



National Inuit Strategy on Research

About Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the national representational organization for the 65,000 Inuit in Canada, the majority of whom live in Inuit Nunangat, specifically, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Québec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). Collectively, these four regions make up Inuit Nunangat, our homeland in Canada. It includes 53 communities and encompasses roughly 35 percent of Canada's landmass and 50 percent of its coastline. Consistent with its founding purpose, ITK represents the rights and interests of Inuit at the national level through a democratic governance structure that represents all Inuit regions.

The comprehensive land claim agreements that have been settled in Inuit Nunangat form a core component of our organization's mandate. These land claims have the status of protected treaties under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and we remain committed to fully implementing them in partnership with the Crown. ITK advocates for policies, programs, and services to address the social, cultural, political, and environmental issues facing our people.

ITK is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the following members:

- Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- President, Makivik Corporation
- President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- President, Nunatsiavut Government

In addition to voting members, the following non-voting Permanent Participant Representatives also sit on the Board:

- President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
- President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- President, National Inuit Youth Council

Vision

Canadian Inuit are prospering through unity and self-determination

Mission

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is the national voice for protecting and advancing the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada

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1. Letter from ITK's President

The term research invokes strong reactions among Inuit because researchers have historically been and continue to be the primary beneficiaries of research involving our people, wildlife, and environment. While we recognize the important role research can play in informing actions that create safer, healthier, and more resilient communities, Inuit from across Inuit Nunangat have long insisted that researchers and research institutions respect Inuit self-determination in research through partnerships that enhance the efficacy, impact, and usefulness of research.

For far too long, researchers have enjoyed great privilege as they have passed through our communities and homeland, using public or academic funding to answer their own questions about our environment, wildlife, and people. Many of these same researchers then ignore Inuit in creating the outcomes of their work for the advancement of their careers, their research institutions, or their governments. This type of exploitative relationship must end.

Inuit, governments, and research institutions can do so by working together to transform research relationships. Inuit and researchers have reaped the benefits of research relationships premised on respect for Inuit self-determination and are seeking coherent and consistent research relationships across Inuit Nunangat. In recent years, a number of researchers, research institutions, and Inuit have developed meaningful partnerships and undertaken research which has created value for our people and communities. These meaningful partnerships have been developed in a fragmented fashion because they are dependent upon goodwill and respect between individual researchers, institutions, and Inuit.

Achieving Inuit self-determination in research can lead to an evolution of the outdated policies and processes that determine our relationship with research, as well as enhanced capacity for Inuit-led research.

The National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR) outlines the coordinated actions required to improve the way Inuit Nunangat research is governed, resourced, conducted, and shared. This strategy builds upon the important strides taken by Inuit towards self-determination in research by offering solutions to challenges our people have grappled with for decades. It envisions research being utilized as a building block for strong public policies, programs, and initiatives that support optimal outcomes for Inuit that in turn benefit all Canadians.

Many people have contributed to the creation of the NISR. I would like to acknowledge the guidance of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) Board of Directors and the expertise and advice of the Inuit Qaujisarvingat National Committee in the writing of this strategy.

Nakummek,

Natan Obed



2. Executive Summary

In this time of reconciliation, research governance bodies, policies, and practices must be transformed to respect Inuit self-determination in Inuit Nunangat research.

Strong public policies, informed by the best available evidence, can support optimal outcomes for Inuit that in turn benefit all Canadians. However, colonial approaches to research endure in Canada that prevent Inuit from making decisions about research activity in our homeland, such as setting the research agenda, monitoring compliance with guidelines for ethical research, and determining how data and information about our people, wildlife, and environment is collected, stored, used, and shared. In this time of reconciliation, research governance bodies, policies, and practices must be transformed to respect Inuit self-determination in Inuit Nunangat research.

Advancing Inuit governance in research is imperative for enhancing the efficacy, impact, and usefulness of research for Inuit. This requires governments and research institutions to partner with Inuit representational organizations to implement engagement processes that respect the role of Inuit in decision-making when it comes to research involving our people, wildlife, and environment. This must occur at the regional, national, and international levels of Inuit governance.

Since the 1990s, the Government of Canada has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars for research taking place in Inuit Nunangat, which is the Inuit-preferred name of the geographic, political, and cultural region whose various descriptions include “the Arctic”, “North”, and “North of 60” – none of which accurately encapsulate the Inuit homeland. The current investments in Inuit Nunangat research reflect a biological-physical science research bias that diminishes the prominence and attention given to other Inuit research priorities, such as health and social science.

Moreover, federal research funding eligibility criteria tend to exclude Inuit representational organizations from accessing funding as lead institutions or principal investigators. This coupled with the absence of a university in Inuit Nunangat contributes to the continued domination of Inuit Nunangat research by non-Inuit researchers based outside of Inuit Nunangat.

The purpose of the NISR is to address these challenges through coordinated actions that enhance the efficacy, impact, and usefulness of Inuit Nunangat research for Inuit. The NISR is domestic in scope yet it also acknowledges the international dimension of research on Inuit Nunangat. The objectives and actions that ITK is committed to implementing in partnership with Inuit representational organizations, governments, and research institutions, fall within five priority areas: 1) Advance Inuit governance in research; 2) Enhance the ethical conduct of research; 3) Align funding with Inuit research priorities; 4) Ensure Inuit access, ownership, and control over data and information; and 5) Build capacity in Inuit Nunangat research.

The interrelated, interdependent nature of these priority areas requires a holistic, coordinated approach to implementing actions and evaluating progress. The NISR is intended to reach the stakeholders, such as governments, academia, and other research institutions, involved in Inuit Nunangat research. Inuit have brokered positive, mutually beneficial relationships with researchers and are also undertaking research ourselves. There is growing recognition within the research community about the partnership role that Inuit must play in Inuit Nunangat research. At the same time, important transformations must occur at the policy level for Inuit to achieve self-determination in research. Through the NISR, ITK will build on these advances, utilize existing governance processes and broker new partnerships to meet the needs of Inuit in research.



3. Introduction: From exclusion to self-determination in research

The relationship between Inuit and the research community is replete with examples of exploitation and racism. Research has largely functioned as a tool of colonialism, with the earliest scientific forays into Inuit Nunangat serving as precursors for the expansion of Canadian sovereignty and the dehumanization of Inuit. Early approaches to the conduct of research in Inuit Nunangat cast Inuit as either objects of study or bystanders. This legacy has had lasting impact on Inuit and it continues to be reflected in current approaches to research governance, funding, policies, and practices.

Inuit Nunangat research tends to be governed, resourced, and conducted in a manner that limits Inuit participation. Colonial approaches to research in which the role of Inuit is imagined as being marginal and of little value remain commonplace, even as governments and wider Canadian society have taken steps to achieve reconciliation with Inuit on multiple fronts.

Inuit in Canada are among the most studied Indigenous peoples on earth. The primary beneficiaries of Inuit Nunangat research continue to be researchers themselves, in the form of access to funding, data and information, research outcomes, and career advancement. Inuit remain largely marginalized from research governing bodies and in turn from experiencing the benefits of research.

Research relationships in Inuit Nunangat have evolved in recent years to include partnerships between Inuit and academic institutions, researchers, and governments. Inuit have applied this research and pursued Inuit-specific research priorities to support advocacy and create social equity. However these partnerships have tended to be sporadic.

Inuit self-determination in research requires that Inuit research priorities no longer be ignored or marginalized by governments, researchers, and research institutions. Inuit research priorities should be reflected among the priorities identified by funding agencies, and they should influence the manner in which research priorities are determined, the composition and function of research governance bodies, as well as funding eligibility criteria for prospective research grant applicants.

The National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR) identifies five priority areas in which coordinated action is necessary to facilitate Inuit Nunangat research that is efficacious, impactful, and meaningful to Inuit. It identifies practical steps to advance Inuit self-determination in research as the means for fostering respectful and beneficial research that serves the needs and priorities of Inuit.

The National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR) identifies five priority areas in which coordinated action is necessary to facilitate Inuit Nunangat research that is efficacious, impactful, and meaningful to Inuit.

Figure 1: *Respectful and beneficial research for all Inuit*





Part I of the NISR provides an overview of the Inuit Nunangat research context by setting forth the Inuit vision for Inuit Nunangat research and demonstrating the link between research and the broader goal of creating social and economic equity. It discusses how a national Inuit Nunangat research policy can create greater efficiency and provide guidance to governments and research institutions in Inuit Nunangat research. It describes how advancing Inuit governance in research is mutually beneficial to Inuit and researchers, as well as for creating success in research capacity building, ethics, and funding.

Part II of the NISR outlines the five priority areas for action and investment that we have identified for enhancing the efficacy and impact of Inuit Nunangat research for Inuit and all Canadians. These priority areas are as follows: 1) Advance Inuit governance in research; 2) Enhance the ethical conduct of research; 3) Align funding with Inuit research priorities; 4) Ensure Inuit access, ownership, and control over data and information; and 5) Build capacity in Inuit Nunangat research (see **Figure 1: Respectful and beneficial research for all Inuit**).

Inuit Nunangat research tends to be governed, resourced, and conducted in a manner that limits Inuit participation.

4. Part I: Vision and context

Part I of the NISR sets forth an Inuit vision for research in Inuit Nunangat that can be achieved through engagement with our Inuit governance structure. This section highlights opportunities for partnership and action in each of the five identified priority areas for facilitating efficacious, impactful, and meaningful research in Inuit Nunangat. It describes expectations for partnership in research premised on self-determination, respect, and transparency.

4.1 Vision for Inuit Nunangat research

Inuit envision research producing new knowledge that empowers our people in meeting the needs and priorities of our families and communities. We see achieving self-determination in research as the means for ensuring that research governance bodies, policies, and practices are consistent with this vision.

4.2 Why we need a national Inuit strategy on research

Canada needs a national Inuit strategy on research to articulate Inuit expectations for research, define Inuit-preferred approaches to building research partnerships, as well as to identify the actions needed to enhance the efficacy, impact, and usefulness of Inuit Nunangat research for Inuit, including its international dimensions. The NISR sets forth a holistic approach to shared Inuit and research stakeholder action by doing the following:

1. Promoting a shared understanding of the legacy of Inuit Nunangat research and connecting this legacy to the current research context
2. Defining Inuit expectations for the role of research in our regions and communities
3. Identifying areas for partnership and action between Inuit and the research community

Decisions about Inuit Nunangat research priorities and corresponding funding tend to be made unilaterally by governments and research institutions that are external to Inuit Nunangat. The majority of Inuit Nunangat research is carried out without the consent of Inuit, as represented by Inuit representational organizations at regional, national, and international levels. Inuit are rarely engaged in the early planning of research initiatives, often resulting in wasteful, redundant, and counterproductive research. The NISR identifies the coordinated actions needed to remedy these complex issues.



4.3 Research is a tool for creating social equity

Severe social inequity between Inuit and most other Canadians has been noted by the federal government, the research community, and the international community. Present day social inequity among Inuit is rooted in egregious policies of the past. The majority of Inuit lived at seasonal camps on the land prior to World War II. Many families were coerced or relocated into permanent settlements by the federal government in the early 1950s in order to streamline the administration and provision of services such as education and healthcare. In settlements, stressors such as household crowding, infectious diseases, and the adverse effects of residential schooling converged on many families against a backdrop of rapid social, spiritual, and economic upheaval. The trauma caused by these and other experiences, coupled with inequities in infrastructure and services, is linked to elevated rates of poverty, violence, and poor mental and physical health faced by many Inuit today.

Inequity refers to unfair and avoidable differences in social and economic status due to cultural or other forms of prejudice, and the failure of governments to act to address those differences. Sharp differences in average life expectancy and median household income exist between Inuit and most other Canadians. Life expectancy is a key measure of population health and is an indicator used widely to complement economic measures of prosperity. The life expectancy for Inuit is the lowest among Indigenous peoples in Canada and trails that of all Canadians by 15 years for men and 10 years for women.¹ These differences are linked to a high prevalence of intergenerational trauma, suicide, low educational attainment, and poverty (see **Figure 2: Social and economic inequity in Inuit Nunangat**).

Poverty is a barrier to achieving health and wellness for too many Inuit families. The median individual before-tax income for Inuit in Inuit Nunangat is \$23,485. This compares to \$92,011 for non-Indigenous people in Inuit Nunangat, a gap of more than \$68,000.² This disparity is all the more striking when taking into account the high cost of living in Inuit Nunangat.

Social inequities are so profound and pervasive in Inuit Nunangat that they constitute human rights violations. The United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the right to food makes extensive reference to severe food insecurity facing Inuit in his 2012 mission to Canada report.³ The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples described crises on multiple fronts facing Inuit, including in the areas of housing, health and wellness, and access to justice.⁴ More recently, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination notes various policy areas where action is required to end discrimination against Indigenous peoples, including recognition and implementation of the rights of Indigenous peoples, equitable treatment within the corrections system, and violence against Indigenous women and girls.⁵

Inuit envision research producing new knowledge that empowers our people in meeting the needs and priorities of our families and communities.

Figure 2: Social and economic inequity in Inuit Nunangat

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INEQUITY IN INUIT NUNANGAT

Many Inuit face social and economic inequities that impact our health and wellbeing

Inuit Nunangat

52% of Inuit in Inuit Nunangat live in crowded homes*¹

34% of Inuit aged 25 to 64 in Inuit Nunangat have earned a high school diploma¹

70% of Inuit households in Nunavut are food insecure²

\$23,485 The median before tax individual income for Inuit in Inuit Nunangat¹

30 The number of physicians per 100,000 population in Nunavut⁴

47.5% of Inuit in Inuit Nunangat are employed¹

72.4 years The projected life expectancy for Inuit in Canada†⁵

12.3 The infant mortality rate per 1,000 for Inuit infants in Canada.⁶



IMR

All Canadians

9% of all Canadians live in crowded homes*¹

86% of all Canadians aged 25 to 64 have earned a high school diploma¹

8% of all households in Canada are food insecure³

\$92,011 The median before tax individual income for non-Indigenous people in Inuit Nunangat¹

119 The number of physicians per 100,000 population in Urban Health Authorities⁴

60.2% of all Canadians are employed¹

82.9 years The projected life expectancy for non-Indigenous people in Canada⁵

4.4 The non-indigenous infant mortality rate per 1,000 for Canada.⁶

* Should not be compared with crowding data for previous years. Based on the suitability definition (whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household). The previous figure was based on the number of persons per room definition.

† Should not be compared with previous life expectancy data. The figure is a national 2017 projection of life expectancy for Inuit. Previous figures were for 2004-2008 for all residents of Inuit Nunangat, including non-Inuit.

¹ Statistics Canada, 2016 Census. (crowded homes: 98-400-X2016163; high school diploma 98-400-X2016265; income: unpublished custom table provided to ITK; employment: 98-400-X2016266)

² Grace M. Egeland, *Inuit Health Survey 2007-2008: Nunavut* [Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC: Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment, May 2010], 12.

³ Shirin Roshanfar and Emma Hawkins. *Health at a Glance: Food Insecurity in Canada* [Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada, March 25, 2015].

⁴ Canadian Institute for Health Information, *Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada, 2014* [Ottawa, ON: Canadian Institute for Health Information, September 2015].

⁵ Custom table based on Statistics Canada's *Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036*.

⁶ Sheppard et al 2017. "Birth outcomes among First Nations, Inuit and Metis populations." *Health Reports* Vol. 28. No. 11



Creating social equity for Inuit requires that governments work in partnership with Inuit to eliminate unfair and avoidable differences in areas such as housing, education, food security, and access to healthcare. Evidence-based policymaking can ensure that policy decisions are effective, leading to more efficient use of taxpayer dollars and better outcomes for children, adults, and families. It relies on responsible investments in research and the availability of data in order to make informed choices based on evaluations of social costs and benefits. Investments in early learning and childcare made in the 2016 federal budget, for example, are based on robust evidence linking access to early learning and child care to a host of positive outcomes for children and families. Such evidence-based policy making has the potential to be transformative for the most vulnerable in society.

Evidence-based policy making relies on the availability of research in order to inform policy design as well as to forecast and evaluate the impacts of policy decisions. Policy decisions in turn impact our everyday lives. However, current research gaps prevent Inuit and governments from making informed policy decisions. For example, basic information such as the rate of suicide attempts among Inuit does not exist, despite the fact that prior suicide attempts are the greatest risk factor for suicide.

Evidence-based policymaking can ensure that policy decisions are effective, leading to more efficient use of taxpayer dollars and better outcomes for children, adults, and families.

4.4 Inuit self-determination unlocks the potential of Inuit Nunangat research

Inuit have the right to self-determination, including in the area of research. This means that researchers and research institutions must acquire the free, prior, and informed consent of Inuit prior to research activity being undertaken in our homeland. Consent should be sought by researchers, governments, and research institutions by engaging Inuit representational organizations or our appointed institutions. Inuit self-determination in research is put into action when Inuit representational organizations are engaged as partners in setting the research agenda in our homeland, have equitable opportunities to access funding for Inuit-led research, and are engaged as partners with researchers in the design, implementation, and dissemination of research.

Inuit have the greatest insight on the nature of the challenges facing Inuit families and communities, coherent ideas for how to address those challenges, and the strongest incentives to use research as a tool for developing and implementing innovative solutions to society's problems. Inuit self-determination in research is therefore necessary to ensure that research undertaken in Inuit Nunangat adds the greatest possible value to society by being efficacious, impactful, and meaningful. Doing so is needed to improve upon current research processes that too often prioritize the interests of researchers above those of Inuit. Partnership between Inuit and the research community ensures that research adheres to ethical guidelines (see **Figure 3: Where we need to go: Supporting Inuit self-determination in research**).

Figure 3: *Where we need to go: Supporting Inuit self-determination in research*

WHERE WE NEED TO GO: SUPPORTING INUIT SELF-DETERMINATION IN RESEARCH

✗ Stakeholders

✓ Rights holders

✗ Inequity

✓ Equity

✗ Invisible

✓ Visible

✗ Lack of Control

✓ Control

✗ Reactive

✓ Proactive

✗ Racism

✓ Respect

✗ Paternalism

✓ Agency

✗ Extraction

✓ Investment

✗ Exclusion

✓ Inclusion

✗ Frontier

✓ Homeland

✗ Competitive

✓ Collaborative



4.5 Inuit governance structure

Inuit are among the three rights-holding Indigenous peoples recognized under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The treaty rights referenced in the constitution encompass the comprehensive land claims agreements settled by Inuit and the Crown between 1975 and 2007. The following Inuit representational organizations are responsible for safeguarding and implementing their respective land claims agreements in partnership with the Crown: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), Makivik Corporation (Makivik), and Nunatsiavut Government (NG).

Inuit Nunangat is unified politically through a democratic governance structure that includes elected Inuit representation at the international, national, and regional levels. At the national level, the president of ITK is elected every three years by delegates from the four Inuit regional organization presidents along with two voting delegates from each region. Presidents of the IRC, NTI, Makivik, and NG are in turn elected by the beneficiaries of their respective land claims agreements. In Nunavut, in addition to electing a president and vice-president in territory-wide elections, beneficiaries also elect presidents and vice presidents of the three regional organizations: the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association, and Kitikmeot Inuit Association. NTI's board is composed of the elected presidents and vice presidents of Nunavut's three sub-regional Inuit associations. Further, Inuit in Canada are represented at the international level by the Inuit Circumpolar Council-Canada, whose president acts as vice president of ITK and is a non-voting member of the ITK board. ICC Canada and its sister offices in Alaska and Greenland are engaged with the Arctic Council, United Nations, and other international fora to support Inuit issues and participation in circumpolar and global research.

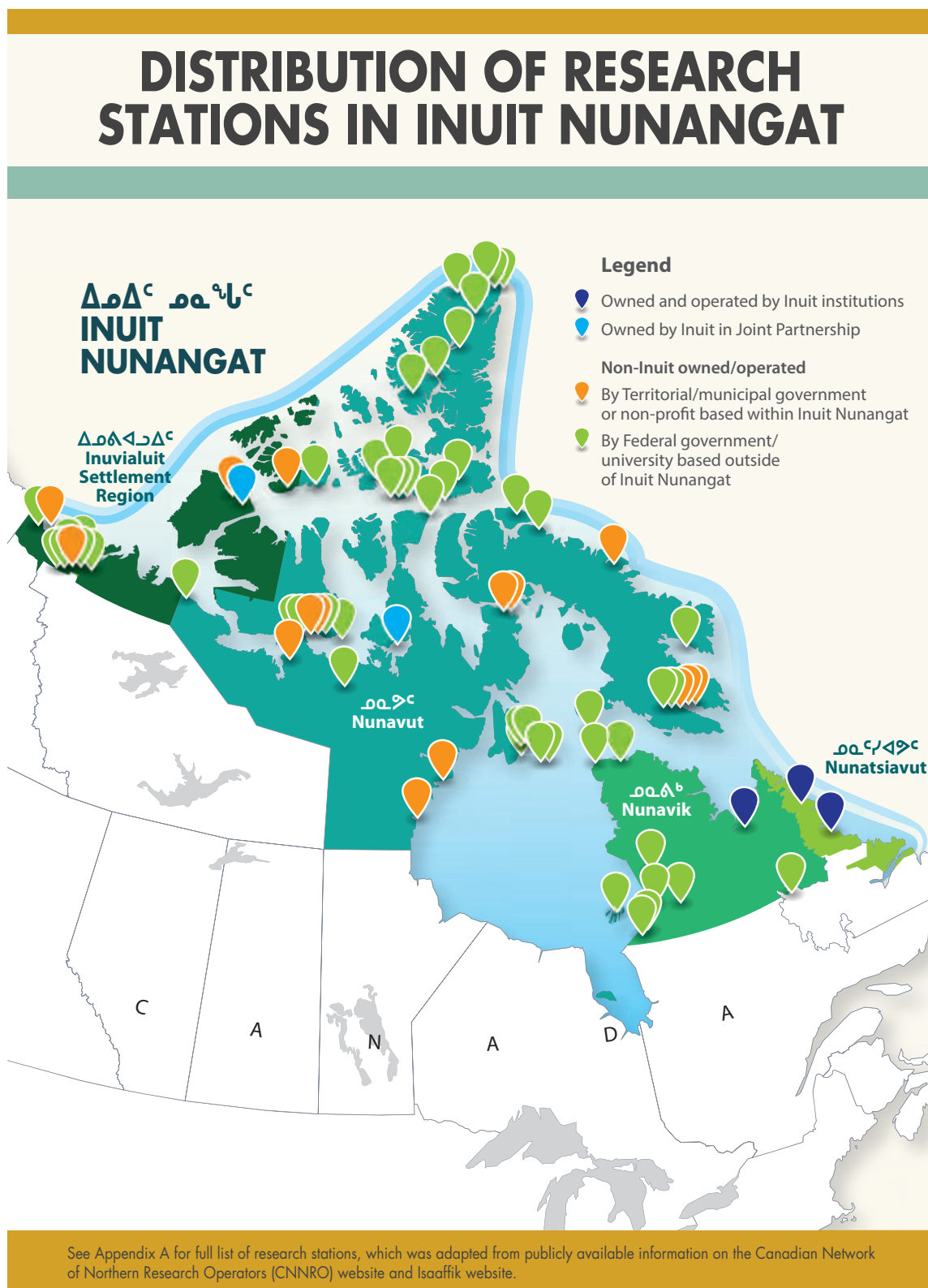
Achieving Inuit self-determination in research requires fulsome partnership between Inuit representational organizations or their appointed institutions, and governments and research institutions. Inuit representational organizations should drive Inuit Nunangat research processes through active engagement with the research community. Utilizing the Inuit governance structure for partnership and shared decision-making facilitates democratic Inuit representation and decision-making at the sub-regional, regional, national, and international levels.

Inuit representational organizations should drive Inuit Nunangat research processes through active engagement with the research community.

4.6 Inuit Nunangat research centres

Research centres in each of the four regions of Inuit Nunangat serve a variety of valuable functions with regard to research governance, licensing, and monitoring. The work of these centres is complemented by Inuit-led research initiatives at the regional, national and international levels. Research centres have significant latitude in fulfilling their mandates due to the absence of a standardized or coordinated research licensing process for Inuit Nunangat. Numerous government departments, research institutions, and non-profits own and operate research stations, with a disproportionate number being non-Inuit owned or operated. (see **Figure 4: Distribution of research stations in Inuit Nunangat** and Appendix A: Research Stations in Inuit Nunangat).

Figure 4: Distribution of research stations in Inuit Nunangat





ITK coordinates committees that utilize research and advance Inuit research priorities. The Inuit Qaujisarvingat National Committee (IQNC) focuses on improving Inuit Nunangat research practice and policy. Other sub-committees of the ITK board, such as the National Inuit Committee on Health, National Inuit Committee on Climate Change and National Inuit Education Committee, actively produce, consume, and utilize research as part of their advocacy. Further, other ITK sub-committees do the same, such as the National Inuit Health Survey Working Group and the National Inuit Data Management Committee that advises the IQNC on data and information management issues.

ITK coordinates committees that utilize research and advance Inuit research priorities.

Research licensing initiatives in Inuit Nunangat vary from region to region. Presented here is an overview of current research licensing bodies in Inuit Nunangat:

Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR): Research in the ISR in the physical, biological, social, and health sciences is licensed by the Aurora Research Institute (ARI) in accordance with the *Northwest Territories Scientists Act* and Administration Regulations. The ARI, IRC, Inuvialuit Land Administration, and Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) have developed a streamlined process to help researchers obtain the required permits and licenses to conduct research in the ISR. Researchers must also consult with and gain approval from the appropriate community organizations before the final Aurora Research Institute Scientific Research Licence is issued. There are also different licensing processes for Wildlife Research Permits, which are provided through the Government of Northwest Territories' Department of Environment and Natural Resources and for Archaeologists Permits, which are administered through the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center. Further, any federal and territorial research not regulated by ARI still should follow the processes and consult with community organizations, the Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB), the EISC, IRC and Joint Secretariat.

Nunavut: Research in Nunavut in physical/natural sciences (e.g. land and water based research), social science, and health research is licensed by the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) in accordance with Nunavut's *Scientists Act*. Researchers are responsible for obtaining the required permits and licenses necessary to conduct research in Nunavut. Additional authorizing documentation may include: Wildlife Research licences (issued under Nunavut's *Wildlife Act*), Archeological Research permits (issued under the Archeological Sites Regulations of the *Nunavut Act*), National Parks Research permits (issued under the *Canada National Parks Act*), Fisheries Research licenses (issued under the *Fisheries Act*), water use licences (issued by Nunavut Water Board) and access permits (issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada and/or the appropriate regional Inuit association).

Nunavik: There is no formal licensing board for research in Nunavik. Researchers are expected to consult with the Nunavik Research Centre (operated by Makivik), the Kativik Regional Government and/or the Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee, depending on the type of research being carried out. A research proposal must be submitted and approved by the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife board (NMRWB) for all wildlife research in the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR).

Co-development of a comprehensive Inuit Nunangat research policy by Inuit and the federal government is a long-term action that is needed to identify research needs and objectives and provides expectations and guidance for partnering with Inuit in research.

Nunatsiavut: Research in Nunatsiavut must comply with the *Nunatsiavut Government Research Process*. Research applications are reviewed by the Nunatsiavut Government Research Advisory Committee, which is comprised of representatives of various departments of the Nunatsiavut Government. Beyond the research application, researchers may be required to obtain additional permits and licenses necessary to conduct research in Nunatsiavut, which may include: archeological research permits (issued under the Nunatsiavut Government Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism) and access permits (including, but not limited to those issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Ocean Canada, and/or the Nunatsiavut Government Lands and Natural Resources Department).

4.7 Inuit must be partners in the governance of Inuit Nunangat research

Including Inuit as partners in the governance of Inuit Nunangat research is necessary to improve the efficacy, impact, and usefulness of Inuit Nunangat research activity. The governance, resourcing, and conduct of Inuit Nunangat research is currently subject to the whims of multiple government ministries and private sector entities and institutions. Consequently, engagement with the Inuit governance structure, research institutions, and priorities by the research community tends to be sporadic even as the volume of Inuit and Inuit Nunangat-specific research has increased over time (see **Figure 5: Increase in volume of Inuit Nunangat research**).

There are numerous sources of Inuit Nunangat research funding, including the federal government, private sector, regional and local governments, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and international agencies. Co-development of a comprehensive Inuit Nunangat research policy by Inuit and the federal government is a long-term action that is needed to identify research needs and objectives and provides expectations and guidance for partnering with Inuit in research.

A range of guidelines exist to direct research in Inuit Nunangat, and federal government departments have commissioned various reports to examine the status of science in Canada as a whole (Appendix B: Federal reports discussing 'northern' science policy).^{*} Recent recommendations in these reports repeat past calls for improved scientific coordination that have existed since the first International Polar Year (1881).⁶

^{*} National science policy refers to federal guidance (e.g. rules, regulations, methods, practices, and guidelines) for scientific research. Science policy deals with the effect of science on society and considers how science can best serve the public, which is different from policy for science, which includes policies about how to structure, fund, and conduct research. Policies for science, focused on the recommendations to improve the current state and conduct of arctic scientific research are common in Inuit Nunangat.



Figure 5: Increase in volume of Inuit Nunangat research.

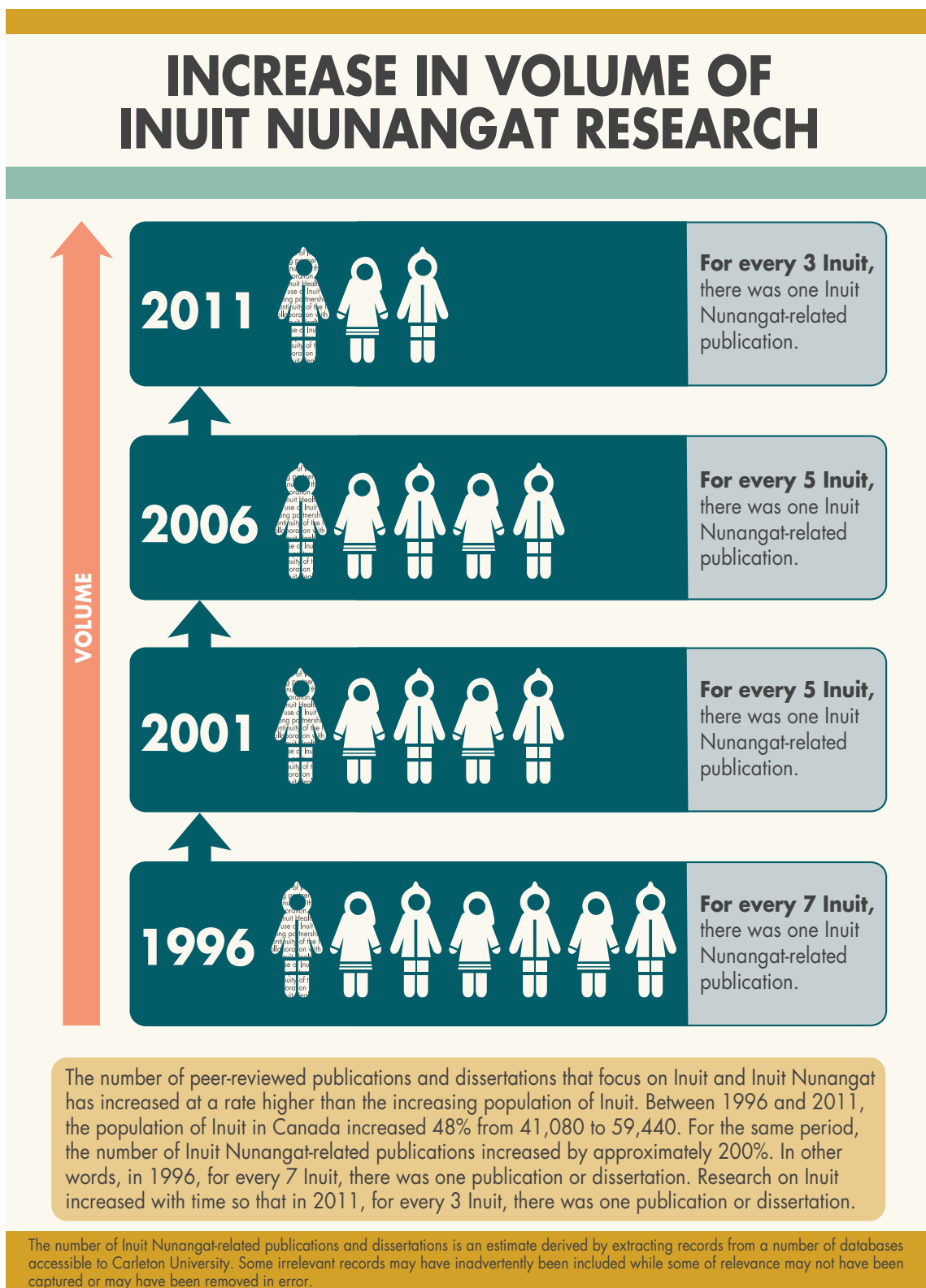
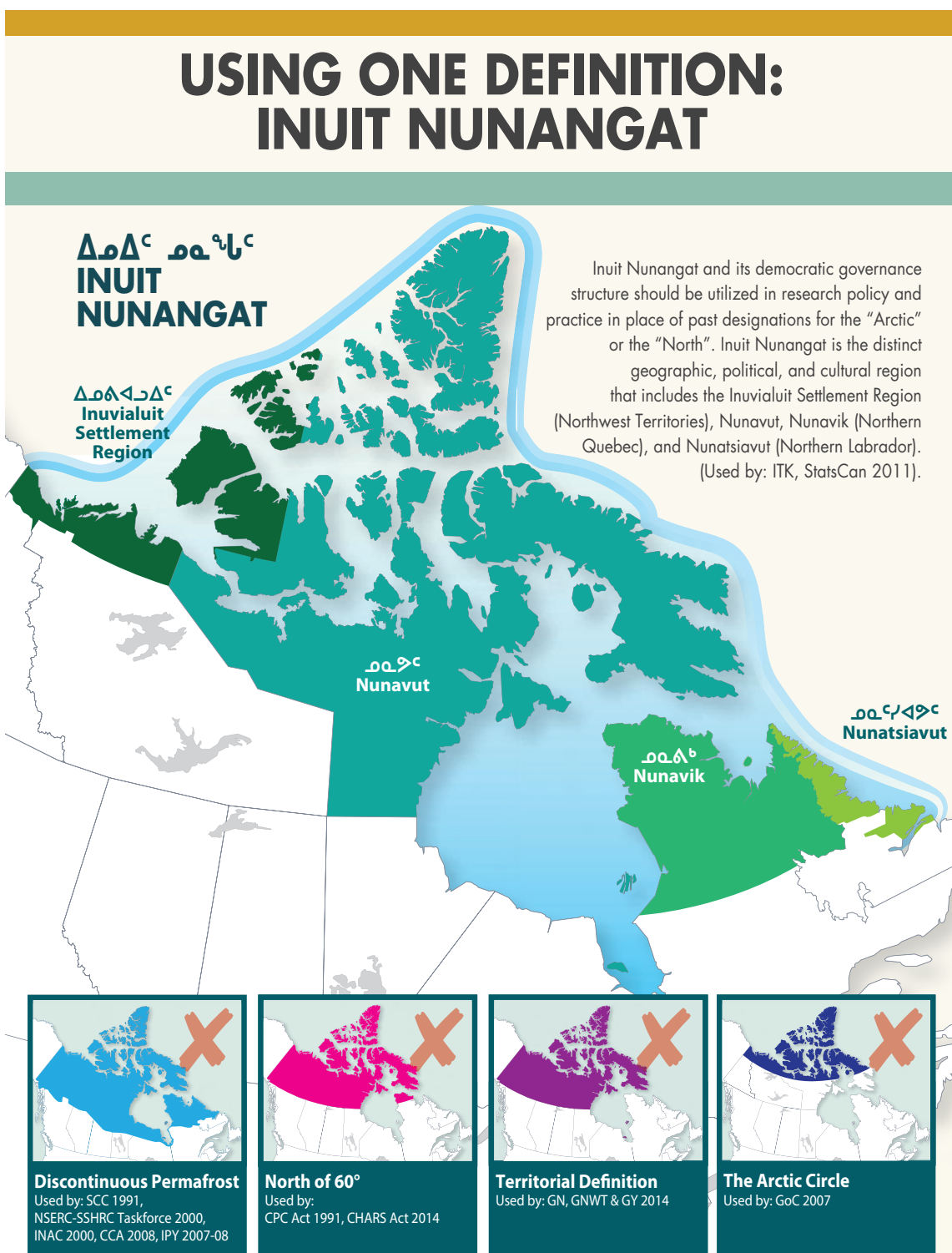


Figure 6: Using one definition: Inuit Nunangat



Complete references for the ‘Used by’ examples can be found in Appendix C.



Canada is the only G7 country that lacks a comprehensive national policy dealing with national research needs and objectives in the Arctic. The development of a comprehensive federal approach to coordinating and governing Inuit Nunangat research is required to remedy longstanding issues in this area. At the most basic level, the inconsistent definitions used by governments and research institutions in Canada to denote geographic areas that encompass or overlap with Inuit Nunangat (see Appendix C: Varying definitions used in Inuit Nunangat research) exemplifies the current haphazard approach to Inuit Nunangat research and the need to include Inuit as partners in the governance of Inuit Nunangat research (see **Figure 6: Using one definition: Inuit Nunangat**).

Federally funded or initiated Inuit Nunangat research is not coordinated by interagency bodies, making it difficult for Inuit to input into or achieve self-determination in research. For example, Tri-Council Agencies, via research grants, do not have dedicated Inuit research programs. Federal research programs exist in various ministries, and while Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) is recognized as the lead agency for Arctic-related research, numerous entities have research programs (e.g. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada) operating in Inuit Nunangat that may or may not interface with POLAR (see **Figure 7: Numerous federal agendas in Inuit Nunangat research**).

The marginalization of Inuit from federal research governance structures leads to research allocations that may not be useful to Inuit. For example, the 2017 call for research through the Imagining Canada's Future Initiative funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) identifies six priority areas, including one priority area that deals with Indigenous cultures and identities, historical and modern treaties, and the knowledge and labour market needs of Indigenous communities.⁷ Inuit were not involved in the development of this call nor were Inuit representational organizations eligible to apply.

The marginalization of Inuit from federal research governance structures leads to research allocations that may not be useful to Inuit.

Figure 7: Numerous federal agendas in Inuit Nunangat research



Moreover, Inuit partnership in the governance of Inuit Nunangat research is necessary to broker Inuit access, ownership, and control over Inuit Nunangat data and information. Inuit are best positioned to determine how information should be stored, analysed, monitored, used, shared, and preserved in ways that maximize benefits to our communities while minimizing harm (**Figure 8: Implementing a coordinated approach to Inuit Nunangat research**).

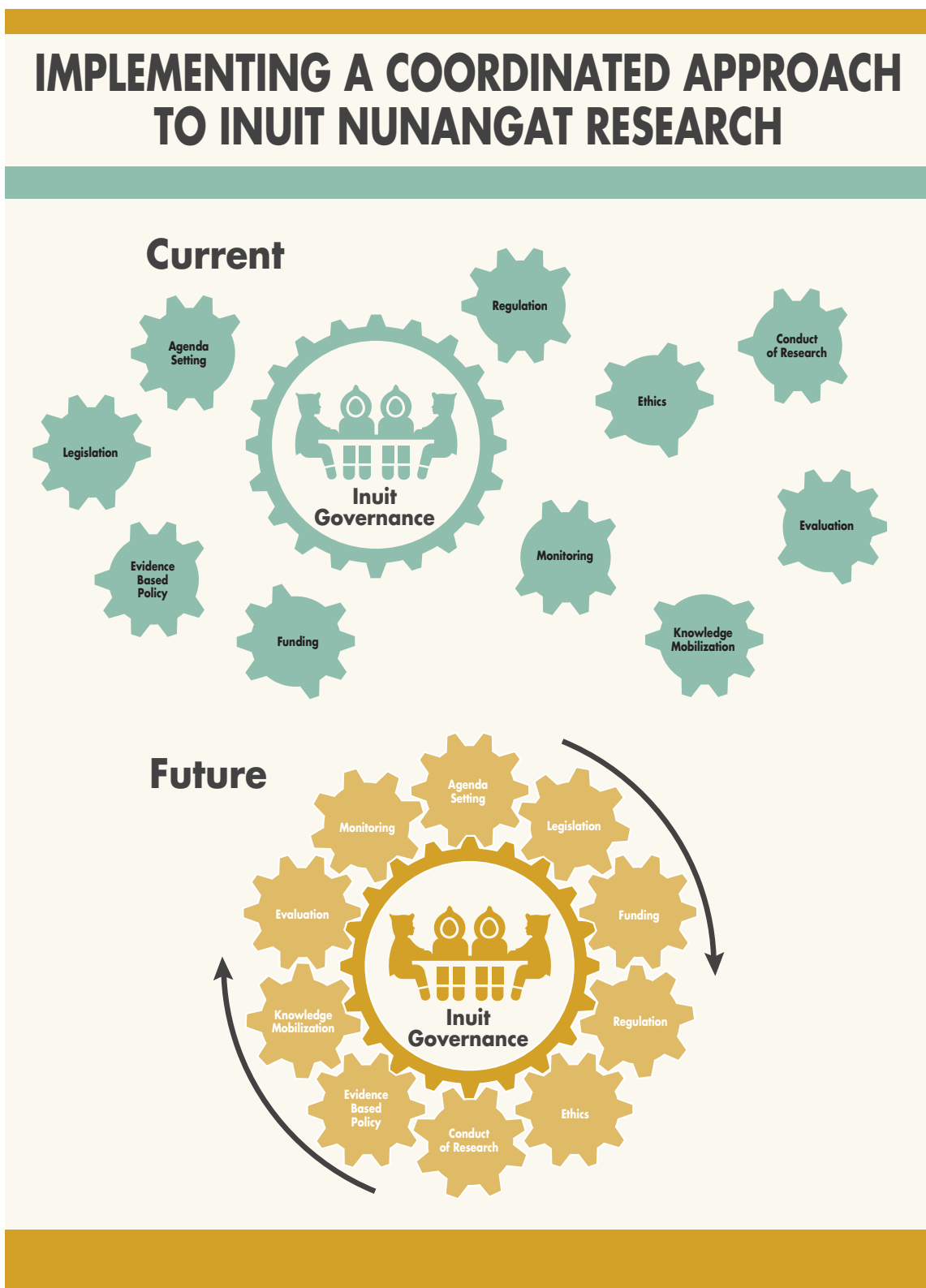
At the most basic level, Inuit seek access to existing research but do not always have access because our institutions cannot afford the expensive search engines and platforms that universities and governments enjoy. There is a continued need to improve methods for sharing data with Inuit in ways we would like to receive it.

Indigenous data sovereignty networks have become increasingly relevant to establish within societies such as Canada where the governance and conduct of research is dominated by non-Indigenous researchers. In the past decade, Indigenous peoples in Canada, the United States and New Zealand have begun to create Indigenous data sovereignty parameters to ensure that the collection, interpretation and ownership of Indigenous data is controlled by communities themselves.** As far as Inuit are concerned, more work is needed to develop processes, protocols, standards, and agreements that allow for the safe sharing certain information and for the respectful incorporation of Inuit knowledge in data management and sharing design and implementation. It is important to ensure that Inuit have governance frameworks and policies that will support our data initiatives in ongoing, sustainable, self-determined ways.

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** At the global level, Indigenous data sovereignty networks have been established in New Zealand (Maori Data Sovereignty Network) the USA (the United States' Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network), and Australia (the Maiamnyri Wingara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty Group). In October 2016, the first Indigenous Open Data Summit was held in the United States and *Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Toward an Agenda* was published by the Australian National University Press.

Figure 8: *Implementing a coordinated approach to Inuit Nunangat research*





4.8 Enhancing the ethical conduct of Inuit Nunangat research

Research ethics are the unique and complex ethical, legal, social, and political considerations of carrying out research that involves human subjects or participants. Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have in the past been subjected to egregious abuses by researchers which has prompted the need for ethical guidelines that protect Indigenous peoples. However, companion ethical guidelines do not exist for research involving wildlife and the environment. Inuit depend on wildlife and the environment to meet our physical, cultural, and spiritual needs and would therefore benefit from enforceable guidelines that set forth expectations in this area.⁸

Indigenous communities in North America have for decades engaged in the development of statutes as well as research policies, processes, and protocols. First Nations established the OCAP® principles in 1998 in order to set standards around data ownership, control, access, and possession. The principles were created partially as a response to the statutory gap in Canada around community rights and interests in their information.⁹ In the U.S., many American Indian tribal governments enforce their own statutes that set forth the conditions under which research activities may be conducted in their respective nations.¹⁰

At the federal level, research involving people that is carried out in connection with Canadian universities must adhere to the ethical guidelines outlined in the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (TCPS 2). The TCPS 2 sets the standard for Research Ethics Boards (REBs) in Canada and is the primary source of concrete guidance regarding the ethical oversight of research with humans. Chapter 9 of the TCPS 2 provides guidance for research implicating Inuit, First Nations, and Métis peoples, including elements of respectful relationships, collaboration, and engagement. The TCPS 2 is not intended to override or replace ethical guidance developed by Indigenous peoples.¹¹

Chapter 9 of the TCPS 2 is meant to ensure that research involving Indigenous peoples is premised on respectful relationships. To that end, it encourages collaboration and engagement between researchers and participants through a number of guidelines that seek to facilitate constructive measures by researchers in this area. ITK and the Nunavut Research Institute have published complementary guidelines for negotiating research relationships with Inuit communities.¹² The document provides practical advice to assist researchers who plan to work with Inuit or in Inuit Nunangat, including ethical considerations related to community engagement, research licensing, and dissemination of data and results.

Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have in the past been subjected to egregious abuses by researchers which has prompted the need for ethical guidelines that protect Indigenous peoples.

There is limited oversight outside of a REB review process for ensuring compliance with the TCPS 2, making it a relatively inefficient mechanism for facilitating Inuit self-determination in research. The effectiveness of the TCPS 2 is further undermined by potential conflicts of interest in the research review process because the institution hosting the research ethics committee typically has an interest in the research proceeding, and members of the research ethics committee may be colleagues of the principal investigator.¹³ Furthermore, the reach of the TCPS 2 is limited to institutions and entities that receive federal funding from the Tri-Council Agencies. These institutions and entities are located outside of Inuit Nunangat where the evaluation of risk involved for participants in research does not include broader consideration of Inuit wellbeing.

At the university level, REBs are responsible for reviewing research plans and ensuring that researchers are complying with applicable provincial, national and international requirements. They are responsible for promoting the highest ethical standards of research involving humans with the primary goal of protecting the rights and welfare of the individuals who are participants in research. Universities may have multiple REBs that correspond to different departments or faculties. Government departments that conduct research also utilize their own REBs. For example, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada have utilized a joint REB since 2010.¹⁴

A comprehensive list of all operating REBs in Canada does not exist according to the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards.¹⁵ However we do know that Inuit tend to be unrepresented on REBs nor are established mechanisms in place to engage Inuit representational organizations on making determinations about Inuit Nunangat-specific research proposals under review. The fact that all REBs are located outside of Inuit Nunangat effectively means that non-Inuit tend to retain exclusive decision-making authority about whether or not ethical guidelines are being met for research conducted in our communities.



4.9 Funding and capacity building in Inuit Nunangat research

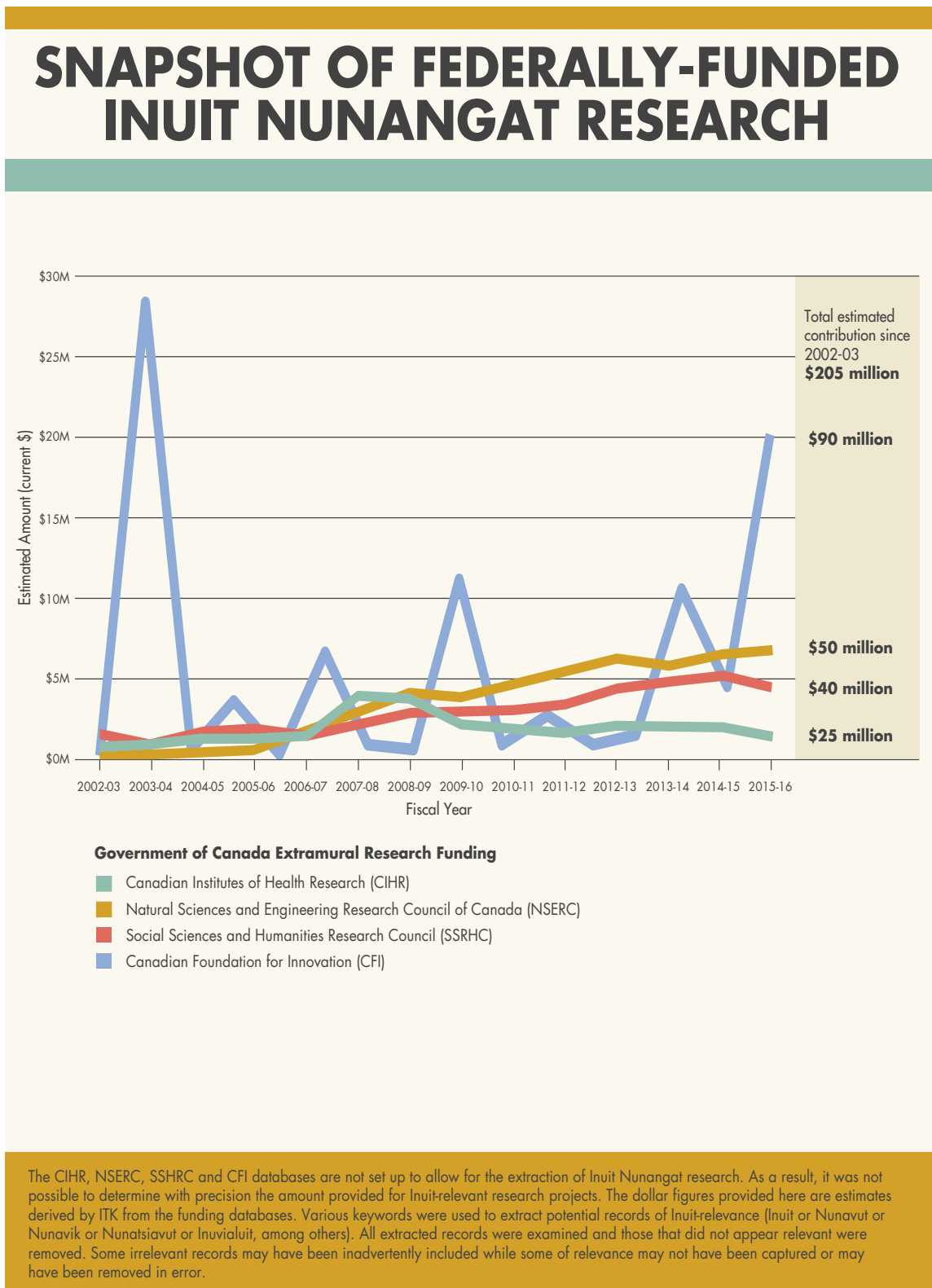
Funding and capacity building are intertwined in Inuit Nunangat research. The ability of Inuit to conduct research that reflects Inuit research priorities and build research capacity is largely contingent on the accessibility and transparency of research funding. At the same time, achieving Inuit self-determination in research is necessary to ensure that funding awarded through granting agencies reflects Inuit research priorities and is useful to our communities.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been allocated for Inuit Nunangat research in the past three decades. The majority of these funds are awarded to institutions based in southern Canada and even abroad. Inuit participation in research is limited by federal funding eligibility criteria that often excludes Inuit representational organizations from accessing research funding. Certain federal research programs have expanded criteria to allow for flexible funding agreements for Inuit representational organizations. However, Inuit representational organizations are ineligible for most Tri-Council research funding. As non-academic institutions, they cannot be awarded grants to serve as lead institutions or principal investigators by the Networks of Centres of Excellence or Canadian Foundation for Innovation. This prevents Inuit from independently accessing research dollars that are in some cases intended to benefit our communities and from applying for administrative funds to keep Inuit research institutions operating.

Federal funding allocated for Inuit Nunangat research tends to reflect a biological-physical science research bias, further reducing the likelihood that other Inuit-identified research priorities will be addressed through research (see **Figure 9: Snapshot of federally funded Inuit Nunangat research**). Of the most recent International Polar Year projects funded by the Government of Canada, for example, about 70 percent were focused on the physical and natural sciences.¹⁶ More recently in 2015-2018, the estimated \$7 million allocated in the call for proposals by the Canadian High Arctic Research Station, now under POLAR, focus only on biological-physical monitoring and resource development.¹⁷ Moreover, SSHRC provided a combined \$169 million for “Aboriginal” and “Northern Communities” research between 2006 and 2012 yet Inuit could not access this funding directly or determine how funding could be allocated to better meet our needs.^{18,19} Most agencies directing health-related research, for example the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, do not have dedicated funding streams to address Inuit priorities. These unnecessary barriers limit the ability of Inuit to utilize research dollars in ways that are more efficacious, impactful, and meaningful for our communities.

Federal funding allocated for Inuit Nunangat research tends to reflect a biological-physical science research bias, further reducing the likelihood that other Inuit-identified research priorities will be addressed through research.

Figure 9: Snapshot of federally funded Inuit Nunangat research





Capacity building also includes investments in built infrastructure and human resources. Canada is the only circumpolar country that lacks an Arctic university and ITK has long championed the establishment of an Inuit Nunangat university rooted in Inuit culture and values. The *National Strategy on Inuit Education* released in 2011 recommends establishing an Inuit Nunangat university based on Inuit culture and language as one measure for building research capacity.²⁰ An Inuit Nunangat university should be established to enhance Inuit-led research capacity as well as for facilitating research governance and monitoring processes within Inuit Nunangat.

An Inuit Nunangat university would have an important role to play in facilitating capacity building among Inuit researchers through the provision of education, training, and accreditation across disciplines, as well as serving to advance Inuit research capabilities and priorities. To that end, ITK has struck an Inuit Nunangat university task force to achieve this goal that is comprised of representatives from Inuit organizations as well as Universities Canada, the non-profit national organization that represents colleges and universities in Canada.

Affordable and reliable broadband internet access in Inuit Nunangat is needed to enable Inuit engagement in research. The uses of data technology are changing rapidly in Inuit communities as they are in most cities, towns, and rural areas throughout southern Canada. However, residents of Inuit Nunangat are significantly disadvantaged when it comes to accessing or engaging with research because of the digital divide between Inuit Nunangat and southern Canada. Internet access in Inuit communities is universally slower, unreliable, costly, and more unpredictable than for citizens in most areas of Canada. Affordable access to fast, high-bandwidth Internet Service Providers should be made available to all Inuit communities.

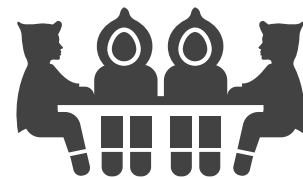
An Inuit Nunangat university should be established to enhance Inuit-led research capacity as well as for facilitating research governance and monitoring processes within Inuit Nunangat.

5. Part II: Objectives and actions

Part II of the NISR identifies five priority areas in which action is necessary to facilitate Inuit Nunangat research that is efficacious, impactful, and meaningful to Inuit. The objectives identified within each priority are intended to be achieved between 2018-2022 through shared short-, medium-, and long-term actions undertaken by Inuit, governments, and research institutions. Outcomes will be evaluated in year 1, year 3, and year 5 (see **Figure 10: National Inuit Strategy on Research: Timeline for implementation**).

Implementing the NISR will require a coordinated approach based on partnership. The interrelated, interdependent nature of these five priority areas, as well as the number of stakeholders involved in Inuit Nunangat research, means that new relationships must be brokered between Inuit, government departments, and research institutions in order to implement the NISR. ITK in tandem with the IQNC will develop an accompanying NISR implementation plan that targets potential partners and associated timelines for implementing the actions identified in this section.

1. Advance Inuit governance in research



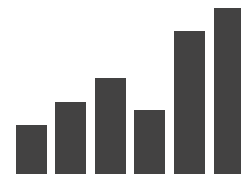
2. Enhance the ethical conduct of research



3. Align funding with Inuit research priorities



4. Ensure Inuit access, ownership, and control over data and information



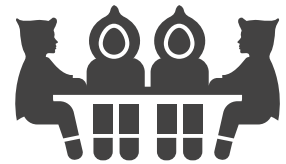
5. Build capacity for Inuit Nunangat research





Priority Area 1: Advance Inuit governance in research

Advancing Inuit governance in research is imperative for enhancing the efficacy, impact, and usefulness of research for Inuit. Governments and research institutions must move beyond colonial approaches to research that do not equitably benefit our communities by respecting Inuit self-determination in research. Inuit self-determination in research means that Inuit research priorities can no longer be ignored by governments and research institutions, and is put into action when Inuit representational organizations are engaged as partners in setting the research agenda, have equitable opportunity to access funding to conduct Inuit-led research, and are engaged as partners with researchers in the design, implementation, and dissemination of research.



Research is an important tool for creating social equity through evidence-based policy making yet it can only serve this function when Inuit are consistently engaged by, and members of, research governance bodies. Moreover, the development of an Inuit Nunangat research policy is necessary to coordinate research initiatives and formalize guidelines for advancing Inuit governance in research.

Objectives

- Achieve greater Inuit representation and decision-making in research governance, including the Tri-Council Agencies
- Reform research-related legislative, regulatory, and policy mechanisms impacting Inuit Nunangat
- Advance Inuit research priorities through Inuit Nunangat research governance bodies
- Ensure Inuit self-determination in establishing research governance bodies, including selection processes
- Establish accountable, coordinated, and transparent approaches to Inuit Nunangat research

Actions

- 1.1 Develop and implement an Inuit Nunangat research policy for adoption by the Government of Canada
- 1.2 Support Inuit representational organizations in articulating Inuit Nunangat research priorities
- 1.3 Secure multi-year, flexible funding for Inuit to participate in Inuit Nunangat research governance
- 1.4 Work with the Government of Canada to create a deputy chief science advisor responsible for coordinating Inuit Nunangat research and reporting to the Minister of Science
- 1.5 Develop an Inuit-specific appointments process for Inuit Nunangat research governance bodies
- 1.6 Include research-related legislative and regulatory mechanisms impacting Inuit Nunangat in the Inuit-specific principles being developed by the Joint Law and Policy Review Working Group
- 1.7 Create avenues for Inuit representational organization input into federal Inuit Nunangat research governance bodies, such as the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC)
- 1.8 ITK to develop work plans in partnership with relevant Ministers, including the Minister of Science, to strengthen Inuit governance in research



Priority Area 2: Enhance the ethical conduct of research

Inuit have limited capacity and means for ensuring that researchers adhere to existing guidelines for conducting ethical research or contemplate Inuit-specific ethical concerns related to all research. Research ethics are the unique and complex ethical, legal, social and political considerations of carrying out research that involve human subjects or participants. Research involving people carried out in connection with Canadian universities must adhere to the ethical guidelines outlined in the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (TCPS 2), which sets the standard for research ethics boards (REBs) in Canada and is the primary source of concrete guidance regarding the ethical oversight of research with humans.

However, adherence to the TCPS 2 remains inconsistent in Inuit Nunangat and the document does not encompass Inuit-specific ethical concerns related to research conducted on health and wellbeing as well as wildlife and the environment. REBs can play an important role in protecting research subjects yet Inuit representational organizations tend to encounter a lack of transparency about Inuit Nunangat research initiatives that are under review, nor are Inuit systematically engaged by or represented on boards reviewing research that will impact our people and communities. Furthermore, the concentration of REBs solely among research institutions in southern Canada means that ethical oversight for Inuit Nunangat research is effectively within the sole purview of non-Inuit academics and institutions. We must develop more transparent and robust processes to replace these inequitable structures that respect Inuit self-determination in research.

Objectives

- Hold institutions accountable for adhering to existing ethical research guidelines
- Develop Inuit-specific ethical research guidelines for all Inuit Nunangat research
- Create transparency in the review and oversight of research in Inuit Nunangat
- Broker Inuit partnerships with Research Ethics Boards

Actions

- 2.1 Establish mechanisms to regulate the ethical conduct of research in Inuit Nunangat
- 2.2 Support the development and operation of Inuit-led research ethics review processes
- 2.3 Develop indicators in partnership with Inuit to track Inuit participation in ethics review processes
- 2.4 Develop Inuit-specific ethics guidelines for research involving humans, wildlife and the environment
- 2.5 Ensure Inuit representation on the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics
- 2.6 Create community-level research review processes connected to regional, national, and international processes and/or agreements



Priority Area 3: Align funding with Inuit research priorities

Current policies that structure federal Inuit Nunangat research funding processes tend to curtail Inuit self-determination in research and consequently marginalize Inuit research priorities. This hampers our collective ability to document and create the knowledge required to more effectively address the needs of our people. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been allocated by the federal government for Inuit Nunangat research and the volume of research carried out in our homeland has increased exponentially. The research priorities identified by the federal government for investment tend to reflect a biological-physical science research bias that diminishes the prominence and attention given to other Inuit research priorities. This is compounded by the fact that federal funding eligibility criteria tend to exclude Inuit representational organizations from accessing research funding as lead institutions or principal investigators. At the same time, the lack of transparency in federal funding for research makes it unclear what research is being carried out in our homelands and communities at any given time.

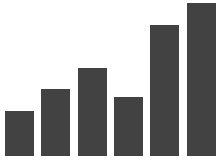


Objectives

- Inuit Nunangat research funding reflects Inuit research priorities
- Enable research led by Inuit
- Ensure transparency, coordination, and accountability in the resourcing of Inuit Nunangat research

Actions

- 3.1 Partner with the Inuit governance structure in setting Inuit Nunangat research priorities for funding
- 3.2 Revise existing funding eligibility criteria to support and facilitate Inuit-led research and methodologies
- 3.3 Utilize the Inuit Nunangat policy space in awarding funding for research, defined as the geographic, political, and cultural area encompassing the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut
- 3.4 Develop a database for tracking investment in Inuit Nunangat research, including allocation by all levels of governments and academic institutions



Priority Area 4: Ensure Inuit access, ownership, and control over data and information

Ensuring Inuit access, ownership, and control over data and information gathered on our population, wildlife, and environment is a key pillar of achieving Inuit self-determination in research. Inuit representational organizations are the rightful gatekeepers of Inuit Nunangat research and are best positioned to determine how our information should be utilized and shared to maximize benefits and minimize harm. Enduring challenges in this area include the aggregation of Inuit-specific data with that of other Indigenous peoples, making relevant information impossible to discern or utilize. At a more basic level, Inuit-specific data is inconsistently shared by researchers who may act unilaterally to publish and disseminate data without first seeking the consent of Inuit representational organizations or Inuit-appointed institutions. Researchers and their affiliated institutions must partner with Inuit in order to seek consent and guidance about the political and social context of research and the potential impacts of sharing or publishing results. More broadly, greater transparency and coordination of data sharing with Inuit is required to remedy these challenges among federal granting agencies, researchers, and research institutions.

Objectives

- Advance Inuit self-determination in collecting, verifying, analyzing, and disseminating Inuit-specific data and information
- Invest in Inuit-led data and information technology and infrastructure
- Ensure ownership of Inuit data by Inuit-appointed entities
- Utilization of Inuktitut (the Inuit language) in data platforms and information management

Actions

- 4.1 Advocate for the consistent production and sharing of Inuit-specific and Inuit-relevant indicators and data, including the Inuit Health Survey
- 4.2 Invest in culturally-relevant, community-based technology to facilitate access to and management of data and information
- 4.3 Develop Inuit-specific guidelines on data accessibility, ownership, and control
- 4.4 Create and invest in digital Inuit Nunangat data repositories that are inclusive of Inuit knowledge in ways that are respectful of its distinctive forms as well as the Inuit norms that govern its use and sharing



Priority Area 5: Build capacity in Inuit Nunangat research

Capacity building in Inuit Nunangat research encompasses the investments in built infrastructure and human resources that are necessary to implement many of the actions included in this strategy. Canada is the only circumpolar country that lacks an Arctic university. Establishing an Inuit Nunangat university would support research capacity building through the provision of education, training, and accreditation across disciplines. It would also serve to identify and advance Inuit research priorities and monitoring of adherence to ethical research guidelines.

Furthermore, federal investments in broadband infrastructure and Inuit-specific education and training programs are needed to close the digital divide in Canada and enable greater Inuit engagement in research.



Objectives

- Build human resource capacity in Inuit regions and communities to facilitate Inuit-led research
- Establish an Inuit Nunangat university
- Enhance built Inuit Nunangat research infrastructure

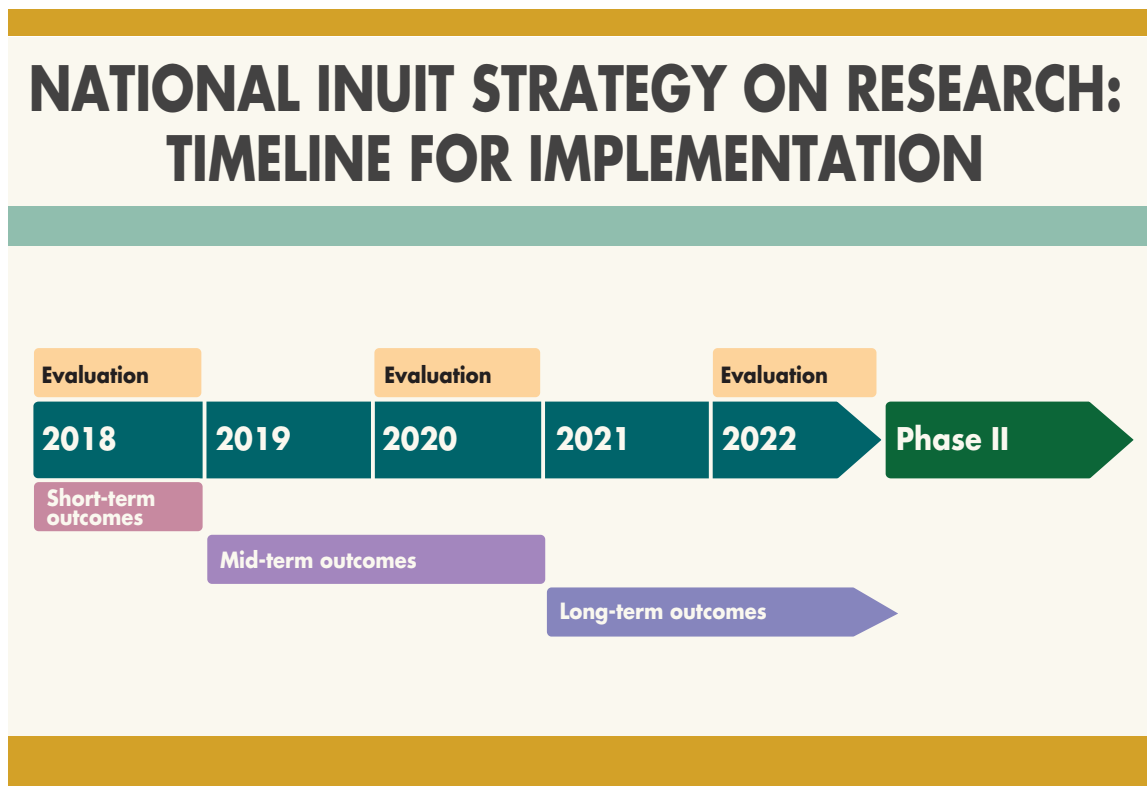
Actions

- 5.1 Broaden research funding criteria to recognize Inuit research methodologies
- 5.2 Invest in broadband access and regional capacity to engage in Inuit Nunangat research
- 5.3 Build infrastructure in Inuit communities to lead research programs
- 5.4 Incorporate research ethics considerations in the Inuit Nunangat university task force workplan
- 5.5 Partner with governments and research institutions to develop Inuit-specific training and education programs to foster future generations of Inuit researchers

6. Evaluation

Evaluation is critical for monitoring implementation of NISR actions and objectives and measuring success. ITK will work with governments and research institutions to evaluate shared progress in implementing NISR actions and objectives for three time periods: short-term (1 year), mid-term (3 year), and long-term (5 years). One of ITK's initial implementation tasks will be to create an evaluation framework. Key indicators and outcomes as well as processes for collecting necessary information will be identified for each action item.

Figure 10: *National Inuit Strategy on Research: Timeline for implementation*





7. Conclusion

Inuit have long sought to advance Inuit self-determination in research as the means for ensuring that Inuit Nunangat research is efficacious, impactful, and useful for our people and communities. The primary benefactors of Inuit Nunangat research have for far too long been researchers themselves rather than Inuit families and communities. Through the NISR, Inuit are seeking to change this reality. Inuit and the research community must work together in this time of reconciliation to replace colonial approaches to research with research relationships premised on Inuit self-determination, partnership, and transparency. The mutually beneficial outcomes of doing so extend far beyond improvements to research practice and implicate the health and wellness of Inuit. Through the partnerships and actions facilitated by the NISR, we now have an opportunity to embark on a new approach to Inuit Nunangat research.

Appendix A: Research Stations in Inuit Nunangat

Ownership Type

- Owned and Operated by Inuit institutions
- Owned by Inuit in Joint-Partnership

Non-Inuit Owned and Operated

- By Territorial/municipal government or non-profit based within Inuit Nunangat
- By Federal Government/University based outside of Inuit Nunangat

Inuit Region	Name	Ownership Type	Institution(s)
Nunatsiavut	Nain Research Centre	●	Nunatsiavut Government, Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Nunatsiavut	Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station	●	Nunatsiavut Government, Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Nunavik	Nunavik Research Centre	●	Makivik Corporation
Nunavik	Clearwater Lake Research Station	●	Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies
Nunavik	Boniface River Station	●	Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies
Nunavik	Salluit Research Station	●	Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies
Nunavik	McGill Sub-Arctic Research Station	●	McGill University
Nunavik	Umiujaq Research Station	●	Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies
Nunavik	Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik Station	●	Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies
Nunavik	Kuujuarapik - Atmospheric Radionuclides Monitoring Station	●	Health Canada, Radiation Protection Bureau
Nunavut	M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Research Cabins	●	Owned by Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Association; operated by Queen's University
Nunavut	Nunavut Literacy Council	●	McGill University
Nunavut	Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre	●	Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre
Nunavut	Arviat Research Support Facility	●	Nunavut Arctic College (Nunavut Research Institute)
Nunavut	Nunavut Arctic College Kitikmeot Campus	●	Nunavut Arctic College (Nunavut Research Institute)
Nunavut	Igloolik Oral History Centre	●	Nunavut Arctic College (Nunavut Research Institute)



Inuit Region	Name	Ownership Type	Institution(s)
Nunavut	Iqaluit Research Centre	●	Nunavut Arctic College (Nunavut Research Institute)
Nunavut	Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre	●	Ilisaqsivik Society
Nunavut	Nunavut Arctic College Kivalliq Campus	●	Nunavut Arctic College (Nunavut Research Institute)
Nunavut	Igloolik Research Centre	●	Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
Nunavut	Walker Bay Research Station	●	Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Nunavut	Research Vessel Nuliajuk	●	Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Nunavut	Alexandra Fjord Seasonal RCMP Outpost	●	University of British Columbia
Nunavut	McGill Arctic Research Station	●	McGill University
Nunavut	Bylot Island Research Station	●	Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies
Nunavut	Cambridge Bay Community Observatory	●	Ocean Networks Canada (University of Victoria)
Nunavut	Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory	●	Queen's University
Nunavut	Ocean Tracking Network (Cumberland Sound)	●	Ocean Tracking Network (Dalhousie University)
Nunavut	Ocean Tracking Network (Frobisher Bay)	●	Ocean Tracking Network (Dalhousie University)
Nunavut	Ocean Tracking Network (Lancaster Sound)	●	Ocean Tracking Network (Dalhousie University)
Nunavut	Ocean Tracking Network (Scott Inlet)	●	Ocean Tracking Network (Dalhousie University)
Nunavut	Ocean Tracking Network (Cambridge Bay)	●	Ocean Tracking Network (Dalhousie University)
Nunavut	Ward Hunt Island Observatory Research Station	●	Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies
Nunavut	Dr. Neil Trivett Global Atmosphere Watch Observatory	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Alert - Atmospheric Radionuclides Monitoring Station	●	Health Canada
Nunavut	Belcher Islands Research Station	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Canadian High Arctic Research Station	●	Polar Knowledge Canada
Nunavut	Karrak Lake Research Station	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada

Inuit Region	Name	Ownership Type	Institution(s)
Nunavut	Coats Island Shorebird Camp	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Coats Island Seabird Camp	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Coral Harbour - Atmospheric Radionuclides Monitoring Station	●	Health Canada, Radiation Protection Bureau
Nunavut	Mill Island Research Cabin	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Iqaluit - Atmospheric Radionuclides Monitoring Station	●	Health Canada, Radiation Protection Bureau
Nunavut	Quttinirpaaq National Park (Lake Hazen)	●	Parks Canada
Nunavut	Prince Leopold Island Seabird Research Station	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Digges Island Seabird Research Station	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Perry River Cabin	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Polar Bear Pass Research Facility	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Polar Continental Shelf Program	●	Natural Resources Canada
Nunavut	Resolute Bay	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Resolute RN15 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Atmospheric Radionuclide Monitoring Station	●	Health Canada, Radiation Protection Bureau
Nunavut	Tern Island Research Facility	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	East Bay Island	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	East Bay Mainland Camp	●	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nunavut	Quttinirpaaq National Park (Tanquary Fiord)	●	Parks Canada
Nunavut	Quttinirpaaq National Park (Ward Hunt Island)	●	Parks Canada
Nunavut	Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station	●	Mars Society
Nunavut	Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL)	●	Environment Canada; University of Toronto



Inuit Region	Name	Ownership Type	Institution(s)
ISR	Aulavik National Park (Green Cabin)		Owned by Local Hunters and Trappers Committee; Operated by Parks Canada
ISR	Aulavik National Park (Polar Bear Cabin, Banks Island)		Government NWT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ISR	Cape Providence Polar Bear Cabin		Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ISR	Herschel Island (Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park)		Government of Yukon
ISR	Trail Valley Creek Research Station		Wilfrid Laurier University
ISR	Anderson River Migratory Bird Sanctuary Cabin		Environment and Climate Change Canada
ISR	Mackenzie Delta Fish Island Camp		Environment and Climate Change Canada
ISR	Ivvavik National Park (Imniarvik Sheep Creek Base Camp)		Parks Canada
ISR	Tuktut Nogait National Park (Uyarsivik Lake Base Camp)		Parks Canada
ISR	Western Arctic Research Centre		Aurora College (Aurora Research Institute)
ISR	Havikpak Creek Research Station		Wilfrid Laurier University
ISR	Inuvik Satellite Station Facility		Natural Resources Canada
ISR	Inuvik - Atmospheric Radionuclides Monitoring Station		Health Canada, Radiation Protection Bureau

Appendix B: Federal reports discussing 'northern' science policy

Year	Title	Authors
1972	Science and the North: A Seminar on Guidelines for Scientific Activities in Northern Canada	Advisory Committee on Northern Development. Sub-Committee on Science and Technology
1977	Northward Looking: A Strategy and a Science Policy for Northern Development	Science Council of Canada
1987	Canada and Polar Science	Indian Affairs and Northern Development
1991	Northern Science for Northern Society – Building Economic Self-Reliance	Science Council of Canada
1997	Building the Circumpolar Framework – Exercising Canadian Leadership Chapter 8 – Supporting scientific, educational and cultural cooperation in the Arctic	Library of Parliament Research Branch; House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade
2000	Northern Science and Technology in Canada – Federal Framework & Research Plan	Indian Affairs and Northern Development
2000	From crisis to opportunity: Rebuilding Canada's role in northern research	Task Force NSERC & SSHRC
2005	Northern Science and Technology in Canada – Activity Report	Indian Affairs and Northern Development
2005	From opportunity to action: A Progress Report on Canada's Renewal of Northern Research	Institute on Governance; Submitted to NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR and the Planning Committee for the Dialogue of Northern Research
2008	Vision for the Canadian Arctic Research Initiative: Assessing the Opportunities	Canadian Council of Academies upon request of Indian Affairs and Northern
2009	Canada's Northern Strategy Our North, Our Heritage, Our Future	Government of Canada
2014	The State of Northern Knowledge in Canada	Canadian Polar Commission
2017	A new Shared Arctic Leadership Model	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Minister's Special Representative on Arctic Leadership



Appendix C: Varying definitions used in Inuit Nunangat research

Definition	Description	Examples
Inuit Nunangat	The Inuit homeland in Canada. It includes the communities located in the four Inuit regions: Nunatsiavut (Northern coastal Labrador), Nunavik (Northern Quebec), the territory of Nunavut and the Inuvialuit region of the Northwest Territories. These regions collectively encompass the area traditionally occupied by Inuit in Canada.	2011. Statistics Canada. National Household Survey Dictionary: Area of residence - Inuit Nunangat
Bio-Geophysical: Discontinuous Permafrost	The area north of the southern limit of discontinuous permafrost	1991. Science Council of Canada. Northern Science for Northern Society – Building Economic Self-Reliance 2000. Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Northern Science and Technology in Canada – Federal Framework & Research Plan 2000. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) & Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Task Force. From crisis to opportunity: Rebuilding Canada's role in northern research 2005. Institute on Governance. From opportunity to action: A Progress Report on Canada's Renewal of Northern Research 2008. Council of Canadian Academies. Vision for the Canadian Arctic Research Initiative: Assessing the Opportunities NSERC Discovery Grant Program Definition
Bio-Geophysical: Miscellaneous	This has included but is not limited to: climate boundaries, the border of commercial agriculture, areas with average temperature less than 10°C, the tree line, and isotherms.	
Geo-Political Boundary: Province/Territory	Three territories: Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.	2014. Government of Nunavut, Government of Northwest Territories, Yukon Government. A pan-northern approach to science
Geo-Political Boundary: The Arctic Circle	North of the Arctic Circle	2007. Library of Parliament. Speech from the Throne: Being in the High Arctic
Hamelin: Nordicity	Nordicity, is a term derived by L.E. Hamelin of Université Laval that uses 10 criteria to yield an aggregate index of nordicity. Hamelin's criteria imply that areas become less "nordic" as they become more industrialized and accessible. Some levels include the "Extreme", "Far" and "Middle North".	1977. Science Council of Canada. Northward Looking: A Strategy and a Science Policy for Northern Development 2003. Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies. Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North

Definition	Description	Examples
No definition provided		2009. Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Canada's Northern Strategy Our North, Our Heritage, Our Future Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
North of 60	The polar regions, when used in relation to Canada, means all regions north of sixty degrees north latitude and all regions north of the southern limit of the discontinuous permafrost zone and, when used generally or in an international context, means the circumpolar regions, including the continent of Antarctica. Arctic, when used in relation to Canada, means those parts of Canada (a) north of sixty degrees north latitude; or (b) south of sixty degrees north latitude but north of the southern limit of the discontinuous permafrost zone. (Arctique)	1991. Justice Canada. Canadian Polar Commission Act 2014. Justice Canada. Canadian High Arctic Research Station Act
Property Rights	Northern property rights and their boundaries are demarcated by legal surveys and fall under the responsibility of different organizations depending on the type of land or interest. The Canada Lands Survey System (CLSS) underpins the location and spatial extent of these rights, whether for mining, oil and gas, real property or comprehensive land claims. CLSS provides access to all official records for these surveys. The international boundaries are mandated and maintained by various federal organizations.	2016. Natural Resources Canada. Northern Boundary Definition.
Young: Circumpolar North	Young's description of it as comprising: ...the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, northern Québec, and all of Labrador in Canada...[as well as] the marine systems of the Arctic Ocean and its adjacent seas, including the Bering, Chukchi, Beaufort, Greenland, Norwegian, Barents, Kara, Laptev, and East Siberian seas." ...in the case of Canada, only the three Maritime provinces do not have clear northern policy interests. Besides the far northern areas of Québec and Labrador, Arctic conditions extend below the 60 th parallel, and most of the provinces have large areas that the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples identifies as "Mid-North."	1997. Parliament of Canada. Building the Circumpolar Framework- Exercising Canadian Leadership



Notes

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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI



75 Albert St., Suite 1101
Ottawa, ON Canada K1P 5E7



613-238-8181



@ITK_CanadaInuit



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