TASIUJAQIUAQMIUT SHEEWETAGANAPOI CONSORTIUM ROUNDTABLE

Montreal 2025

Acknowledgements

TASIUJAQIUAQMIUT SHEEWETAGANAPOI CONSORTIUM

On behalf of the Tasiujaqiuaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Consortium, we extend sincere appreciation to the members and leaders of the Steering Committee and Working Groups for guiding our focus and work and ensuring that the structure of the Consortium remains firmly in the hands of community members.

Thank you to the funders who find value in this work and continue to champion it. We also sincerely thank the regions for their targeted support which allowed for a vibrant Youth Delegation, the future leaders who will take over these initiatives in the years to come.

We are extremely grateful to the community members, Indigenous organizations and all participants who recognize the importance of sharing knowledge and expertise across complex jurisdictional boundaries. The Consortium and its events create an important space to share priorities and ideas that promote the health of this vital marine region and the communities that rely on it. We look forward to continuing to work with you all moving forward!

Lucassie Arragutainaq
Founding Member &
Steering Committee Chairperson

Ryan Barry
Secretariat Chairperson

Executive Summary

The Tasiujaqiuaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Consortium (the Consortium) held its 2025 Roundtable on February 25-27, 2025 in Montreal, with a theme of enhancing research and monitoring collaboration in the Hudson Bay and James Bay regions. A sold-out event, this Roundtable brought together over 135 participants including representatives from 29 communities around the Bays as well as regional organizations, government agencies, non-profit organizations, academics and researchers. Throughout the 3-day event participants shared updates and actively engaged in discussions identifying challenges and opportunities for improving cooperation and collaboration between regions and communities on research, monitoring and environmental stewardship initiatives across the Bays.

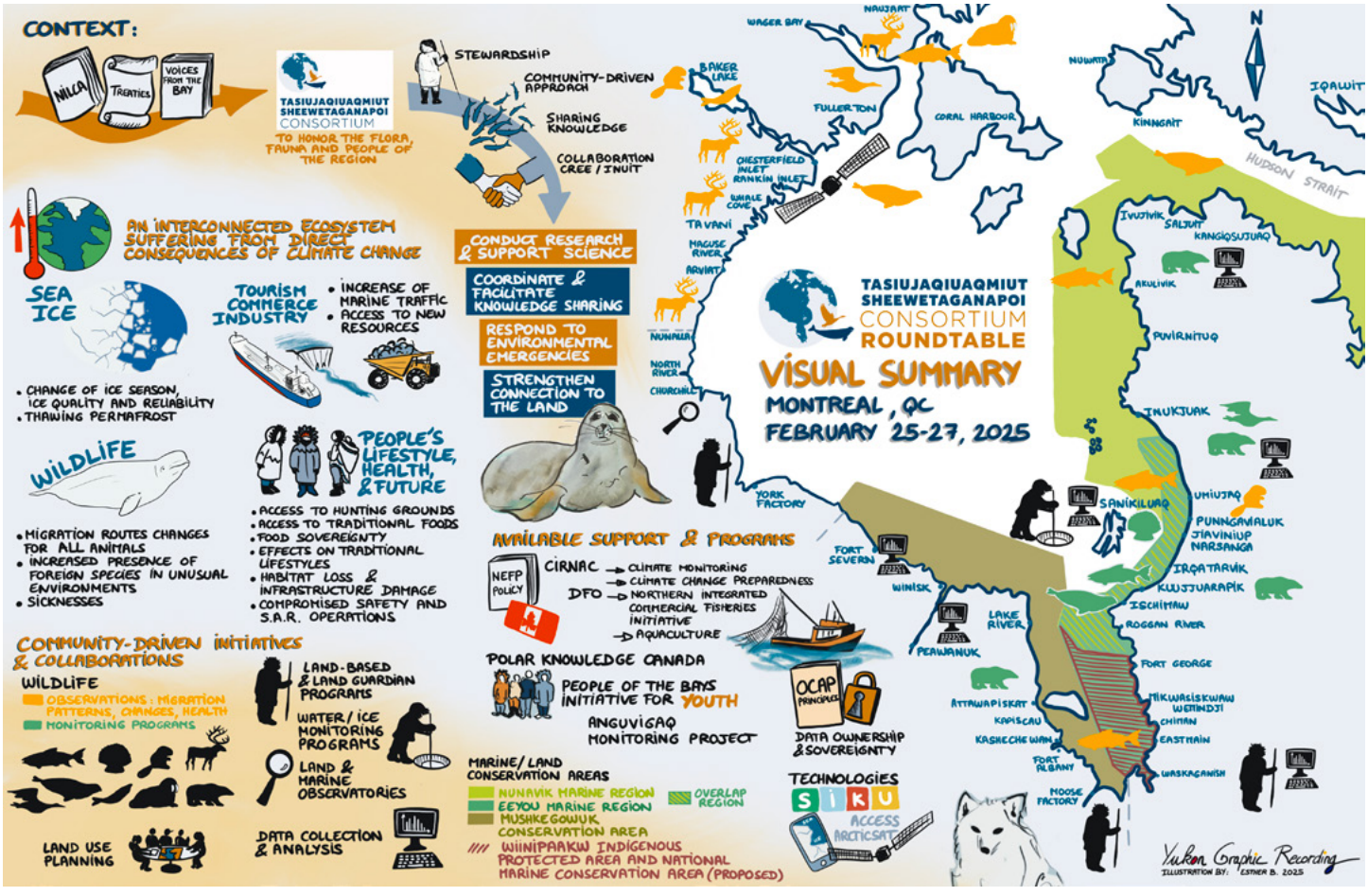
Having officially formed as the Hudson Bay Consortium through the inaugural Hudson Bay Summit in 2018, the 2025 Roundtable opened with the official rebranding of the Consortium as the Tasiujaqiuaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Consortium, an Inuktitut/Cree name chosen to better reflect the Inuit and Cree connections to the waters of Hudson Bay and James Bay. At the opening of the event updates were provided on the Consortium's activities since its 2024 Roundtable, including the development of a development of a website with a project map tool, and social media presence, the new name and new logo.

The Consortium's Summits and Roundtables are important events with a unique geographic focus that encompasses the waters and ecosystem of Hudson Bay and James Bay. With a focus on sharing updates from the Eastern side of the Bays for the 2025 Roundtable, community representatives were at the centre of the discussions both figuratively and literally; the unique roundtable layout utilized for the meetings saw community members seated at the forefront of the room with all other participants in surrounding secondary seating, providing support to the discussions. Through the Roundtable participants highlighted key community priorities related to research and monitoring, including:

- Changing regional biodiversity and the need for enhanced animal population monitoring;
- Impacts of climate change on community safety, wildlife habitats, and traditional food access;
- The importance of local capacity building, community safety, and environmental health;
- The need for modern policies that respect traditional practices and Indigenous governance.;
- Concerns about industry impacts on wildlife and traditional hunting grounds; and,
- The necessity for further water monitoring to address issues like changing salinity and contamination.

Through this event the Consortium again realized its strategic goals of creating a collaborative space for stewardship, ensuring community involvement in long-term planning, and improving communication between regions. The Roundtable focused on discussing shared priorities and experiences, promoting knowledge exchange, and strengthening connections between stakeholders. This report provides the highlights from those discussions, as well as the following additional areas that were addressed: improving support for community leaders, self-determination, data sovereignty, collaborative co-development approaches, and community fisheries.

Thanks to our generous funders and engaged participants the 2025 Roundtable was a resounding success, helping to facilitate discussions on critical issues of importance to the Hudson Bay and James Bay regions. This report summarizes the information shared throughout the Roundtable including key priorities identified by communities and potential strategies for future action to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the ecosystem. The Consortium invites you to review the outcomes from this event and consider becoming involved to support our shared vision of advancing community priorities to steward the land, the waters, the sea ice and protect the flora, fauna and people inhabiting the region.



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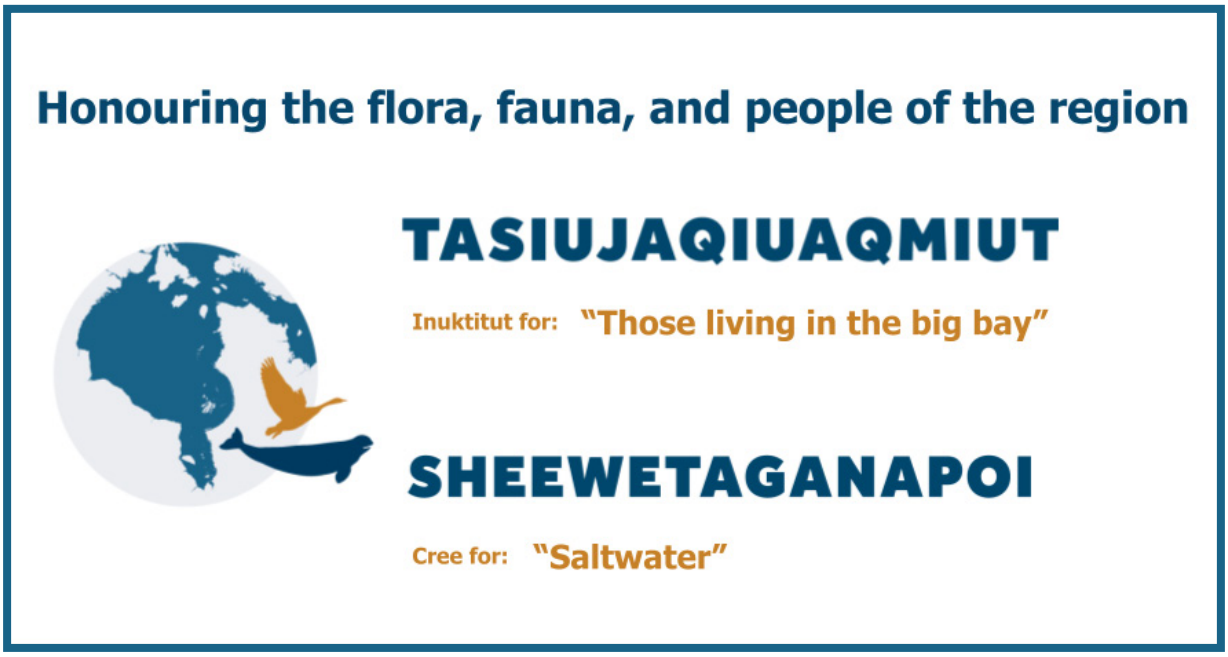
Introduction

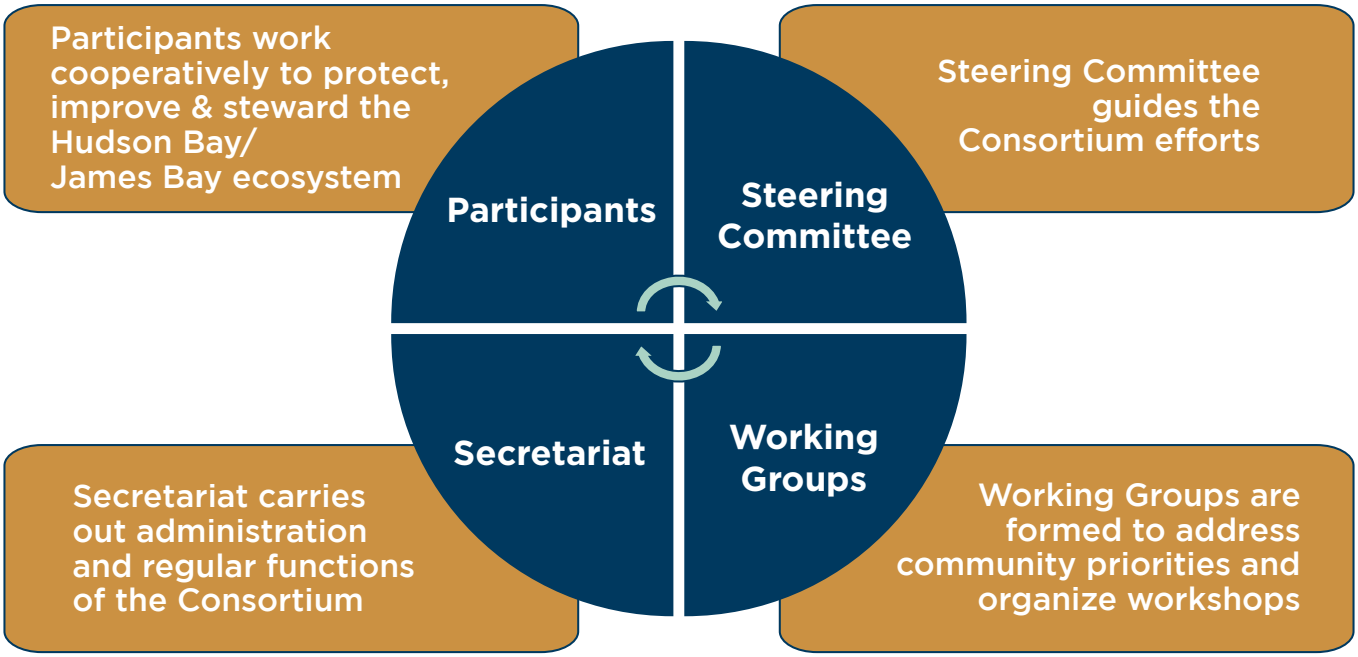
Having officially formed as the Hudson Bay Consortium through the inaugural Hudson Bay Summit in 2018, the Consortium launched its official rebranding as the Tasiujaqiuaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Consortium at the 2025 Roundtable in Montreal, February 25-27, 2025. With its new Inuktitut/Cree name chosen to better reflect the Inuit and Cree connections to the waters of Hudson Bay and James Bay, a new logo was also unveiled for the Consortium which incorporates the waters of the Bays as well as the iconic goose and beluga whose identities are entwined with those of the communities. Steering Committee Chair and Founding Member of the Consortium Lucassie Arragutainaq and Secretariat Chair Ryan Barry opened the Roundtable with an acknowledgement of past stewardship efforts, including the Hudson Bay Program and the Voices From The Bay initiative, which led to the 2018 Hudson Bay Summit and establishment of what will be known as the Tasiujaqiuaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Consortium going forward.

Stewardship efforts for the Hudson Bay/James Bay region have a long history which has included: the Hudson Bay Program (1992), Voices From The Bay (1997), the Hudson Bay Oceans Working Group (2000), the Nunavut Hudson Bay Inter-Agency Working Group (2004), the Hudson Bay Inland Sea Initiative (2010), and the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable (2012). In 2014 a planning meeting for establishing the Hudson Bay Consortium was held in Ottawa, and with the strong support expressed by participants this was followed by a East Hudson Bay/James Bay Regional Roundtable in 2016 and the inaugural Hudson Bay Summit in 2018 which formally launched the Hudson Bay Consortium. Since its establishment, the Consortium has held the following additional events:

- **2019 East Hudson Bay/James Bay Roundtable**
- **2022 Hudson Bay Summit**
- **2024 Hudson Bay Consortium Roundtable**
- **2025 Tasiujaqiuaqmuit Sheewetaganapoi Consortium Roundtable**

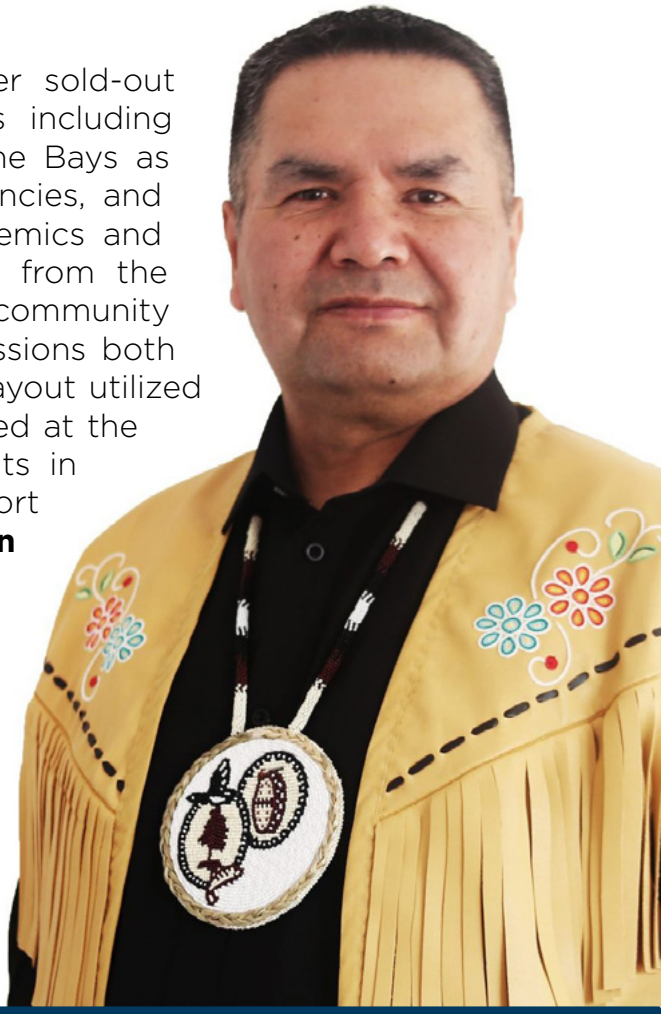


The Consortium's mission is to foster cross-jurisdictional and cross-cultural communication and collaboration to protect and steward the Hudson Bay-James Bay marine ecosystem. The Consortium operates with a Steering Committee, Secretariat, and Working Groups formed to address identified community priorities including the following: Environmental Emergency Response, Indigenous Stewardship & Protected Areas, Communications, and Community-Driven Research & Monitoring. The Consortium operates with a bottom-up approach that emphasizes community participation, with additional individuals or organizations welcomed to also participate in the Consortium as long as they respect the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles; they are also welcome to appoint a representative to the Steering Committee or join the working groups which help to establish the agenda for Consortium events and organize/facilitate associated discussions and workshops.



After providing an overview of the Consortium's structure, the Secretariat provided a brief update on its efforts to advance the work of the Consortium following the 2024 Roundtable in Winnipeg, including: development of a quarterly newsletter, leading the collaborative process for developing the new name and logo, launching new social media handles, providing administrative support for the Steering Committee and Working Groups, fundraising for events and administration, and regular engagement with communities and participants throughout the year. Additionally, through the 2025 Roundtable the Secretariat launched an updated website for the Consortium to accompany the rebranding: **www.tsconsortium.com**. The Secretariat provided a staffing update, noting Director of Operation Jackie Kidd would be stepping down on March 31, 2025 and Billy Nicoll would be assuming the role following; the Tasiujaqiuaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Consortium and all Roundtable participants welcomed Mr. Nicoll and warmly thanked Ms. Kidd for her valued contributions to advancing the mandate of the Consortium and wished her the best of luck on her planned adventures going forward!

The 2025 Roundtable in Montreal was another sold-out event, bringing together over 135 participants including representatives from 29 communities around the Bays as well as regional organizations, government agencies, and researchers, non-profit organizations, and academics and researchers. With a focus on sharing updates from the Eastern side of the Bays for the 2025 Roundtable, community representatives were at the centre of the discussions both figuratively and literally; the unique roundtable layout utilized for the meetings saw community members seated at the forefront of the room with all other participants in surrounding secondary seating, providing support to the discussions. **Deputy Grand Chief Norman Wapachee** opened the proceedings with a keynote address emphasizing the critical need for communities and regions to drive their own research agendas and ensure the research and monitoring carried out in Indigenous lands and waters addresses community priorities and concerns, respecting Indigenous knowledge, culture and participation.



Working Group Updates

Following introductory remarks, short updates were provided by the Secretariat and the Working Group Leaders that were in attendance on the activities of each of the Consortium's Working Groups through the past year.

The newly-formed **Environmental Emergency Response Working Group** officially launched. Following the success of the 2024 Roundtable in Winnipeg which focused on Environmental Emergency Response and Search and Rescue, there were calls to form a new working group to advance community priorities in these areas. Led by Peter Kikkert of St. Francis Xavier University, the working group met virtually in November 2024 and was scheduled to have its first in-person meeting in Montreal directly following the Roundtable.

The **Communications Working Group** provided an update on practical strategies for communicating and collaborating effectively. Led by Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman of Polyna Consulting, this work has included efforts to update the name of the Consortium, as well as organizing and providing feedback on the logo. Appreciation was expressed for the substantial work undertaken by the Communications working group in these areas. The working group has also addressed language policies and conducted behind-the-scenes work for the general communications of the Consortium.

Colleen Parker, Leader of the **Indigenous Stewardship and Protected Areas Working Group**, reported on the development of a yearly work plan for the group. This plan is intended to guide the working group, which will focus on work being addressed around the Bays on developing conservation economies, stewardship, and connectivity of protected areas. The group will also continue discussions around the blue economy. The next meeting for this working group is planned to occur in Spring 2025.

Maude Durand of Oceans North Canada, leader of the **Community-Driven Research & Monitoring Working Group**, provided an update on the group's new terms of reference. The working group spent much of 2024 informing the topics discussed at the 2025 Roundtable, the theme of which was research and monitoring with a focus on examples and initiatives from the Eastern Side of Hudson Bay. As a long-standing initiative from this working group, a draft interactive project map has been integrated into the Consortium's relaunched website, along with a resource hub for showcasing active research and monitoring projects from around the Bays. It was noted that the SIKU app also possesses functionality relevant to this work, presenting information in a list format searchable by keywords, region, and other parameters. This functionality allows the 5,000 users in the region to look up active projects within their communities. This information will be made available outside of the log-in wall, but accessible through the SIKU platform and may be further integrated into the Consortium's website going forward.

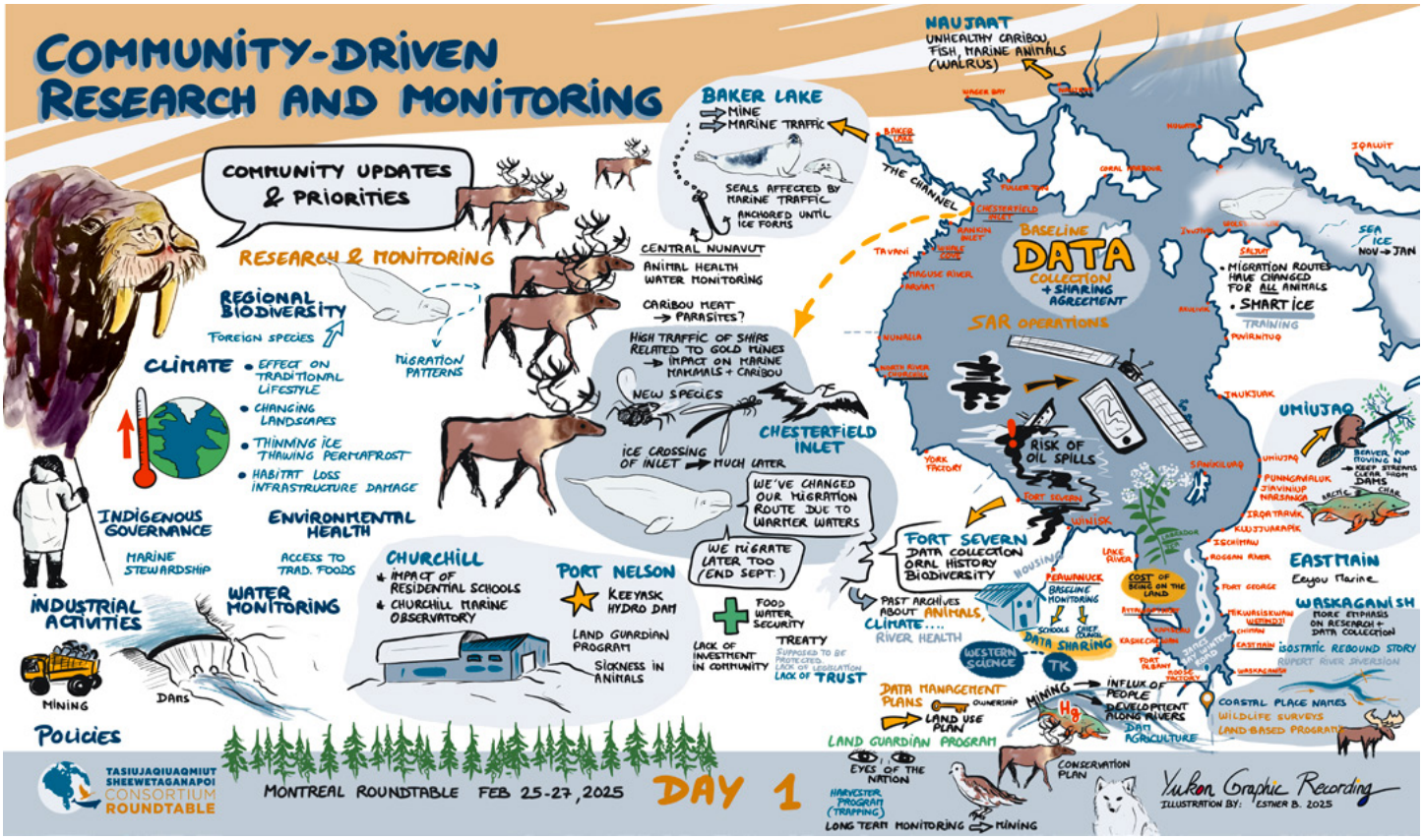
Efforts are being made to ensure the new project map tool on the Consortium website is accessible, functional, and useful for community members and other participants. Further feedback is being solicited to shape the resources, with comments from any users welcomed and best directed to the Secretariat at **info@tsconsortium.com**.

You can find meeting minutes from the Working Groups and Steering Committee here: **www.tsconsortium.com**.

Community Updates & Priorities

Community roundtables are central to each event organized by the Tasiujaqiuaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Consortium, including the 2025 Roundtable which provided a platform for community delegates to share their priorities and concerns related to research and monitoring and marine stewardship more generally. Key themes emerged across the 29 coastal communities represented at the Roundtable, highlighting the interconnectedness of the ecosystem of Hudson Bay and James Bay, as well as environmental changes and their impact on Indigenous ways of life. Particularly striking were the shared observations of a changing climate across all communities from the bottom of James Bay to the upper edges of Hudson Bay, including reports of shifting wildlife ranges and timing of migrations with communities having to adapt to new species, changing habitat and increased challenges for harvesting efforts.

As a number of community representatives encountered a weather-related travel delay while traveling to Montreal for the Roundtable, the agenda was updated to incorporate additional time for community updates on the morning of Day 2, helping ensure all communities were heard from.



Throughout the 3 days of meetings Esther Bordet of Yukon Graphic Recording was actively note-taking, creating these stunning visual records of the discussions which also helped contextualize the experiences and knowledge being shared across the regions in real time.

Key Themes, Priorities and Concerns:

Climate Change Impacts:

- Rapidly changing water levels in important rivers and estuaries and ice conditions including thickness, formation, and thaw.
- Shifts in wildlife migration patterns and population dynamics.
- Increased frequency and intensity of storms.
- Melting permafrost and shoreline erosion.
- Warming water temperatures affecting marine life.

Wildlife Health and Availability:

- Concerns about animal health (parasites, diseases, contamination).
- Declining populations of key species (caribou, seals, belugas).
- Changes in fish populations and health.
- Impacts of new or increasing species (muskox, beavers, harp seals).
- Beavers are appearing well above the tree line now, into communities that have never seen them*

*Through this event Cree communities shared their knowledge of beavers, harvesting them and their role within the ecosystem. The Consortium creates a space for Inuit and Cree communities to exchange their knowledge, better equipping one another to address the rapidly changing environment. Polar bear knowledge was also shared between Inuit and Cree participants, with a request from Cree communities now seeing polar bears to work together in modeling sustainable ecotourism opportunities

Industrial Impacts:

- Effects of mining and shipping traffic on marine ecosystems.
- Impacts of hydroelectric projects and river diversions.
- Concerns about pollution and contamination.
- Impacts of potential mineral extraction such as the Ring of Fire.

Research and Monitoring Needs:

- Increased emphasis on community-driven research and data collection.
- Need for long-term monitoring programs to track changes.
- Importance of integrating traditional knowledge with scientific research.
- Need for baseline data collection.
- Desire for more research on water quality and contamination.
- New polar bear populations arriving in communities that have not seen them before have brought up conversations on sustainable ecotourism opportunities.

Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Preservation:

- Importance of passing on traditional knowledge to younger generations.
- Preservation of traditional place names and language.
- Concerns about the loss of traditional hunting and harvesting practices.
- Combining traditional knowledge with modern technology.

Community Well-being and Food Security:

- Concerns about the safety and quality of traditional food sources.
- Impacts of environmental changes on food security.
- Need for support for hunters and harvesters.
- Concerns about the high cost of living, prohibiting families from hunting.

Governance and Collaboration:

- Desire for greater community involvement in research and decision-making.
- Importance of collaboration between communities, organizations, and governments.
- Data sovereignty and data management agreements.
- Concerns regarding treaty rights and self-determination.

Isaac Masty on Circles in the Cree Knowledge System

Circles are at the centre of the Cree knowledge system. They are very difficult to break, as such are the best protectors. Hierarchies are problematic, with links that are fragile and often broken, causing entire systems to fail. In a circle, everyone is working together to protect the core, and each line has a responsibility. When you cut a tree, you can see the concentric circles, and if circles are skipped, the tree is not healthy. This is nature's way of demonstrating how important it is to work together and not break the circle.

Community-Specific Observations:

- Communities like Waskaganish emphasized the need for data collection to track changes, while others like Umiujaq noted shifts in wildlife populations and river conditions.
- Youth from various communities raised concerns about animal health, water quality, and the rapid pace of environmental change.
- Youth also highlighted the arrival of beavers, many hundred miles beyond the tree line.
- Communities such as Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet highlighted the impacts of shipping and mining on marine life.
- Baker Lake also emphasized the recent growth of bushes and shrubs, getting much taller than they ever had before.
- Coastal communities reported changes in ice conditions and wildlife migration, with Arviat emphasizing the importance of preserving traditional knowledge.
- Communities like Fort Albany and Attawapiskat expressed concerns about industrial impacts and the need for greater self-determination.
- Moose Cree First Nation highlighted their extensive research programs, and the need for data management agreements.
- Salluit highlighted the rapid changes in ice conditions, and the need for youth involvement in local boards.
- Kuujjuarapik expressed concerns about the changes in buoyancy of harvested seals.

Regional Updates

There are diverse approaches applied to research and monitoring across the Hudson Bay and James Bay region, reflecting the complex jurisdictional landscape and different organizations involved. Updates from regional organizations through Days 1 and 2 served to highlight their unique strategies for addressing community priorities, working with neighbouring regions and ensuring responsible and effective research practices. The following summaries from each presentation are intended to provide a quick overview of the information shared, while the full presentations can be accessed from the Consortium website **www.tsconsortium.com**. In addition to sharing the summaries below, presenters also shared their direct contact information for this report to encourage anyone interested in engaging further to follow up directly!

Wildlife research priorities, activities and, progress in the Eeyou Marine Region

Manon Sorais on behalf of the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board

The Eeyou Marine Region (EMR) was established under the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claim Agreement (EMRLCA) and encompasses eastern James Bay and southeastern Hudson Bay. The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) is appointed by the EMRLCA as the entity responsible for wildlife management and for the regulation of the access to wildlife in the EMR.

EMRWB's mandate articulates around wildlife management decision making and leading and supporting research that aligns with priorities identified by the Coastal Cree communities. These priorities include research on waterfowl and coastal birds, fish and commercial fisheries, coastal habitats and eelgrass meadows, as well as research on terrestrial mammals.

EMRWB research projects are conducted in collaboration with many local and national partners, such as the Cree Trappers Association and Niskamoon Corporation, several Canadian universities, governmental institutions, and NGOs. This presentation was a non-exhaustive overview of these projects and their progress.

Contact: **msorais@eeyoumarineregion.ca**
Website: **https://www.emrwb.ca/**
Facebook: **https://www.facebook.com/eeyoumarineregion**

The Community-Driven Research Network

Presented by Jeremiah Kumarluk and Lucassie Arragutainaq

The Community-Driven Research Network (CDRN) brings together the communities of Inukjuak, Umiujaq, Kuujjuaraapik, Chisasibi, and Sanikiluaq to lead cross-jurisdictional environmental research and monitoring in East Hudson Bay and James Bay. It supports community-led efforts to monitor wildlife, ice conditions, salinity and other environmental factors, integrating both Indigenous Knowledge and Western scientific approaches. The network fosters collaboration between Cree and Inuit communities, facilitating collective stewardship in a jurisdictionally complex area.

In 2024, the CDRN celebrated its 10th anniversary by bringing all five communities together to review progress and set future priorities. The meeting focused on expanding and improving

community-led initiatives, such as salinity data collection, wildlife monitoring through partner programs, and ice monitoring for harvester safety. Discussions also covered advancing environmental stewardship in the NLCA Area of Equal Use and Occupancy, monitoring invasive species and investigating changes in river flow. The insights and priorities established during this meeting will guide the CDRN's future activities, ensuring that the network continues to address the evolving environmental challenges of the region through coordinated monitoring.

For more information: **sani@baffinhto.ca**.

The Anguvigaq Monitoring Project
Presented by Alec Niviaxie

The Anguvigaq Monitoring Project aims to protect Inuit harvesting rights and promote sustainability for future generations by creating a regional environmental dataset that is collected and owned by Inuit harvesters. The project is undertaken in each community in Nunavik, where trained harvesters use SIKU to document wildlife and ice conditions during hunting and fishing trips, contributing data on an ongoing basis. Harvesters are compensated for their contributions, and the project also offers training on climate adaptation and safety tools for out on the land.

Preliminary results show significant engagement, with data collected on migration timing, harvesting activities, seal stomach contents, and ice conditions. By documenting wildlife observations and environmental changes, the project is building a comprehensive knowledge base that supports the inclusion of Inuit Knowledge in both local and regional decision-making. It acts as a strong example of the benefits of Inuit-led monitoring, demonstrating harvesters' ability to contribute year-round observations based on in-depth knowledge of the local environment all while contributing to food security in their communities.

More information about the project can be found by contacting:
Alec Niviaxie, Regional Projects Coordinator at Anguvigaq: **aniviaxie@anguvigaq.ca**

Mushkegowuk Council Regional Update
Presented by Vicki Sahanatien

Mushkegowuk Council provides services, support, and represents seven (7) Nations of which four are coastal and their use areas include James Bay: Moose Cree, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Attawapiskat First Nations. Lands and Resources is one department of fourteen departments that work to attain the vision of ensuring self-determination, healthy and prosperous people, vibrant Cree language and culture, sustainable development, and protected lands and waters. Treaty 9 encompasses our Nation's territorial lands and waters and is the framework for Ontario and federal relationships. Current coastal research and monitoring projects are: contaminants (mercury, heavy metals) in estuarine food fish species, polar bear distribution and abundance, high resolution airborne coastline and estuary mapping, and biodiversity surveys. A feasibility assessment has been completed and negotiations will soon commence for establishing a National Marine Conservation Area in western James Bay and southwestern Hudson Bay. This future marine conservation area will be co-managed by Omushkego Cree Nations with Parks Canada. There will be a research and monitoring program developed when the NMCA is established.

Vicki Sahanatien, Knowledge and Research Manager, Lands and Resources, Mushkegowuk Council: **vickisahanatien@mushkegowuk.ca**

Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission Update
Presented by Janelle Kennedy

The Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC) is responsible for marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region, which includes the saltwater and islands surrounding Nunavik. The NMRPC was established under the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement and is an institution of public government. This means that the NMRPC is a joint management board through which Nunavik Inuit, Makivvik, and the Governments of Canada and Nunavut co-manage land, waters, and resources, including wildlife, for the benefit of all Nunavimmiut.

Marine planning is a process for managing ocean spaces. It guides the right development and activities to the right places. The outcome of marine planning is a marine plan that minimizes conflicts between users, protects culture and the environment, maximizes cultural/social/environmental/economic benefits, and shapes how saltwater areas, including islands, will look in the future.

To date, the NMRPC has conducted a Use and Occupancy Map Survey (2011-2016) as well as a Community Tour (2023) and Targeted Survey with experts in the marine environment (2024) within all Nunavik communities and Chisasibi. It is currently conducting a Public Survey with all who have an interest in the Nunavik Marine Region and visiting all Nunavik communities and Chisasibi to inform a Marine Planning Strategy. The strategy will guide the marine planning process. Upcoming activities include an Organization Survey, release of the draft Marine Planning Strategy, and a 2026 Marine Planning Conference in Montreal.

www.nmrpc.ca
admin@nmrpc.ca

Complete the Public Survey and inform marine planning in Nunavik!

The survey has 15 questions and takes 15-20 minutes.
Complete the survey by April 30, 2025 to receive a participation gift and be entered into a community draw for $1000. Separate draws will be done for each Nunavik community and an extra draw will be done for those living outside of Nunavik.

SIKU

Presented by Lucassie Arragutainaq & Joel Heath

SIKU, the Indigenous Knowledge App, is a tool designed to support harvester safety and community-driven programming in Indigenous communities. SIKU was created through inter-jurisdictional cooperation among Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay / James Bay region to support community leadership, engagement, knowledge transfer and Indigenous data sovereignty. SIKU has now grown to support Indigenous leadership in research and monitoring with over 32,000 users, 100+ active projects, 1000+ daily users and over 100,000 posts to-date. Currently, there are over 5000 users across Consortium communities who use SIKU for a wide range of community and regionally led projects, as well as to share ice safety and access satellite imagery, weather and safety services.

Outcomes for projects using SIKU in the Hudson Bay - James Bay region include broad environmental baseline data collection, coordinated sea ice monitoring and goose migration tracking. New SILA for SIKU weather services and weather posts features have been implemented to support Indigenous-led climate change research and are designed to support work that addresses community and regional priorities. It also provides tools and services for researchers visiting and conducting research in northern communities, improving community awareness of ongoing activities as well as supporting community engagement and protecting Indigenous data-sovereignty for project participants.

For more information:
info@siku.org
facebook.com/siku.org
siku.org

Self-Determination, Data Sovereignty & Interoperability

Led by Maude Durand;
Panelists: Lucassie Arragutainaq, Barb Duffin, Peter Pulsifer and Joel Heath

This panel discussion centered on the challenges and opportunities related to Indigenous data sovereignty and interoperability. Panelists highlighted that, while tools like ESRI offer benefits for data storage and community capacity building through GIS training, there are ongoing challenges related to data sovereignty, particularly regarding control, access, and use of data. Indigenous communities emphasize the importance of adhering to principles like OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Permission) to ensure that they have authority over how their data is collected, shared, accessed, and integrated across systems in a way that respects their rights and needs. Concerns were raised about historical misuses by researchers and the need for communities to have greater control over their data, including the ability to secure it and set clear expectations for its use. Interoperability was discussed in the context of connecting various systems, including across jurisdictions, and under the lens of balancing the needs to make data more accessible while ensuring that Indigenous communities maintain control over their knowledge. The importance of adequate funding, proper data management plans, and returning data to communities in a usable format was also highlighted. Panelists stressed that data sovereignty should be the starting point, using Indigenous terminology and acknowledging the importance of intergenerational transfer of knowledge. The discussion also emphasized the value and sacredness of traditional knowledge, emphasizing that it is not free and should be respected and be properly compensated for.

Roundtable Discussion

- Hunters and elders possess traditional knowledge gained through lived experiences, unlike scientists who rely on academic knowledge.
- Traditional knowledge is highly valuable and not freely given.
- Elders and hunters use environmental cues like clouds and animal behaviour to predict weather, instead of relying on technology.
- Indigenous communities have a long history and rich knowledge systems.
- There is a need to recognize and respect Indigenous knowledge systems alongside Western academic knowledge.
- Communities are focused on preserving their cultural heritage and identity, including historical data and knowledge.
- Indigenous knowledge needs to be compensated fairly, not in gift cards as experienced too often.

Collaborative Co-development Approaches

Led by Maude Durand

This workshop discussed empowering communities and youth to become more actively engaged in research and monitoring, moving from participants to partners leading research. Positive examples from around the regions were showcased, including university-community partnerships.

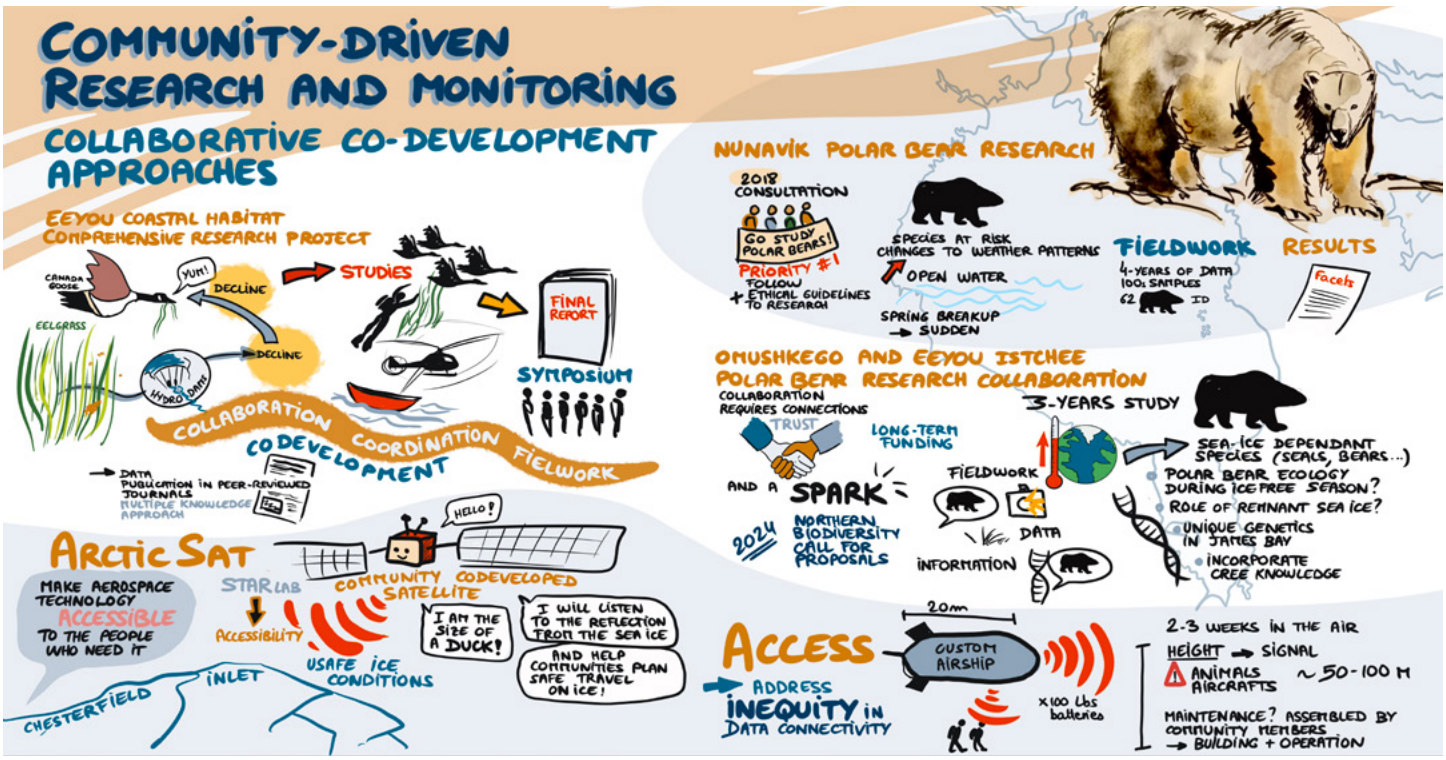
STARLab

Presented by Philip Ferguson

The community of Chesterfield Inlet, NU is leading two research projects that the University of Manitoba's Space Technology and Advanced Research Laboratory (STARLab) is participating in. The ArcticSat mission is the first ever community co-developed CubeSat for the purposes of sea-ice monitoring. ArcticSat will use a passive radar dish to detect ice cover. Community members from Chesterfield Inlet will operate the spacecraft and collect data, integrating it with SIKU, to provide safe ice travel routes.

The Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability, and Service (ACCESS) project aims to co-develop new aerospace technology in the form of a large airship for the purpose of improving internet data communications for hunters and trappers on the tundra and sea-ice. The high-altitude platform will collect Starlink signals and beam them directly to the handsets of hunters and trappers on the ground. Community members will control the airship at all times, which will also collect environmental and ship traffic information from its high vantage point.

For more information about either of these projects, please contact either Philip Ferguson (**Philip.Ferguson@umanitoba.ca**) or Gloria Thompson (**gmimialik@hotmail.com**).



Mushkegowuk - Eeyou Istchee Polar Bear Research Collaboration
Presented by Vicki Sahanatien

Collaborations are critical for the long term success of research and monitoring. Collaborations bring enhanced capacity, knowledge, funding, strength, and more. Collaborations require connections, networks, time, openness, trust, etc. making it challenging for Nations to get started. A key ingredient could be called a spark! Something to ignite considering a collaboration. The spark is often an intersection of interests, questions, concerns, use areas, etc. Our partnership with Eeyou Istchee was sparked by the Weston Foundation Northern Biodiversity research fund call for proposals in May 2024. The discussions began between Mushkegowuk, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and York University. We presented our idea for polar bear research to Weston and they recommended we have a discussion with Eeyou Istchee, Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board, and McGill University. The collaboration eventually included 12 organizations. Together we developed our proposal and happily our project was successful. The project is for 3 years to study how continued climate warming influences sea ice dependent and associated species at the southern edge of their range. The research includes: learning more about ice-free season diet, movements, body condition, and reproduction; understanding the role of remnant sea ice; determining if James Bay polar bears are genetically and ecologically unique; and bringing Cree knowledge together with science to develop enhanced understanding of polar bears. The study area includes most of James Bay and the southwestern portion of Hudson Bay and is coincident with the boundaries of the proposed Mushkegowuk and Eeyou Istchee National Marine Conservation Areas.

Vicki Sahanatien, Knowledge and Research Manager, Lands and Resources, Mushkegowuk Council: **vickisahanatien@mushkegowuk.ca**

Community-led Polar Bear Research in the Eeyou Marine Region
Presented by Alexandra Langwieder

Polar bears have great importance across the Arctic and Subarctic as a culturally and ecologically significant species. For several decades, polar bear science has been undertaken by academic and government organizations with limited involvement of Northern communities. These studies primarily used methods that involve capturing and handling polar bears to gain detailed information about individuals and populations; however, there have been calls across the North for changes to the research methods used to study bears, the way polar bear research is led, and the types of knowledge that is used to inform management decisions. In James Bay, at the southern edge of the global polar bear range, polar bears have a long ice-free season, access to different food items than in the high Arctic, and face some of the most rapidly changing environmental conditions. Cree communities in the Eeyou Marine Region of eastern James Bay have observed changing polar bear distribution and abundance in recent years and highlighted the need to better understand these changes. Communities outlined that research be conducted in a specific way: remains in the community; researchers train community members and youth; research respects Cree values in handling animals; and, that researchers learn from and respect Cree Knowledge. Regional wildlife management organizations, the EMRWB and Cree Trappers' Association, partnered with Alexandra Langwieder from McGill University to build a community-led polar bear project. In communities, the team is interviewing knowledge holders and, in the field, teams from each community are deploying hair snare and camera trap sampling stations (Figure 1) to collect hair samples and photo observations of polar bears.

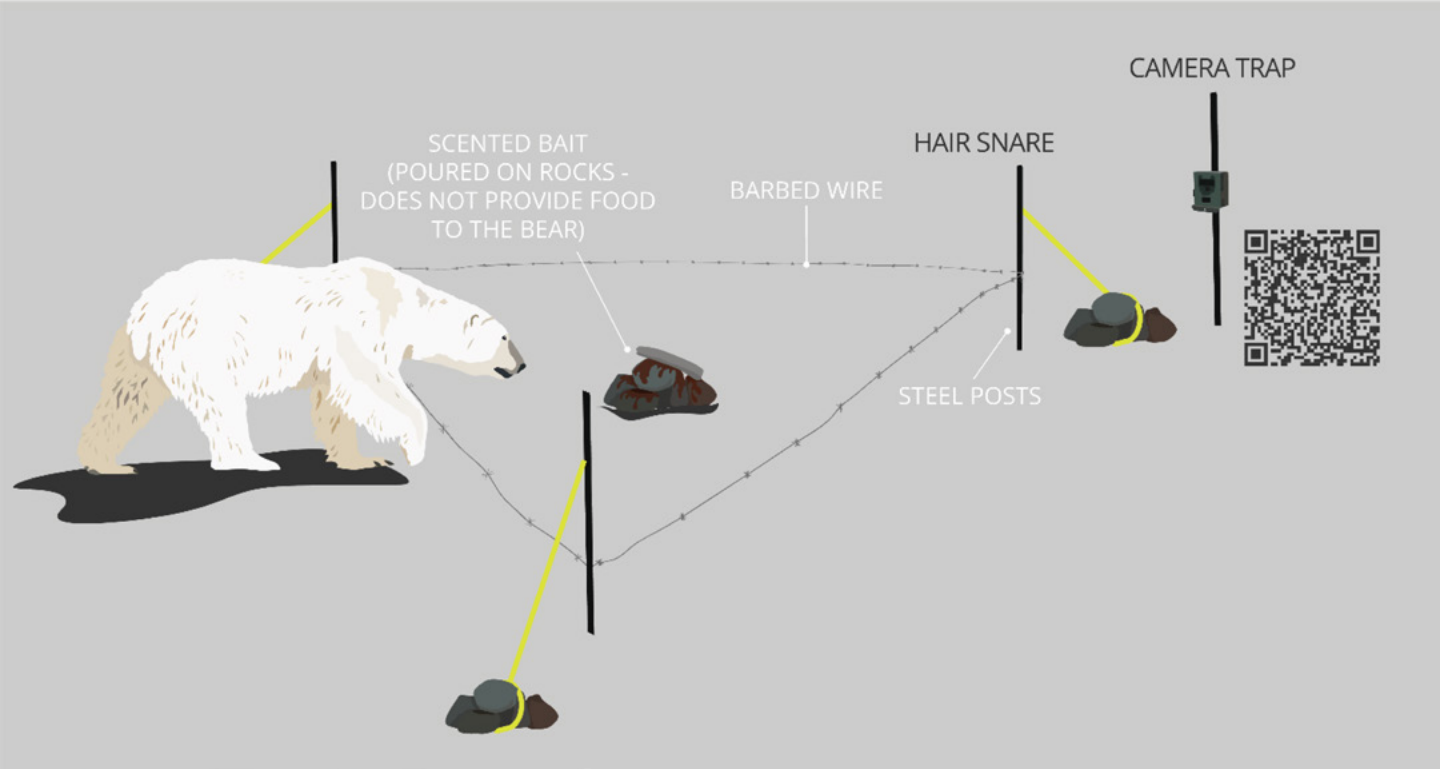


Figure 1: Polar bear hair snare and camera trap sampling station showing barbed wire triangle around scented bait which does not provide food to the bears. Hair gets caught in the wire as the bear crosses it and community teams collect these hair samples every 10 days. Hair samples provide information on bear genetics and diet. Camera traps take photos of the bear interacting with the station to provide information on body condition and age class.

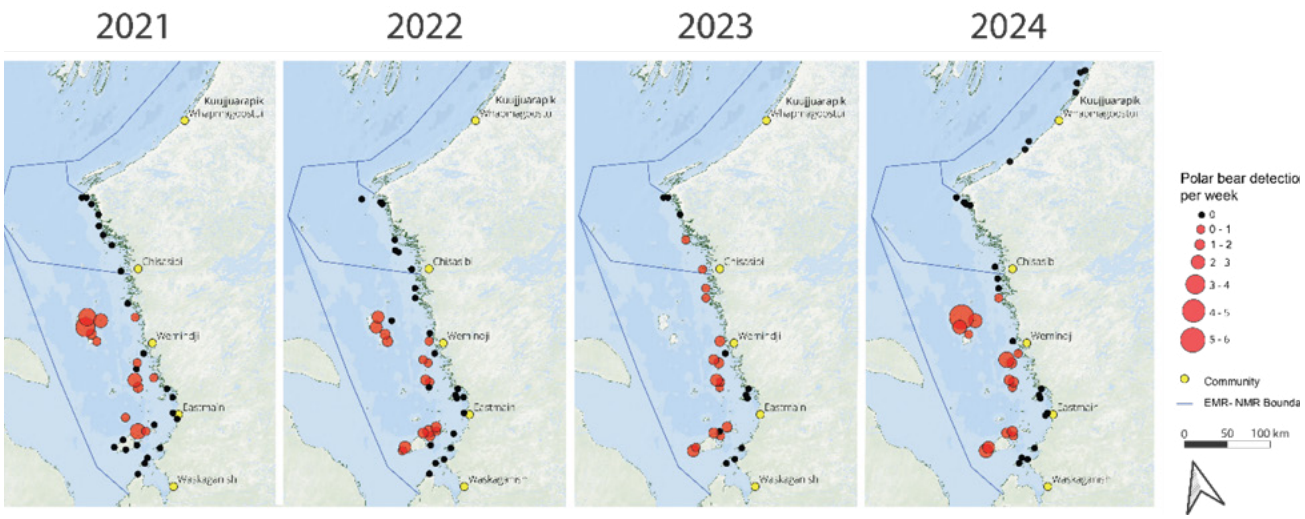


Figure 2: Polar bear detections at sampling stations deployed by communities in July-September from 2021 to 2024. Black dots indicate no detections and red dots of increasing size indicates more polar bear detections per week.

Each summer between 2021 and 2024, community field teams from Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui deployed an array of 40 hair snare and camera trap sampling stations across more than 400 km of the eastern James Bay coast. Teams collected hundreds of polar bear hair samples and observations, mapped polar bear distribution across the coast in the ice-free season (see Figure 2), monitored body condition and the proportion of cubs each year (Figure 3). Over 35 community members have been involved in the project and Cree Knowledge guides each part of the project. Elders and hunters are part of the data interpretation team and recognized for their knowledge both through honoraria as well as through authorship on reports and academic publications.

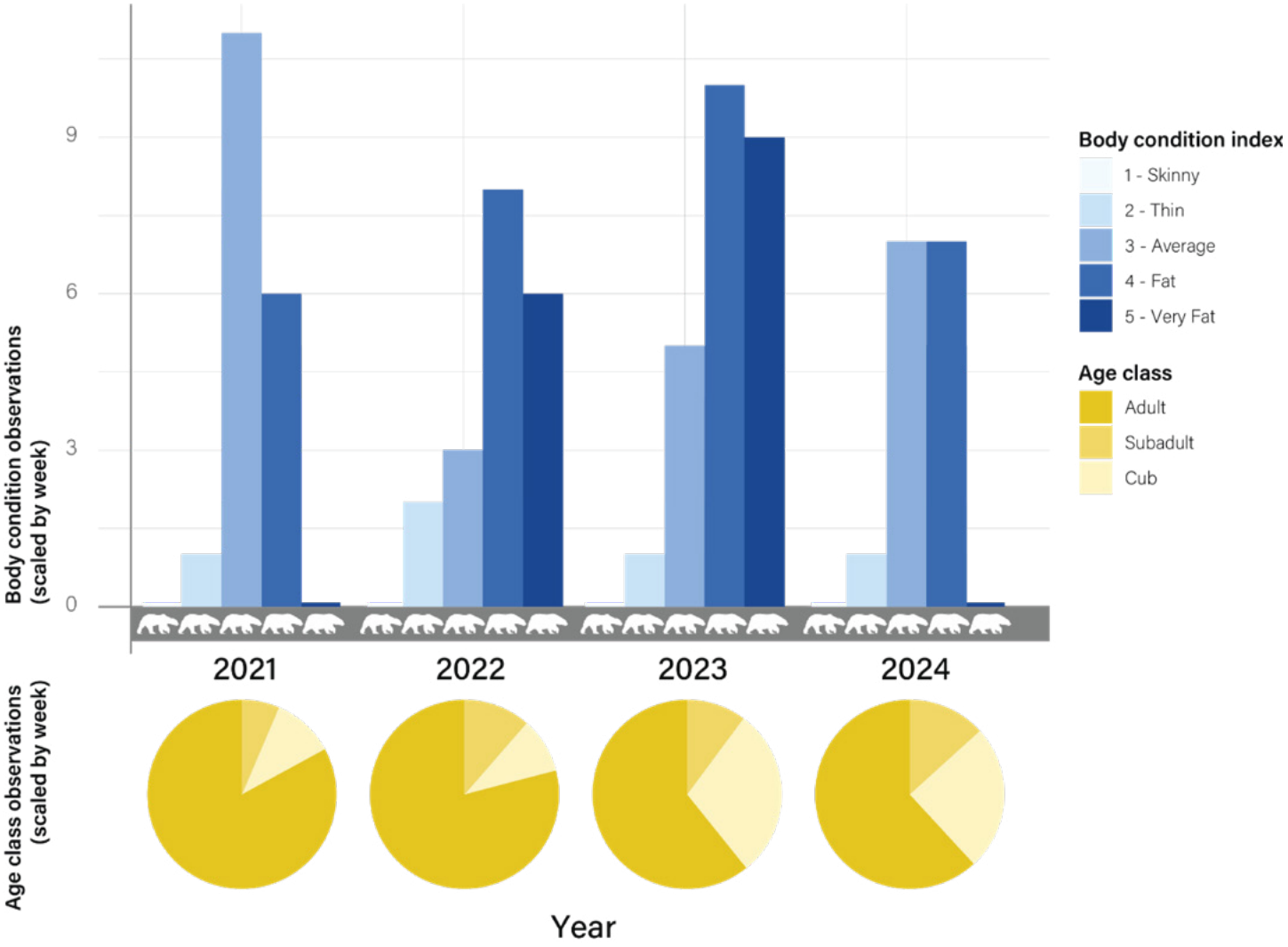


Figure 3: Polar bear body condition and age class observations from hair snare and camera trap sampling stations deployed in July - September from 2021 to 2024 in eastern James Bay.

For more information about this work or to get involved, please feel free to contact:
Alexandra Langwieder (**alexandra.langwieder@mail.mcgill.ca**).
Additional materials: **https://www.emrwb.ca/polar-bear-ecology/**

Community Fisheries Workshop

An Overview of Emerging Fisheries

Presented by Mirella De Oliveira Leis

The New Emerging Fisheries Policy (NEFP) guides the development of emerging fisheries and applies to all requests for new fisheries for new or underutilized species in waters where DFO is responsible. The NEFP is precautionary, and its objective is to diversify fisheries and increase economic return while ensuring the conservation of the stock. Scientific understanding, Indigenous Knowledge, and sustainability are key guiding principles of the NEFP. The NEFP does not apply to requests from Indigenous groups for food, social, and ceremonial (FSC) purposes and is only intended for the development of a commercial fishery.

Emerging fisheries are undertaken over multiple years to determine if a proposed fishery is both sustainable and commercially viable. New fisheries typically go through three developmental stages: **Stage I** – Feasibility, **Stage II** – Exploratory, and **Stage III** - Commercial. Data collection is essential throughout the process and is the responsibility of the project proponent and all participants. Applicants/participants are responsible for demonstrating that the fishery is both sustainable and commercially viable.

Requests for new fisheries begin with an application, which can be requested from the DFO contact in your region (contact information below). Applicants are responsible to develop and submit their application to DFO and should allow for a review period of up to 6 months for a decision to be made. Applications should include information such as the name of the species you intend to harvest, fishing locations, harvest method, potential species/ecosystem impacts, fishing and business plan, and proof of public consultations. If an application is approved, the applicant will work with DFO to prepare a system for collecting and reporting catch and effort data. DFO will issue the licence and establish licence conditions which will often include permitted fishing locations, season dates, quota, bycatch limits, monitoring/reporting requirements, and participation requirements. Each new fishery is unique, and requirements may vary.

DFO would like to ensure all applicants are aware that few applications lead to new commercial fisheries. The emerging fishery process from Stage I to Stage III can take several years and requires a long-term time and financial commitment. In order to advance to a commercial stage, there must be careful and consistent data collection over time to demonstrate that the fishery is sustainable.

If you have any questions or are interested in applying, please reach out to your DFO Arctic Region contact at **DFO.ARCFMInfo-InfoGPARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca**.

Additional information on the New Emerging Fisheries Policy can be found at **https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/efp-pnp-eng.htm**.

Sanikiluaq Fisheries
Presented by Lucassie Arragutainaq

The Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association has been interested in developing shellfish fisheries for many years and recently began the process of exploratory fisheries for scallops and sea cucumbers. A stage 1 exploratory license was granted in 2024 to move this process forward. To help demonstrate the types of research required for fisheries establishment, this presentation outlined the research activities in 2024 to map the local abundance and distribution of scallop beds around the archipelago and the next steps for stock assessment, measurements and other activities needed to move forward in the stages of commercial fisheries development. The challenges of balancing Inuit value systems around harvesting and wildlife management with new approaches for commercializing fisheries were discussed as an important consideration.

For more information: **sani@baffinhto.ca**.

Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI)
Presented by Logan Robinson

The Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI) is one of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Indigenous Commercial Programs. NICFI was modelled after two established programs in the Atlantic and Pacific regions, and was co-designed and co-developed with Indigenous communities, organizations and partners, to be tailored to meet the unique needs of the North. NICFI's objectives are to enhance economic benefits and food security by supporting Indigenous communities to develop and manage communal commercial or local redistributive fisheries.

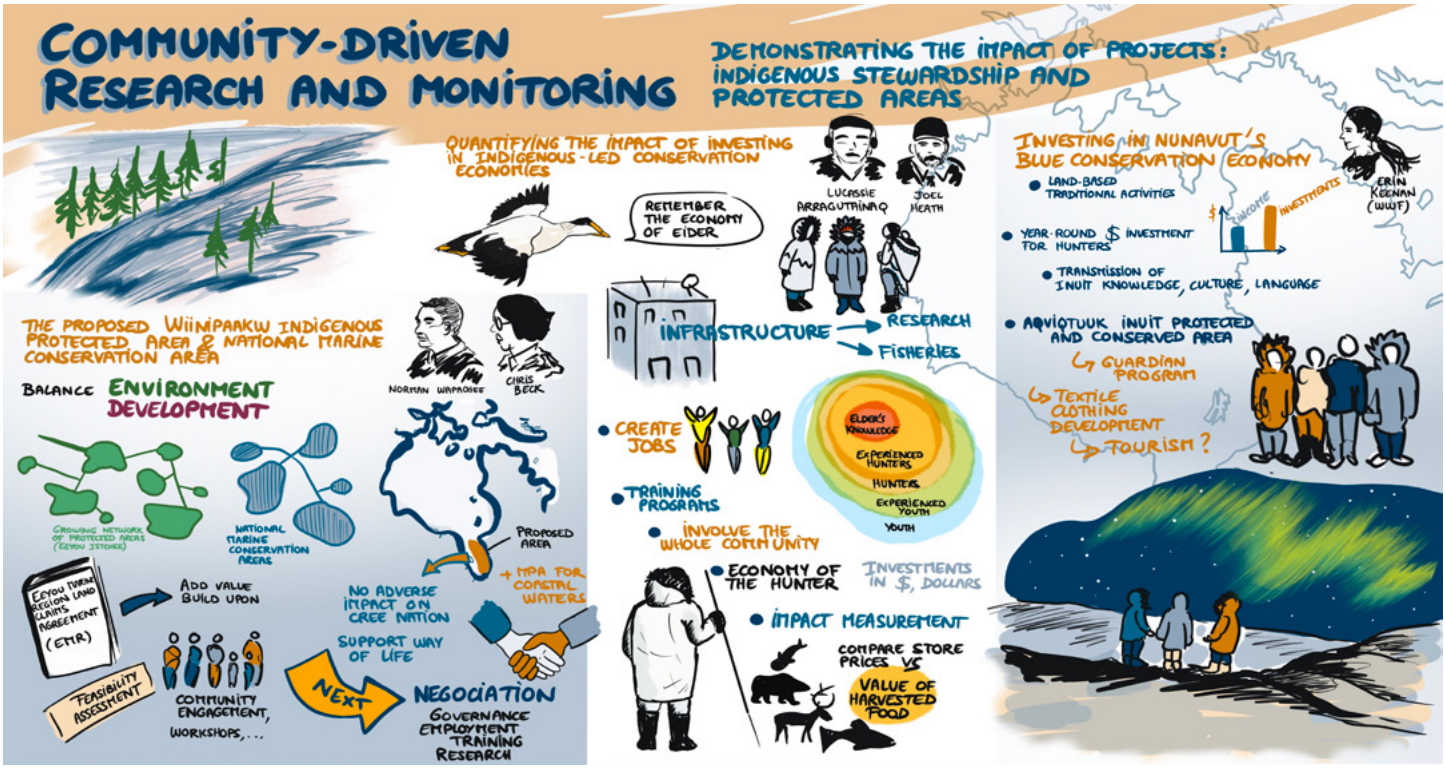
The program has four components, including Capacity Building, Fisheries Training, Expansion and Diversification, and Aquaculture. The capacity building component provides funding to develop a business plan or hire a dedicated resource from within the community to lead the fisheries work. Funding for fisheries training may be requested to improve safety, harvester knowledge and skills, vessel operation, and more. Expansion and Diversification may include funding to help purchase or upgrade a fishing vessel, equipment, or onshore facilities, as well as to acquire fisheries access. Funding is also available to groups interested in entering into or expanding an aquaculture business. Under these components, NICFI can provide funding for salaries or equipment to support communities on the path to develop new or emerging fisheries. NICFI operates with Business Development Teams that are separate from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, where Fisheries Business Development Advisors provide support to communities and groups looking to advance in communal commercial or local redistributive fisheries. They provide professional advice, support to develop business and training plans, project planning and implementation, technical assistance, assistance with financing proposal preparations and more depending on the groups needs.

Business Development Team contacts:

Vernon Amos, Business Development Team Northern Lead
Email: **vernon@indigenousfisheries.ca**
Telephone: (867) 678-5361

Shaun Cormier, Fisheries Business Development Advisor
Email: **shaun@indigenousfisheries.ca**
Telephone: (778) 675-8882

Fisheries and Oceans Canada contact:
Email: **DFO.NICFI-IPCIN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca**
Website: **Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI)**



Demonstrating the Impacts of Projects:
Examples of Indigenous Stewardship and Protected Areas in the Region

Led by Colleen Parker

After years of effort, stewardship and protected areas initiatives in the Hudson Bay and James Bay region have moved from concept to action using a variety of innovative tools and approaches led by Indigenous communities. Presentations in this workshop provided updates on efforts to advance the establishment of new protections and measure the impact of conservation economies related to these areas.

Qikiqtait Program

Presented by Lucassie Arragutainaq, Joel Heath

This project showcased the Qikiqtait program in Sanikiluaq as a case study for Inuit-led conservation and a key region for ecological and cultural connectivity of the region as a whole. A whole-of-community approach has been taken for the development, consultation and implementation of an Inuit-led marine and terrestrial protected area for the Belcher Islands Archipelago (Qikiqtait). The focus of the talk was on developing and evaluating conservation economies for the community. This included the structure of local Inuit staff and connections among programs for knowledge transfer from elders to youth, training programs, guardians programs, research and monitoring, equipment making, sewing programs and engagement of over 300 community land-users in contributing their observations through SIKU to develop a resource inventory and baseline data for Inuit-led management of Qikiqtait. Outcomes demonstrated key performance indicators for the project and how the connections between land, cultural, and knowledge based programs support each other as a holistic Indigenous conservation economy. The project demonstrated an increase in harvesting and land use activity compared to historical data, and a Social Return on Investment analysis of programs indicated a 5:1 SROI for food security alone, in addition to the many other direct economic, social and cultural well-being outcomes. The project demonstrated the benefits of investing in Inuit-led stewardship and a whole-of-community approach to taking care of the islands for future generations.

For more information:
https://qikiqtait.ca/
lucassie.arragutainaq@qikiqtait.ca

Wiinipaakw IPC-NMCA

Presented by Deputy Grand Chief Norman Wapachee & Chris Beck

The Cree Nation, in collaboration with various partners, has been actively involved in planning and establishing protected areas within Eeyou Istchee, their homeland, with a growing network of protected areas on the mainland. They are now focusing on the offshore and islands portion, known as Wiinipaakw, with the first marine protected area initiative being the Wemindji-McGill Protected Area Project, which proposed the Tawich (Marine) Conservation Area in 2009. This proposal laid the groundwork for future initiatives, emphasizing the importance of connectivity between marine and terrestrial protected areas.

In 2019, the Cree Nation and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to assess the feasibility of establishing a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in the Eeyou Marine Region (EMR), forming a Cree-Canada Steering Committee to oversee this process. The proposed Wiinipaakw Indigenous Protected Area and NMCA, covering approximately 27,000 km2 of Eeyou Marine Region waters, aims to protect and conserve marine ecosystems while allowing ecologically sustainable activities such as Indigenous traditional use, scientific research, and tourism. These areas are protected from activities like ocean dumping, undersea mining, and oil and gas exploration.

The establishment of the NMCA is built upon the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement, signed in 2010, which contains provisions for protected areas. A thorough engagement and consultation process with coastal Cree First Nations, Cree entities, partners, and stakeholders was undertaken in 2023-2024 to assess the feasibility of establishing an NMCA, with strong support from Cree leadership and coastal Cree First Nations. The Cree and Canada approved the recommendations of the Feasibility Assessment Report in Fall 2024 and agreed to move forward on establishing the Wiinipaakw Indigenous Protected Area-National Marine Conservation Area, with ongoing Cree-Canada establishment negotiations.

Contact info: **christopher.beck@cngov.ca**

Blue Conservation Economy - Nunavut Case Study (World Wildlife Fund)
Presented by Erin Keenan

The concept of a Blue Conservation Economy centers around generating income from activities that protect and restore natural resources, rather than depleting them. In Nunavut, this involves supporting land-based activities such as tourism and recreation, country food harvesting, Inuit Guardians programs, arts and culture, research and monitoring programs, and integrated marine spatial planning. These conservation economies, deeply rooted in Inuit traditions, are essential for Inuit livelihoods and offer co-benefits like facilitating the transmission of Inuit knowledge, culture, and language, improving community cohesion, promoting youth participation, and enhancing health outcomes.

Investing in Nunavut's Blue Conservation Economy requires support for various conservation-based activities. Country food harvesting and Inuit Guardians programs not only generate significant economic value but also provide opportunities for employment, food security, and community stewardship. Tourism and recreation contribute to the local economy and reinforce Inuit culture. To further develop the Blue Conservation Economy, investments are needed in areas such as processing facilities, local hunter capacity building, training and certification programs, infrastructure, and equipment for environmental monitoring and tourism.

A case study of the Aqviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area highlights the benefits of conservation-based economies, particularly the Inuit Guardians program, which has generated substantial co-benefits. Overall, supporting and investing in the Blue Conservation Economy can lead to economic diversification, community empowerment, and the preservation of Inuit culture and traditions, while also promoting environmental conservation.

The full report can be found on Smart Prosperity Institute's website:
https://institute.smartprosperity.ca/inuit-led-economic-development

Opportunities for Partnerships and Support

This workshop provided an opportunity for funding agencies and others looking to establish or build upon existing partnerships with communities to enable research and monitoring efforts to advance.

Community-Driven Research and Monitoring:
Funding Programs and Resources related to Climate Change and Contaminants
Molly Morse, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) gave an overview of the following funding programs for Northern and Indigenous communities related to climate change and contaminants:

- The **Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program** supports Indigenous-led projects that monitor climate and the environmental effects of climate change within community boundaries and on traditional territories using Indigenous Knowledge Systems and western science.
- The **Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program** funds Indigenous and Northern communities with climate change adaptation projects related to infrastructure, on-the-land safety, and food security.
- The **First Nation Adapt Program** supports First Nation communities and organizations south of the 60th parallel with climate change adaptation projects including risk assessments, adaptation planning, and small-scale implementation of adaptation actions.
- The **Northern Contaminants Program** funds monitoring and research related to long-range contaminants in the Canadian Arctic (e.g., persistent organic pollutants or POPs and heavy metals such as mercury) and includes a dedicated stream for community-based monitoring and research. To learn more about these CIRNAC funding programs, including how to apply, visit the program websites. CIRNAC emphasized that staff are available to help applicants find the right funding program(s) for their initiative and to support them with the application process.
- CIRNAC also highlighted a few resources for exploring other federal funding opportunities such as the **Indigenous Climate and Environmental Funding** webpage where you can filter by topic, by type of program, and by Indigenous group. In addition, CIRNAC provided examples of tools that can support communities with their projects such as the **Indigenous Climate Change Adaptation Planning Toolkit** which includes a guidance document and a series of practical guidebooks and the **Indigenous Climate Monitoring Toolkit** which includes a step-by-step process, community stories, a searchable resource library, and an interactive map.

CIRNAC also shared some tips for securing funding which ranged from taking a grant writing course to seeking assistance from funding program staff. For running a successful community-driven project, CIRNAC recommended finding community champions, building capacity through reciprocal partnerships, learning from challenges and celebrating successes.

Polar Knowledge Canada: Update and Funding Opportunities
Prepared by Lynda Orman

Polar Knowledge Canada, a relatively new science-based federal government agency established in 2015, outlined its core mandate to advance knowledge of the polar regions across Canada's North and Arctic, and the Antarctic.

Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) is Canada's lead agency responsible for strengthening Canada's leadership on Northern and Arctic issues. It operates the hub for scientific research at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, where its headquarters is located.

An update of POLAR's activities, its area of operations and 2020–2025 Science and Technology Framework goals (3) and approaches were outlined and included:

- Collaboration and coordination in research – working together to address key knowledge gaps
- Knowledge mobilization – ensuring knowledge and data are publicly available to inform decision making
- Community involvement – braiding Indigenous and local knowledge with science; supporting the development of science capacity in northern regions.

More than a dozen POLAR collaborative funded research projects of relevance and interest to the Hudson Bay region were highlighted, including key examples such as:

- Healthy Animals, Healthy Communities: Using complementary knowledge systems to promote wildlife sustainability (University of Calgary)
- Coastal Restoration Nunavut: Understanding the impacts of rapid ecosystem change on northern communities (Government of Nunavut)
- Vulnerability of northern drinking water sources to environmental change (Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique), and Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat (University of Ottawa).

Polar Knowledge Canada manages $7.8 million in research support funding annually through its Transfer Payment Program (Grants and Contributions funding). POLAR is anticipating a call for proposals in 2025 for two funding programs:

- Grants to individuals, Organizations, Associations and Institutions to Support Research and Activities Relating to the Polar Regions
- Grants and Contributions to Support the Advancement of Northern Science and Technology.

In addition, Polar Knowledge Canada and ArcticNet are partnering to spearhead a new Canadian-led international science initiative called Arctic Pulse focused on addressing globally relevant questions with locally relevant consequences.

Bioregional Resilience for Hudson Bay: Community Capacitation on Geospatial Technologies and the proposed Churchill Hudson Bay Interpretive Center
Presented by Konstantia Koutouki

The project broadly targets the scientific challenge of addressing primary needs, community-based (CB) goals and SDG priorities of less-developed settings across the global Arctic. The aim is to capture currently available, yet time limited expertise of senior-researchers and elders while including consideration of Indigenous women's food-insecurity 1, youth and society through eco-travelers.

A pilot Hudson Bay Interpretive Centre will be set up in Churchill, Manitoba through the local Duke of Marlborough High School. The Interactive GIS HUB is intended to be one of a Hudson-James Bays wide network across this, the largest Inland Sea in the world. An initial platform and general Hudson Bay database will be presented in map story form as part of the development of local interpretive skills. This pilot will be used to identify counterparts for additional hubs that include both local cultural and language representation illustration of data at a scale that is useful for local development, and HUB network development for communication of restoration, best practice transfer and energy efficiency.

The functional synergies from counter-part expert experience will serve to facilitate navigation objectives to explore the potential for a new thematic network(s) on Arctic sustainability and CB food-insecurity mitigation. The primary purpose is to pilot a sequential informal-to-formal curriculum for community-based CRM spatial planning to support food and cultural security across the Hudson Bay bioregion. Meeting this goal will aid in several levels of participatory and broadly inclusive nested SDG objectives for Canada, considering the broader Inuit culture, the Arctic as a region of interconnected large marine ecosystems or bioregions and global objectives outlined within the United Nations, including curriculum design to meet some of Canada's obligations under international law 2.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic's GIS expertise will be combined with the decadal experience of Daluhay and University College of the North (UCN) on socio-ecological programming in the circumpolar north. Purposeful application of spatial skills will thus be integrated with socio-ecological curriculum integration strategies that were previously initiated while founding director of the Lakehead University Center for Northern Studies and through decades of programmatic food-security efforts from Churchill-based institutions 3. The innovation for these specific goals in remote sensing applications; bioregional Hudson Bay planning, Indigenous CB food-security related health care and sequential education programming, can best be grounded in assessment for college technical training.

The goal of the engagement of the (Norway) Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center will be to complement the GIS background of Saskatchewan Polytechnic through their foundational environmental applications on climate-change mitigation, adaptation as well as programmatic cultural linkages. One purpose behind this proposed contribution to United Nations Ocean Decade ACTION 15.4 on marine ecosystem planning, is to vertically integrate knowledge/action though international, national, territorial, provincial and community-based governance-monitoring systems. Project initiation shared with Nunavut Arctic College will be considered for collaboration planning and will integrate existing Hudson Bay monitoring programs including well established linkages through UCN and the Hudson Bay Consortium, inclusive of Indigenous food-system restoration to formulate, test and activate a curriculum that supports community-based planning and bay-wide communication on climate-change

mitigation and adaptation of common goals for a common future. An additional specific goal focuses on partnership-building and knowledge-gathering that support previously identified community needs for this type of network, tools and organizational structures – leading to standardized computer-based curriculum and educational resources.

Paul Watts - Daluhay – Daloy ng Buhay: **paulwatts@daluhay.org**
Konstantia Koutouki - University if Montreal: **konstantia.koutouki@umontreal.ca**
Abdul Raouf - Saskatchewan Polytechnic: **raoufa@saskpolytech.ca**

Forward Planning and Closing Remarks

In the final afternoon of the 2025 Roundtable, there was opportunity for additional questions from community delegates followed by open discussion by participants offering suggestions to guide the Consortium's future direction and the Secretariat's upcoming work. In terms of next steps it was noted that upon completion the Roundtable report would be distributed by email and social media and housed, along with the presentations, on the new Consortium website, **www.tsconsortium.com**. A one-page Summary Report will also be prepared and translated into Inuktitut and Cree.

The Secretariat will continue to develop the active projects map on the Consortium website with the Community-driven Research & Monitoring Working Group, but would welcome any additional feedback or projects to be listed. Please direct feedback to: **info@tsconsortium.com**. The Secretariat will continue to distribute a quarterly newsletter and be active on social media platforms. Please follow us on the links below:

www.tsconsortium.com | Facebook | X (Twitter) | Instagram

The Steering Committee will be meeting in Spring/Summer of 2025 to determine the dates and location of the 2026 Summit. Feedback on the agenda for the next event was invited from participants and can be submitted to: **info@tsconsortium.com**.

The 2025 Roundtable opened with an opportunity for all participants around the table to briefly introduce themselves, and it ended with a similar opportunity for each participant to provide short closing remarks. Overwhelmingly participants expressed their gratitude to all those that shared their knowledge throughout the discussions, particularly those that traveled far to represent their communities and share their updates. Participants commented that they had learned a lot, with several further stating that it helped greatly to hear what other communities are experiencing and their strategies to address challenges and see more meaningful research undertaken. Many participants confirmed their willingness to work with their neighbours going forward and expressed support for the Consortium as an effective means of bringing everyone together for that purpose.

Appendix

List of Registered Participants:

- Adamie Padlayat
- Adrian Bohlender
- Adrian Gerhartz-Abraham
- Adrian Gunner
- Alec Niviaxie
- Alessia Guzzi
- Alex Alexis
- Alex Litvinov
- Alexandra Langwieder
- Alexandre Lamarre
- Amber Chambers
- Andree-Anne Rouleau
- Angel Aksawnee
- Annie O'Brien
- Barb Duffin
- Barnie Aggark
- Beatrice Deer
- Bernadette Dean
- Bev Williams
- Billy Nicoll
- Billy Palliser
- Camille Le Gall-Payne
- Carley Basler
- Carolane Héon
- Catherine Geoffrey
- Chantel Emiktow
- Charles Hookimaw
- Chris Beck
- Chris Koostachin
- Clarence Trapper
- Colleen Parker
- Craig Lingard
- Daniel Kablutisaq
- Darcy Wastesicoot
- Dylan Mayappo
- Earle Baddaloo
- Eddie Masty
- Edward Sutherland
- Eli Kavik
- Elisapi Copland
- Erin Keenan
- Erin Wieler
- Ernie Rabbitskin
- Esther Bordet
- Eva Elytook
- Gabe Nirlungayuk
- Holly Engstrom
- Hope Hill
- Isaac Masty
- Jackie Kidd
- Jade Dewar
- James Immingark
- James O'Leary
- Janelle Kennedy
- Jasmine Lundie
- Jason Bullfrog
- Jason Tologanak
- Jedidat Matoush
- Jennie Knopp
- Jennifer Throop
- Jens Ehn
- Jeremiah Kumarluk
- Jessica Cucinelli
- Joel Heath
- John Tookalook
- John Van Der Velde
- Johnny Kasudluak
- Joyce Tshiyoyo
- Kailen Kroeger
- Kathryn Scurci
- Katrina Hunter
- Kelsey Crouse
- Kevin Knapp
- Konstantia Koutouki
- Krista Olafsson
- Laura Harris
- Lazarusie Tukai
- Leo Deruite
- Leo Metatawabin
- Leonard Kapashesit
- Levius Miles
- Lisa Tulen
- Logan Robinson
- Lootie Toomasie
- Louisa Yeats
- Lucas Beaver
- Lucassie Arragutainaq
- Lydia Angidlik
- Maj Claude Courcelles
- Manon Sorais
- Marc Kutsiutikku
- Martin Tetreault
- Martine Giangioppi
- Mary Alaku
- Mary Sala
- Maude Durand
- Melanie Erazola
- Melanie Leblanc
- Melody Lynch
- Michael Cameron
- Michele LeBlanc-Havrad
- Mirella De Oliveira Leis
- Molly Morse
- Nadine Oolooyuk
- Nicole Wilson
- Norman Wapachee
- Oumelkheir Adda
- Paul Irgnaut
- Paulusie Papak
- Paulusie Tarriasuk
- Peter House
- Peter Pulsifer
- Philip Ferguson
- Philippe Leblanc-Rochette
- Pierre Walckiers
- Reggie Bearskin
- Rosanna Wisden
- Robert Enuapik
- Roger Lamothe
- Roxanne Metlin
- Ryan Barry
- Salamiva Weetaltuk
- Sam Hunter
- Serena Panaktalok
- Serena Weetaltuk
- Shannon Fireman
- Stella Masty
- Steve Thompson
- Susan Dean
- Taqialuk Peter
- Theresa Hall
- Thomas Stevens
- Troy Nester
- Vera Banias
- Verna Flett
- Vicky Sahanatien
- Victor Blackned
- Vincent Gautier-Doucet
- Wayne Cheezo
- Wilfrid Bagley
- Zou Zou Kuzyk

List of Registered Communities and Organizations:

- Anguvigaq
- Arctic Eider Society
- ArcticNet
- Arviat
- Attawapiskat
- Baker Lake
- Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
- Birds Canada
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Chesterfield Inlet
- Chisasibi
- Churchill
- Civil Air Search and Rescue Association
- Community of Fort Severn
- Coral Harbour
- Cree Nation Government
- Cree Nation Youth Council
- Cree Trappers Association
- Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Eastmain
- Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review
- Eeyou Marine Region Planning Committee
- Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board
- Environment & Climate Change Canada
- Fort Albany
- Fort Severn
- Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre Carleton
- Government of Nunavut
- Inukjuak
- Issatik Hunters & Trappers Organization
- Ivujivik
- Kangiqsujuaq
- Kashechewan
- Kativik Regional Government
- Kugaark Hunters and Trappers Association
- Kuujjuaq
- Kuujjuarapik
- Kuujjuarapik Anguvigak
- Makivik Corporation
- Manitoba Metis Federation
- McGill University
- Moose Cree First Nation
- Moosonee
- Mushkegowuk Council
- Naujaat
- Niskamoon
- Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission
- Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
- Nunavut Planning Commission
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- Nunavut Water Board
- Oceans North
- Parks Canada
- Polar Knowledge Canada
- Peawanuck
- Public Safety Canada
- Puvirnituq
- Salluit
- Sanikiluaq
- Transport Canada
- Umiujaq
- Université de Montréal
- University of Manitoba
- Waskaganish
- Wemindji
- Whale Cove
- Whapmagoostui
- World Wildlife Fund
- York Factory First Nation
- Yukon Graphic Recording

Agenda

TASIUJAQIUAQMIUT SHEEWETAGANAPOI CONSORTIUM ROUNDTABLE

2025 Agenda

DAY 1: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00 — Registration and Breakfast

8:45 — Opening Remarks

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Welcome to delegates, housekeeping points, overview of Consortium's strategic priorities and Roundtable objectives

9:15 — Keynote Address

Invited remarks on the importance of research and monitoring with involvement and oversight by local communities designed to understand and improve local conditions and outcomes with consideration of the interconnectedness of the Hudson Bay/James Bay ecosystem.

9:30 — Secretariat and Working Group Updates

Led by Co-Chair Ryan Barry

Update from the Consortium's Secretariat introducing the new name, logo and website of the Consortium and a status update on each Working Group.

10:15 — Coffee Break

10:45 — Introductions

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Short introductions from all delegates around the table.

11:15 — Community updates and priorities

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Opportunity for each community delegate to comment on identified research and monitoring priorities and other marine stewardship priorities for their community or region.

12:00 — Lunch Break

1:00 — Community updates and priorities *(continued)*

3:00 — Coffee Break

3:30 — Regional Updates

Led by Co-Chair Ryan Barry

Recognizing the jurisdictional complexity around who has responsibilities to authorize research and monitoring efforts within Hudson Bay and James Bay, these updates provide a spotlight on the unique approaches being implemented to ensure research is undertaken respectfully with appropriate engagement with communities, local priorities are addressed, and results are communicated back effectively.

4:45 — Daily Wrap-up

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00 — Breakfast

8:45 — Welcoming Remarks

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Overview of the agenda for the day, any housekeeping

9:00 — Regional Updates *(continued)*

Led by Co-Chair Ryan Barry

10:15 — Coffee Break

10:45 — Improving Support for Community Leaders

Led by Colleen Parker, Indigenous Stewardship and Protected Areas Working Group Leader

Panel discussion focusing on the support needed for the next generation of leaders to find success advocating for community-led solutions to environmental stewardship for the Hudson Bay and James Bay region. Recognizing that involving elders and youth in research, monitoring and environmental stewardship activities is a consistent priority of communities and Indigenous organizations, this discussion will create space to hear from the Roundtable's youth delegation as well as the experienced community leaders wanting to support their success.

12:00 — Lunch Break

1:00 — Self-Determination, Data Sovereignty and Interoperability

Led by Co-Chair Lucassie Arragutainaq and Maude Durand, Research and Monitoring Working Group Leader

Indigenous organizations around the Bays are working to uphold Indigenous self-determination, rights, and sovereignty through innovative research and monitoring initiatives, ensuring outcomes benefit communities and data generated is used for approved purposes only. This session will explore how to balance the standardization and harmonization of data collection methods - crucial for transparency, collaboration, and interoperability across theBays - while integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, traditions, and local priorities. Through open dialogue, participants will identify practical ways to respect data sovereignty while enabling interoperability to further stewardship across the regions. foster trust, enhance collaboration, and ensure efforts respect and reflect the unique needs and capacities of communities.

3:00 — Coffee Break

3:30 — Collaborative Co-development Approaches

Led by Maude Durand, Research and Monitoring Working Group Leader

Empowering communities and youth to become more actively engaged in research and monitoring, moving from participants to partners to leading research. This session will showcase positive examples from around the regions, including university/community partnerships.

4:45 — Daily Wrap-up

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

DAY 3: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:00 — Breakfast

8:45 — Welcoming Remarks

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Overview of the agenda for the day, any housekeeping

9:00 — Community Fisheries Workshop

Led by Co-Chair Ryan Barry

Community members have expressed interest in understanding how to explore development of small-scalesustainable fisheries as an opportunity for economic growth within the broader context of well-managed marine ecosystems of Hudson Bay and James Bay. This workshop will provide an opportunity to better understand community needs and share information about how small-scale community fisheries can be developed, with participation from communities which are already exploring the development of community fisheries locally.

10:15 — Coffee Break

10:45 — Demonstrating the Impact of Projects:
Examples from Indigenous Stewardship and Protected Areas in the Region

Led by Colleen Parker, Indigenous Stewardship and Protected Areas Working Group Leader

After years of effort, stewardship and protected areas initiatives in the Hudson Bay and James Bay region have moved from concept to action using a variety of innovative tools and approaches led by Indigenous communities and groups who have stewarded these areas from time immemorial. Short presentations will provide updates on efforts to advance establishment of new protections and measure the impact of conservation economies related to these areas.

12:00 — Lunch Break

1:00 — Opportunities for Partnerships and Support

Led by Co-Chair Ryan Barry

Short presentations from funding agencies and others looking to establish or build upon existing partnerships with communities to enable research and monitoring efforts to advance.

2:00 — Community Roundtable - Outstanding Questions

Led by Co-Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Opportunity to address outstanding questions from community representatives and youth delegates and discuss potential strategies for advancing common priorities for research, monitoring and marine stewardship.

3:00 — Coffee Break

3:30 — Forward Planning & Wrap Up

Led by Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Reflections from the Roundtable, what comes next for the Consortium

4:00 — Community Roundtable - Closing Remarks

Led by Chairs Lucassie Arragutainaq and Ryan Barry

Opportunity for delegates to provide short closing remarks on behalf of each community.

4:45 — Meeting Concludes

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