

Questions to Researchers

ArcticNet recognizes the importance of framing climate change issues from various perspectives. Below we are asking a few questions to the project leaders in order to identify scientific priority issues and demonstrate how the research results can be used by policy and decision-makers in terms of community and climate change adaptation planning in the Eastern Canadian Arctic.

1) From your own research perspective can you identify and describe the key issues that are (will be?) affecting social, economic or environmental conditions in the Eastern Canadian Arctic?

Communities in the Eastern Arctic are currently experiencing social, cultural economic, political and environmental change and stress. Changing environmental conditions occur together with reduced participation in traditional cultural practices, low employment rates, compromised housing and infrastructure and changing governance systems. Communities in the Eastern Arctic region are highly dependant on natural resources with much of their social, cultural, economic lives integrated with the natural environment. Despite their adaptability, Inuit of this region are particularly sensitive to changes in ice and wildlife.

If trends in environmental conditions continue - including later freeze up and earlier break up of sea and land ice; reduced snow pack; increasing wind strengths; poorer sea ice conditions; and changes in wildlife abundance and species availability, these will further exacerbate existing social, cultural, and economic stresses.

2) How will your ArcticNet project contribute to a better understanding of these issues affecting the Eastern Canadian Arctic?

This project contributes to an understanding of these issues by looking at the change taking place in the Eastern Arctic from the perspective of the community first. Using a vulnerability approach whereby researchers work directly with communities to identify characteristics of environmental change that are important to peoples' livelihoods. This research produces information on the ways in which the community is currently experiencing stresses and how they are dealing with them to understand where policy interventions may be beneficial to enhance adaptive capacity. The second element of this research focuses on the opportunities that may exist within policy making institutions and management organizations to integrate capacity enhancing strategies which are reflective of the needs, values and interests of the communities.

3) Provide an example of how the results of your project may contribute to the decision-making process with respect to these issues.

As a main component of our research program, this research contributes directly to policy-making relating to adaptation to climate and other change. Each case study begins with establishing a partnership with the community and ensuring community and relevant government and decision-maker involvement.

Since the community members and institutional representatives responsible for policy development and change are directly involved in the research including research design, data gathering and reporting, insights are taken up directly into decision making processes at multiple levels.

General information

Contact us if you have suggestions, feedback or questions regarding the research project presented in this newsletter.

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Upcoming Newsletter

Researcher

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Research project

Effects of climate change on the Arctic Wildlife

