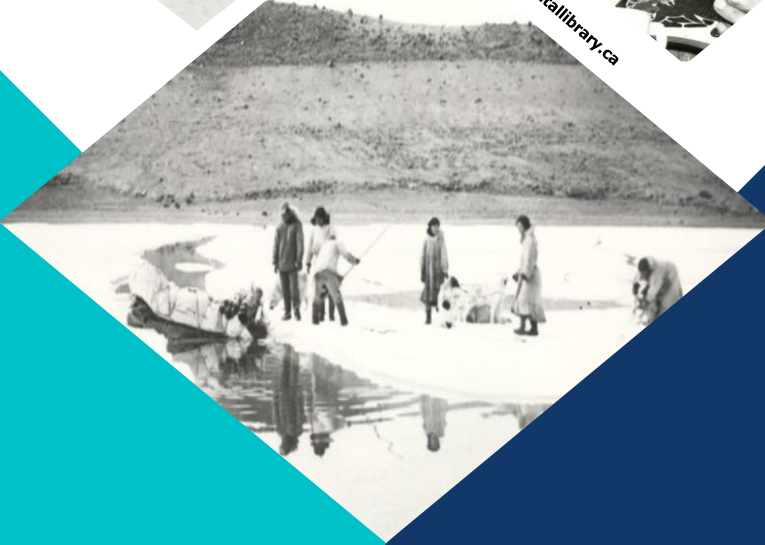




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Improving Communication on Climate Change and Long-Range Contaminants for Communities and Researchers in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

*Project Summary Report
April 30th, 2020*

Background

It is well recognized that climate change will have significant impacts on not only the physical landscape, but also on social and economic landscapes within the Arctic. More specifically, climate change represents “an acute threat to socioecological systems, one that disproportionately impacts Arctic peoples”¹. How these impacts will be transferred to the level of human activity remains uncertain. Therefore, the need to standardize and ensure comprehensibility of climate change wording and concepts in Inuvialuktun, is imperative in supporting informed responses by Inuvialuit communities to climate change.

Climate change impacts to the Arctic environment has also sparked an unprecedented growth in climate change research being conducted in Arctic communities across the globe. This growth in research has resulted in increasingly more sophisticated and specialized terminology being used in climate change discourse. As a direct result of this advancement in scientific terminology, climate change information relayed to Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) communities has become increasingly difficult to comprehend, both conceptually and linguistically. More importantly, how an issue is framed by academic or political discourse can significantly affect the interpretation and thus the responses provided. Consequently, the gap between Traditional Knowledge (TK) and the scientific community has continued to increase over time, creating an unfortunate disconnect between researchers, politicians and ISR community members.

Sallirmiutun, Uummarmiutun, and Kangiryuarmiutun, collectively known as the Inuvialuktun language, are the three dialects spoken in the ISR (Figure 1). The Inuvialuktun language is spoken by fewer than 50 per cent of the population, many of whom are Elders. As the “true” holders of TK, Elders are often interviewed for numerous research and oral history initiatives/projects.

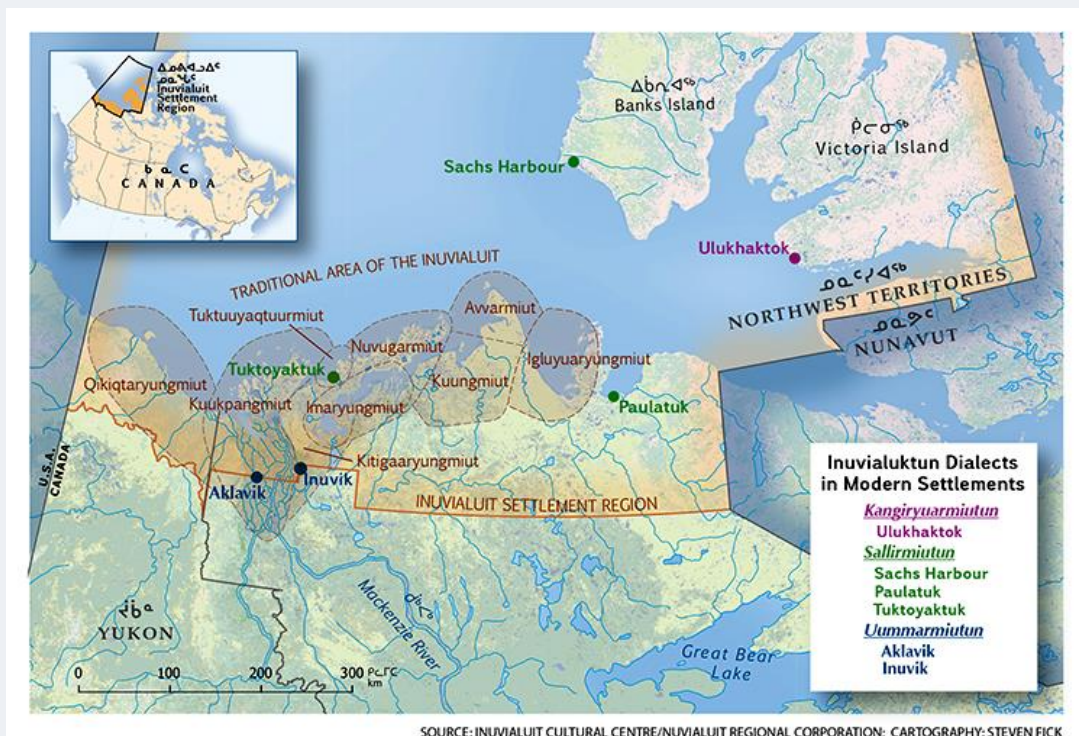


Figure 1: Inuvialuktun Dialects across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

¹ Cameron, E., Mearns, R., & McGrath, J. T. (2015). *Translating climate change: adaptation, resilience, and climate politics in Nunavut, Canada*. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 105(2), p.281.

Several of these projects included terminology workshops, including: 1) the 2011 Species At Risk Terminology Workshop conducted by ENR in partnership with IRC's Joint Secretariat; and 2) the 2019 Shining Lights Energy Terminology Workshop conducted by the Arctic Energy Alliance.

Not surprisingly, language revitalization, TK sharing, and cultural heritage preservation is becoming increasingly important in Inuvialuit self-determination and identity. It has also become an effective vehicle through which Inuvialuit can navigate through the influx of academically driven information coming into ISR communities.

Therefore, developing a standardized and comprehensible climate change terminology will help in overcoming the growing communication barrier between ISR communities and scientists. This will in turn help to reduce confusion, minimize inaccuracies in interpretation, and promote greater community involvement in climate change adaptation and resiliency planning, policy development and future research across the ISR. Moreover, developing climate change terminology that makes sense within the context of Inuvialuit daily lives, would help encourage Inuvialuit to evaluate and respond to climate change in ways that are understood and supported by the Inuvialuit as a whole.

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)'s approach to maintaining consistent translation of climate change terminology and concepts, followed by continued open discussion, debate and usage of these terms will help to reduce not only the current knowledge gap, but will also seek to reduce and mitigate the negative relations that can be created between communities and researchers. To achieve this, IRC obtained funding from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to host a three-day terminology workshop, the results of which will become part of a climate change and long-range contaminants glossary of terms booklet that will be made available to community members and researchers across the ISR.

Project Objectives

The development and consistent use of accurate, standardized climate change terminology in all three languages spoken in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), is vital in ensuring meaningful involvement by all Inuvialuit. Correcting this communication disconnect would support several Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) priorities and goals, namely:

- The three principles of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, which include:
 1. To preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society;
 2. To enable Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in the northern and national economy and society; and
 3. To protect and preserve the Arctic wildlife, environment and biological productivity.
- Goal 1 of IRC's 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, specifically, to revitalize and celebrate Inuvialuit cultural identity and values; and
- A key priority highlighted in the 2016 IRC Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and 2020-2022 Draft IRC Regional Climate Change Strategy, most notably the integration of Inuvialuit knowledge with western science to support all future arctic climate policies and research.

Workshop

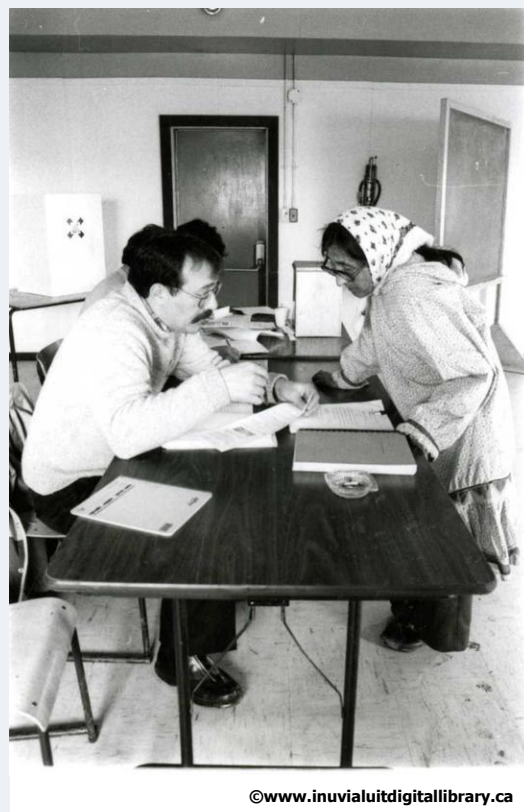
In partnership with the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Center and IRC's Department of Innovation, Science and Climate Change, a 3-day workshop was hosted in Inuvik from September 18th – 20th, 2019.

Six translators, fluent in each of the three Inuvialuktun dialects (i.e. Kangiryuarmiutun/Inuinnaqtun, Sallirmiutun, and Uummarmiutun) attended the workshop. Translators were presented with twenty-one Climate Change and long-range contaminants related terms (*Table 1*) to translate and provide literal meaning associated with each translation.

Once translated, the words and meanings were sent to each translator for verification within their respective communities.

Table 1: Terms to be translated

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Adaptation | Permafrost |
| Climate Change | Pollution |
| Contaminant | Precipitation |
| Drought | Research |
| Energy | Solar |
| Energy Saver | Stewardship |
| Environment | Technology |
| Extreme Weather | Temperature |
| Mitigation | Water |
| Non-Native Species | Weather |
| Renewable (Alternate) Energy | |



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Project Outcomes

All twenty-one terms were translated, and literal meanings assigned to each term, in all three Inuvialuktun dialects (*Table 2*). These terms will be compiled into a Terminology Glossary that will be accessible across the ISR.

The success of this Project has encouraged IRC to apply for additional funding to continue developing a comprehensive and robust terminology glossary that can be used by across the ISR.

Table 2: Translated Words with Literal Meanings

| Term Meaning | Kangiryuarmitun/ Inuinnaqtun | Sallirmiutun | Uummarmiutun |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Adaptation | aallanguqtittuni hungiutiniq <i>getting used to the changes</i> | sungiutiniq <i>get used to it</i> | atuqhiriartukfaq <i>something that you got to get used to</i> |
| Climate Change | hila aallanguqtuq <i>weather has changed</i> | sila allanguqtuq <i>weather has changed</i> | hila aallanguqtuq <i>weather has changed</i> |
| Contamination | halummairutit qayangnaqtut <i>contaminant dirty and dangerous</i> | salumailat ulurianaqtut <i>contaminant dangerous (toxic) – beware</i> | halumailiŋuq <i>it is not clean anymore, get dirty</i> |
| Drought | paniryarutaani <i>very dry period/time</i> | pannaqtuk <i>very dry</i> | pannaqtuk <i>very dry</i> |
| Energy | aallatqiit aulapkaitjutit <i>makes things run</i> | suanngaun <i>form of energy - energy that travels from the environment</i> | huannakhaun <i>energy giving - need to turn it on</i> |
| Energy Saver | aulapkaitjutinik atulluannillugu <i>don't use too much energy</i> | suanngaktiyaun <i>try to save energy, use stuff properly, "storing" "savor" - spread it out</i> | huannakhaun atuqpallaaqtangairlugu <i>don't use that much energy - stop using so much of it (energy)</i> |
| Environment | uumaviat (plural) <i>every living thing</i> | uummavik <i>where everything lives</i> | uummaviat (plural) <i>every living thing</i> |
| Extreme Weather | hilyaryukyuaq <i>really bad weather</i> | silaqtukpavialuk <i>big, bad weather (XXL weather, extreme weather)</i> | hilaqtukpauŋaq <i>really big, bad weather</i> |
| Mitigation | mihingnaryuangittaangani <i>doesn't impact you as much - when something happens reduce impacts - making something not as big - impact won't be so hard, less severe</i> | palanngaalaglugu <i>make it/this less - to make it less/reduce</i> | palangahipayaaqtaq <i>not really finishing now - make it not as bad</i> |
| Non-Native Species | nutaat anngutitlu nauvaktullu <i>new animals and plants</i> | nutaat uumayuut allagiit <i>new different types of living things</i> | nirŋutitlu nauŋiatlu nutim inggitcut <i>animals and plants weren't there previously/ there all the time</i> |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Renewable (Alternate) Energy | aullapkaitjutit nutaannguqtaaqut <i>changing energy/energy that can be made new</i> | atugaksiat suanngautit <i>different types of energy</i> | atutqillaġut huanngakhautit <i>make it stronger, types of energy - thing that has all types of energy</i> |
| Permafrost | qiqumaniq <i>when you reach the frozen part</i> | qiqumaniq <i>frozen part - when you reach the frozen part</i> | qiqumaniq <i>frozen part</i> |
| Pollution | halumairutit <i>something that dirties something - things that makes other things dirty</i> | salumainniq <i>bad things/stuff - dirty stuff</i> | halumairutit <i>things that makes other things dirty - something that makes it dirty - all is dirty</i> |
| Precipitation | kininnaqtut <i>(weather) things that make you wet</i> | silaluk (rain) + qanik (snow) = miniqġuk <i>damp weather</i> | miniqġuk <i>damp weather</i> |
| Research | ilitturittiarumablutik qiniqaktut nanihimayunit <i>from new things found, you learn new information; from things found, you want to learn more; finding things and learning more</i> | ilitchuriniarniq <i>a way of finding out - studying before something happens - learning by action/studying</i> | qimilriurniq qiniqaktut <i>researching - checking everything</i> |
| Solar | hiqinirmin aulapkaitjutit <i>the sun's energy</i> | siqinrum suanngataa <i>power (energy) from the sun</i> | siqinirmin huanngan <i>getting strong from the sun - power from the sun - from the sun, more energy</i> |
| Stewardship | hilaryuami munariyun nakuunirmun <i>taking care of the environment for the better</i> | munaqsimaariksiniq <i>look after them (many) well - to look after it good</i> | qaunarilugu ġuatun <i>taking care of it the right way - watch it well - watch over</i> |
| Technology | inuit nutaanik atuqpaliqut inuuhiriliqtamingni <i>people using new things in their lives today</i> | atugaksiat pitqusiriliqtappingni <i>something created to be used - our living history (back then) that we are living now</i> | inuuniarutit atugakġat <i>new way of things</i> |
| Temperature | uunaqġilaanga niglaumatilaanga <i>how hot it is, how cold it is</i> | uunaqġilaanga qiqautilaanga <i>how hot it is, how cold it is</i> | uunaqġilaanga niglinaqġilaanga <i>how hot it is, how cold/cool it is</i> |
| Water | imaq <i>water</i> | imaq <i>water</i> | imaq <i>water</i> |
| Weather | hila <i>weather</i> | sila <i>weather</i> | hila <i>weather</i> |

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