Since its creation in 2011, the Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair has been committed to promoting knowledge and providing quality research on Northern issues. But the Chair’s work goes well beyond research. It has an ongoing commitment to highlight the needs of Inuit and Cree communities, and to advocate for more resources and good practices in Northern territories.

Main Achievements

The Research Chair has established itself as a crucial player in Northern research community by working with and for communities. You will find in this report some of the Chair’s achievements over the past four years. Here are the key ones:

- Improving knowledge about Northern issues
- Promoting creation of an Inuit Nunangat University
- Advocating for access to education and training
- Encouraging exchange between Inuit regions
- Supporting Inuit and Cree organizations
- Training Inuit researchers

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This is what the Chair seeks to understand, especially in the context of the multiple iterations of Plan Nord. To do this, research has been conducted to gain a better understanding of the impacts and benefits of different mines in northern Canada. In addition to articles and reports, a student has just published her master thesis on this subject.

Land-based economy in Nunavik

The objective of this project is to learn more about hunting and fishing practices and their economic and social importance. This is a project funded by Makivik in conjunction with the Kativik Regional Government. The Chair coordinates the research, trains Inuit researchers, and provides scientific advice. Surveys are ongoing in Salluit and Kuujjuaq, while others have already been completed in Tasiujaq, Quaqtaq, Kangiqsualujjuaq, and Inukjuak.

Relations between mining companies and communities

The Chair is also studying communication between mining companies and Nunavik and Cree communities. A PhD student is studying this issue with respect to mining projects in Aupaluk (Nunavik) and in Eeyou Istchee. This project is being conducted in partnership with Makivik and the Aupaluk Northern Village.

Qanupitaa

The Chair is working with other researchers for the new Nunavik Health Survey that will be conducted in 2016.

Impact of mining on social cohesion

The Chair has established a knowledge network on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Social Impacts of Mining in the Canadian Eastern Arctic and Subarctic (Nunavik, Nunavut, and Eeyou Istchee). We are currently working to expand this network to the Scandinavian countries, Australia, and New Zealand.

Success in post-secondary program

The Chair, through the organization of workshops and the realization of a survey, has collected data on the educational and professional success among Inuit of Nunavut who have registered in a post-secondary program. This project was conducted in partnership with the Nunavik Arctic College, the Kativik School Board and Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

In education

Advocating for access to education and training

The Chair is advocating for development of research and training facilities in Nunavik. This goal is part of three larger initiatives:

- The G6 55, a group of six towns of the Ungava Coast (Kuujjuaq, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Quaqtaq, Tasiujaq, Aupaluk and Kangirsuk), working to expand this network to the Scandinavian countries, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Improving knowledge about Northern issues
- Advocating for access to education and training in education

Working with and for NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

Supporting Inuit and Cree organizations

The Chair provides different initiatives and organizations with expertise. Here are some of them:

- Saputit, Nunavik Youth association: the Chair organized a leadership workshop and a study trip to Iqaluit and Nuuk in 2011;
- Innu Education Society: the Chair participated in the Innu outdoor training program in 2013, and is working with Innuas to develop a project for the Arctic Inspiration Prize in 2015;
- Innivik project: the Chair has helped document the project which consists of the construction of a small hydroelectric generating station on the Innukjuak River;
- Qaagtiit Health Research Centre, and the Amajuq Centre.
- Promoting a research permit system to avoid research fatigue and duplication;
- Ensuring that Inuit are employed as coresearchers of Inuit researchers for various research projects.
- One of the Chair’s targets in the Nunavut region has been to increase Inuit participation during the development of the project and find ways to increase their success amongst Inuit of Nunavut.

Encouraging exchange between Inuit regions

We believe it is important to share knowledge and experiences between Inuit regions in order to learn from each other. The Chair has organized different events to foster these exchanges:

- Nuuk and Iqaluit study trip with Saputit, the Youth association in Nuuk.
- Project on mining economies with Makivik and the Government of Nunavut (2015-15);
- Kaajuaq (2011) and Iqaluit (2015) Post-secondary Education Workshop;
- Iqaluit University Workshop in 2015.

Advocating for more responsible research practices

- Ensuring that Inuit are employed as co-researchers in research projects. Between 2011 and 2015, the Chair employed 23 Inuit researchers for various research projects.
- Promoting a research permit system to avoid research fatigue and duplication.
- Ensuring that research findings are presented to communities appropriately.

Clarence Comeau and Fred Wiskiechan, Naujahatik, 2011
PUBLICATIONS

Reports


Presented to President Hollande, 2015.