

Ikaarvik: Inuit youth bridging research and their communities in a changing Arctic



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PAME Cambridge Bay
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60% of Nunavut is under 30 (50% under 15)



Two groups searching for solutions



ETP students in Pond Inlet looking to find ways for Inuit communities to be more meaningfully engaged in research.



Ocean Wise (then Vanaqua) looking to define its role in the Arctic

Ikaarvik: Barriers to Bridges

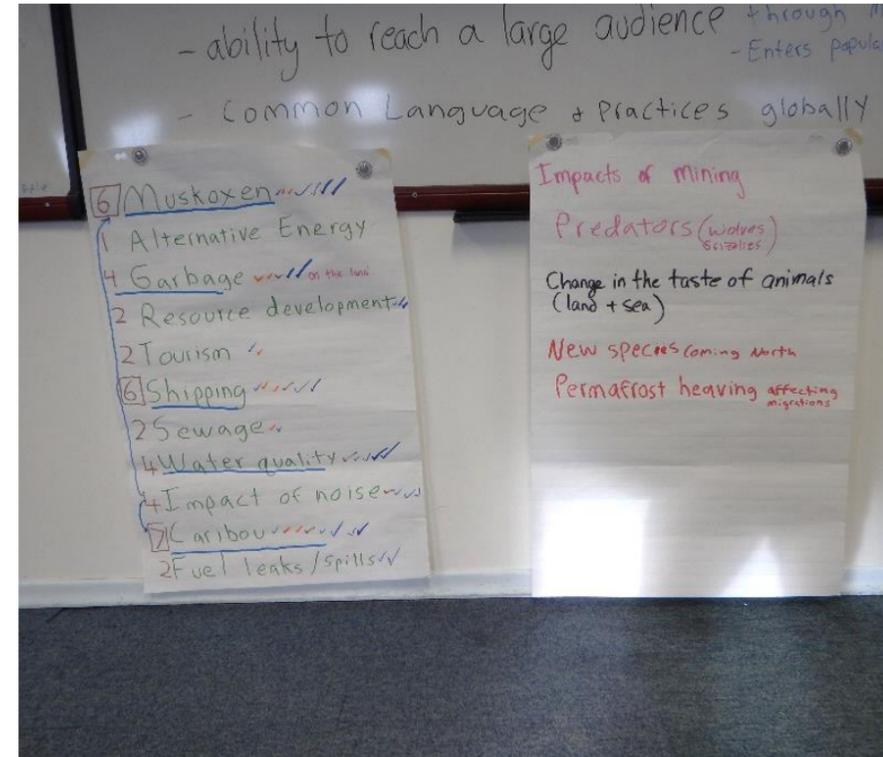
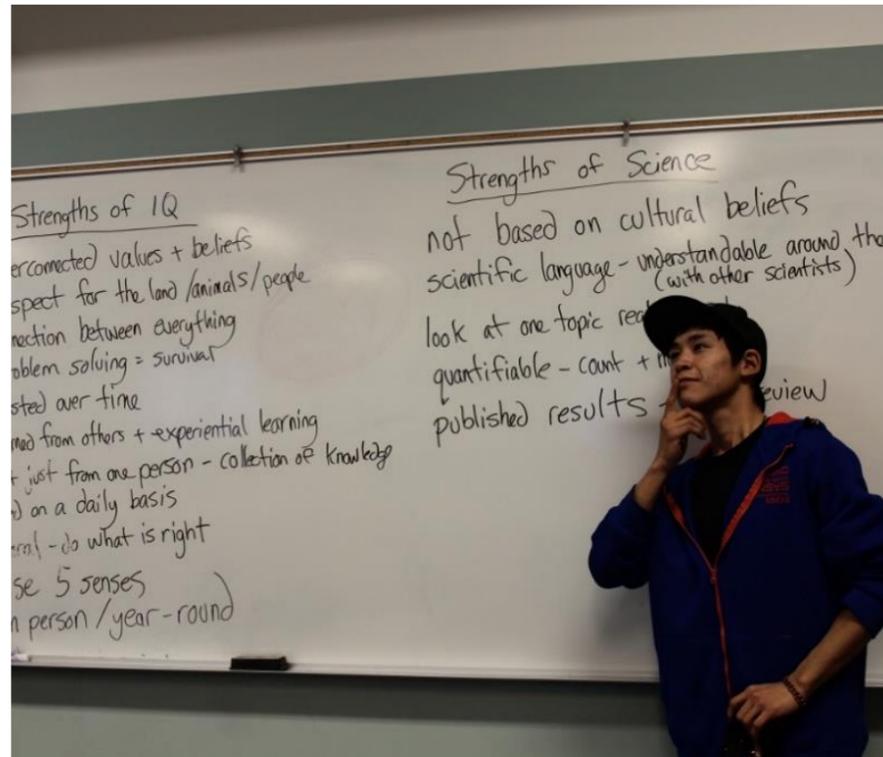


- Works with northern Indigenous youth to be the bridge between research and their communities
- Empowers youth and their communities to identify and act on their own research priorities
- While building skills, confidence and experience that allows youth to take leadership roles in addressing issues of local concern for their communities

The 2013 Arctic Inspiration Prize



Ikaarvik community workshops



Youth identify and explore the strengths of IQ and science

Identify environmental issues of local importance

Present it to their community for feedback, consensus

A list of issues

Pond Inlet – youth priority items
Garbage
Shipping
Icebreaking
Caribou
Water quality
Invasive species
Dust
IQ + climate change
Dump – contaminants, burning garbage, runoff
Sewage lagoon
Cigarette butts – impact on the environment
Increase in vehicles / lack of disposal
Fuel spills in the community / local waters
Airport in the community– plane exhaust and de-icing fluids
Pond Inlet – additions from the community
Permafrost changes within the community
Are researchers telling us the truth?
Soil sampling within the community
Glaciers melting – what is being exposed?

The next steps: acting on the priorities



Connect community with researchers to address one or more research priorities



Youth are trained to be co-researchers



Youth participate in all aspects of the study

Pond Inlet – invasive species monitoring

Using environmental DNA analysis to create a baseline of marine species off Pond Inlet and determine potential impacts of shipping / ballast water from the Baffinland mine ships



Research Mentor: Kimberly Howland, DFO



To inform the development of shipping corridors in the Canadian Arctic.

Youth facilitated community identification of important areas for wildlife and people that could be impacted by ship traffic.

Kugluktuk—Coppermine River health monitoring



Development and implementation of a monitoring program on the Coppermine River based on community concerns for river health

Research Mentors: Rosie Smith and Heidi Swanson, University of Waterloo

Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay—SmartICE



Combining Inuit Knowledge and technology:
Mapping, measuring and monitoring local sea ice conditions for safer travel and hunting on the ice.
(Stay tuned for more about this program tomorrow!)

Research Mentor: Trevor Bell, Memorial University

Ikaarvik SciQ Summit

Inuit Youth Bridging Traditions and Arctic Research



- Youth have been exploring the intersection between Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and science, research and communities
- Youth created an plan outlining w41 specific actions, behaviors, protocols for researchers (before, during and after the research) demonstrating how IQ principles can be used to create better relationships, meaningful engagement and ultimately better science!

Challenges



- Money—difficult to fund time in communities to identify relevant research questions
- Capacity—in communities (for proposal writing, etc.) and within Ikaarvik
- Finding new projects to keep youth engaged
- Changing leadership in communities

Impacts



- Youth personal and professional development & meaningful employment
- Decolonialization of research
- Enhanced capacity in communities to represent their own interests regarding research and science
- Better incorporation of IQ into research
- “Zipping up” two worlds



Conclusions



- Didn't set out to address the issue of reconciliation but have since come to realize the importance of decolonializing research as a form of reconciliation.
- Research is an amazing place that give youth the **TIME** and **SPACE** necessary to drive Arctic research forward
- So who cares? Let me tell you!



Thank you!

Ikaarvik.org



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