

***Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and the Transformation of High School Education in Nunavut**

Summary

Project Leader

Walton, Fiona

Rapid economic, ecological, and sociocultural changes have serious implications for Inuit communities in the Arctic. Education can provide Inuit with a range of coping skills to adapt to these challenges, such as making more informed decisions, and managing environmental and socio-economic change. Understanding the factors that create educational success for young Inuit will enable school and community leaders to transform schools into meaningful learning environments that provide leadership development so that skilled graduates can become the next generation of Arctic stewards. Our overall goal is to uncover and share successful practices and strategies that contribute to the improvement of high school education in Nunavut. The vision of Inuit education led by Inuit and based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit ways of knowing and being, is moving forward through recent legislative and policy changes in Nunavut and the implementation of the National Strategy on Inuit Education. Our research explores the changes occurring both in Nunavut high schools, and in the lived experiences of research participants. Over the funding cycle, our project has collected stories of Inuit and non-Inuit school leaders who supported young people as they navigate issues of identity in the modern world, and captured the current perspectives of Inuit youth who have experienced high school education. The findings reveal how Nunavut youth are successfully negotiating extraordinary changes in their culture and society and inform us about the future of the Arctic which will be in the hands of these young people. To ensure that the results reach as many people as possible, our team has created bilingual documentary videos (Inuktitut/English and Inuinnaqtun/English). The documentaries, 'Going Places: Preparing Inuit High School Students for a Changing, Wider World; Alluriarniq- Stepping Forward: Youth Perspectives on High School Education; and Millie's Dream: Revitalizing Inuinnaqtun' have been heavily promoted via social and print media and distributed extensively across Nunavut and to Inuit organizations in the South. Results are reaching target audiences, the education stakeholders such as political leaders and policy-makers, and parents, principals, community members, and students. To provide contextual information and statistical profiles that support the interview data, our team has also completed ten-year historical and statistical reports of four high schools in our research communities of Pangnirtung, Clyde River, Rankin Inlet, and Kugluktuk. These reports focus on grades 10, 11, and 12. They reveal information specific to each school and highlight educational indicators such as school attendance, teacher retention, and graduation rates. This project involves a partnership between the Department of Education within the Government of Nunavut, and the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities, which is a territorial organization that represents 26 community groups that represent parental voices in education. The research program emphasizes the involvement of Inuit researchers and community members, responding to community priorities, and returning all the data to communities in ways that communicate the findings and inform all stakeholders.

People

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Publications

Articles Published in Refereed Publications

McGregor, H. E., 2014, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and the Transformation of High School Education in Nunavut: History, Context and Statistical Profiles of Four Schools, To be presented as part of session, Education Research by Northerners for Northerners: High School Case Studies, Social Studies Program Evaluation and Nurturing Indigenous Scholars in the Arctic. International Arctic Social Sciences Association Eighth International Congress, 22-26 May, Prince George, BC., , Accepted

Nadozi, A., Lee, C., Delaney, L., Bickford, R., Moynah, S. and Ramjattan, V., 2014, Liberating the Spirit Through Education Transformed: The Teacup Memorial for Roxana Chu-Yee Ng., *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, v.3, no.2, 167-175, Published

Walton, F. & Tompkins, J., Hainnu, J., Alex, J. and Toney, D., 2015, School Leadership in Inuit and Mi'kmaq Contexts in Canada, *School Leadership in Diverse Contexts*, , Accepted

Walton, F., O'Leary, D., Arnaquq, N. and Qanatsiaq-Anooe, N., 2014, Inuit Women Educational Leaders in Nunavut, *Cahiers du CIÉRA*, 12e numéro. Les Femmes Inuit et le Leadership. *Inuit Women and Leadership*, 15-46, Published

Wheatley, K. and Walton, F., 2013, Diverse Voices: High School Success Factors Identified by Nunavut Youth, Presentation at ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting, Halifax, NS., , Accepted

Specialized Publications

McGregor, H. E., 2013, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and the Transformation of High School Education in Nunavut: History, Background and Statistical Profile of Kugluktuk High School, Unpublished research report, , Accepted

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Walton, F., Sandiford, M., McAuley, A., Arnaquq, N., Wheatley, K. and Mearns, R., 2013, Alluriarniaq Stepping Forward: Youth Perspectives on Education in Nunavut, A documentary video, , Accepted