

# Climate Change Monitoring: Arviat's model for community driven research

Presentation to  
**Climate Change & Health  
Adaptation Program**

**December 2016 Thunder Bay, ON**



# Foundation of cultural strengths

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- We are the keepers of the environment, of the animals, of the water and the sila (weather), and we occupy this land. We should take care of it, the same way we take care of our personal items, the way we take care of our ski-doos or any other things we try and make sure they don't get broken and keep them in good working order so we can keep using them. The water and land we harvest from must be taken care of and used properly, like it always was, in the old days. We should only catch what we can handle; these were the kind of rules and instructions we had to follow, and they are still very good rules to follow. As we all know, it takes a lot of effort to do the right thing and I feel it is important to start emphasizing that to our children, as early as we can. Our opportunity to influence any people is to try and do that at an early age.

Mark Kalluak

# About Arviat



- Strong in language and cultural
- Situated in excellent harvesting area
- Many families are active harvesters
- Very large youth population (60% >16)
- Active group of Elders engaged in cultural revitalization



# Concerns about climate

- Rapid rates of change
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of keen observational training
- Needs a community approach to sustainable planning
- Monitoring & research



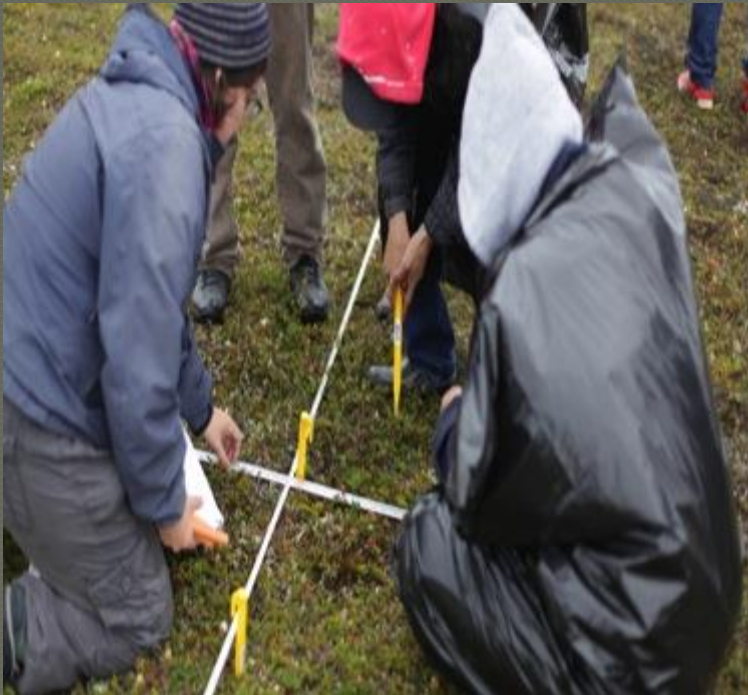
# The Model

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- Revitalizing the cultural expectation for youth to become keen observers of their environment.
- Invite Elders and expert research partners to train youth in monitoring processes.
- Create the opportunity to practice these skills in the field.
- Bring back data that can be presented to the community and initiate the “So what does this mean for us?” conversation.

# Environmental Monitoring

Summer youth monitors  
After school youth clubs  
Youth volunteers  
Arviat Young Hunters





# Community outreach







# Pilimmaksarniq: Youth training

- ◉ Working with Elders/stewardship
- ◉ Scientific training/methods & monitoring
- ◉ Expert research partnerships





Animal health

Weather

Water

Ice



Permafrost degradation

Mapping harvesting sites

Soil quality





# Wildlife monitoring





# Research Greenhouse





# Soil Quality



# After school youth monitors club





# Arviat Young Hunters

Movember Foundation  
Pathways to mental wellness for  
Indigenous boys and men:  
Community-led and land-based programs  
in the Canadian North

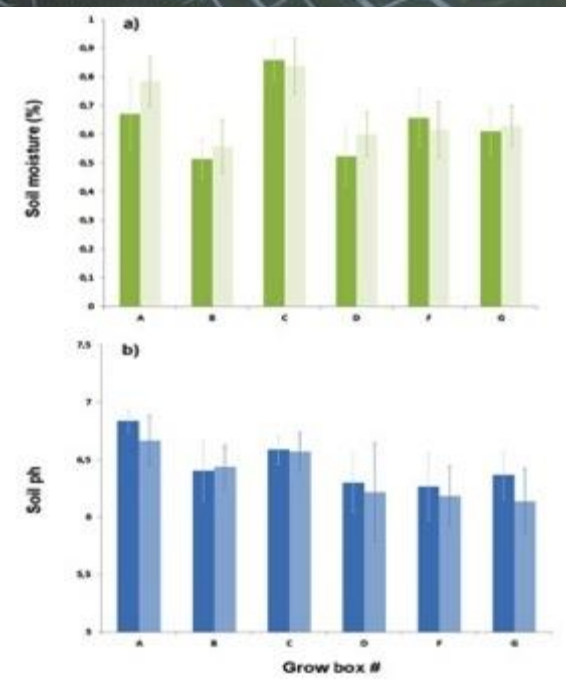


# Community Communication

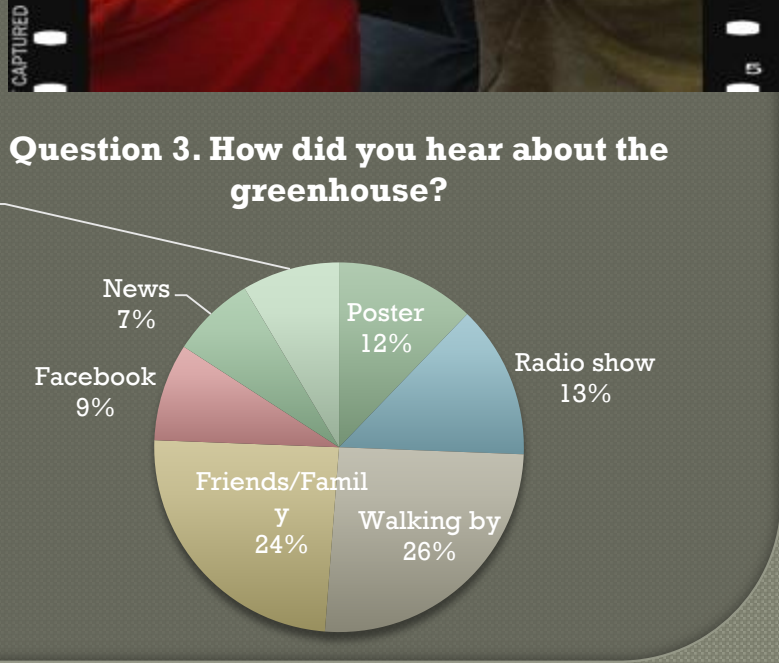
- ◉ Developing communication skills
- ◉ Community engagement strategies
- ◉ Data sharing & interpretation
- ◉ Harvesting calendars
- ◉ Radio shows
- ◉ Multimedia







Training in multimedia software, graphic design, photography, web design, videography, advertising basics, research, illustration, digital techniques, journalism, blogging, setting up social media sites, poster design, coding, public engagement, storytelling.





# Sustainability

- Trained and capable youth
- Raised community awareness & engagement
- Building links to school-based curricula
- Investments in people





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