

Annual Summary – December 2021

**Understanding Inuit community uses and needs for weather, water, ice and climate (WWIC)
information and services**

Nunavut Scientific Research License # 05 009 21R-M

Prepared by Natalie Carter and Gita Ljubicic on behalf of our ArcticNet project team

January – August, 2021

- MA student Alexandra Oakes prepared her research ethics submission (and received approval in March 2021) to conduct remote interviews with Local Research Coordinators (LRCs)
 - Alexandra’s research contributes an important evaluation component to our project, to understand LRC experiences of conducting research in their home communities and working with the broader research team
- Requested permission from university administration and revised university ethics protocols for LRCs to resume in-person and in-home survey administration
- Began recruitment of additional LRCs in Arviat (3), Pond Inlet (1), Gjoa Haven (2), and Sanikiluaq (1) because Aupaa Irkok, Andrew Muckpah, Andrew Arreak, Natasha Simonee, Gibson Porter, and Mick Appaqaq were no longer available
 - New LRCs joined the team: Peter Aliktiluk, Elena Akammak, Christina Kaayak (Arviat); Ivan Koonoo (Pond Inlet); William Aglukkaq, Amber Eleehetook (Gjoa Haven); and Julia Mickiyuk (Sanikiluaq)
 - Previous LRCs remain important collaborators on the team
- Surveys resumed in March 2021
- Virtual conference presentations
 - Shirley Tagalik, Natalie Carter, Gita Ljubicic - online oral presentation at the **UArctic Congress 2021** (hosted in Reykjavik, Iceland), May 17, titled ‘Collaborative survey development and training to understand Inuit uses and needs for weather, water, ice and climate information’
 - Natalie Carter, Gita Ljubicic and Shirley Tagalik - online oral presentation at **Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2021** (hosted in Iqaluit, Nunavut), June 15, titled ‘Collaborative survey development and training to understand Inuit uses and needs for weather, water, ice and climate information’
- Breanna Bishop, PhD student at Dalhousie University, joined the project team in July
 - Breanna is conducting a systematic literature review to understand how Inuit uses of weather, water, ice, and climate indicators to assess travel safety in a changing environment have been represented in research to date
- Identified and booked location (Arviat, Nunavut) for collaborative results analysis workshop in October 2021, and planned all aspects of the workshop

September – October, 2021

- Published open access journal article:
 - Simonee, N., Aloo, J., Carter, N.A., Ljubicic, G., and Dawson, J. (2021). **Sila qanuippa? (How's the weather?): Integrating Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit and environmental forecasting products to support travel safety around Pond Inlet, Nunavut in a changing climate.** *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 13(October): 933-962.
- Requested permission from university administration and revised university ethics protocols to allow for travel of Nunavut-based LRCs and Ontario-based team members to attend the in-person collaborative analysis workshop to be hosted in Arviat (following COVID-related protocols)
- Conducted preliminary analysis of survey results to date for each community participating in collaborative analysis workshop (Arviat, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Sanikiluaq)
- Survey refinement of incomplete/missing responses conducted in Arviat
- Collaborative analysis workshop held in Arviat October 15-22, 2021
 - co-hosted by Aqqiumavvik Society and McMaster University team, including 2 days on the land and 4 days in the community
 - involved 9 Local research Coordinators, 2 Elder mentors, 2 project collaborators, 3 university researchers, and 2 youth from the Arviat Young Hunters Program (18 total = 15 Nunavummiut and 3 Ontariomiut)
 - During the time in Arviat, Alexandra conducted 4 interviews with 7 LRCs, and 2 group discussions with LRCs during the workshop, as part of her MA research
 - For a full summary of workshop activities visit:
<https://straightupnorth.ca/2021/11/12/arviat-workshop-summary/>

November – December 2021

- Follow-up from collaborative analysis workshop
 - Translation of written survey
 - Confirmed payments and protocols for survey response refinement
 - Addition of a draw for a barrel of gas in each community (all survey participants entered in the draw)
 - Follow-up to refine community results reports based on LRC feedback in Arviat workshop
- Survey refinement of incomplete/missing responses conducted in Clyde River and Sanikiluaq
 - **Surveys wrapped up in Clyde River and Sanikiluaq** (community partners set a deadline for finishing as many as they could, and did the gas draw)
- Virtual conference presentations
 - Natasha Simonee – online invited plenary presentation at the **ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting 2021** (hosted in Ottawa, Ontario), December 9, titled ‘A community perspective on polar predictions’
 - Gita Ljubicic – online invited plenary presentation at the **ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting 2021** (hosted in Ottawa, Ontario), December 9, titled ‘Societal and Economic Research and Applications of the Polar Prediction Project’

- Gita Ljubicic – online invited panel presentation at the **ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting 2021** (hosted in Ottawa, Ontario), December 7, titled ‘Considerations in tailoring weather, water, ice, and climate (WWIC) services to meet community needs’
- Natalie Carter, Gita Ljubicic, Shirley Tagalik, Kukik Baker, Joe Karetak, Charlotte Buttle, Jason Carpenter, Natasha Simonee, Aupaa Irkok, Andrew Arreak, Ivan Koonoo, William Aglukkaq, Andrew Muckpah, Peter Aliktiluk, Julia Mickiyuk, Regena Sinclair, Emmelie Paquette, Trevor Bell and Jackie Dawson – online oral presentation at the **ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting 2021** (hosted in Ottawa, Ontario), December 8, titled ‘Inuit uses and needs for weather, water, ice and climate information in Nunavut’
- Breanna Bishop, Emmelie Paquette, Gita Ljubicic, Natalie Carter, Eric Oliver, and Claudio Aporta – online oral presentation at the **ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting 2021** (hosted in Ottawa, Ontario), December 8, titled ‘Inuit uses of weather, water, ice, and climate indicators to assess travel safety in a changing environment: Steps and tips in developing a scoping review protocol’
- Invitations sent for a Weather and Society virtual workshop in March 2022
- We are still engaged in preliminary analysis of survey results and quality assurance review (for completeness of responses)
 - **154 new surveys were completed in 2021:** facilitated by LRCs in Arviat (79), Clyde River (4), Cambridge Bay (1), Gjoa Haven (23), Pond Inlet (22), Sanikiluaq (25)
 - **As of December 20, 2021 we have a total of 349 surveys completed** across 8 communities in Nunavut

Pandemic-related delays continue to affect our original planned schedule. We continue to work with Local Research Coordinators according to their availability and comfort level, and territorial and community-specific health regulations. We hope to be able to wrap up new survey collection, and refinement of previous surveys, by spring 2022. Summer 2022 will be focused on results analysis and development of preliminary reports. We aim to host another collaborative analysis workshop in the fall of 2022, to discuss results and finalize a communications strategy.