



Foxe Basin Kivalliq North Sapujiyit/Guardians of the Sea Society

.....

Youth - Elder Workshop January 2023 Report

Chesterfield Inlet, Kivalliq, Nunavut



Students and elders listening to final remarks while waiting to share country food.

Chelsi McNeill-Jewer, B.Sc, PhD
Sarah Newell, B.H.SC., M.Sc., PhD



We would like to thank everyone who participated and made our first workshop a success!

Special thanks to:

- Philippa Aggark (Translator)
- Rina (the caterer)
- Michael Milton (Ikaarvik)
- Gibson Porter (Ikaarvik)
- Chesterfield Inlet Co-Op
- Chesterfield Inlet Hamlet Council and SAO for the use of their gym
- The school teachers and administrators who nominated students and facilitated their participation in this workshop
- Paula and the team at Northern Allied Nunavut Travel for arranging the travel details

And thanks to our funders and sponsors who brought us together:

ArcticNet's North-by-North Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutit fund

&

Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program funded by Crown Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada.

Who are we:

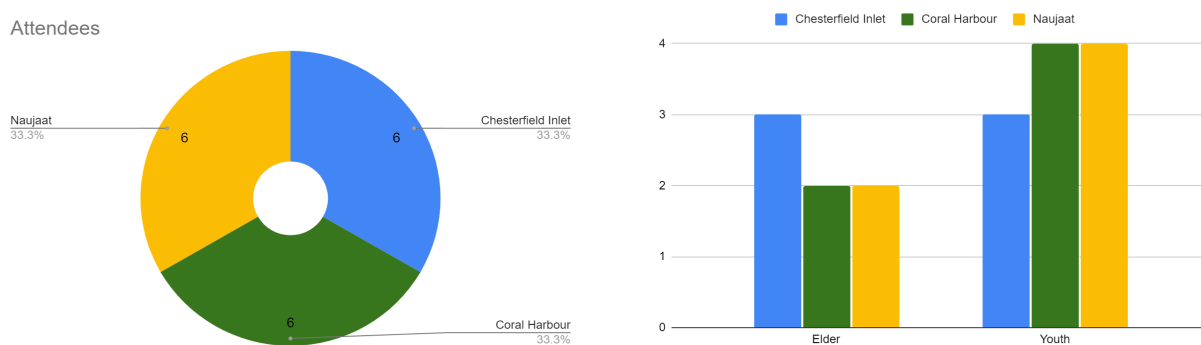
The Foxe Basin Kivalliq North Sapujiyit/Guardians of the Sea Society is an Inuit led grassroots society that serves the interests of the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour and Naujaat. We are focused on three pillars, which are 1) our Guardians program, which has a Search and Rescue response arm and an environmental monitoring arm; 2) our Research program, which combines interdisciplinary natural and social scientists who work on research questions and collaboration based on community concerns; 3) our Youth Outreach and Capacity Sharing program, which has come from the desire to have more interaction between the youth and elders of our communities, but will also strive to preserve elder and hunter Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit, and to combine these ways of knowing with science to encourage future youth leaders.



Barnie Aggark cuts tuktuk for the participants.

This report reports on the first Youth-Elder Workshop held by the Foxe Basin Kivalliq North Sapujiyit - Guardians of the Sea Society, which took place from the 16th to the 20th of January, 2023. We had a total of 18 people from our three communities:

Attendees



Top 5 Outcomes of our Workshop:

1. Gathered youth and elders to come together and talk about Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ).
2. Interviewed and preserved local IQ and stories of elders from Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour and Naujaat.
3. Engaged high school students about the importance of talking to elders.
4. Gathered questions and leads to help Sapujiyit Society researchers understand the concerns and needs of the communities.
5. Gathered feedback from participants that will be used to plan our next workshop.



.....

“When we were young we used to play outside, even ladies with babies on their backs. We would play string games, and men would exercise using rocks. We didn’t have places to gather like the new generation does.”

.....

Highlights

Our youth were aged 14 to 18 and we enjoyed hosting a mix of girls and boys who travelled from their communities from the 16th to the 20th of January. Our workshop was 3 days long, with the first day focusing on introductions, the second on formulating questions, and the third on sharing knowledge and having our closing meal of country food.

Key Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit from Elders:

- Having a healthy lifestyle with people around you. Gathering together with different people on the land. Enjoy sharing stories
- GPS makes navigating easier, but cannot be relied on because of batteries
- “Working together and sharing knowledge is the Inuit way”
- Hunting and making traditional clothing should not be forgotten because this is the most important thing for survival. It doesn’t have to be pretty, as long as it keeps you warm. Caribou skin is the warmest you can get for mitts and kamiks which we need for going on the land. Keeping you warm is what matters.
- It is a responsibility for everyone (not just youth and elders) to make the community a better place
- Dog teams always know where they are going because of their sense of smell

Key Wishes and Questions from Youth:

- Youth wish people could be nicer to each other and not take anger out on each other (but do not know how to fix this)
- How can we deal with garbage in an environmentally friendly way?
- To “take care of the land like we used to”
- Youth learn to use both GPS and IQ to safely navigate on the land (land-based learning) and have hunting guides teach them
- Seasonal differences in amount and type of animal harvesting, how to plan ahead for the year
- Knowledge of the herds, migration routes, trends, how they are changing
- More diverse jobs, and job training



Main Activities

During our three day workshop, we had our attendees break into community groups, and encouraged youth to write down questions they would like to ask elders. Then we gathered the elders together from each community and had them answer questions to start a conversation. Above is a sample of some key questions, wishes and IQ we gathered during this workshop. Please feel free to contact research@sapujiyit.org for the full summary of questions and comments from the workshop!

Next Steps

We are planning on holding the next workshop in Naujaat in May 2023, date TBD. We are excited to plan our workshop around and implement feedback from our January 2023 workshop. The May 2023 workshop will focus on the similarities and differences between Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and science, and how research methods can be co-developed. We hope to create a dialogue about capacity sharing and we hope to brainstorm programs, questions and actions that can bring positive benefits to the communities.

Our vision for the May 2023 upcoming workshop, and subsequent workshops are to build upon the shared skills of all participants involved. We will welcome back any participants who are interested in attending our next workshop, and will be happy to include anybody else interested if extra spots are available.

“We know the youth might be scared to ask questions, but we are waiting to be asked and we want to share our knowledge, and are always willing to share”

For more information, visit us at:

[sapujiyit.org!](http://sapujiyit.org)