

Youth Leadership & Engagement in Research in Nunavik Conversation #1

Research as a tool for Self-Determination

- Informing Inuit communities about research is **not enough**, communities must be involved
- Inuit need to determine what kind of research is needed
- Research can be empowering and lead to change

“Research is an important tool to help decision making”

“What do we want to learn? How will it help our communities?”

Building Northern Research Capacity

- Include research training in the school curriculum
- Include urban Inuit in research
- Implement capacity building for youth and community in all research projects
- Make research results accessible and engaging

“Research can also be a space of co-learning within our communities which allow not only the researcher, but the community as well to learn”

“Inuit youth are not only the future of their communities, but also their present. Youth are right now (YARN)”

New Research Paradigm

- Recognize the role of Inuit storytelling as a distinct and legitimate form of knowledge transmission
- Research should be based on Inuit knowledge not only academic knowledge
- Include as many knowledge holders as possible: youth and elders should have more space to share and learn together “as youth we are eager to learn”
- Research must recognize the importance of elders as mentors, teachers and guides who maintain and pass on Inuit culture, lifestyle and knowledge
- Land should be a central focus in research

“We must recognize the existence of a different and unique Inuit knowledge”

“Conventional western science is one small part, because Indigenous science also considers the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical”

This workshop was co-organized by Magalie Quintal-Marineau, Michelle Smith, Qarjuit Youth Council and First Peoples Post-Secondary Storytelling Exchange for youth to voice their ideas and concerns about “what is research in their homeland”. The discussion took place in Winnipeg during the Inuit Studies Conference, June 22, 2022.

