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Mobilizing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for Sea-Ice Safety: A Sikumiut case study

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Strengthen Inuit Youth Capacity

Elijah Panipakoocho and **Noses Amagoalik**

Non-Inuit **Partner Role:** Mentorship and Support





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My PhD project is a case study in understanding a new role for non-Inuit researchers and the approaches needed to truly support inuit self-determination in research. The following steps outline an emerging model (Research Proposal: Wilson, 2018) taking shape on a community-based project to mobilize Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) for sea-ice safety in Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), Nunavut.

Sea-ice experts in Mittimatalik, Nunavut, have identified the need to: 1) share their IQ of sea-ice with the next generation to improve safe sea-ice travel; 2) understand and mitigate the impacts of climate change on sea-ice; and 3) develop a baseline of local sea-ice conditions in anticipation of increased shipping during the fall and winter seasons.

The Inuit Management Committee for SmartICE in Mittimatalik, self titled Sikumiut, governs this research. They decide what Inuit and scientific knowledge is needed and the roles of the partners. They also determine the methods used to communicate their sea-ice IQ to their community.

Sikumiut's approach for this project is based on their IQ and the IQ principles they would like to follow are outlined in Nunavut's Inuit Societal Values (Government of Nunavut, 1999). Sikumiut will evaluate this project from an Inuit perspective and based on their extensive sea-ice experience.

Local Inuit youth have been hired and trained to do this research. They are facilitating workshops with Sikumiut on sea-ice terminology and mapping locations of safe and hazardous travel. Youth are being trained in geographic information science to interpret, detect and monitor sea-ice trends in 20+ years of satellite imagery and to develop maps of local sea-ice conditions. Inuit youth will also run the process to evaluate the project.



To be accountable and give back to the community, my primary role in this project is to mentor and strengthen Inuit youth capacity in community-based research. My role intersects all aspects of the research to support Inuit decisionmaking, IQ, methodologies and ultimately Inuit self-determination in research. For more information contact: Katherine.Wilson@mun.ca









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