

NATIONAL INUIT STRATEGY ON RESEARCH

Research in the past has been carried out on Inuit and Inuit lands without consent, engagement, or Inuit governance. There has been increasing focus on Northern research from the Government of Canada over the past decade. In response, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the national representative body for Inuit in Canada, published the National Inuit Strategy on Research. The goal of the Strategy is to:

- Educate researchers on the colonial history of research in Inuit Nunangat
- Advance Inuit governance in research
- Ensure that research is mutually beneficial, impactful, and empowering to communities
- Build capacity for communities to do their own research
- Ensure that research is ethical and adheres to Inuit research principles

Development of Inuit-specific research principles is still underway, however, *previous work from ITK and the Nunavut Research Institute emphasizes the following principles as important for researchers who are working with Inuit communities:

Respect

Respect for local cultures, customs, authority, and knowledge

Patience

Take time to get to know people and build trust. Spend time visiting before research begins.

Capacity-building

Share your knowledge where appropriate. Create opportunities for training and skills development. Hire and purchase locally.

Clear communication

Communicate often, honestly, and openly. Take time to explain when necessary.

Willingness to learn

Be open to trying new things and learning from the community. Try to learn and use the local language.

*Negotiating Research Relationships with Inuit Communities: A Guide for Researchers