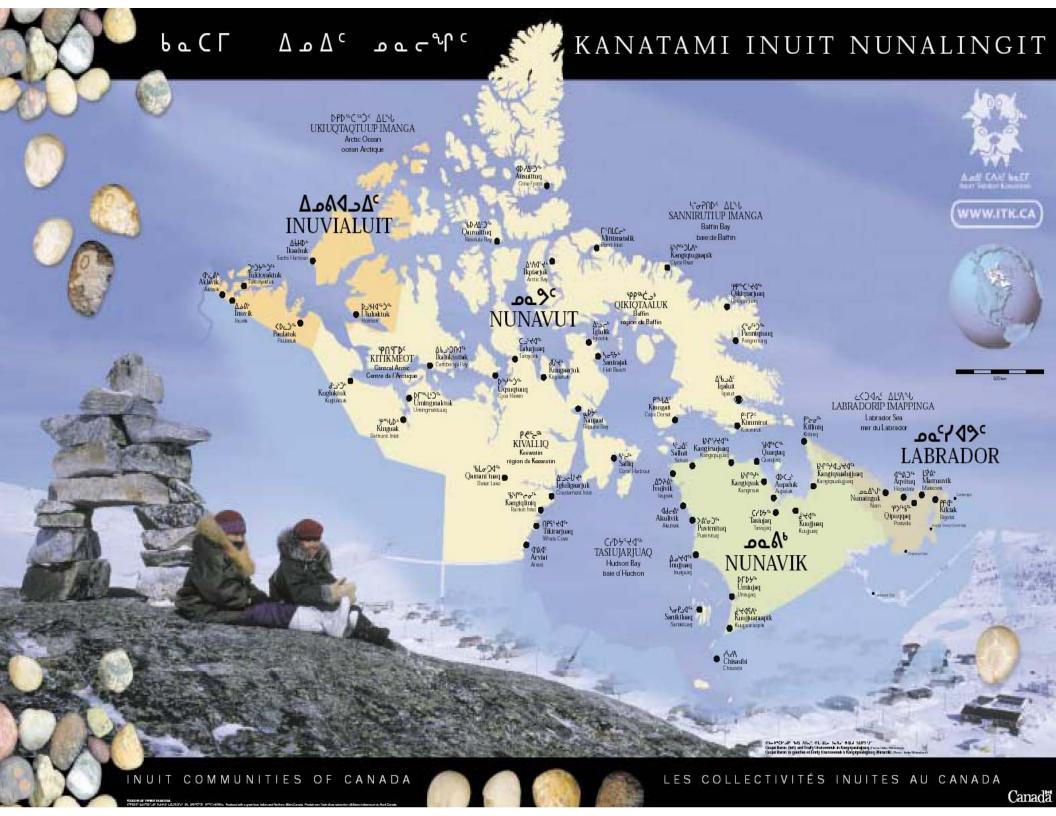




Putting the Human Face on Climate Change

Scot Nickels, ITK Chris Furgal, Nasivvik Mark Buell, Ajunnginq Centre Heather Moquin, ITK





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Context

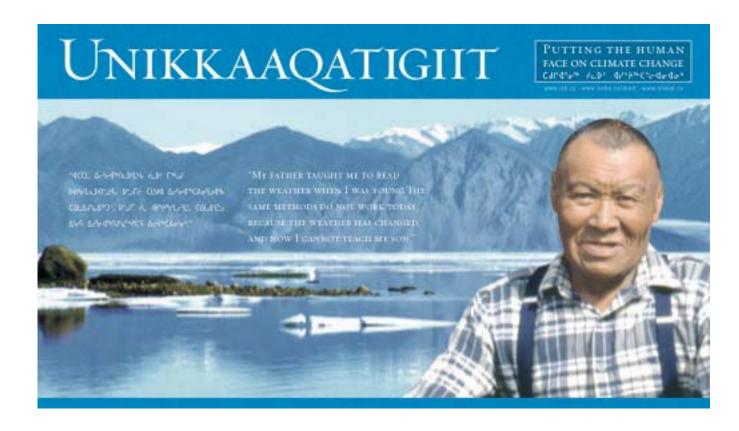
- •About 46,000 Inuit in Canada
- •On almost every indicator, Inuit fair worse than any other group of Canada
- •Life expectancy in 2001: Inuit male 62.6 years; Cdn. Average 77.0 years
- •Inuit are vulnerable to change
- climate change is just one of a number of pressures on Inuit society
- •ACIA climate change happens first and most severe in the northern regions





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- Joint publication of LCOs, ITK, Nasivvik, Ajunnginiq Centre
- Synopsis of observations, findings, and perspectives from the series of workshops





Partners



















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Objectives

- Document local observations and perspectives of current climate related changes and their impacts
- Identify existing, and develop new adaptation strategies
- Identify needs for impacts and adaptation research and action related to climate and health in Inuit communities.
- Facilitate information exchange among and between Inuit communities





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Methodology

Training Session

Agenda Identification

Observation Identification

Timeline Identification

Effects Identification

Adaptation Strategies

Planning

Indicator Identification

Community meeting and validation

Analysis and synthesis

Dissemination

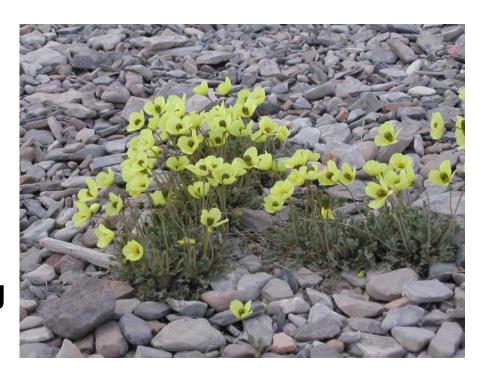




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Impacts of Change

- Culture and knowledge
- Harvesting activities
- Travel
- Food
- Water
- Vehicles and equipment
- Infrastructure and housing
- Economy
- Health



Environmental	Changes	Region
Compartment		
	More unpredictable	All regions
Weather	More extreme events - fast coming storms	All regions
	Changes in precipitation (snow and rain) regimes (timing and amounts)	All regions
	Changes in predominant wind direction	NV/I/NU
Temperature	General warming year round	All
	More hot days in summer	I/L
	Less cold stretches in winter	I/NU/L
Ice	Distribution of ice	All regions
	Timing of freeze-up and break up	All regions
	Ice thickness in winter	All regions
Wildlife, Fish and	Changes in distribution	All regions
Birds	Changes in calving time and location of caribou	All regions
	New species	All regions
	Disappearance of some species	I
	Changes in condition / health	All regions
Sunlight	More intense	All regions



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"The sun gives us a tan and it goes deeper in children now. We are getting sunburns, and our lips get cracked. We have to go to the health centre to get treatment for these burns" (Repulse Bay, Nunavut)

"There are so many changes the older generations are not able to teach our children about these things anymore" (Puvirnituq, Nunavik)



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"We can't make dry fish as the heat spoils it. The sun makes it too hot and we need to put a tarp over top now to protect the fish from the sun" (Inuvik, ISR)

"The water from some rivers and ponds smells and tastes bad, particularly when it does not rain for quite some time. We do not drink this water" (Nunatsiavut)



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Warmer temperatures / Increased UV exposure

- Increased risk of sun burns, skin cancer, aging of skin, cataracts, anti-immune diseases
- Observed increase in headaches and cases of dehydration
- Impact on animal & plant food sources affecting nutrition and consumption of traditional foods (fewer berries, skinnier fish, etc...)
- Difficulty in drying fish, caribou
- Meat spoils faster
- UV Lichen Caribou Travel Inuit





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Access to Country Foods

- Reduced quality of food sources, changed taste and decreased nutrients
 not as desirable
- Poorer quality of meat observed
- Changes to migration patterns, need to travel further, increased risk
- More unpredictable weather and extreme weather events makes travel more difficult, limiting time out on the land
- Fewer and poorer quality berries
- Diet affected from decrease in availability of traditional foods can lead to food insecurity, greater consumption of store bought foods causing diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases, etc...



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Water Quality

- •Warmer temperature increased algae growth in freshwater sources
- •Some freshwater sources have disappeared
- •Concerns expressed about quality of municipal water
- •Need to carry bottled water when out on land, increased costs





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Mental Health



- Disruption of livelihood and loss of social identity can affect mental health & well-being
- Changes to regular seasonal behaviour resulting in an increase in "spring fever"
- Physical, mental and culture loss when a season is missed or shortened
- Fear of "change"
- Disappearance of some bird species missed



New species of insects, increase in mosquito, black flies



- Increased exposure to disease (esp. West Nile Virus
- Fly bites can cause rashes
- Fear of unknown insects mental health impacts



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Acknowledgements

- Community Residents
- Land Claim Organizations and Community organizations (Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, Nunavut, Inuvialuit).
- Northern Ecosystem Initiative (NEI)
- Canadian Institutes for Health Research
- Climate Change Action Fund
- Health Canada
- MSSS-Québec
- Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- The Ajunnginiq Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization



"We used to be able to lie on the land and smell its sweetness. It used to be comfortable with plants and flowers" (Paulatuk, ISR)

