

REPORT

MARCH 18-22, 2024



Nunatsiavut
Government
Workshop Report

Silavut Asianguvalliajok

Nunatsiavut Climate Change Workshop 2024

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Introduction

Overview of Silavut Asianguvalliajuk

Silavut Asianguvalliajuk, the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Workshop 2024 was held in Nain, Nunatsiavut from March 18-22, 2024. The workshop convened communities, organizations, institutions, and governmental bodies to engage in discussions pertinent to climate change in Nunatsiavut. Hosted by the Nunatsiavut Government, these deliberations were crafted in accordance with Inuit principles, fostering dialogue on climate change concerns and facilitating knowledge exchange. The aim was to stimulate innovative thinking and identify actionable solutions and pathways forward. Insights gleaned from these discussions are informing strategies for mitigation, adaptation, and ongoing monitoring in Nunatsiavut.



The objectives of this workshop were to:

1. Update on completed and ongoing activities in Nunatsiavut (projects, initiatives, plans, etc.)
2. Identify concerns and priorities of communities
3. Identify resources, support, and funding opportunities
4. Form collaborative and strategic solutions to inform climate action in the region
5. Build a climate-minded network in Nunatsiavut

The outcomes and outputs of the workshops, described in this report, will support:

- Identification of community-specific concerns and priorities related to climate change to ensure there is uptake by the appropriate programs, organizations, etc.
- The development and implementation of the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy
- Further engagement with Labrador Inuit and community members on issues related to climate change, including knowledge sharing

A [document outlining the concerns and priorities](#) discussed in the workshop has also been created to ensure there is uptake by the appropriate programs, organizations, etc. This will act as a summary that is more specific to what community members feel are important when it comes to climate adaptation and monitoring. This will give the concerns and priorities a chance to be expressed clearly in a way that is representative of the communities and allows for the voices of Labrador Inuit to be strengthened.

The Workshop Agenda

DAY 1 - March 18, 2024



[Welcome](#)
[Where are we now on this climate journey?](#)
[Climate Trivia](#)
[Climate Initiatives \(regional, provincial, federal, international\)](#)
[How are we connected?](#)

DAY 2 - March 19, 2024



[Rutie Lampe - Climate Impacts on Mental Health](#)
[Maria Merkuratsuk - My Life in the North](#)
[Overview of climate change in Labrador](#)
[Activity: Community Observations & Concerns](#)
[Chaim Andersen - Climate Impacts](#)
[Panel: Climate Data & Information in Nunatsiavut](#)

DAY 3 - March 20, 2024



[Joey Angnatok - Climate Impacts](#)
[Panel: Climate Impacts \(permafrost, tundra\)](#)
[Panel: Climate Adaptation \(energy & housing\)](#)
[Panel: Climate Funding](#)
Networking: Personal learning with presenters & speakers
[Activity: Let's SOAR towards our shared vision for climate](#)

DAY 4 - March 21, 2024



[On the land!](#)
Visiting the Rattle
Joey's Cabin

DAY 5 - March 22, 2024



[Aaju Lightfoot - Climate Impacts across Inuit Nungat](#)
Activity: Individual Reflections
Sounds of Saglek (marine recordings)
[Activity: What's blocking us from taking action?](#)
[Activity: Priority actions for addressing climate change](#)
Closing
Evening: Feast, Music, Dancing & Karaoke

The entire workshop was designed and delivered in a way that was responsive to the needs of participants.

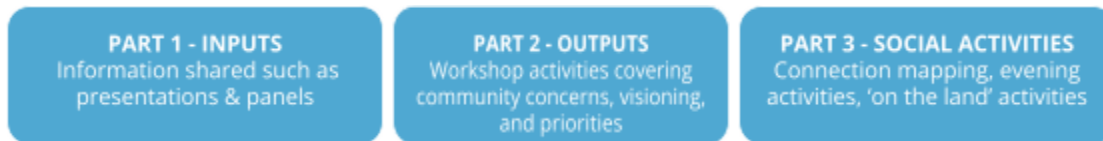
- The whole program was available online through a hybrid format to increase access for invited participants unable to travel and to accommodate travel disruptions.
- The agenda shifted as necessary to accommodate participants' travel disruptions (e.g., community members along the coast did not arrive in-person until Wednesday, Thursday weather was better 'on the land' versus Friday, and the agenda was paused on the afternoon of Day 2 to show respect for a funeral in the community).
- Interpreters were available throughout the workshop to ensure English/Inuktitut interpretation was provided.
- Name tags were tagged with red dots to identify those who were not beneficiaries and therefore were asked to be active observers in some discussions.

Rules of Engagement

- Be present and choose to actively listen & participate.
- Respect each other's voices. Allow everyone to speak for themselves.
- Listen with care and seek to understand before advocating.
- "Yes...and" : Be generative and build on each other's ideas.
- Speak honestly. Use "I statements" to express your truth without blame or judgment.
- Treat everything said in the workshop with confidentiality and respect.
- Seek common ground and understanding.
- Bring your humour and have fun while respecting the cultural norms and sensitivities of the community.
- Contribute to the cleanliness of the space.

Overview of this Report

This report is divided into the following sections:



Who was there

** Participant is also a beneficiary.*

Community Members*:

Nain: Joey Angnatok, Laura Millie, Johanna Lampe, Maria E Merkuratsuk

Hopedale: Hilda Hunter, John Winters, Martha Winters-Abel, Veronica Flowers

Postville: Josephine Jacque, Katrina Anthony

Makkovik: Aaju Lightfoot, TJ Lightfoot, Jaelyn Andersen

Rigolet: Brooklyn Wolfrey

Upper Lake Melville Region: Irene Burden

Canadian Constituency: Chelsea Lampe, Sabina Flowers

Government

Municipal Governments: Beni Ittulak*, Joe Dicker*, Barry Andersen*

Nunatsiavut Government: Beverly Hunter*, Brenda Jararuse*, Chaim Andersen*, Dawn Michelin*, Jamie Hewlett, Kristy Sheppard*, Lena Onalik*, Michelle Saunders*, Renee Kuehnle, Rodd Laing, Rutie Lampe*, Stu Michel

Provincial: Angela Grant, Lela Evans*

Federal: Alecia Boddie, Ashleigh Downing, Chantal Kipfer, Yves Theriault, Dave Cote, Lucie Meunier-Doyon, Marlene Doyle

Academics and Professionals

Andrew Trant, Breanna Bishop, Emma McGuire, Jennifer Thornhill-Verma, Johnny Lam, Kat Frick-Miller, Katryna Barone, Myrah Graham, Patrick Lauriault, Robert Way*, Taylor Montgomery-Stinson, Tom McGuire, Victoria Colyn, Willa Neilsen

See the [detailed participant list](#) for additional information.

If you have any questions about this report, or climate change initiatives happening in Nunatsiavut, please contact Chaim Andersen at chaim.andersen@nunatsiavut.com.

Acknowledgements & Gratitude

Many people supported the planning and delivery of this workshop. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation to the following individuals for all of their support in bringing this event to life:

Silavut Asianguvalliajuk Planning Team: Chaim Andersen, Michelle Saunders, Rodd Laing, Liz Pijogge, Carla Pamak, Frederic Dwyer-Samuel, Elizabeth Tuglavina (Nunatsiavut Government Environment Division staff), Dawn Michelin, Kristy Sheppard, Lena Onalik, Jamie Hewlett, Renee Kuehnle, Willa Neilson.

Facilitation Team: Chaim Andersen, and Jane Porter & Vanessa Monteiro (Bridge Building Group)

Audio & Visuals: Chris Coomber (PIDO Productions)

Interpretation: Gus Semigak*, Katie Winters*

Drivers: Ama Fox* & Chesley Ittulak*, Ephraim Jararuse*

Caterers: Harriet Kalleo*, Emma Kalleo*, Gwen Tuglavina*, and Ruby Tuglavina*

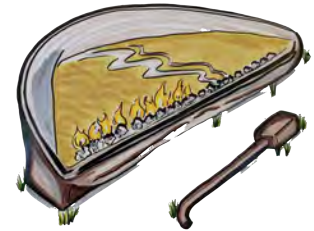


Silavut Asianguvalliajuk Workshop 2024: Nakummek to all who participated, supported, and brought meaningful presence and discussion. We are grateful and appreciate the time and energy you brought to the room!

Part 1: Panel Discussions & Presentations

Welcome & Opening of the Workshop

To start the workshop, several leaders across the region welcomed participants and shared their perspectives on why this workshop was important. Opening remarks were made by: Joe Dicker (AngajukKâk/Mayor of Nain), Chaim Andersen (Community Climate Change Liaison, Nunatsiavut Government), Rodd Laing (Director of Environment, Nunatsiavut Government), and Lela Evans (NDP MHA for the District of Torngat Mountains). Rutie Lampe (Mental Health and Addictions Worker, DHSD, Nunatsiavut Government) shared stories while lighting the Kullik and Martha Winters-Abel said an opening prayer.



Key messages from the opening:

- In Canada, particularly in northern Labrador and across the north, climate change isn't a distant future concern but a present reality.
- Residents feel the effects firsthand and see it as the crisis it is. "We are the canary in the coal mine," and urgent action is needed to mitigate and adapt to its impacts.
- The dwindling availability of snow and ice, crucial for travel, hunting, and fishing, underscores the need for adaptation strategies.
- It's important for the rest of Canadians to see what's happening in Labrador: beyond the data and understand the human dimension of climate change.
- There's gratitude for the opportunity to share perspectives and insights, highlighting the significance of developing a comprehensive climate change strategy with input from scholars and community members.
- The cultural significance of traditional practices like using the Kullik for light and warmth serves as a reminder of our Inuit way of life, tradition, and ceremony - all important grounding elements as we move forward with the changing climate.
- Amidst the significant impacts of climate change a reframed approach is needed, moving from a deficit-based perspective to one of resilience.
- Participants thanked the Nunatsiavut Government for amplifying people's voices and showcasing the human toll of climate change.

Before we begin... **What is climate change?**

- Earth has a naturally occurring greenhouse effect (Greenhouse gases keep us ~30°C warmer than without them).
- Burning fossil fuels (gas, oil, coal) puts more of these gases in the atmosphere.
- Fossil fuel use is increasing the greenhouse effect.
- This caused a global temperature increase (+1.25°C).
- Warming will not stop until global emissions reach zero.

(Excerpt from Dr. Robert Way's presentation: [Climate Change in Nunatsiavut](#))

Context Setting

Where are we, as Labrador Inuit, now on our climate journey?

Updates from Nunatsiavut Government (NG)

Work done since the last climate workshops.

Rodd Laing, Chaim Andersen, along with Chantal Kipfer with the Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL) Agenda (Environment & Climate Change Canada, ECCC of the Government of Canada) presented on “Climate Change work in Nunatsiavut: Past, Present, Future”.

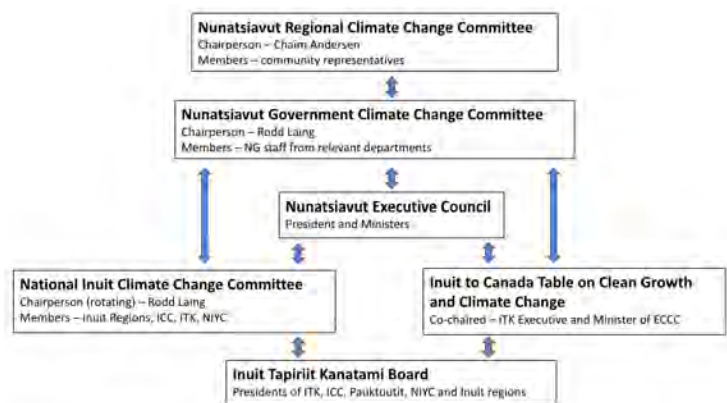
See detailed presentation here: [Climate Change work in Nunatsiavut: Past, Present, Future](#)

- **Past concerns & priorities:** Based on previous climate change workshops and community engagement, priorities included topics related to: infrastructure, energy, security, safety, health, knowledge, identity, sea ice change, changes to marine life and animals, etc.
- **Current work across Nunatsiavut:** Much work has been done since previous climate change workshops, based on the concerns and priorities identified. NG is in the process of developing the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy, to be discussed with communities this fall and shared with the Executive Council later this year for review and approval (this workshop is an important input into that strategy). They are also creating an infrastructure strategy with climate change components. Community climate modeling¹ for the region up to 2100 has been done and includes both the terrestrial and marine environment.
- **Current work across Inuit Nunangat:** NG was part of the development of the [National Inuit Climate Change Strategy](#) (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, 2019). All Inuit regions (Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut) have or will have their own climate change strategies. These regional strategies will feed into the update of the national strategy. The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is working on the international strategy.

The Climate Change Committee Structures for NG:

These Committees demonstrate how all of the work done, especially at the community level, feeds up through different levels of government.

If there are questions about how to get more involved and informed about what is happening, contact [Chaim Andersen](#).



¹ Climate modeling is getting a gauge of what the current state is and then working to predict what it would look like in the future (e.g., modelling temperature, salinity, etc.)

Inuit Climate Leadership Agenda (ICL)

The federal government's partnerships with Inuit on climate change

Chantal Kipfer, (ECCC) presented on the Inuit Climate Leadership (ICL) Agenda.

See detailed presentation here: [Update from GoC - Chantal K. ICL Agenda](#)

Recognizing the challenges of navigating the complexity of applying to the multitude of climate programs across the federal government, the ICL Agenda is a new and transformative approach with the objectives of:

- Providing direct, long-term, flexible, funding to Inuit to take self-determined climate action.
- Collaborative decision-making on climate policy and meaningful, two-way engagement.
- Support for long-term Inuit climate change capacity.

The Nunatsiavut Government will provide recommendations (heavily based on direction and feedback from NG staff and community members) to Canada on how Canada can better support their climate priorities and actions, which will be shared with federal decision-makers in Fall 2024. Implementation of these recommendations is the long-term goal.

Questions & Comments:

- *How do we ensure more people are engaged in this process?* The same people often show up at these types of gatherings and we need to be mindful of how we do outreach.
- Be mindful of illocutionary silencing (limiting the ability to communicate through words, whether that be due to language barriers, educational, or time constraints (Townsend & Townsend, 2020, [Keepers of the Circle - Indigenous Lens Gender-Based Analysis in Impact Assessments](#)).

Updates on Climate Initiatives Across Different Levels

Nunatsiavut Government (NG)

Rodd Laing, Chaim Andersen, Michelle Saunders, and Lena Onalik presented on climate initiatives in Nunatsiavut on behalf of the Nunatsiavut Government.



See the detailed presentation here: [Climate Initiatives in Nunatsiavut](#)

There are 41 research projects being conducted or supported by NG, many of which are a direct response to previous climate workshops. These include but are not limited to:

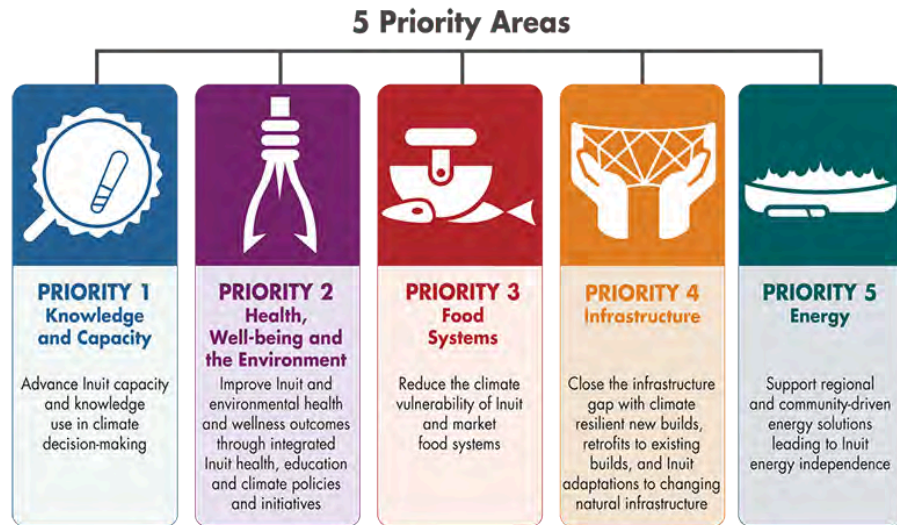
- Makkovik Trails project (increase access to alternate routes when ice is unsafe)
- [SmartICE](#) (monitoring of sea ice and relaying information to the community)
- Hopedale Avalanche Awareness (training for community members to understand and recognize avalanche risks and companion rescue)
- Polar Bear and Human Conflicts (preparing for increased interactions between polar bears and humans through training)
- Patridge monitoring (this came from the community hunters as their primary hunting spots were no longer successful)
- Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program Projects (projects related to monitoring arctic char, plastic concerns in wild food and environments, weather monitoring, Community-based Observations of Nunatsiavut Ocean Circulation (CONOC), aquatic invasive species monitoring, sea ice and marine habitat change through SIKU, ice monitoring, Voisey Ship Tracking, migratory birds, subsea permafrost)
- Proposed Inuit Protected Area in the [Torngat Area of Interest](#)
- [Sustainable Nunatsiavut Futures](#) (Knowledge co-production of marine ecosystems between Iunit, NG, Dalhousie University, Memorial University and other NGOs)

Questions & Comments:

- *Are you expecting more lobsters and crustaceans to come to Nunatsiavut?* Don't expect them any time soon or to come quickly, but they will creep up slowly. People are seeing more sharks and sea bass.
- *Is Nunatsiavut still monitoring the bird flu?* Yes, in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Service. Please send any dead birds to NG and they send it onward.
- *Is NG concerned about potential wildfires / water security in Nunatsiavut?* With the changing climate and terrain, this is something NG is looking into, especially in terms of infrastructure development and community fire breaks. Nunatsiavut is looking into becoming part of a forest fire monitoring system.

Inuit Nunangat (National Inuit Climate Change Strategy)

NG is a voting member of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), and sits on the National Inuit Climate Change Committee. In 2019, the NICCC released the [National Inuit Climate Change Strategy](#), which includes the five priority areas, listed below. Based on the feedback from the regions (including Nunatsiavut), there will be an update to the strategy in the next year, informed by the regional strategies.



Province of Newfoundland & Labrador (Climate Change Action Plans)

Angela Grant, provided an update on behalf of the provincial government, specifically the [New Climate Change Action Plans \(2025-2030\)](#)

See detailed presentation here: [Update from NL - New Climate Change Action Plans - Angela G](#)



- The plan has focus areas on: Carbon Pricing Program, Clean Economy, Transportation, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Natural Areas, Energy Use in Buildings and Homes, Infrastructure, Planning & Development, Health & Well-being, and Education & Outreach.
- Key achievements: 2020 GHG reduction target achieved in 2021 (lowest level since 1992 (8.3 million tonnes); federal funding agreements for targeted GHG reduction (\$157 million from 2023-24 to 2026-27).
- The plan for the updating strategy: Mitigation Action Plan (2025-2030); Adaptation Action Plan (2025-2030).
- Currently in a stakeholder engagement process.

Questions & Comments:

- *Who are the action plans for?* These are for the entirety of Labrador and Newfoundland including Nunatsiavut.
- *Post-COVID rebound, are we concerned about an increase in emissions?* Looking at 5-year averages we are still seeing reductions. This could be because people are more aware and want to act.
- *The government needs to recognize the realities in Nunatsiavut.* For example, off-grid communities still rely on diesel, which is getting more expensive (a 45G drum is ~\$500 and only lasts about 2 weeks). There is more pressure for net-zero options that are not accessible in the north (e.g. The oil-to-electric transition option wasn't available for those on diesel, and for those who took on the transition there is not enough trade support for fixes and maintenance).

Government of Canada (National Adaptation Strategy)

Somayyeh Montazer-Hojat (Environment & Climate Change Canada) provided an update on the [National Adaptation Strategy](#).

See detailed presentation here: [Update from GoC - National Adaptation Strategy](#)



- Climate Change Impacts in Canada: Canada is warming at double the global rate, three times in the north. More frequent or severe floods, storms and forest fires, permafrost thaw, reduced ice cover, changes to animal migration, etc. impact on many aspects of society, the environment and the economy.
- National Adaptation Strategy: It was released in June 2023 and developed collaboratively with partners and stakeholders. The strategy establishes a whole-of-society plan for climate change adaptation.
- Actions informed by a set of guiding principles and is set along interconnected systems: Disaster Resilience, Health and Well-being, Nature and Biodiversity, Infrastructure, and Economy and Workers.
- Implementation with Key Partners: Including the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan, the Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL) agenda for transitioning to a partnership model to advance self-determined climate actions (including adaptation) by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis; and Federal-Provincial/Territorial Action Plans.

Questions & Comments:

- *What happens if the government changes?* Current Federal funding that has been announced and has been allocated, can't be taken away. However, It's difficult to predict what will happen with future programming that hasn't been planned or allocated. The ICL Agenda recommendations will go to the federal government in the Fall of 2024 and include a long-term funds plan developed in partnership with Inuit. In developing those recommendations, we need to figure out how funding can be allocated in a predictable way so it can navigate around change (such as election cycles).

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)

An update on International Climate Initiatives relevant for Inuit

Anne Simpson from the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) presented how Inuit are working at the international level on climate change.

See the detailed presentation here: [Update from ICC - Anne S](#)



- About the [Inuit Circumpolar Council](#): Established in 1977, it represents 180,000 Inuit in the Circumpolar Arctic (Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Chukotka (Russia)) whose purpose is to strengthen unity among the Inuit of the Circumpolar region.
- ICC priorities at the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): climate adaptation and mitigation, loss and damage funding (less on compensation and more about aversion).
- Example of international Inuit leadership: 2017 – [Pikialasorsuaq Commission Report Recommendations](#) (largest upwelling in the Arctic).

Climate Data & Science

Climate Data from an Inuit Perspective

Chaim Andersen explained how climate data is information that comes from environmental monitoring stations or other research, but importantly in Nunatsiavut, it includes Inuit perspectives, knowledge, and observations.

Historically, Inuit relied on their knowledge for safety and success for living off the land, but climate change has introduced new risks and changes that are challenging previous understandings. Despite uncertainties, climate models and predictions aid in planning, even if they're not completely accurate.

Read [Chaim Andersen's](#) full Inuit Perspective story in the *Climate Impacts* section of the report.

Climate Data & Information Panel

Canadian Centre for Climate Services (Ashleigh Downing)

See the detailed presentation here: [Climate Data, Access through CCCS](#)



- [Canadian Centre for Climate Services \(CCCS\)](#) provides climate data, information and support to consider climate change in decision-making and long-term planning. (Works closely with CLIMAtlantic for this region). Access to the main portal can be found here: climatedata.ca
- CCCS is mainly working in the data space and recognizes that Inuit Kujumautigisongungit (IK) supports all steps of the climate adaptation process.
- IK and local knowledge is needed in order to make sense of information from monitoring and modelling tools and to make local adaptation decisions.
- Future Tools: CCCS develops data and tools to support local adaptation organizations. It is currently seeking input on potential tools (e.g., snowfall projections, Seasonal to Decadal (S2D), Coastal Variables, Ship accessible season in Arctic, Sea ice concentration(SIC), Sea ice thickness (SIT)).

CLIMAtlantic (Willa Neilsen)

See the detailed presentation here: [Climate Data, Adaptation Strategies](#)



CLIMAtlantic

- [CLIMAtlantic](#) is the climate services hub for Atlantic Canada. It provides free, publicly accessible support for all types of organizations working on or interested in climate change adaptation. The goal is to make adaptation accessible.
- Some modelling results are more certain than others, leading to different “levels of confidence”. Examples: High confidence - Temperature; Medium confidence - Precipitation; Low confidence - Wind speed, Snow loads
- Looking at a high emissions future, at the end of the century:
 - [The Heat](#): Nain could have 4x as many hot days per year (an average of 73).
 - Historically, Nain had an average of 18 hot days/year, which are 18°C or higher.
 - [Reduced Cold is an Issue](#): Nain could have a 49 to 120 “Ice Days” per year.
 - Historically, Nain had on average 155 to 161 “Ice Days” or days that stay under 0°C during winter. “Ice Days” are an indicator about the cold season (vs. sea ice conditions).
 - [Rain and snow](#): The wettest days are likely to get wetter.
 - There is a likely increase in total annual precipitation (mostly in winter and spring) and more days with significant rain (more than 20 mm).
 - There will likely be a decrease in days with snowfall, meaning that the increase in precipitation is likely to occur as rain.

- Western climate science can support Inuit-led climate work by providing data for:

Leadership and Communities	Youth & Community Climate Workshops	Strategic Direction	Data To Braid With Traditional Knowledge Systems
ICGs, Staff and Consultants	Funding and Grant Applications	Emergency Planning	
	Environment, Climate, and Health Policies	Land Use and Environmental Management	
	Habitat, Harvesting and Food Security Programs	Facilities, Housing and Infrastructure Planning & Design	
Researchers, Educators and Students	Climate Research Projects	Data To Braid With Traditional Knowledge Systems	Climate Presentations

Social Scientist Perspective (Breanna Bishop, Dalhousie University)

See the detailed presentation here: [Climate Data. Mapping knowledge of the ice and ocean](#)

- Breanna shared her experience as a social scientist working with a team of researchers at Dalhousie University, whose focus was to listen to community members and bring back the data to community members in a format that was useful for them via [booklets about travel routes, rattles, areas of strong tide, etc.](#)
- As part of this project, she visited all five Nunatsiavut communities and listened to community members about what is important to map about the ocean environment.
- A key takeaway: Inuit knowledge = climate science
- This climate data can feed how other scientists can develop their work.



Questions & Comments:

- Colonial approach to research:** Many participants commented how traditional research is often colonial and extractive. Many were pleased to hear how that approach is starting to shift - how researchers are here, developing relationships with community members. NG mentioned that they are very passionate about ensuring that their research is relevant to the community. Research is more inclusive and ethical at the community-level. We are moving in a positive direction and we can still find new ways to do more together.
- Story about Inuit Knowledge:** "I needed to wash clothes one day, and I told my mom to ask my dad - is it going to rain? All he did was look up at the sky and the ground and he knew it was going to rain. And I didn't wash clothes and it did end up raining".
- Inuit knowledge = science.** We don't "connect" Inuit knowledge to science, it is science! Inuit knowledge also doesn't need to be "validated" with western science.
- How can the data that's there be made more available and more public? A lot of the information shared at this workshop is new. How can we share this more broadly? Especially with youth who are going up north now?

Smart Ice (Rex Holwell)



- [SmartICE](#), is a community-based Work Integrated Social Enterprise (WISE) offering climate change adaptation tools to integrate Indigenous knowledge of ice with advanced data acquisition, remote monitoring and satellite mapping for ice travel safety.
- Rex shared how back in 2009, Nain had rain in February, which led to unsafe ice conditions and described how people couldn't use their traditional knowledge to be safe. When it happened again in 2010, they realized they needed a new way to evaluate how to be safe on the ice. Rodd and Joey were instrumental in the founding of SmartICE.
- SmartICE focuses on training, education, research, and ensuring that this vital information gets out to people across all communities.
- It's not replacing traditional knowledge, it's using new technology to help people adapt to sea ice travel.

Questions & Comments:

- *Is there a real time log of temperature and thicknesses of ice?* All of SmartICE's data goes to [SIKU](#) (a free mobile app and web platform by and for Inuit which provides tools and services for ice safety, language preservation and weather. See the [Facebook page for SIKU](#) as well).
- *How are you engaging youth?* We have an employment/development program in Nunatsiavut for those 18-30. They work with some schools, but schools need to reach out to them (field trips have had mixed success). There is a lot of red tape to work though. We take youth out on the land with us. Some participants noted that There is often a gap in opportunities for people who are not youth or Elders, 30-60 year olds).
- *How is the ice changing?* It's getting softer and thinner.

Climate Impacts

Inuit Perspectives on Climate Change

Maria Merkuratsuk

“Our Elders who know the land are dying out. We need more people to know the story. I need to be here to tell you the beautiful life I had. To thank my Mom and Dad.” - Maria

Maria, a local Inuk from Nain, shared her story about growing up on the land up north with her Mom, Dad, and 10 siblings, traveling on the land with a dog team and about how the climate is changing and the impacts on the Inuit way of life.



Quotes from Maria's story:

It was a very good life. A life I want to go back to. A life I will always carry with me.

I have seen a lot of changes in my time going north.

I don't want to be the only person who knows it all, so I continue to share my experience of being on the land and sea through the good and the bad weather.

Climate change to me is a word I struggle with. I don't like it.

Things started to change in a way... I don't know how to describe it. Sometimes hunters will tell you, 'what's the point [of this climate workshop], it's not going to change anything.' But for me, it can help. We are losing the hunters, the Inuit, the community through climate change. But we need to eat, we need to know the land.

My heart is hurting, my heart is hurting so much.

We used to go around the cape on dog team, on skidoo. It used to be so rough, it used to be hours and hours of travel. First time on skidoo, there was so much snow, my Dad and others would travel and stop and we were hungry and tired. That was mostly through kiglapait land. It was a hard way to live but it was the most beautiful way to live. Nobody complained. It was an Inuit way of life.

In the last few years, I need to go up north. If not I am going to get depressed, I am going to get sick. I need to go again, but I need to go at the right time. We used to go all the time, we used to just go on the weekend. When we used to go on skidoo in just a t-shirt on because it was so hot, but the ice was not a worry. Now, I need to catch it before the deep snow and slush comes.

My siblings; if we were together and talking in our own language it was so healing. It would help all of you. It's like when my brother used to hunt caribou. We'd follow the tracks - the excitement - the good feeling. It's like giving a kid candy - it totally changes their way - it lightens them up, it lightens me up. Now, it feels like we have come apart; we don't connect like we used to. But the memories when I go there are really strong.

Quotes from Maria's story:

When I go up north now, it's so rocky. Where am I? What do I do? Before you would just travel and you know what to do. Now to travel, you've got to survive. Even if you don't know the land anymore, I believe the hunters, the Inuit, know what to do. There's no other way around. You can't just wait, you have to move forward.

We are survivors. We need to survive.

[About the government] How am I able to teach the youth when I am not allowed to do this and not allowed to do that?

At times I want to give up. I don't know how to be Inuk. I have anger in my heart.

It's important what you're doing.

Climate change is a word I need to get used to.

I believe in the great hunters. I believe in my God, to bring us safety.

With all my soul, I am grateful for my years. You are welcome to our community - to help out.

Questions & Comments:

Maria received a lot of appreciation for telling her story, she inspired and brought a lot of emotion to the group.

- "Being on the land brings us so much healing. We get to leave everything behind and be a family. It's not just physical, it's mental and spiritual. It's happiness and memories that last forever".
- "Our kids look up to you Maria!"

Chaim Andersen

Climate change is affecting Nunatsiavut on so many levels. It impacts our way of life, beyond the "categories" we create for strategies and reports. - Chaim Andersen

Chaim, a local Inuk from Nain working as the Community Climate Change Liaison, shared her perspective on the impacts she has experienced and heard from Labrador Inuit through her role and through discussions with with the community.



Quotes from Chaim's story:

Historically, Inuit lived nomadically and understanding the environment was a part of life. Inuit were the first to go into settlements and that was a new way of life. It was not in alignment with the land, seasons, or the animals. This was a big shift from being nomadic, independent and self-sufficient.

There are two parts to climate change impacts. First is on the culture, that independence, that self-sufficiency

- There is still a strong connection to the land
- The immense changes impact us mentally, spiritually, and physically
- There are a lot of larger events that have happened that we have lived through
- When the environment is changing, it's changing our identity

Second, With the introduction of economy and capitalism there has been dependencies created

- Gas, stove oil, etc. → we are reliant on stores and supplies that come from planes and ships

Inuit are resilient - showcased by the experiences we have lived through in the past. We are capable of developing solutions for the future so we can move forward for a brighter future.

Joey Angnatok

"We used to be able to look at the sky and predict the weather and it's gotten really difficult to do that. I just say 'good luck' to people who ask me." - Joey

Joey is a local fisherman and Inuk from Nain who is involved in many NG research activities. He sees the environment changing in the wildlife, with people, and is actively working with the researchers to record them. He shared his observations about being on the land amidst climate change.



Quotes from Joey's story:

Icebergs are smaller (they aren't the big towering icebergs; 85% of the icebergs are huge flat pans) Ice conditions are not the same (based on his observations over the last 15 years with the NG, normal is 100-130cm, this year it's mostly 60cm. The first 15cm bottom should be hard, and now it's soft.).

We talk about temperature, ice and water, but snow is the deal breaker for our environment.

Because we had no snow on the ice, the sun melted ice really fast

Everyone who lives here says, if we get snow in December and then we are done for the season, but this year we got snow in January.

Questions & Comments:

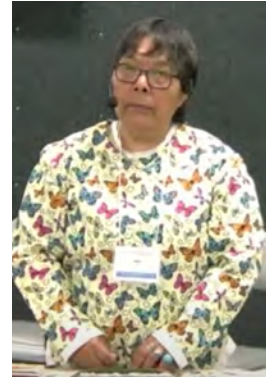
- *Have our fishing and hunting grounds changed a lot?*
 - We are still in March and there was a black duck in Rigolet - we don't see that until mid April normally.
 - The seal pups are being born early as well and there's not enough snow to cover them in those early days, meaning that they are dying from the cold.
 - Partridges are more common as they have more berries to eat due to the scarcity of snow.
 - Many animals are struggling though because there are ice layers on the snow. Layers of frost are preventing access to their food, leaving many animals to die or leave the region. For example, the caribou population used to be ~800,000, now it's ~7,000.
 - I don't ever remember a time when my Elders talked about having no berries. In the last 6 years we have had two seasons without berries, if there is no food source they won't stay here.
- *I have a 5 year old great granddaughter. What do you think it's going to be for them in the future with hunting?* Our people are resilient people. If there are any changes required, our people do it brilliantly. Whether it's going out on bad weather, bad ice. People are always changing - sometimes we just have to accept change for what it is. If we can't do it the way we are taught, maybe we just have to do it another way.
- *Last fall there were a lot of cod fish, do you think it's due to increasing temperatures?* When the cod fish disappeared, they disappeared in the north before the south. They didn't have access to food, and their stomachs were empty and then the next season they didn't come back. The offshore fisheries were growing fast at that time but then the snow crabs population exploded because the codfish were not there. Now we are seeing more diversity of fish in their bellies so that suggests other species are coming back too.
- *Are there more orcas around now?* I've made a living on the ocean for 33 years. Other than seeing a single whale once in 5 years, between here and Newfoundland that's what it was. Everyone would see a scattered sighting. If you remember the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. After that, off the coast of Cartwright, nice day, no wind, and then they saw a big fin. That sighting ended up being more and more and more. At first there were 50, then there were 100 around us. We stopped everything, there were killer whales all around us! I talked to a researcher who told me "If you're telling me the truth, you just observed more than half the population of the north atlantic killer whale. Now we see them every season. We have seen a big increase in numbers. 1 or 2 every year, or a big population of all of them. Even up north, people are concerned about the stock of belugas and others because the killer whale has found them.



Harriet (Rutie) Lampe

Rutie Lampe is a mental health and addictions worker with the Nunatsiavut Government. She shared an NG publication on mental health, [Mental Wellness and Climate Change](#), and shared Inuktitut terms for different weather.

	Onattuk-Onak → Feeling hot
	Kiujanattuk-ikkee → Feeling cold
	Kausinnak-kausilik → Getting wet, stormy
	Anugik-tittauk → Windy
	Nigumittuk-nigumik → Nice day, warm weather, just right



Highlights from Rutie's story:

Inuit are being negatively affected by the speed and change in temperatures and weather. It affects our mental, physical and spiritual health.

- Hunting, fishing and way have life has already been affected.
- Different animals and insects are coming as the temperature warms (e.g., killer whales).
- Fall is longer and warmer, sometimes the winter doesn't start until the middle of winter. which means that we are not able to go on the ice earlier to prepare for winter.
- Food insecurity is an issue because it's more expensive and we can't hunt.
- The spring thaw is earlier causing trouble for hunters and gatherers.
- Foliage is growing so fast, willows and grass are so high now.
- We now have extreme weather conditions.

I cried during an interview about climate change. Will Inuit children never know the Inuit way of life? Feeling better knowing that the ice isn't completely going away but my heart is sad - Elders are seeing changes that they never knew would happen. We will need to adapt to a changing world.

I see the sadness and the hurt in people, especially the Elders because our way of life is changing so fast.

Questions & Comments:

- *How can we be more thoughtful in presenting climate data in a more thoughtful way, considering the mental health impacts?* How to make sure people feel supported when they receive this information? Rutie mentioned that she can share some resources with the group. [Indigenous Climate Action](#) might also offer specific support in this regard. Allowing space for grief counsellors or counsellors with decolonization therapy when presenting.

Aaju Lightfoot - Climate Change across Inuit Nungat

See the detailed presentation here: [Climate change across Inuit Nungat](#)

"It's changing the traditions that we would normally learn as Inuk children." - Aaju Lightfoot

Aaju Lightfoot is an 11 year old from Makkovik. Aaju interviewed Inuit from different regions across Inuit Nunangat (Nunatsiavut, Nunavut, and Greenland) about climate change and what's happening up north and to understand how climate change is impacting Inuit hunting, land use and traditional knowledge.



Quotes from Aaju's interviews and story:

"A lot of the trails have been grown over with willows." (Ron Webb)

"He can't tell them when it's safe." (Randy Edmunds)

"Seasons for harvesting are getting shorter." (Barry Andersen)

"People aren't able to go on the land as long as they used to." (Parry Dyson)

"We can't wear kamik as often because the weather isn't as dry and cold." (Bernice Clarke)

"Concerns for hunters going out on the land, about people falling through the ice." (Nancy Mike)

"The permafrost from the mountains is half gone." (Kunuk Inutiq)

"90% of greenland is covered in ice sheets that are melting, and when they melt, half of Europe will be underwater." (Navarana Beveridge)

"The weather in Greenland is warming very fast." (Aaju Peter)

"It's changing the traditions that we would normally learn as Inuk children." (Aaju Lightfoot)

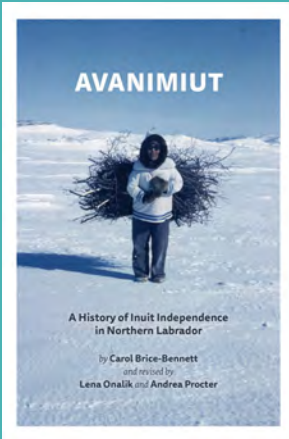
TIPS from Aaju Lightfoot to Help the Earth

- Reduce energy use
- Walk or bike whenever possible
- Switch to 'to green power' if you can
- Don't litter
- Make a goal for how much you throw in the garbage a day

Questions & Comments:

Many participants shared how inspired, impacted, and energized they were from listening to Aaju's presentation, noting that they were a great leader and hope that more youth are like them and that adults make space for more youth when discussing climate action.

- *How can adults support youth doing this type of work?* If I had been doubted you would not have seen this presentation today. Don't doubt youth - don't doubt what kids are saying about climate change.



Lena Onalik, an Inuk and descendant of Avanimiut, works as the Archaeologist for the Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism.

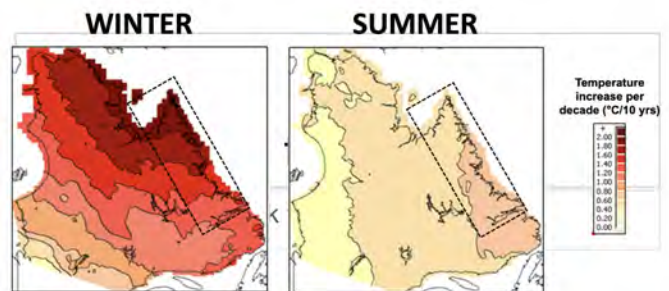
Lena spoke about the new book that she co-authored with Carol Brice-Bennett and Andrea Proctor called [Avanimiut: A History of Inuit Independence in Northern Labrador](#) which is a historical account of the perseverance, resilience, and strength of traditional Inuit life in northernmost Labrador.

Research on Climate Impacts

Temperature and Ice in Nunatsiavut (Dr. Robert Way, Queen's University)

See the detailed presentation here: [Climate Change in Nunatsiavut](#)

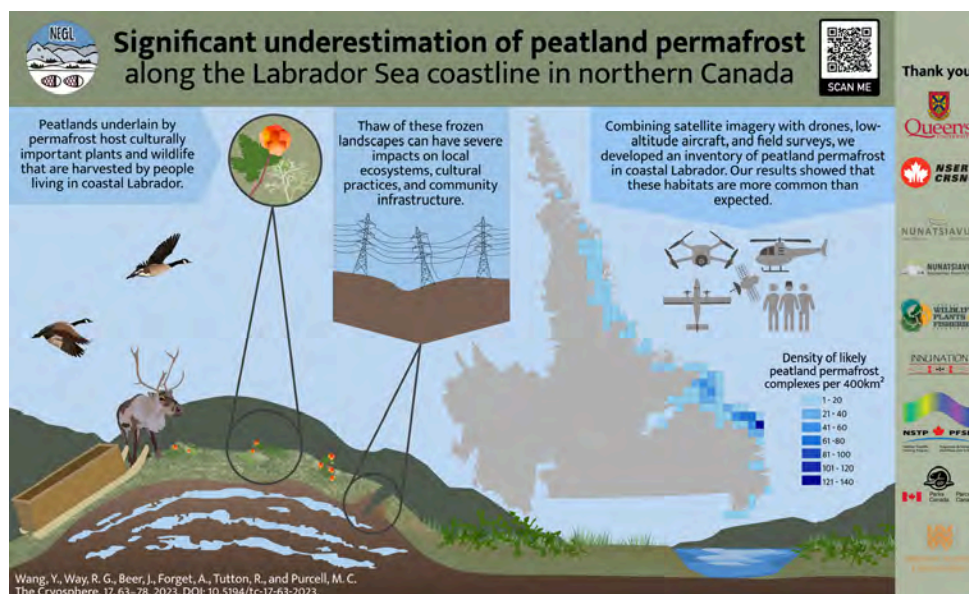
- [Dr. Robert Way](#), a Kallunângajuk from central Labrador, is an assistant professor at Queen's University who works on climate change topics in Labrador. He shared the basics of global climate change and how climate change is occurring in Nunatsiavut.
- Since 1940, Nunatsiavut has warmed by 2.4°C (varies greatly by month, for example +4.6°C in January, +1.3°C in September).
- Two recent very warm years clearly stick out (2010 & 2021), however, extreme years are not solely caused by climate change as atypical weather patterns can increase or reduce warming.
- In the future, climate change will impact the north and Nunatsiavut disproportionately, as we could see another +2.6°C increase by 2100. Winter will not disappear but it will become weirder.
- Be weary of overly doom and gloom messaging. Labrador Inuit are resilient and innovative leaders in climate change monitoring and adaptation. Partners need to step up and help carry the load.



Permafrost Research in Nunatsiavut (Dr. Robert Way, Queen's University)

See the detailed presentation here: [Climate Change Impacts on Peatland and Permafrost](#)

- Permafrost is like a frozen turkey. It thaws, not melts!
- Permafrost is not currently widespread beneath structures in Nain (although there are some patches in lower sections of the community and near the forested slope near Nain).
- All of their research is grounded in Nunatsiavut priorities and rooted in a holistic approach (not looking at one component but trying to see where they intersect and connect).
- Permafrost and peatlands hold ecologically and culturally important features. (e.g., bakeapple picking, lichen is an important food source for caribou, etc.) There's a need to better understand how permafrost thaw may impact culturally important species.
- This information is already being used for infrastructure planning.



The Tundra in Northern Nunatsiavut (Andrew Trant, University of Waterloo)

See the detailed presentation here: [Climate Change Impacts on Tundra](#)

- [Dr. Andrew Trant](#) is an Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo whose research focuses on how environments affect ecological processes and patterns. He has conducted many studies in the Torngat Mountains and across Northern Labrador.
- How has the tundra changed over the last decade? Warmer temperatures have led to discontinuous permafrost, resulting in taller shrubs, which means deeper snow and warmer soil. This means that berries are getting shaded out, polar bears have easier hiding spots, and that travelling is more difficult because shrubs trap snow and routes are overgrown.

- What does this mean for caribou? Caribou primarily eat lichen in the winter. Wet sites are better for their food and their preferences. Their preferred winter food is decreasing as a result of increased shrubbery.
- Other research is being done related to meltwater and how the glaciers are changing.
- An important focus of the research is to work with Inuit youth in Torngat Mountains.



Questions & Comments:

- *How do you make Inuit knowledge at the forefront of your research and decisions?* Now, we (researchers) have a distinct interest in Inuit priorities and Inuit knowledge. More specific work is being done in this area now. Now, trying to get more Inuit involved in going on the land with researchers (e.g., at base camp in Torngat Mountains). Also mindful of overuse - of researchers taking Inuit knowledge and/or re-interviewing Inuit about the same thing. A key aspect to avoid is when research groups don't share the information back with the community or share it publicly. Sometimes it is hard to recruit Inuit researchers.
- *How to consider bringing Elders up to Torngat and up north?* Recognizing that there is interest and would like to enable these opportunities, the challenge is logistical (e.g., space on flight, base camp, choppers, liability, policies, weather, etc.).
- *How to collaborate with other researchers who need to go up north (e.g., archaeology)?* A third of archeological sites are at a risk loss due to climate change. The increase in shrubs is affecting the decomposition of archeological sites. It would be great to collaborate on travel, trips, research, etc.

Climate Adaptation

The NG Energy Strategy (Jamie Hewlett)

See the detailed presentation here: [Adaptation, The NG Energy Strategy](#)

- The population of Nunatsiavut is 2588, with community population sizes ranging from 185 (Postville) to 1100 (Nain).
- These communities are powered by remote diesel systems, operated by our Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.
- NG's Clean Energy Journey was initiated with the development of the Energy Security Plan in 2015 which adopts a sustainable development approach in addressing energy security in Nunatsiavut.
- Jamie shared updates on the following projects:
 - Solar photovoltaic (PV) projects (Reductions to date: 68,609 L of diesel; 184 tonnes of CO₂)
 - Community solar skills training
 - Nain wind microgrid projects, anticipated construction in June 2025 (aim to provide 49% annual renewable energy penetration to offset 1.2M litres of diesel fuel per year)
 - High Efficiency Woodstove Program (In development since 2020, providing the homes of Nunatsiavut with upgraded woodstoves that will result in a reduction of firewood consumption, fewer emissions, and less reliance on fossil fuel sources for heat)
 - Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programs (Residential Heat Pump Program, Business Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program)



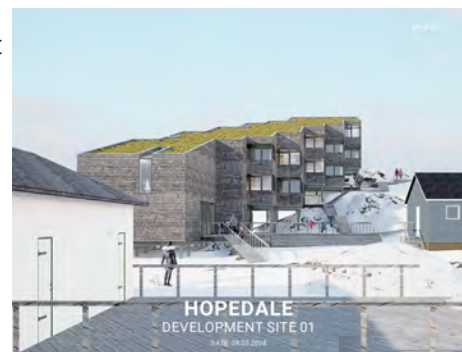
Questions & Comments:

- *For future wind turbine projects, is there a plan to ensure that profits go back to the community?* Right now, NG needs a partner to implement these projects. There may be a misconception that we own the wind turbines so we own the savings. The power company will purchase the power from us and the savings will go into a trust. Then we figure out how we reallocate that money to the community - maybe a rebate? Invest in a new project?
- *For the heat pump program, does the main source of heat need to be electric heat?* To meet NL Hydro GHG reduction goals, we needed to reduce diesel so we had to stick to electric heat.
- *Have you looked into funding to support subsidies for electric and battery operated tools?* We recognize that people use less fuel efficient skidoos because they are easier to fix. Is it possible to train people to have new skills to support maintenance? The practicality of battery operated tools doesn't provide as much flexibility when people are on the land up north.
- *What about insulating basements to reduce drafts and heating needs?* NG wants to have an assessment-based program for the community so that they can explore different options and then select the best ones based on the assessment.

The NG Infrastructure Strategy (Renée Kuehnle)

See the detailed presentation here: [Adaptation, The NG Infrastructure Strategy](#)

- Infrastructure is the physical foundation needed for the functioning of a community or society (water, wastewater, energy, natural systems, waste, transportation, communication systems, public institutions, etc.).
- How is climate change impacting infrastructure? Many ways, including possibilities of longer marine shipping season, the need for more air conditioning, increased forest fire risk, impacts to existing infrastructure and cultural sites, different travel routes, localized flooding, changes and opportunities for food production, etc.
- As the infrastructure lifecycle is 20-100 years, we need to plan for change.
- They are in the process of developing the NG Growth & Housing Strategy to create sustainable and culturally sensitive development plans to meet the aspirations of Nunatsiavut's communities in a coordinated manner. The strategy should consider all types of development including housing, institutional, recreational, industrial, and commercial land use needs.
- Renée shared information about a site in Hopedale that is in the early phases but is currently being scoped out for a more eco-friendly multi-unit housing that would be built with the rockface (cheaper, better than blasting).



- With a climate change lens...
 - How can we assess climate change risk during projects?
 - How can infrastructure support changes or adaptation in your community now?
 - Do you need more boat launches?
 - More land based or sea based routes?
 - What projects are most important in your community?
 - How can we reduce risks of climate change?

Questions & Comments

- Participants were encouraged by the look of the early designs of the Hopedale multi-unit housing development and asked questions related to accessibility, safety, and size (noting that some small units, 1 to 2 bedrooms, are not useful for larger families.)

Funding Climate Action

How does NG currently fund climate programs and action?

- **11:** # of federal climate programs we apply to
- **110:** # of federal funding programs established to support Inuit
- **7:** # of federal departments

As described in the first presentation of the workshop, the federal government recognizes the challenges of navigating the complexity of applying to the multitude of climate programs across the federal government, and so the shift is to pool those separate funds into one pot to provide direct, long-term flexible, funding to Inuit to take self-determined climate action.



Overview of current key federal climate programs:

The Nunatsiavut Climate Change Committee on Adaptation & Monitoring (NCCCAM)

- The NCCCAM supports the Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program and the Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program by:
 - Providing strategic direction on program implementation;
 - Meeting quarterly to review and provide feedback on projects and make funding recommendations; and
 - Represent the climate priorities of Nunatsiavut communities.
- The committee membership is comprised of 11 members from NG, and includes representatives (Elder, Youth, community members).
- Provides opportunity for community input into the Nunatsiavut Government Climate Change Committee.

Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program (ICBCMP)

- [ICBCMP](#) mandate is to support Indigenous Peoples across Canada with tracking climate and the effects of climate change using Indigenous Knowledge and western science to inform adaptation actions and address climate data gaps.
- Eligibility & activities supported: Recipients are Indigenous communities and organizations.
- Activities supported: Engagement, planning, equipment, training, data collection, data management and analysis, communicating results, building monitoring networks, etc.
- Application: On-going/rolling intake
- Active projects relate to: adaptive archaeology; an Integrated Risk Assessment for Arctic Char in Nunatsiavut (Memorial University); A community-led approach to monitoring sea ice and marine habitat change in Nunatsiavut through SIKU: the Indigenous Knowledge Social Network - Phase 2 (Arctic Eider Society)
- Questions to community members: What are the most important climate impacts to monitor in Nunatsiavut to you? What is needed to support community-led monitoring?

Climate Change Preparedness in the North (CCPN)

- The [CCPN](#) mandate is to support climate change adaptation priorities (planning and the implementation of adaptation measures) across the North.
- Who can apply? Northern communities, regional and territorial governments, non-government organizations, academic institutions. (Not specific to Indigenous - broader scope) Proposals can be submitted all year.
- CCPN is supported through the Climate Change Community Liaison position with NG (Nain).
- Current program is \$480,000 annual allocation for Nunatsiavut climate change adaptation project funding since 2016. (This provides funding support for human resource capacity to implement adaptation programs and projects in Nunatsiavut such as the Climate Change Community Liaison.)

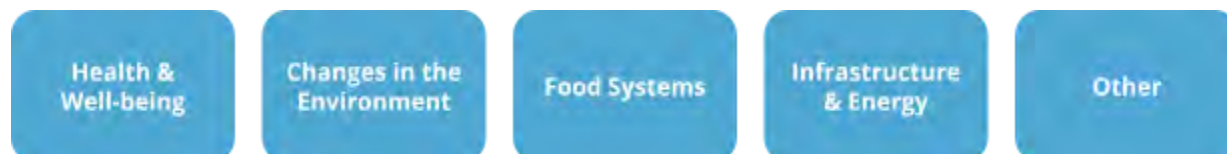
Questions & Comments:

- *How to increase opportunities for the middle-aged group (not youth or elders)?* There are no limitations for age other than what is set from other groups.
- Appreciate the progress made on the Indigenous monitoring program. Flexibility is important and unlike other programs. When there are blocks, let us know because we can advocate to other departments on your behalf within the government.
- *NG will be taking over delivery of infrastructure related projects, is there information on climate and infrastructure related funding resources and avenues?* There is a recognized need to better align programming within the federal government, and the federal government is working to improve access and delivery of programs. Reach out and we can put you in touch with appropriate federal representatives.
- There is a portal where you can search for programs that are available for use
- *How many people are on this team?* CCPN has a liaison on each Northern/Indigenous region, each liaison has a committee made up of folks from each region that provide support and guidance to the programs.

Part 2: Workshop Activities & Outcomes

Observations & Concerns

What are Inuit observations and concerns related to climate change? Community members were asked to get into small groups and share their observations and concerns related to each of the following themes:



Health and Well-being

Observations

- Changes in the ice are impacting culture
- Access to language only for some (based on programs or personal finances)
- More sickness may be attributed to southern diet/activities or because of increase of processed foods
- Limited access to healthcare due to more severe/challenging weather

Concerns

- Too many colonized rules going against tradition (policies at all level of government) (e.g., Elder knowledge, liability for land based activities)
- Generational impacts: will youth/kids have the same experiences?
- Why are we made to feel like criminals when hunting?

Additional Comments:

- Strengths:
 - We are resilient, strong individuals with a wealth of knowledge
 - Access to more resources such as schooling, language, and institutions
- Healthcare challenges:
 - Challenges in accessing healthcare
 - Long-term care in St. John's is especially painful when people pass away or don't recover, and are far from family, friends and community
 - Difficulty with transportation to hospitals, though a new airstrip is planned for 2024.
 - Health issues like cancer affect communities disproportionately, particularly in Nain and Hopedale
- Environmental changes impacting health:
 - Changes in wildlife availability impacting health and traditional food sources
 - Melting ice affects traditional activities like ice fishing and transportation, causing worry and stress

- Cultural and traditional challenges:
 - Decline in traditional activities due to changing ice conditions, making activities like harvesting berries and hunting more difficult
 - Limited access to cultural and language resources outside the region, compounded by budget constraints
 - Efforts to sustain traditional practices such as hunting caribou and reclaiming language for future generations (“Programs should sustain, not shame!”)
- Community well-being:
 - Concerns about the impact of modernization on health, including increased store-bought foods leading to health issues like diabetes and heart problems
 - Importance of land-based activities for healing and community well-being, but challenges in accessing the land due to cost and bureaucratic barriers
 - Concerns about the future for the community, including the condition of the ice for future generations and the loss of cultural activities
- Inter-generational challenges:
 - The breakdown of the Elder role includes a loss of respect for their knowledge and the reverence once held for Elders
 - Barriers to education outside the region leading to isolation and a loss of traditional knowledge among younger generations
 - Difficulty in recruiting youth for traditional activities (need to get them out on the land, not sitting idle in the community), leading to a loss of cultural practices and language
 - Stress over potential loss of cultural practices and activities for future generations
 - Loss of traditional knowledge and land-based teaching, impacting community cohesion and well-being



Changes in the Environment

Observations

- Berries and animals affected due to shrubs taking over & invasive species
- Air quality
- Permafrost thaw and erosion
- Avalanches
- Water (sea level rise, more rain)

Concerns

- Having enough berries
- Warming quickly and drying out
- Need to keep practice of caribou hunt
- Hot and humid
- Smoke and bad air
- Loss of access to land and sea resources

Additional Comments:

- Wildlife and fishing:
 - Changes in fish sizes and species distribution, including larger fish like arctic char and cod showing up
 - Decrease in black bears and increase in eagles affecting prey populations
 - Geese populations are shifting, with some species decreasing and others increasing
 - Diet changes among animals due to vegetation growth and range shifts

- Environmental changes affecting traditional food sources:
 - Snow thaw impacting berry quality and vegetation growth
 - Decline in certain berry species due to shading by shrubs
 - Changes in mussel picking due to earlier ice melt and potential health risks with warmer water
 - Impact of erosion and permafrost thaw on cabin relocation and land stability
 - Importance of traditional hunting practices, including caribou hunting methods and naming animal parts
 - Impact of environmental changes on cultural activities like geese hunting and berry picking
- Climate and weather:
 - Unstable weather patterns, including inconsistent cold and warm temperatures and sudden temperature fluctuations
 - Changes in thunderstorm frequency and intensity, with some occurring in unusual months
 - Increased precipitation of contaminants affecting air and water quality
 - Impact of jet stream changes on snowfall distribution, with less snow in Labrador affecting travel
- Human impact and adaptation:
 - Challenges with transportation, including skidoo accidents and difficulties in accessing resources like wood and fuel
 - Observations of microplastics in fish, indicating potential environmental pollution
 - Concerns about the reliability of traditional hunting methods and risks of avalanches
 - Economic implications, such as increased costs of products and impacts on traditional activities like berry picking



Food Systems

Observations

- Not many seals
- Less partridges
- Unpredictable weather
- More community gardens and chickens
- Shorter hunting season
- More illnesses
- Invasive species
- Lack of traditional Inuit values (less people sharing food/hunt)

Concerns

- Nutrition and accessibility, diet changes, adjustments
- Pollution (microplastics, waste, fuel spills)
- Lack of accountability and communication
- Finances and affordability
- Delays in food and resources
- Caribou (ban, children not accessing it)
- Food security (cost, inflation, access)
- Children are not experiencing tradition country foods (caribou)
- Diseases

Additional Comments:

- Cost of food and hunting/harvesting supplies:
 - Inflation affecting already high cost of food
 - High cost of tools (fishing supplies, bullets, gas) making essentials more expensive to hunt and harvest
 - Difficulty in accessing country foods earlier in the year and concerns about the reliability of transportation for food delivery
- Health concerns and research:
 - Health issues among community members, including high blood pressure, due to lack of access to nutritious country foods and increased processed foods
 - Concerns about radiation-contaminated fish in Makkovik and berries polluted by old military bases in Hopedale
 - What research is being done on cancer in Nunatsiavut
- Food insecurity and changes to country food:
 - Food insecurity was made worse due to the caribou ban, food shortages in community
 - Impact of weather unpredictability on food delivery, hunting, and country food preservation
 - Challenges with invasive species, pollution, and changing textures of traditional foods like seal fat
- Cultural preservation and traditional practices:
 - Important to hold Labrador Inuit values over provincial government values in decision-making
 - Efforts to maintain traditional practices through community-led initiatives like food co-ops, gardening, and raising chickens
 - Concerns about the loss of traditional hunting skills and the need for access for hunters
- Communication and accountability:
 - Lack of communication and accountability regarding oil spills and food safety
 - Importance of informing community members about the safety of country foods and addressing environmental concerns like garbage dumps
- Community resilience and adaptation:
 - Adaptation strategies such as acquiring caribou from other regions and learning to eat new foods like moose
 - Efforts to mitigate impacts of environmental changes through workshops, discussions, and community-led initiatives
- Environmental impact on wildlife:
 - Changes in wildlife migration timing and population, including decreases in seals and partridges due to environmental changes
 - Impact of microplastics and diseases on wildlife and food quality



Observations

- Running out of firewood - being prepared
- Permafrost / settling foundations
- Marine shipping and road clearing
- Air conditioners
- Erosion & vegetation / coastal erosion
- Fire breaks
- Water quality

Concerns

- Quality of work / construction
- Home heating
- Intensity if weather storms causing damage
- Everybody has a right to a warm house
- Access to housing
- We need weather stations North of Nain

Additional Comments:

- Housing and energy
 - Challenges with availability, affordability, and accessibility of housing.
 - Issues with home heating, including the impact of permafrost thawing on housing foundations
 - Calls for affordable energy and measures to address rising costs, such as universal access to housing and better insulation
 - Improving the quality of work from contractors
 - Efforts to implement solar maintenance and wind turbines to reduce energy costs and environmental impact
 - Concerns about mould in homes
- Water:
 - Need for capacity and education to maintain infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines affected by permafrost.
 - Importance of preparing for runoff and flooding
- Climate impact and preparedness:
 - Impact of climate change on infrastructure, including floodings, stormwater runoff, and damage from unpredictable weather
 - Concerns about water quality
 - Need for revegetation when developing land
- Transportation and accessibility:
 - Challenges with transportation costs, including flight costs and rising ferry expenses.
 - Issues with road maintenance, vehicle choices, and access to the land, particularly in remote areas
 - Consideration of fire breaks, greening initiatives, and clearing roads for boat access to improve community resilience

Other (Additional comments)

- Shifts in wildlife
 - New species seen - sharks, birds, sea turtles, whales
 - Less traditional species - small birds, caribou, seal pups, etc.
 - Species seen at different times - polar bears in people's cabins
 - Shifts in wildlife populations and behaviors due to climate change, including the presence of more wolves and polar bears entering communities
 - Loss of traditional knowledge, such as predicting winds and assessing travel routes, due to changing weather patterns
 - Challenges with accessing traditional resources like seal pups
 - Concerns about the effects of climate change on caribou populations, including increased mortality
 - Concerns about the loss of permafrost, erosion, and changes in snow and ice conditions impacting travel and wildlife habitats
- Community concerns and adaptation (disasters)
 - Challenges with accessing resources like wood and berries, exacerbated by thawing permafrost and unpredictable travel routes
 - Increase in extreme weather events, including avalanches, landslides, and earthquakes, affecting safety and infrastructure
 - Efforts to adapt to environmental changes, such as implementing safety training for ice travel
 - Efforts to address economic disparities and ensure funding encompasses all demographics, including youth, Elders, and families
 - Need increased communication about disasters and their causes and protocols for future events
 - Earthquakes, avalanches, storms, shifting weather, landslides, ice melt, wind
 - Loss of permafrost - hard to travel, damaging homes
- Cultural and social impact:
 - Changes in traditional practices and cultural values, such as reduced sharing of harvested animals and the disappearance of certain bird species
 - Impact of environmental changes on community cohesion and well-being, including concerns about safety, trauma, and communication during disasters
- Increasing green materials, reducing plastics
 - Economic impacts of climate change, such as increased costs for green materials
 - Initiatives to address environmental concerns, such as reducing plastic consumption and encouraging the use of green materials, despite cost barriers



Let's SOAR towards our shared vision for climate!

Participants were engaged in an activity on Day 3 to help develop a shared vision for climate using the following framework as a tool. Participants were broken into small groups but each had time to share their perspectives on all four questions.

S

As Nunatsiavummiut, what are our current strengths? What are we proud about?

- Self-governance
- We care! Communities are invested in climate change
- Women are super engaged
- Elder + community knowledge
- Inuit knowledge
- Teaching youth about the land
- great leaders (like Chaim!)
- Ability for people to gather
- Resilience + different ways of knowing
- Ability to have hard convos

O

What opportunities could we pursue? What partnerships or collaborations can our organization pursue?

- long-term partnerships (healing + mental wellness & community member, youth)
- taking Elders onto the land (via projects)
- Sharing the message more broadly (FB)
- Youth work experience in climate (in community)
- More community-specific workshops
- Bring Transport Canada up here!
- Learning from and working with other Indigenous groups
- Building capacity within community
- Removing restricting policies that inhibit community members from practicing their culture

A

What are our aspirations? Our desired vision of the future?

- Rotate (workshops) into other communities
- Influence the south
- Engaged + supportive government
- Greenhouses, community composting
- Wildlife husbandry
- Robust trails
- Language protection
- Continuation + strengthening of cultural programs that rebalance ecosystem
- Insurance policies that work for us
- Self-determination + autonomy
- Strong Inuit leadership on projects

R

What results are we seeking? How will we know if we are moving towards our vision?

- Ensure more access to the land (middle generation)
- Support for stable housing + net zero
- Culture is alive + well!
- Community is united + free
- More successful programs
- Cultural heritage - locally grown food, protect resources we need
- More self-determination in policies
- People have access to hunt
- Better mental health outcomes (reduce the risk of neg. impacts on youth)



What's Blocking Us from Taking Action?

Before brainstorming priority actions, participants spent a bit of time on what was blocking, or preventing Nunatsiavummiut from taking action on climate. The list was divided into two categories, “what was in our control” vs. “what is not in our control”. This distinction helped participants visualize challenges, for example, if you are in control of something that is preventing you from taking action, you can more easily take action to lift it out of your way! However, for those actions listed in the ‘out of your control’, you can still take action, however, it may take different forms (e.g., advocacy).

Within our control

Education and mentorship programs
Community sustainability programs
Supporting each other for mental health (motivation)
Energy + waste management
Developments in our control, considering how they can be positive (ie. strange lake)
Our voices: how we say what needs to be done
Communication: between Elders and youth
NG being accessible, involved, communicative
Individual choices: our choice to impact environment
Research that is being done (non-extractive)
Having local level discussions: networking + knowledge sharing
Listening more to our youth!
NG has ability to influence policies
NG has ability to build elder + youth inclusion

Out of our control

Government mindset and priorities not understanding way of life
Difficulty accessing government funding
Lack of resources to live up north
Canadian colonial policies
Government laws at different levels (fed, prov, NG)
How climate change is happening elsewhere + felt here
Visibility of research: seeing as well as hearing
Red tape: hoops that are restrictive
Other choices: plastics use
Global industry
Capitalism: who has power, what motivates action
Lack of inuit knowledge consideration in policies
Intergenerational trauma/ historical trauma
Large scale SAR: local teams but resources not readily available

Priority Actions for Addressing Climate Change in Nunatsiavut



On the fifth day, participants reflected on all that they had learned, discussed and considered, and brainstormed key actions that Nunatsiavut could take to address climate change.

Participants were asked to independently brainstorm a list of actions using a “[Me](#)” → “[We](#)” → [Others](#)” template to ensure that the ideation process included actions that could be done by individuals, by Nunasiavummiut and the Nunatsiavut Government, and by other partners, including government partners, researchers, businesses, etc.

Participants were then asked to collectively discuss their actions and come up with their top actions and share them in plenary. The group then organized the actions into key groupings, outlined below.

These actions are an important input for the development of the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy, which will be developed later this year. Participants brainstormed actions individually, in small groups and then as a large group.

The Nunatsiavut Government could address our [observations and concerns](#), lift the [blocks that are in our way](#), and work towards our [shared vision for climate](#) by:



The following actions include a brainstormed list of potential actions that NG and Nunatsiavummiut could take to address climate change. Note: some are contradictory and not all participants agreed on the following actions.

IMPROVING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES THAT REFLECT VALUES

- Redistribute funding to Inuit organizations
- Access MORE MONEY
- Stop caring so much about money /cost/profit and care about quality of life

EMPOWERING INUIT COMMUNITIES

- Advocate for Inuit
- Involve Inuit right from the very beginning of projects
- Empower community members
- Redesign policies to be informed by Inuit knowledge
- Amplify Inuit voices, concerns, priorities!
- Value inuit knowledge throughout the system without certification

MOBILIZING FOR ADAPTIVE PREPAREDNESS

- Provide safety training (for being on the ice/land)
- Crisis response that is flexible + context relevant, meets needs

ENSURING SOUND/CLEAR ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Be solutions-oriented
- Commit to following through on actions
- Make sure the plans and strategies are put in place
- Show results not just reports

CREATING INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

- Get more involved
- Build Elder + Youth programming
- Involve more children/youth in climate change initiatives
- Do more land trips with others
- Make programs accessible (all ages), Equity/equality of community programs
- Long-term research relationships
- Develop more language programs (in schools, on the land, etc.) with the local dialect speakers
- Hire dedicated Inuit climate change roles in different departments
- Teach our kids to be green conscious

INCENTIVISING SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS

- Create contest for community clean ups
- Incentivized recycling programs
- How can businesses also be encouraged to go green? (Composting, green materials, gardens, etc.)
- Incinerators in each community
- NGs/ICGs to offer green community programs (recycling, compost, solar, reducing/recycling plastics, community gardens)
- Get rid of diesel plants eventually
- Use reusable containers / items
- Community gardens
- Reduce carbon footprint

- Teach about all aspects of caribou hunt and the use of caribou
- Be sure to target hard to reach audiences (those not involved in community, older youth)
- Engage all ages
- Bring back 'Going off, Going strong program
- Be more eco-friendly
- Invest in local gardening and other food security initiatives
- NG to go green (No more foam cups/dishes, use environmentally friendly soaps, etc.)
- Create healthy, warm homes that are energy efficient
- Adapting transportation to Nunatsiavut

INCREASING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Increase access to mental health services
- Develop a mental health and self-growth initiative (Sharing stories of climate change impacts)
- Increase affordable/safe housing access
- Create wild food sharing system between communities
- Fund mental health supports such as on the land programs
- Decolonize policies
- Bring fed and prov governments to Nunatsiavut to learn about the realities and policy impacts (create immersive experience for policy makers)
- Reduce restrictions & red tape
- Have culturally appropriate government structures
- Improve collaboration between levels of government (Eg. engagement activities)
- Regional autonomy and authority
- Eliminate colonial policies
- Develop policies and regulations by and for Inuit

IMPROVING CONNECTION, COMMUNICATION & NETWORKS

- Attend/host climate workshops
- Share knowledge and observations
- Create a communication strategy (hire specific dedicated positions)
- Remind ourselves why we do these workshops after the workshop is over
- Participation in workshops and events
- Create community-level climate networks
- Increase coordination between sectors
- Know about / share ongoing research
- Use a holistic approach to strategy creation
- Find ways to maintain the networks we have created this week
- Share information from communities with Nunatsiavut Executive Council so they can influence ITK & Federal
- Report back to community (research findings and info collected)

What are the actions for “Me, We, Other”?



ME: What can I, personally, do to address climate change?

- **Educate yourself & build awareness**
 - Educate myself on municipal government programs for climate change mitigation.
 - Share experiences and stories of climate change impacts to raise awareness.
 - Advocate for inclusion of all age groups, including 30+ years, in programming.
- **Reduce my own carbon footprint & shift to better, more eco-friendly habits**
 - Implement strategies to reduce my own personal carbon footprint, such as reducing plastic use (e.g., bar soaps instead of plastic containers), and switching to heat pumps.
 - Advocate for reusable containers and reducing plastic items in daily life.
 - Implement composting and greenhouse initiatives in the community.
 - Encourage the use of reusable containers and adopting earth-friendly habits like using bar soaps and participating in Earth Hour.
- **Engage with my community and build resilience**
 - Prioritize my mental health and resilience by going outside and gathering with the community.
 - Establish mental health honorariums for self-care and support each other's mental health.
- **Collaborate and advocate**
 - Collaborate between different levels of government to address climate change.
 - Advocate for meaningful work and challenge restrictive policies, particularly in collaboration with university staff.
- **Engage across generations (youth, Elders, all ages)**
 - Involve school kids in reducing carbon footprint and litter pickup.
 - Build connections between Elders and youth through on-land programming.
- **Continuously learning and stay engaged**
 - Continue to participate in workshops, events, and committees to stay informed and spread knowledge.
 - Teach youth and others about environmental consciousness and advocating for green practices.



WE: What could the Nunatsiavut Government do to address climate change?

- **Communicate and engage**
 - Establish a communication strategy to keep people updated on outcomes and actions regarding climate change initiatives.
- **Appoint specific positions as points of contact for climate change issues and projects in each department**
 - Create community-level climate networks to inform government committees, involving youth, elders, and other community members.
- **Improve policies and programs**
 - Make policies less restrictive and more community-driven, informed by Inuit and community knowledge.
 - Redesign policies to address live realities and fund sustainable programs like community gardens.
 - Incentivize green initiatives and provide funding for sustainable programs.
- **Enhance infrastructure and services**
 - Ensure better access to mental health services and affordable housing and infrastructure improvements.
 - Promote sustainable energy alternatives like solar power and greener materials for building improvements and retrofits.
- **Implement community programs and initiatives**
 - Implement community programs and incentives for litter pickup and recycling, including composting and community gardens.
 - Provide workshops for youth on environmental sustainability and facilitate access to training for green initiatives.
- **Coordinate and empower**
 - Improve coordination between sectors and government levels for better communication and engagement.
 - Empower local communities with increased decision-making power and involvement in climate change initiatives.



OTHERS: What could others in our network (e.g., government, academics, businesses, etc.) do to address climate change?

- **Fund priority improvements**
 - Allocate resources to prioritize improvements based on expressed needs of Nunatsiavut Government and its people.
 - Financially support Inuit self-determined climate strategies, actions, and priorities.
- **Enhance communication and collaboration**
 - Respond to expressed needs by implementing better communication strategies and removing restrictions.
 - Facilitate visits for knowledge exchange and build long-term relationships, particularly with university researchers and supervisors.
 - Actively listen to and respect Inuit knowledge.
- **Redesign policies & support**
 - Be responsive through policy redesign informed by Inuit and community knowledge and realities.
 - Eventually transition away from diesel generators and support financially for sustainable energy solutions.
 - Provide financial support for Inuit self-determined climate strategies, actions, and priorities.
- **Engage and empower community**
 - Create opportunities for community members, including youth and Elders, to participate and contribute.
 - Support ongoing research and incorporate local knowledge into decision-making processes.
 - Seek input from local knowledge and prioritize community needs for effective programming and initiatives.

Part 3: Social Activities

Social Networking

On the first day, participants were invited to take their picture (using a Polaroid camera) and share information about themselves on a card. Lines were drawn to show connections across the community.

Mitt Making

Participants were provided with the materials and know-how for making sealskin mitts. Each evening, participants gathered at the research centre to work on their mitts together. It was a fun way to relax, get to know one another and practice a practical and beautiful Inuit artform.



'On the Land Day'

On Thursday, March 21, participants did a 65 km loop on skidoos, onto the ice to visit a nearby rattle, and spend time playing games, eating and relaxing at Joey's Cabin.

These land-based activities provided an opportunity for beneficiaries to connect on the land and to provide context to non-beneficiaries about the importance these connections have for Labrador Inuit communities and their practices. The activities were intentionally unstructured to inform showcase the positive impact of the land in Nunatsiavut, how climate change is affecting those relationships, and inspire the need for relevant and community driven climate action.



Appendix

I. Climate Trivia

On Day 1, to get people engaged and test their knowledge, participants played [Climate Trivia](#).

II. What do you want to see in this report?

- **Interactive and accessible sharing:**
 - Explore various ways to share information that are interactive, fun, and easily accessible to all community members.
 - Incorporate visuals and keep suggestions concise to ensure easy understanding and engagement.
 - Consider using land-based activities to facilitate communication, making it enjoyable and meaningful.
- **Community engagement and inclusion:**
 - Reflect on past community practices, such as inclusive meetings and gatherings, to ensure all voices are heard and included.
 - Prioritize reaching out to households and families to ensure everyone feels included and valued without being forgotten.
- **Empowerment and action:**
 - Encourage individuals to take ownership of climate change action and do their part in their own communities.
 - Empower community members to share their knowledge and experiences, fostering a sense of connection and collective responsibility.
- **Holistic approach and networking:**
 - Emphasize the holistic nature of the discussions, recognizing the interconnectedness of individuals, families, and communities.
 - Facilitate networking opportunities to build connections and support systems within the community.
- **Feedback and reflection:**
 - Solicit feedback on report suggestions, ensuring they are not overly wordy and align with the community's needs and preferences.
 - Reflect on the holistic experience of the workshop, acknowledging the diverse perspectives and contributions of participants.

III. Full Participant List

Participant names, organizations, community, roles.

Nain

Beni Ittulak, Town Manager, Nain Inuit Community Government
Brenda Jararuse, Director of Language and Culture, Nunatsiavut Government
Chaim Andersen, Community Climate Change Liaison, Nunatsiavut Government
Jamie Hewlett, Regional Energy Coordinator, Nunatsiavut Government
Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk, Nain Inuit Community Government
Joey Angnatok, Commercial Fisherman and Research
Lena Onalik, Archeologist, Nunatsiavut Government
Maria E Merkuratsuk, Elder
Michelle Saunders, Research Manager, Nunatsiavut Government
Rodd Laing, Director of Environment, Nunatsiavut Government
Rutie Lampe, Mental Health and Addictions Worker, Nunatsiavut Government

Hopedale

Beverly Hunter, Elders Coordinator, Nunatsiavut Government
Hilda Hunter, Family Connections Worker, Nunatsiavut Government
John Winters, Inuit Research Coordinator, Dalhousie University
Martha Winters-Abel, Elder
Veronica Flowers, Climate Change Policy Advisor, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)

Makkovik

Aaju Lightfoot, Independent Youth Researcher, Community Member
Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk, Makkovik Inuit Community Government
Colin Gilbride, Director of Infrastructure, Nunatsiavut Government
Dawn Michelin, Health Promotions and Wellness Manager, Nunatsiavut Government
Jaelyn Andersen, Youth Community Member
TJ Lightfoot, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Coordinator, Nunatsiavut Government

Postville

Josephine Jacque, Elder
Katrina Anthony, Inuit Research Coordinator, Dalhousie University

Rigolet

Brooklyn Wolfrey, Youth Community Member
Kristy Sheppard, Director of Economic Development, Nunatsiavut Government
Stuart Michel, Community Energy Lead, Nunatsiavut Government

Upper Lake Melville and Canadian Constituency

Chelsea Lampe, Community Member, Canadian Constituency

Irene Burden, Elder, Upper Lake Melville

Renee Kuehnle, Strategic Infrastructure Planning, Nunatsiavut Government

Sabina Flowers-Jung, Elder, Canadian Constituency

Federal Government

Alecia Boddie, Policy Advisor, Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Ashleigh Downing, Senior Policy Advisor, Canadian Centre for Climate Services, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Chantal Kipfer, Policy Advisor, Indigenous Climate Leadership, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dave Cote, Research Scientist, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Yves Theriault, Program Manager, Climate Change Preparedness in the North, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Government

Angela Grant, Planning and Accountability Manager, Department of Environment and Climate Change

Lela Evans, Member of the House of Assembly, Torngat District

Research, Academics, and Additional Organizations

Andrew Trant, Associate Professor & Associate Director, Undergraduate Studies, University of Waterloo

Breanna Bishop, PhD Student, Interdisciplinary Studies, Dalhousie University

Emma McGuire, 21FSP, Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy Consultant

Jane Porter, Facilitator, Bridge Building Group

Jennifer Thornhill-Verma, Journalist, Globe and Mail, UNSETTLED Stories

Johnny Lam, Photographer, Globe and Mail

Kat Frick-Miller, Artist, UNSETTLED Stories

Katryna Barone, MES Candidate, Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo

Myrah Graham, MSc Student, Environment, Memorial University

Patrick Lauriault, PhD Student, Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo

Robert Way, Assistant Professor, Geography and Planning, Queen's University

Taylor Montgomery-Stinson, MSc Candidate, Ethnoecology, University de Montreal

Tom McGuire, 21FSP, Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy Consultant

Vanessa Monteiro, Facilitator, Bridge Building Group

Victoria Colyn, MSc Student, Geography and Planning, Queen's University

Willa Neilson, Labrador Specialist, CLIMAtlantic

VI. Feedback from Participants

Thirteen participants responded to the feedback survey.

"What an amazing experience - Chaim and team really knocked it out of the park."

"I appreciated how the workshop fostered a sense of connection to other participants, land and environment - this experience will have a special place in my heart and inspire my work going forward."

Highlights: What worked well:

- Community members' knowledge and experience were centered, creating a welcoming and inclusive dynamic.
- The breadth and depth of information provided to participants was impressive.
- Chaim and the organizing team successfully empowered community members to lead and share during discussions.
- Despite tricky planning logistics, the event was well-organized and adaptable.
- The workshop provided a valuable educational experience, with engaging discussions and activities.
- Stories shared by community members
- Meeting new people
- Spending time on the land
- Networking opportunities
- Hearing from community members, particularly Maria and Joey Angantok
- Participating in the mitt making workshop
- Panel format for presentations and discussions
- Presentations by Joey and Rodd
- Building connections and a climate-minded network
- Engaging discussions
- Being moved by the stories shared
- Visiting the rattle and cabin
- Meeting people in person
- Learning from Joey's cabin and the research aspect
- Appreciation for both the people and the land
- Meaningful conversations, both structured and unstructured

What was missing? What could have been improved?

- There were some last-minute logistical challenges.
- There were the occasional slide mix-ups during presentations.
- Some participants desired better communication and awareness of the event's schedule and activities.
- A request for cultural sensitivity training for certain individuals involved in the workshop.
- Incorporating Inuit Elder knowledge into discussions and planning.
- Involving more local youth from high schools or even younger age groups to provide their perspectives on climate change and how they envision the future.
- Utilizing records of weather to enhance understanding and planning.

Do you feel you have a better understanding of climate change in Nunatsiavut and how we can work on climate change adaptation?

- Participants feel they have gained a better understanding of climate change in Nunatsiavut.
- There's an appreciation for hearing about the personal effects of climate change on Nunatsiavummiut, which highlights the lived reality beyond models and predictions. *"I wish this was more part of climate change gatherings everywhere- real people experiencing the real changes, not just models and predictions."*
- Despite gaps in discussing topics like ocean currents, participants value the focus on long-term sustainability plans for Nunatsiavut.
- The educational aspect of the information presented is acknowledged, including both societal impacts and traditional knowledge.
- Some participants have observed changes over the past 20 years, indicating a long-term perspective on climate change.
- There's gratitude for being informed about resources and initiatives in Nunatsiavut related to climate change research and infrastructure.
- However, participants also express challenges in understanding and supporting adaptation for Inuit communities, highlighting the need for further exploration and support in this area.

Did you learn anything new at the workshop?

- Learned about initiatives in Nunatsiavut, especially in energy and housing.
- Gained new local perspectives and memories.
- Expanded knowledge of the Inuktitut language.
- Discovered new insights and perspectives.
- Learned about technology and potential opportunities.
- Gained understanding through research data and graphics.
- Realized profound impacts of climate change, including loss of freedom.
- Suggested involving hunters for their unique perspectives.
- Focused on learning about research ethics, especially in Inuit contexts.