuq School, Clyde River and ArcticNet research leader in her community.



Project profile #11 – March 2011

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the Transformation of High School Education in Nunavut

Summary

How can Inuit educational leaders work with parents in communities to create a Nunavut school system to meet the challenges of the 21st century? How can a curriculum grounded in traditional beliefs and values contribute to the personal and academic success of Inuit high school students?

In Canada's newest territory a team of Inuit and Qallunaat (non-Inuit) researchers based out of the University of Prince Edward Island, St. Francis Xavier University and Nunavut is exploring these central questions through case studies of the high schools in Pangnirtung and Clyde River.



**Jeeteeta Merkosak, DEA Coalition
Chair (left) at Spring Camp in
Pangnirtung**



Lena Metuq, Principal, Attagoyuk School, Pangnirtung

Inuit leaders in these schools and communities are fostering parental and student engagement to support student success through strong connections with language and culture. By identifying factors facilitating or impeding student learning, the research provides examples for other communities working to transform education in Nunavut. The production and distribution of a bilingual (Inuktitut and English) documentary film about Inuit leadership in the high schools and communities will reach a wide audience.

Study site locations



Panqnirtung and Clyde River.

Local collaborations

The Nunavut Department of Education, the Coalition of District Education Authorities of Nunavut and the District Education Authorities in Pangnirtung and Clyde River are actively involved as partners in this research.

School principals, Lena Metuq and Jukeepa Hainnu, graduates of the UPEI Master of Education (MEd) program, are leading the research in their own communities.

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?

Education is a key determinant of health and directly impacts the socioeconomic environment in Arctic communities. Well educated Inuit citizens of Nunavut are needed to manage the complexities of climatic and cultural change. The identification of factors contributing to improved graduation levels at the same time as strengthening Inuit identity, pride and cultural knowledge will contribute valuable information to help transform education in Nunavut.

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

The documentary video provides an accessible visual story, told by the local residents of Pangnirtung and Clyde River, the Inuit students attending the school and the Inuit educational leaders and staff in both communities. The video will be circulated widely within Nunavut and elsewhere. This fosters an understanding of educational practices that result in greater academic and personal success for Inuit students at the high school level.

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

The research identifies approaches, practices and strategies that support recent legislative and policy initiatives in Nunavut related to the implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit social values) at the high school level. This positively impacts decision-making within education across Nunavut. The involvement of the Coalition of District Education Authorities (DEA) of Nunavut and the Department of Education in this research means that the results will be shared with members of the DEAs and school staffs in all the communities.

General information

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

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Upcoming Newsletter

Researcher

Tim Papakyriakou

Research project

Effects of climate change on carbon exchange dynamics in the Arctic

