

# MAPPING INUIT SEA ICE KNOWLEDGE AND USE



## International Polar Year (IPY) and Pangnirtung Mapping Inuit Sea Ice Knowledge and Use (SIKU) – APPROVED

A sea ice project already ongoing in Pangnirtung for the past four years will now contribute to a larger sea ice project (Inuit Sea Ice Use and Occupancy Project – ISIUOP) that has just been approved as part of the International Polar Year (2007/2008). This project is funded until 2011.

**Many thanks for the support of the elders and hunters, the Hamlet, and the HTA, that have made this possible. We look forward to continuing to work with you.**



### Project description

This project builds on previous sea ice research in Pangnirtung (since 2003), and aims to further document and map local sea ice expertise. Conventional maps show terrestrial variations and features in great detail, while water bodies are outlined and

left “blank”. This project aims to provide a new map conception where the dynamic nature, use, and importance of seasonal sea ice cover is portrayed according to current Inuit practices, and perspectives, based upon the rich local knowledge base and oral history.

### General timeline and activities

- Summer 2007 – project setup and initiation
- Fall 2007 – community meetings and project planning
- 2007 – 2008 – map & information compilation
- Spring 2008 – community meetings, interviews, and sea ice trips
- Fall 2008 – community meetings & results verification
- Fall/Winter 2008/2009 – map & results compilation, draft online atlas creation
- Spring 2009 – community meetings & results verification
- 2009 – 2010 – results compilation, report completion, atlas and education materials completion

### Objectives

We plan to:

- document and map sea ice conditions, uses, and hazards;
- evaluate sea ice changes (and local impacts of change) over time; and,
- develop educational materials for Inuit youth, researchers, and governments.

Project results will be communicated through:

- innovative paper and digital maps;
- interactive online educational atlases; and,
- community, academic, and research reports.



### Our Team

This SIKU project is a collaboration between the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, the Hunters and Trappers Association, local researchers and experts, and Gita Laidler (working out of Carleton University). The larger ISIUOP project is led by Claudio Aporta and Fraser Taylor at Carleton University, Shari Gearheard in Clyde River, and Chris Furgal at Trent University. Other communities also involved in ISIUOP include: Cape Dorset, Clyde River, and Igloolik in Nunavut, and Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, and Umiujaq in Nunavik.



**Questions? Comments?**

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