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Scientific Research Licensing in Nunavut

The Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) is the science division of Nunavut Arctic College, and administers scientific research licensing under Nunavut’s Scientists Act. The Scientists Act only applies to research in the Physical and Natural Sciences (P), Health Sciences (H), and Social Sciences and Inuit Knowledge (SS) disciplines, which is approximately 60% of all research that happens in Nunavut (Polidoro et al 2022). Research on archaeology, parks, and wildlife (including all terrestrial and aquatic animals, plants, birds, and fish) is licensed under different legislation.

The NRI’s Scientific Research Licensing Guidelines provide information about the different types of permits required for research in Nunavut, and how to apply for an NRI Scientific Research License in each discipline.

Community Rights in Research

Remember, community members always have the right to refuse to participate in a research project even if a license has been issued. Researchers must obtain your informed consent before they ask you any questions, and they must always respect your privacy and confidentiality.

It is against the law to conduct research in Nunavut without a license and associated research permits. Researchers must follow the terms and conditions in their research licenses and ensure their work does not cause harm or disruption to the community or to wildlife and the environment. Research licenses can be suspended or revoked, and a researcher may face fines or other penalties, when there is documented proof that the research is causing harm.

If you are a community member that has concerns that a researcher working in your community has not secured your informed consent, or may be causing harm or disruption, please contact the Nunavut Science Advisor.
ABOUT ISIRVIK

Welcome to the Isirvik Nunavut Research Portal. The Inuktitut term Isirvik translates to "an entrance". As a research portal, Isirvik is designed to be an entrance into the world of research licensed by the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI), the science division of Nunavut Arctic College.

The NRI has developed a public research portal in partnership with McMaster and Carleton Universities, which will provide open access to information about research conducted in Nunavut. This portal houses all research licensed by the NRI, from 2004 to the present. All health, social, and natural/physical sciences research in Nunavut must hold a scientific research license from the NRI (please see guidelines for researchers for more information).

This research portal is designed to make research information searchable and readily available to Nunavummiut. The portal provides details about each research project that was provided by the applicant in their research license application, such as research location(s), project leadership, team members, affiliations, and contact information.

Research licenses can be filtered by year, topic, method, reporting tool, discipline, location, and/or other search keywords. Projects appear as locations on a map or as entries in a table, depending on the user’s view preference.

The portal also serves as a valuable resource for researchers and institutions interested in undertaking future studies in Nunavut. By providing a centralized platform that consolidates information on past and ongoing research, it aims to reduce duplication of efforts, facilitate partnerships, and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing.

For any questions, comments, content errors or technical issues, please contact the Nunavut Research Institute and a member of our team will respond as soon as possible.

Email: research.licensing@arcticcollege.ca
To learn more about the NRI and the work we do, visit https://www.nri.nu.ca
HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH ISIRVIK?

Once you arrive on the website, you will be welcomed by a pop-up window. At the bottom of the window, you can select which language you would like to use. You can also change the language using the languages feature (see p.4). To access the portal, you must select “X” in the top-right corner to close the pop-up window.

WHAT INFORMATION CAN I SEE IN ISIRVIK?

Each entry in Isirvik contains information about:

- Project title
- Plain language summary
- License number
- Year of license
- Applicant first and last name
- Affiliation name and department
- Applicant email
- Name of team member(s)
- Other research projects (if this license was part of a multi-year renewal)
- Discipline of research
- Research topics
- Research methods
- Reporting methods
- Research locations
- Translated plain language summary (if provided by the applicant)

Each entry in Isirvik represents a research license issued in that year. Some projects have multiple entries because they renewed their license for one or more years.

If there is information missing from a license entry, it is because it was not available in the research license or application.
Research license applications are provided to the Nunavut Research Institute in English, so all information related to a research project is only available in English. **When you change the language, only the labels will change.**

Some Researchers have provided their plain language project summaries in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and/or French, as part of the application, and this can be accessed at the bottom of the right panel after you select a license of interest.

**HOW CAN I SEE ISIRVIK IN MY LANGUAGE?**

If you did not select your language preference in the pop-up window (p.3), you can change the language by selecting the “Language” tab on the top-right corner of the screen. Once you select your language of choice, the portal will update.
## WHAT DOES THE LICENSE NUMBER MEAN?

We have provided a breakdown of how license numbers are created at the NRI, using license 04 065 12N-M as an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First two numbers (04)</td>
<td>Region where research is located</td>
<td>&quot;04&quot; = Kitikmeot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 01 = South Qikiqtani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 02 = North Qikiqtani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 03 = Kivalliq</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 04 = Kitikmeot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 05 = Multi-region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 06 = Outside Nunavut</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second three numbers (065)</td>
<td>Number of licenses issued in that particular year</td>
<td>&quot;065&quot; = 65th license issued for research in the Kitikmeot Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two third numbers (12)</td>
<td>Year the license was issued</td>
<td>&quot;12&quot; = 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters at the end (N-M)</td>
<td>Whether or not the license is:</td>
<td>&quot;N-M&quot; = new multiyear project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- New (first letter is &quot;N&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Renewal (first letter is &quot;R&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Annual, or project lasting only one year (second letter would be &quot;A&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Multi-year, or lasting more than one year (second letter would be &quot;M&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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License numbers are visible as a column in the table view of Isirvik, and in the panel on the right side when you select a point on the map view of Isirvik.
HOW DO I USE MAP VIEW?

Select "Research Projects (Map View)". You will see a map with triangles and clusters. The green triangle represents one field research site. The orange cluster represents a community in Nunavut. The number within each cluster communicates how many entries are associated with that specific community.

Can I zoom in and out?

You can use the "+" and "-" features on the map to zoom in and out.

How do I move around the Map?

You can move around the map by clicking and dragging your cursor anywhere on the map.

NOTE: You can only pan the map to the extent of the data layers.
WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT DATA LAYERS IN MAP VIEW?

The map view of Isirvik has two base maps to choose from. The first is the default map, with the Nunavut administrative boundaries, communities, and field sites.

Some field sites will appear darker than others. This is because there is more than one license that has been issued for that location.
The second basemap includes boundaries for Nunavut protected and conserved areas, Inuit Owned Lands, the Nunavik Marine Region and the Eeyou Marine Region, in addition to the layers on the default basemap.

How do I change the basemap?

You can change the basemap by selecting the square icon on the left side of the screen.

You can also use this icon to select and deselect the overlays (field sites and community labels).
Isirvik was created with both a map and table view. The purpose of having multiple viewing formats is to enhance the useability of Isirvik.

**Getting Started with Table View**

*You must select Research projects (Table view)*

Isirvik defaults to all research licenses that were issued from 2004 to the present in reverse chronological order. You will need to use the **filtering options** if you wish to modify your query.

**Navigating Table View**

*How do I see all fields?*

You will need to navigate the slider on the bottom of the page to view all fields (listed on p.3). Please note that the slider will not appear if your monitor is already large enough.
If you see multiple projects in the same year with the same license number, this is due to amendments/changes in the license.

How do I sort?

Each field (see p.3 or figure above) is represented as a column. You can sort each attribute in ascending or descending order by clicking on the name of the attribute.

(Example: “Applicant Name”)
HOW DO I FIND RESEARCH HAPPENING IN A COMMUNITY OR FIELD SITE?

You can use the locations filter in both the table view and map view to select a research location of interest. Here, you will find a list of ALL Nunavut regions, communities and areas of interest (including field sites) for NRI-licensed research projects.

To view field sites overlapping with a community, you must deselect “communities” from the “Location Types” drop-down filter. Alternatively, deselect “field sites” from the “Location Types” filter to just view research taking place in communities.

Research locations include:
- Regions (three administrative regions in Nunavut)
- Communities (25 Nunavut communities)
- Areas of interest (including field sites)

Make sure to reset the filtering options prior to making a new query. You can do this by refreshing the page or by selecting "Reset Filters" in the top-left corner.
HOW DO I FIND RESEARCH ON A SPECIFIC DISCIPLINE?

Isirvik provides a filter in both the map and table views that allows users to filter between or select all disciplines: Social Science/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), Physical/ Natural Science, or Health Science. To select specific disciplines, you must first deselect “All Disciplines” in the drop-down filter.

Make sure to reset the filtering options prior to making a new query. You can do this by refreshing the page or by selecting “Reset Filters” in the top-left corner.
HOW DO I FIND RESEARCH ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC?

Isirvik provides filters in both the map and table views that allow users to select multiple research topics at once. The research topics are associated with the information provided in the plain language summary of the research license application, so topics are connected to either the Physical/Natural, Health, or Social Science/IQ research disciplines.

HELPFUL TIPS WHEN SELECTING RESEARCH TOPICS:

- To select specific topics, you must first deselect “All Research Topics” in the drop-down filter.
- Make sure to clear your filtering options if you proceed to make other searches in the database that are not connected to the topics you originally selected. You can do this by refreshing the page or by selecting “Reset Filters” in the top-left corner.
- If your filter option(s) return no results, this is because there are no projects with that combination of topics. You will need to modify your search.
HOW DO I FIND RESEARCH USING A SPECIFIC METHOD?

Isirvik provides a filter in both the map and table views that allows users to filter multiple research methods at once. This includes community-based and field methods. The research methods are associated with the information provided in the plain language summary of the research license application.

HELPFUL TIPS WHEN SELECTING RESEARCH METHODS:

- To select specific research methods, you must first deselect “All Research Methods” in the drop-down filter.
- Make sure to clear your filtering options if you proceed to make other searches in the database that are not connected to the methods you originally selected. You can do this by refreshing the page or by selecting “Reset Filters” in the top-left corner.
- If your filter option(s) return no results, this is because there are no projects with that combination of methods. You will need to modify your search.
HOW DO I FIND RESEARCH USING A SPECIFIC REPORTING METHOD?

Researchers propose in their license applications (see p. 1) that they will share their research results in different ways. For example, some researchers propose that they will share results in a community presentation or poster, and some researchers propose to publish journal articles.

Isirvik provides a filter in both the map and table views that allows users to filter multiple reporting methods at once. The reporting methods are associated with the information provided in the plain language summary of the research license application.

HELPFUL TIPS WHEN SELECTING REPORTING METHODS:

- To select specific reporting methods, you must first deselect “All Reporting Methods” in the drop-down filter.
- Make sure to clear your filtering options if you proceed to make other searches in the database that are not connected to the reporting methods you originally selected. You can do this by refreshing the page or by selecting “Reset Filters” in the top left corner.
- If your filter option(s) return no results, this is because there are no projects with that combination of reporting methods. You will need to modify your search.
WHAT IF I NEED HELP?

If you have additional questions regarding research licensing in Nunavut or would like further assistance navigating the portal, please use the “Contact” button on the top-right corner of the website. The NRI also welcomes feedback on Isirvik improvements and corrections.

+867-979-7290

www.nri.nu.ca/contact


research.licensing@arcticcollege.ca