

# Environmental Education: Linking Knowledge on Adaptations to Environmental Change from Youth, Elders, Scientists and Locals in the Hudson Bay Region

G. Arnold

Department of Environment and Geography, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba



## Abstract

This research will document youth, scientist, local and Elders perspectives of environmental change in the Hudson Bay region, and how their perspectives will facilitate adaptations to environmental change.

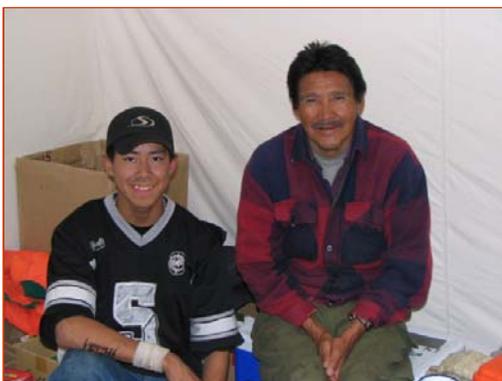
This research will highlight the importance of the diverse types of knowledge as a basis to resolve issues regarding environmental change in the Hudson Bay region. This will require a greater social awareness and consciousness created by dialogue between the local community and academic community. The results of my research may be a useful educational tool for youth, Elders and scientists to better understand each other.

## Introduction

Environmental change in the Eastern Arctic has been studied for many years, using scientific, local, and indigenous knowledge. Environmental change is a heavily studied topic, both in the social sciences and in applied sciences. Many video documentaries have been used as a tool for learning, and educating the general public, as well as local people in the western Arctic by comparing scientific views with traditional and local knowledge.

### Video and Youth

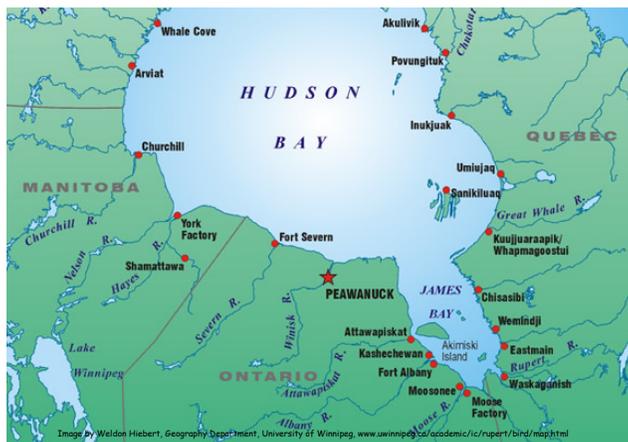
By bringing together young people who have a technological advantage and prowess over their parents and grandparents, and elders in communities such as Churchill and Arviat, we may see an increase in the transfer of local and traditional knowledge via communication tools such as video and community gatherings. Connecting scientists with the youth and elders in order to come up with solutions to a baseline of social and scientific knowledge will be the first step in better communication and education of environmental change in the Arctic. We may also see a breakdown of the barriers of compartmentalized knowledge and start to connect those groups into one common knowledge base.



Cameron Boniface and Gene Rabisca from Fort Good Hope, Loon Lake NWT. August 2005

## Research communities

The research site is located in Churchill MB, on a research vessel traveling in Hudson Bay, and the remote community of Arviat North of Churchill in Nunavut.



## Objectives

- Through this project I aim to qualify aspects of environmental change and document the interests of environmental education among a diverse group of people with invested interests in the future of the Eastern Arctic as it relates to climate change. My objectives are to:
  - Organize dialogue between youth and the rest of the local community of Churchill in order to capture the interaction on digital video.
  - To demonstrate the role of youth in using indigenous, scientific, and local knowledge to communicate thoughts and solutions to environmental change.
  - To work with the Schools on Board program to document the interaction between youth from across Canada and scientists on board research ships, local people of Hudson Bay, and youth of Hudson Bay.



Cameron Boniface and Simon Wiley, Loon Lake NWT, August 2005

## Methodology

1) I will conduct preliminary research in November 2005 which will include documenting youth, Elders, community members and scientist perspectives on adapting to environmental change in Churchill. This will provide a critical community based foundation of research themes for my 2006 research in May and June of 2006 for a second field season.

2) From May to June 2006 I will set up and video tape interviews with at least 5 individuals from each of the different knowledge bases including: indigenous, local, scientific, and youth demographics. These interviews will take place in Churchill Manitoba, Arviat Nunavut, and on board the CCGS Amundsen in collaboration with the Schools on Board program. In addition to my final thesis I will produce a video documentary.

I am collaborating with local school teachers, students, the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, business owners, governmental organizations, Northern Rangers, and Métis, Dene, Cree and Inuit artists and hunters. My study will be reviewed by the interviewees before final publication. Local high school students will have the opportunity to be a part of the film making and interview process.

Accessibility of the final books and video's to the communities of Churchill and Arviat is a priority in this project. The video documentary will be publicly released at an open house. A complimentary copy of the video will also be given to participants in the study and to anyone in the community interested in using the video for educational purposes. A copy of the thesis will be available at the local library and town offices.



Ginger Arnold, Loon Lake, August 2005 (Photo by Gene Rabisca)

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