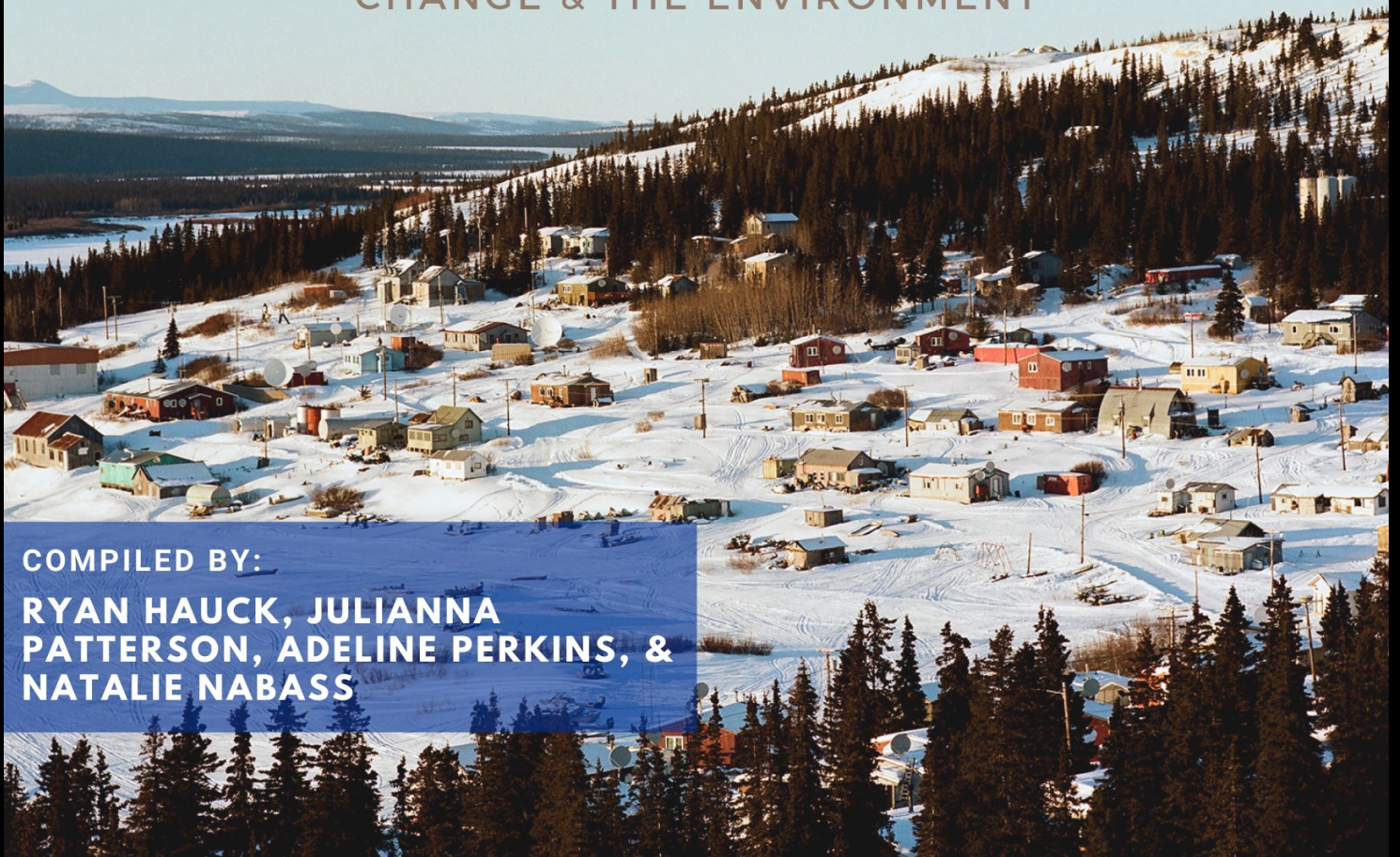


RESOURCE GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS



# ARCTIC SERIES 2021

THE ARCTIC TODAY: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, CLIMATE  
CHANGE & THE ENVIRONMENT



COMPILED BY:  
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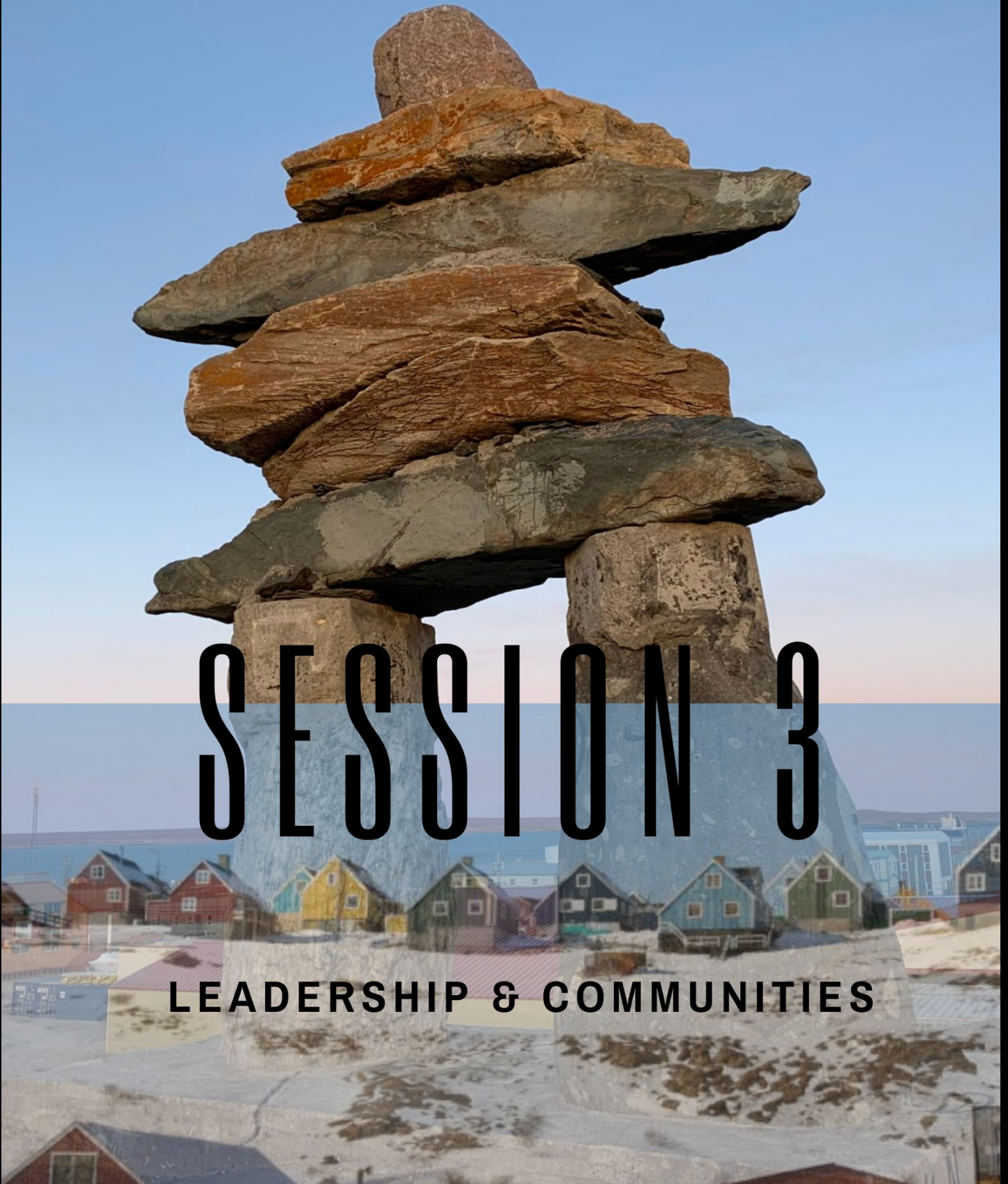


MARCH 11TH, 2021

4:00 - 6:00PM PST

# SESSION 3

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITIES



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# Table of Contents

Outlining Standards .....	pp. 5-6
Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards.....	p. 5
College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Frameworks for Social Studies State Standards.....	p. 6
Educating for Global Competence.....	p. 7
Key Terms.....	p. 8
Learning Objectives.....	p. 9
Introduction to Session Speakers.....	p. 10
Arctic Geopolitics.....	pp. 11-28
Background on the Arctic Council.....	p. 12
Arctic Council & Indigenous Influence.....	pp. 13-15
Resource Management Between Inuit & Government .....	pp. 15-17
Arctic Exceptionalism/Cooperation or Conflict.....	p. 18
European Union, Canada, China.....	p. 19
Russia.....	p. 20
United States.....	p. 21
Understanding the Impact of Geopolitics & Governance in Nunavut, CA.....	p. 22-28
Structural Challenges in Nunavut, CA.....	pp. 23-28
Food Insecurity.....	pp. 25-26
Culture.....	p. 27
Child Welfare & Education.....	p. 28
Sovereignty in the Arctic.....	p. 29
Curriculum Resources.....	p. 30
Photo & Chart Bibliography.....	pp. 31-32
Thank You Sponsors.....	p. 33



# Outlining Standards

## A Note on Learning Standards Presented in this Guide

Three sets of standards have been linked to each of the learning objectives in this packet. The **Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards** and the accompanying Grade Level Requirements are the social studies standards for WA State.

The **College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards** are the standards published by the National Council for the Social Studies. Guiding the packet as a whole is the Framework for Global Learning created by the Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers titled *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (2011).

Cross-objective standards are listed at the beginning of the packet, and content-specific standards can be found after each learning objective.

The standards provided have been selected for relevance, but are not exclusive: many other standards, such as Common Core, may be applicable to the resources and learning objectives identified in this packet. The intention for this packet's organization is to provide educators with an idea of resources available and possible uses for resources. Users should feel free to create their own learning objectives and to select resources according to the specific needs of their classrooms.

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

## WASHINGTON STATE K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARDS

There are five EALRs in Social Studies, one for each of the discipline areas: civics, economics, geography, and history, and a fifth for social studies skills.

### (1) Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

### (2) Social Studies EALR 2: ECONOMICS

The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

### (3) Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

### (4) Social Studies EALR 4: HISTORY

The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes on local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

### (5) Social Studies EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

## COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE C<sub>3</sub> FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The C<sub>3</sub> Framework is organized into the four Dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

The four Dimensions are as follows:

- (1) Developing questions and planning inquiries;
- (2) Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;
- (3) Evaluating sources and using evidence;
- (4) Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

DIMENSION 1: DEVELOPING QUESTIONS AND PLANNING INQUIRES	DIMENSION 2: APPLYING DISCIPLINARY TOOLS AND CONCEPTS	DIMENSION 3: EVALUATING SOURCES AND USING EVIDENCE	DIMENSION 4: COMMUNICATING CONCLU- SIONS AND TAKING INFORMED ACTION
Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civics</li><li>• Economics</li><li>• Geography</li><li>• History</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gathering and Evaluating Sources</li><li>• Developing Claims and Using Evidence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions</li><li>• Taking Informed Action</li></ul>

Dimension 2 has four disciplinary subsections: **(1) Civics; (2) Economics; (3) Geography; (4) History**. Each disciplinary subsection has three to four additional categories, which provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline.

### C<sub>3</sub> Framework Organization

CIVICS	ECONOMICS	GEOGRPAHY	HISTORY
Civic and Political Institutions	Economic Decision Making	Geographic Representations: Special Views of the World	Change, Continuity, and Context
Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Exchange and Markets	Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Religions, and Culture	Perspective
Processes, Rules, and Laws	The National Economy	Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Historical Sources and Evidence
	The Global Economy	Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Causation and Argumentation



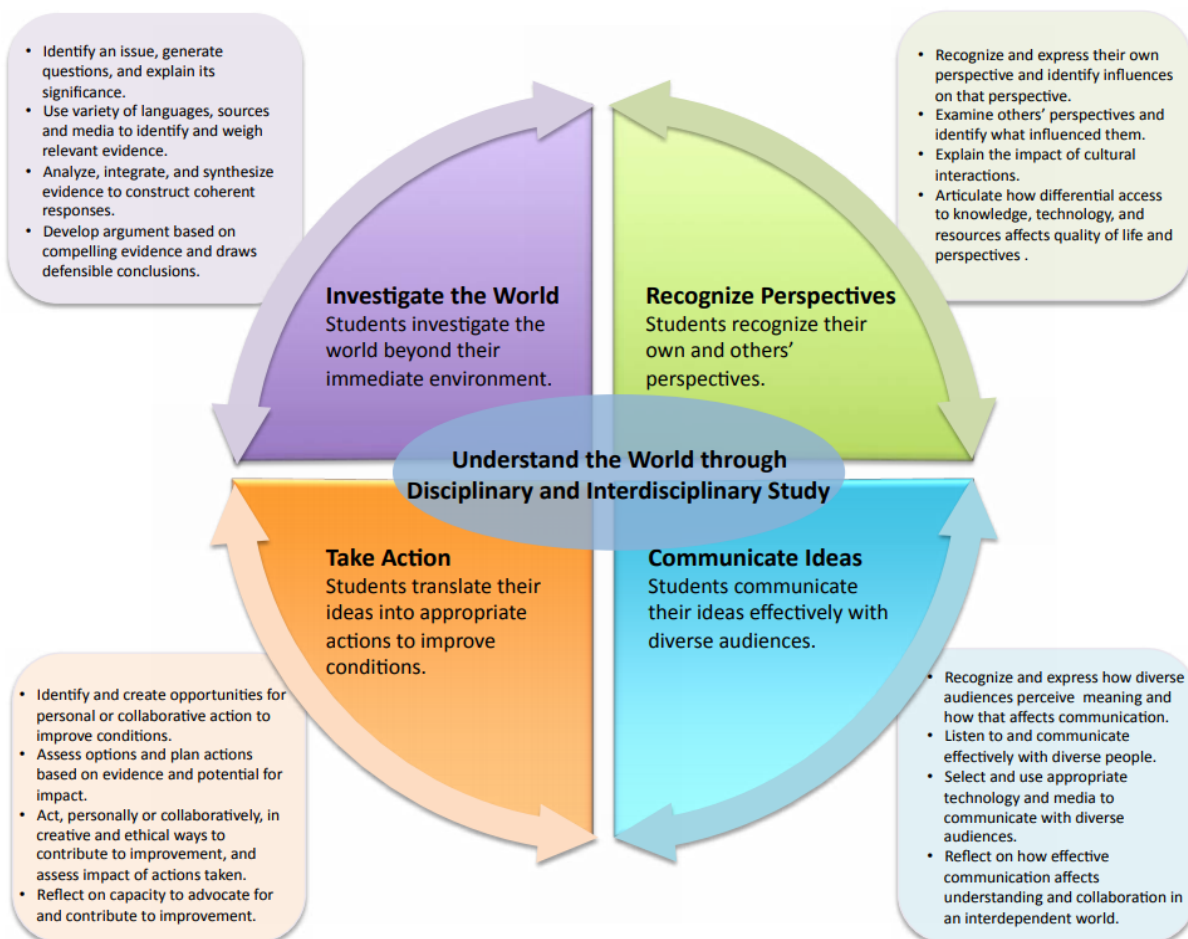
# Educating for Global Competence

Frameworks taken from *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers 2011).

**“Global competence is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance” (Chapter 2).**

Globally competent students are able to perform the following four competences:

1. **Investigate the world** beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
2. **Recognize perspectives** others’ and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
3. **Communicate ideas** effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
4. **Take action** to improve conditions, viewing themselves as players in the world and



# Key Terms

**Arctic Council:** is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. It was formally established in 1996.

**Aleut International Association:** represents the Indigenous peoples of Aleut descent in the United States and the Russian Federation.

**Gwich'in Council International:** represents 9,000 Gwich'in in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Yukon, and Alaska as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council. GCI supports Gwich'in by amplifying our voice on sustainable development and the environment at the international level to support resilient and healthy communities.

**Arctic Athabaskan Council:** was established to defend the rights and further the interests internationally of American and Canadian Athabaskan member First Nation governments. The AAC also seeks to foster a greater understanding of the shared heritage of Athabaskan peoples of Arctic North America.

**Inuit Circumpolar Council:** works on behalf of the Inupiat of the North Slope, Northwest and Bering Straits Regions; St. Lawrence Island Yupik; and the Central Yup'ik and Cup'ik of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region in Southwest Alaska.

**Saami Council:** is a voluntary Saami organization (a non-governmental), with Saami member organizations in Finland, Russia, Norway and Sweden. Since it was founded in 1956 the Saami Council has actively dealt with Saami policy tasks. Self-Determination

**Russian Association of Indigenous People's of the North:** represents 40 Indigenous peoples totaling over 250,000 people. The peoples represented in RAIPON live in 60 percent of the whole Russian Federation territory, including the North, Siberia and the Far East.

**Transnational Governance:** suggests that territorial grounds and national autonomy or sovereignty cannot be taken for granted. It also implies, however, that governance activity is embedded in particular geopolitical structures and hence enveloped in multiple and interacting institutional webs.

**Sovereignty:** describes the power of a state to govern itself and its subjects. In this sense, sovereignty is the highest source of the law.

**Arctic Exceptionalism:** anticipates and promotes the building of a peaceable regime across the circumpolar north. For three decades, scholars have developed and mobilized various formulations of the concept, suggesting that either different norms or rules are or should be followed in the Arctic region, or that the region is exempt from "normal" drivers of international affairs.

**Geopolitics:** refers to a strategy for national identity and development based on a country's geographical characteristics and natural resources.

**Resource Management:** usually refers to the responsibility of governments to ensure that natural resources under their jurisdiction are used wisely or conserved.

**Intergenerational Transmission:** in the social sciences, intergenerational transmission refers to the transfer of economic or social status across generations. These cross-generational transfers occur through a variety of means, including the inheritance of occupational status, educational attainment, earnings, and wealth.

**Decolonization:** the process in which a country that was previously a colony (= controlled by another country) becomes politically independent.

**Food Insecurity:** is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.



# Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify, analyze, and discuss the role of the Arctic Council in governing the Arctic region.
2. Students will be able to identify policy issues outlined by the Arctic Council and evaluate their effectiveness in addressing political, economic, social, and environmental issues.
3. Students will be able to identify and evaluate how Arctic Indigenous communities are playing a leading role in local governance.
4. Students will be able to identify, assess, and discuss Arctic Indigenous agency, including the role of regional and local governments in addressing political, economic, social, and environmental issues.
5. Students will be able to identify, discuss, and evaluate the role of international organizations in addressing Arctic policy issues.
6. Students will be able to analyze and discuss the geography and history of the circumpolar world.
7. Students will be able to analyze and discuss the complexity of Arctic social, political, and environmental systems from interdisciplinary perspectives.
8. Students will be able to identify, analyze, and discuss technological innovations for Arctic sustainability. In addition, students will be able to identify, discuss, and make connections between indigenous knowledge and environmental sustainability.
9. Utilizing the Arctic as a case study, students will be able to evaluate and make connections between local and global issues across selected regions of the world.

## Session Take-A-Ways

1. **Nunavut communities are very different and possess substantial challenges and enormous strengths – this reminds us to avoid a pan-Indigenous perspectives to policy change and any discussion of solutions**
2. **Food insecurity is one of many structural issues facing Inuit communities in the Arctic**
3. **Solutions must be community-driven**

# Introduction to Session Speakers

**LIZA  
MACK**



*Dr. Liza Mack* serves as the Executive Director for Aleut International Association, one of the Indigenous Permanent Participant organizations on the Arctic Council (that Jason introduced us to). The Aleut International Associations represents the Aleut people that live in both Russia and the United States. Liza is Aleut born and raised in a small village at the end of the Alaska Peninsula called King Cove. She graduated with her doctorate in Indigenous Studies from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2019. Liza has worked with the University of Washington leading a workshop on the Aleutian Islands in 2018. A terrific publication on the Aleutian Islands and communities, co-edited by Liza Mack, can be

found at this web link: <https://jsis.washington.edu/research/ipi/ipi-arctic/arctic-policy-research/arctic-and-international-relations-series/>

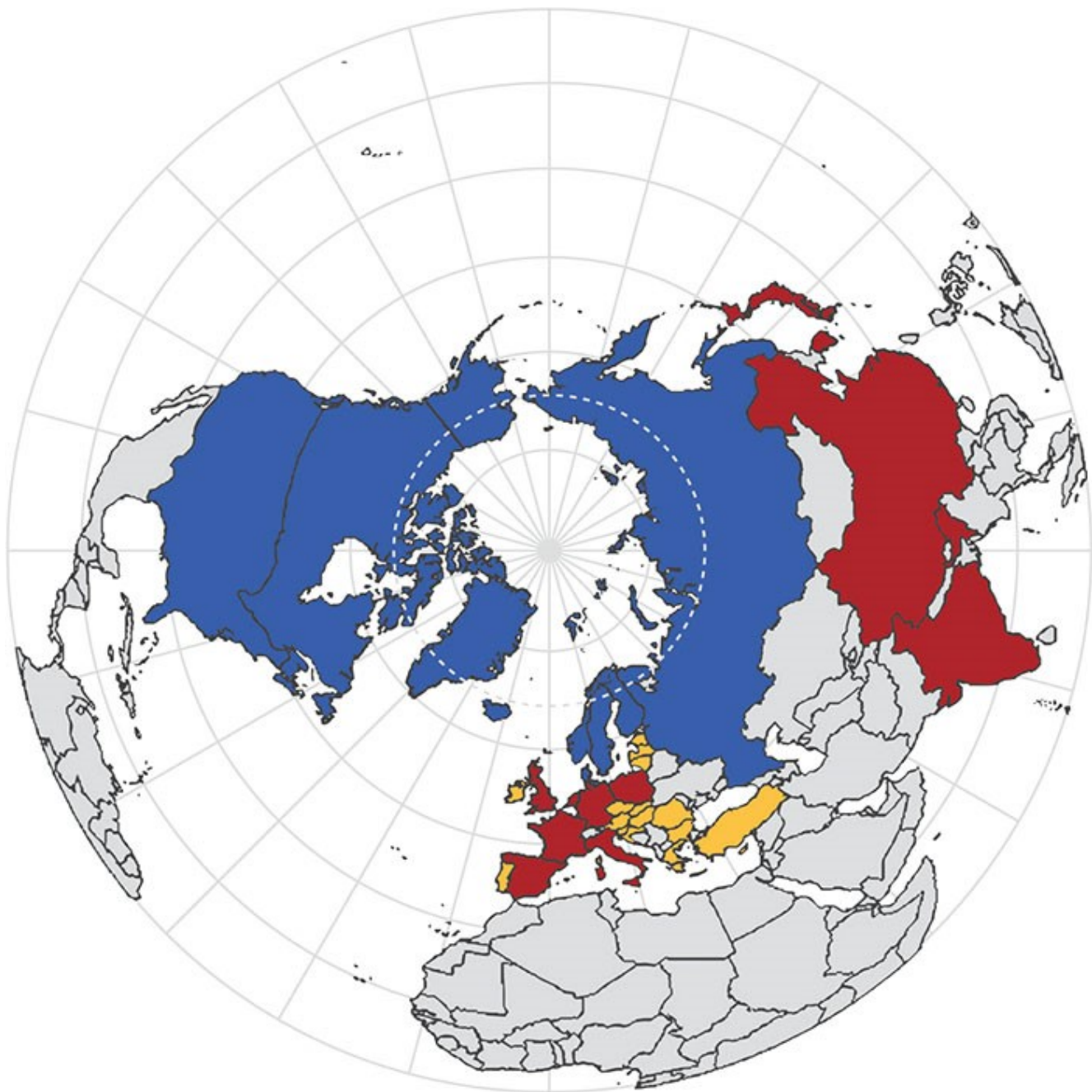
*Dr. Patricia Johnston*, is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow with the Canadian Studies Center in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies - one of the most prestigious postdoctoral fellowships in Canada. Patricia's research interests are in social services, support and well-being in the Canadian Arctic. She has worked in social services for the governments of British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and the Inuit territory of Nunavut as well as with the Inuvialuit Game Council in the Northwest Territories. Patricia is a recent co-recipient of a Global Innovations Fund grant with Canadian studies to build a community of scholars and to produce the special issue of a publication on social services in the Arctic and beyond.

**PATRICIA  
JOHNSTON**





# Arctic Geopolitics



## ARCTIC COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

Member States

Permanent Observers

Ad Hoc Observers

# Background on the Arctic Council

## [Arctic Circle - The Arctic Council](#)

The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. It was formally established in 1996. This source is the official website of the Arctic Council and provides extensive resources and information.



# ARCTIC COUNCIL



## [The Arctic Council Explained](#)

One of the major players in forming Arctic Policy is the Arctic Council. The United States assumed chairmanship of that body this year. Here's a short video explaining the Arctic Council.

## [Arctic Council Presentations, United States Research Commission](#)

This presentation provides a background of the Arctic Council, including information on its foundation, member states, permanent participants, observers, governance, working groups, and council structure.

## [Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress, Congressional Research Services, August 20, 2020](#)

An extensive overview of the US's role and responsibilities in the Arctic Circle intended for Congressional members.



## [A Brief History of the Arctic Council](#)

This infographic offers a glimpse into the history of the Arctic Council, telling a story of its achievements and its relationship with the rest of the world along the way.



# Arctic Council & Indigenous Influence

## [Arctic Security and Dialogue: Assurance Through Defense Diplomacy. Modern Diplomacy](#)

For over two decades, key stakeholders have been confident that the Arctic Council was the appropriate forum for discussing most non-military Arctic issues. Today, security concerns are heightening with new Arctic players and the days of a stable Arctic region, free from intervening security concerns, may be facing headwinds as military activity and rhetoric have increased over the past few years. Strategic competition in the Arctic has reemerged and is bolstered by recent rhetoric and increased investment from Washington in its national security agenda in the Arctic as well as associated NATO military activity.

## [Russian Indigenous Groups Call on Elon Musk Not to Buy Battery Metals from Nornickel](#)

Tesla is a world leader in electric cars, while Nornickel is a global leader in environmental damage. This doesn't match, claims Aborigen Forum, a network of independent experts, activists and Russian indigenous groups who see their homeland being destroyed by pollution.

## [EU Seeks Input to New Arctic Strategy, asks NGOS and Indigenous Peoples to Contribute](#)

Launched in 2008, and updated in 2016, EU's Arctic policy is not old but as changes take place rapidly, the Commission and External Action Service want to re-examine the role of the EU in Arctic affairs. NGOs, indigenous peoples, local municipalities, as well as other neighboring Arctic states, financial institutions and international organizations are on the list of whom the EU wants feedback from.

## ['We're Not Giving Up.' The Fight to Save Caribou from Arctic Drilling](#)

As the Trump administration edges closer to opening up oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Gwich'in communities are taking action. "As Indigenous peoples, we're not alarmists," Tizya-Tramm said. "We understand economics and we understand development, but we also understand our time-immemorial relationship with the environment and with the animals."



## Form and Function: The Future of the Arctic Council

A meeting was held in Fairbanks, Alaska where top leaders discussed what is working well, what needs improvement in the Arctic Council, what should be left alone, and recommendations for future strategic planning.



## Geopolitics of the Arctic

The Arctic covers roughly 14 million square kilometers of water and solid ice. It's almost the size of Antarctica. For most of its part, the region is inhospitable. In the summer, the weather can rise above the melting point, yet, in the winter, it can plunge down to minus 45 degrees Celsius. This situation, however, is not to last. In the coming decades, climate change will make the Arctic passages and resources become more accessible. Given the abundance of resources and critical trade routes, it should come as no surprise that the Arctic will turn into a new geopolitical flashpoint.

## Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada

Our challenge is to rebuild an understanding of our past by using all of the information we have from our legends, our lived experiences, our knowledge about the Arctic and Subarctic environments and its wildlife, and information now available to us through archeology.



### Arctic Council States

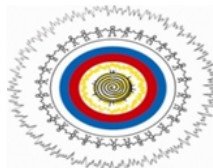
- Canada, Finland, Norway,
- United States, Russia, Iceland,
- Denmark, Sweden

Gwich'in Council  
International



### Arctic Council Permanent Participants

- Aleut International Association
- Gwich'in Council International
- Arctic Athabaskan Council
- Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Saami Council
- Russian Association of indigenous People's of the North.



# Resource Management Between Inuit & Government

## Northern Riches

- Territorial claims in the Arctic Ocean, in part disputed
- == Unclaimed area



### [Canada's Relationship with Inuit: A History of Policy and Program Development, Government of Canada](#)

The history of Inuit relations with the Government of Canada has been a story of negotiation, accommodation and resistance. The relationship has developed around a long conversation of rights recognition and struggle for voice within the Canadian political system. Inuit have made tremendous progress in this, and speak from a position of authority and strength on many issues of concern to them. The conversation and negotiation continues, however, as the story is played out around such issues as control over land and resources, the environment, social programs and the extent and pace of change in the face of maintenance of language, culture and traditional lifestyle. These complex issues and negotiations occur on many different levels, both in the domestic and international spheres.

### [Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework, Government of Canada.](#)

The Arctic and Northern Policy Framework is a profound change of direction for the Government of Canada. For too long, Canada's Arctic and northern residents, especially Indigenous people, have not had access to the same services, opportunities, and standards of living as those enjoyed by other Canadians. In a significant shift, the federal government, Indigenous peoples, Inuit, First Nations and Métis, 6 territorial and provincial governments (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and Manitoba) contributed to this framework together.



### [Navigating Arctic Resources: Preservation Versus Exploitation](#)

Navigating Arctic Resources: Preservation versus Exploitation Justin Strauss, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Dartmouth College.



# An Arctic Heavy Fuel Oil Ban: The Story So Far

Goal: Protect the Arctic from risks posed by Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO)



The number of HFO-fuelled ships operating in the Arctic has increased by 35% between 2015 and 2017.



Three quarters of Arctic summer sea ice has disappeared since the 1970s.



As Arctic shipping increases, so does the risk of oil spills and emissions of climate-warming black carbon (BC).

## Double Threat

**1** In the event of a spill, HFO is nearly impossible to clean up in remote, cold, icy waters. A **spill of HFO** would **devastate** the **Arctic** environment and put the livelihoods of those that rely on it at risk.

**2** **HFO combustion** produces high levels of **BC emissions**. BC is an extremely potent climate pollutant and **accelerates melting** when deposited on Arctic snow and ice.

## Background

Given the severe risks associated with **HFO**, the international shipping community **banned its use and carriage by ships around Antarctica in 2011**.

**A ban on HFO in the Arctic was considered in 2013** during the deliberations on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Polar Code, but while some member states were supportive, **no consensus was reached**.

## Civil Society Speaks Up

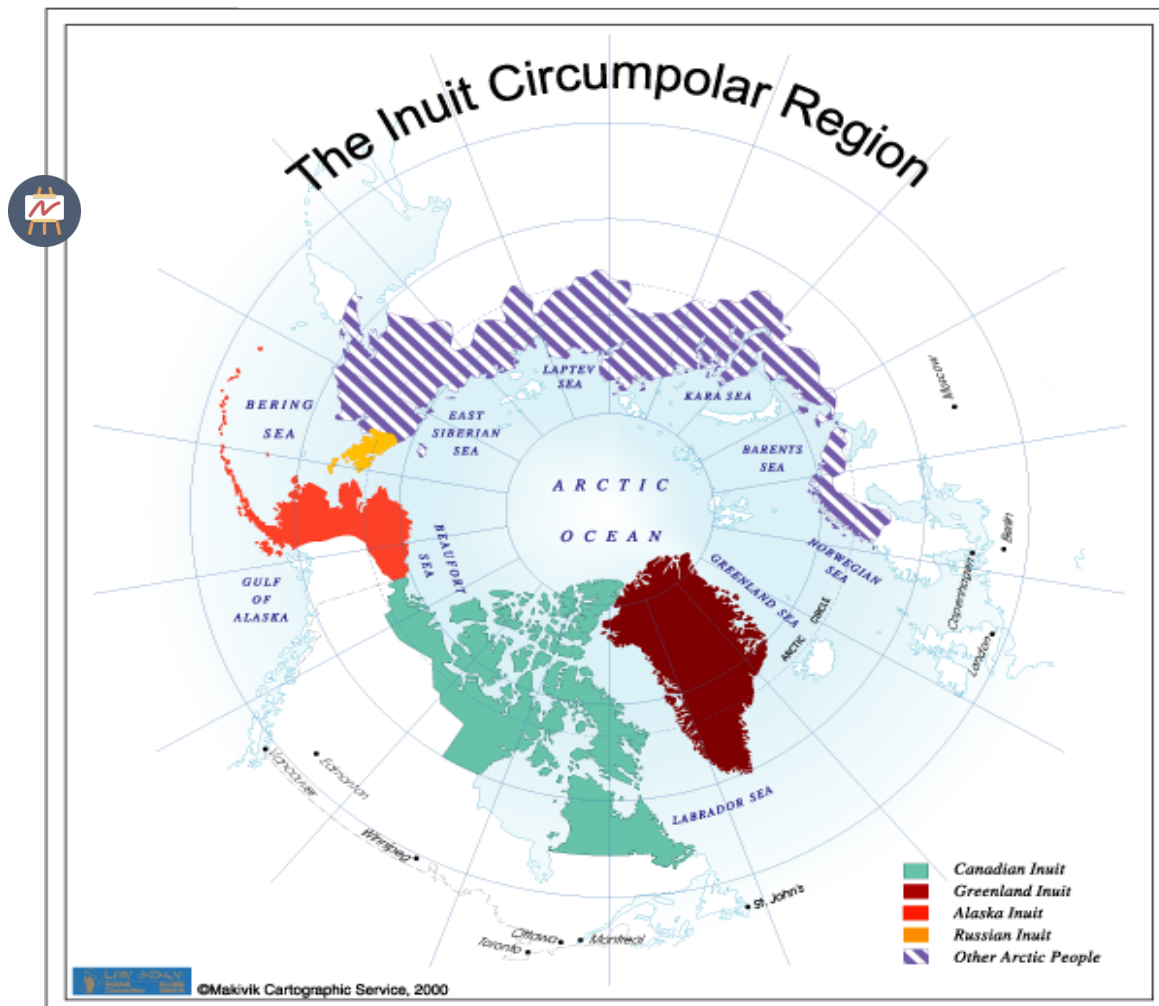
In **2016**, a coalition of international organizations formed the **Clean Arctic Alliance**, and **called on the IMO to adopt a ban** on the use and carriage of HFO as fuel by ships operating **in the Arctic**.

### [Resource Management—Arctic—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

Resource management within Arctic Refuge is designed to maintain the natural environment, and its diversity of plants and animals, with minimal evidence of human impacts. Wildlife populations and their habitats are allowed to function and change through ecological processes.

### [Decolonizing Co-Management in Northern Canada, Cultural Survival Quarterly Magazine](#)

In all three types of agreements (land claims-based agreements, conflict- or crises-based co-management agreements, and multi-stakeholder environmental management agreements.), the state-sponsored institution of environmental resource management has played a pivotal role in marginalizing and muting Aboriginal systems of management, knowledge, authority, and responsibility—systems that have proven to be sustainable for generations. It would be difficult to conceive of a more insidious form of cultural assimilation than co-management as currently practiced in northern Canada. At the same time, certain steps may help redress some of the current systemic inequities in the Canadian co-management experience, thereby creating space for actual inclusion of Aboriginal peoples and their knowledge and management systems into co-management practice.





# Arctic Exceptionalism



## [Contemporary Arctic Meets World Politics: Rethinking Arctic Exceptionalism in the Age of Uncertainty](#)

This makes the case that the idea of the Arctic being an exceptional place or zone of peace needs to be rethought as it is increasingly subject to global forces. It is further highlighted through spill-over effects as seen in the US' decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement.

# Cooperation or Conflict

## [Conflict and Geopolitical Issues in the Arctic](#)

It is hard to deny the increasing importance of this region for military, commercial, and environmental purposes. Despite its consideration as an international site, countries are trying to prove that the Arctic's shelf is an extension of their own borders, thereby claiming its vast energy resources

## [China, Russia, and Arctic Geopolitics](#)

China and Russia have been dominant players in the future of the Arctic region. Russia, one of the 8 countries with territory above the arctic circle, has been advocating for the development of the Northern Sea Route along its Siberian coast. China's less obvious role still puzzles experts on whether Sino-Russian relations is a true cooperative alliance or merely one of convenience.

## [Arctic Governance](#)

This outlines the challenges and recommendations for Arctic governance. The changing environment may lead to states competing against each other for resources putting tremendous technical, environmental, and operational channels at risk.



## [Security and Governance in a Changing Arctic: A Norwegian Perspective](#)

For Arctic littoral states such as Norway, changing dynamics in the Arctic as a result of climate change and increased commercial activity will bring new challenges in the future. Deputy Foreign Minister Halvorsen will offer his perspectives on the effects of a shifting geopolitical climate on the Arctic and the implications for Norwegian foreign and security policy, for NATO efforts to enhance deterrence and defense in the High North and North Atlantic, and for Arctic governance.



# European Union

## [The Arctic: What are the EU's Interests in This Rapidly Changing Region?](#)

Strategic relations between the EU and the United States, Canada and Russia is of great legal and economic importance to the EU. The EU continues to seek its legitimacy in the Arctic Council.

## [Iceland Wants to Preserve Arctic from US-China tensions](#)

With recent critique from the US towards China about their self-designated title as a "Near-Arctic nation" as well as rising interest between both nations towards the arctic, the Icelandic government is working to preserve the Arctic as a low-tension zone.

# Canada

## [Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy](#)

This statement showcases Canada's priorities in the Arctic region. It also aims to send a clear message: "Canada is in control of its Arctic lands and waters and takes its stewardship role and responsibilities seriously."

# China

## [Understanding China's Arctic Activities](#)

China has been taking a long term view of developments and opportunities in the Arctic region. It even published its own Arctic Strategy declaring itself a 'near-Arctic' state and outlining a 'Polar Silk Road' economic plan.

## [The Increasing Security Focus in China's Arctic Policy](#)

Perception of China's interest in the Arctic varies between stakeholders. Ultimately, China's Arctic Policy focuses on commercial opportunities as well as using different methods such as navigation and satellite technology to support their claims to Arctic territory.



# Russia

## [It's Time to Draw Borders on the Arctic Ocean](#)

Russia has been showing a great interest in the arctic as the change signals an opportunity. Resources like oil and gas as well as more navigating waters makes it of special interest to arctic states. Claims of arctic shelves overlap between countries like Russia and Denmark as well as Canada.



## [The Ukraine Crisis Moves North. Is Arctic Conflict Spill-over Driven by Material Interests?](#)

The Ukraine crisis affected the region of the arctic among others. This article examines the spill overs of the conflict based on a case-study of the first 18 months of the Ukraine crisis and concludes that conflict spillover is not impossible, although unlikely, in the arctic.

## [Russia Holds the Key to the Future of Arctic Exceptionalism](#)

The uniqueness of the Arctic is often discussed within the realms of it being outside of geopolitical confrontations. However, fears of Russian military action are making individuals concerned about the lasting presence of Arctic Exceptionalism.



## [High-Stakes Arctic Race Heats Up for U.S., Russia, and China | WSJ](#)

Warmer temperatures are melting Arctic ice and raising tensions as the U.S. looks to expand its presence in newly open waters. The problem: Russia and China also have growing trade, energy and military ambitions there.

# United States

## [Could Alaska Be The New Center For Global Trade?](#)

This YouTube video details that there may be a new boom appearing in Alaska as new shipping routes appear due to global warming.

## [Iceberg Dead Ahead: The Future of U.S. Arctic Strategy](#)

The Arctic region poses unique challenges for the US to maintain its global presence. This suggests that strategy should be based upon increasing domain awareness, engaging partners and allies, and countering Russian revisionism.

## [As 'Arctic Exceptionalism' Melts Away, the US Isn't Sure What It Wants Next](#)

Increasing US action in the Arctic has challenged the conception of "Arctic Exceptionalism" and has paved the way for Russia to be increasingly confrontational to the traditionally tension-free region. Even with a history of peaceful agreements and cooperation in the Arctic, interest from other countries has made the US indecisive about how to proceed in the Arctic.

## [US-Russia Cooperation in the Arctic](#)

In order to combat climate change that is impacting the Arctic region, Russian and US cooperation needs to be focused and clear. Improvement in oil-spill response, fisheries management, search-and-rescue coordination, and joint research initiatives will help counter the harmful effects of climate change.

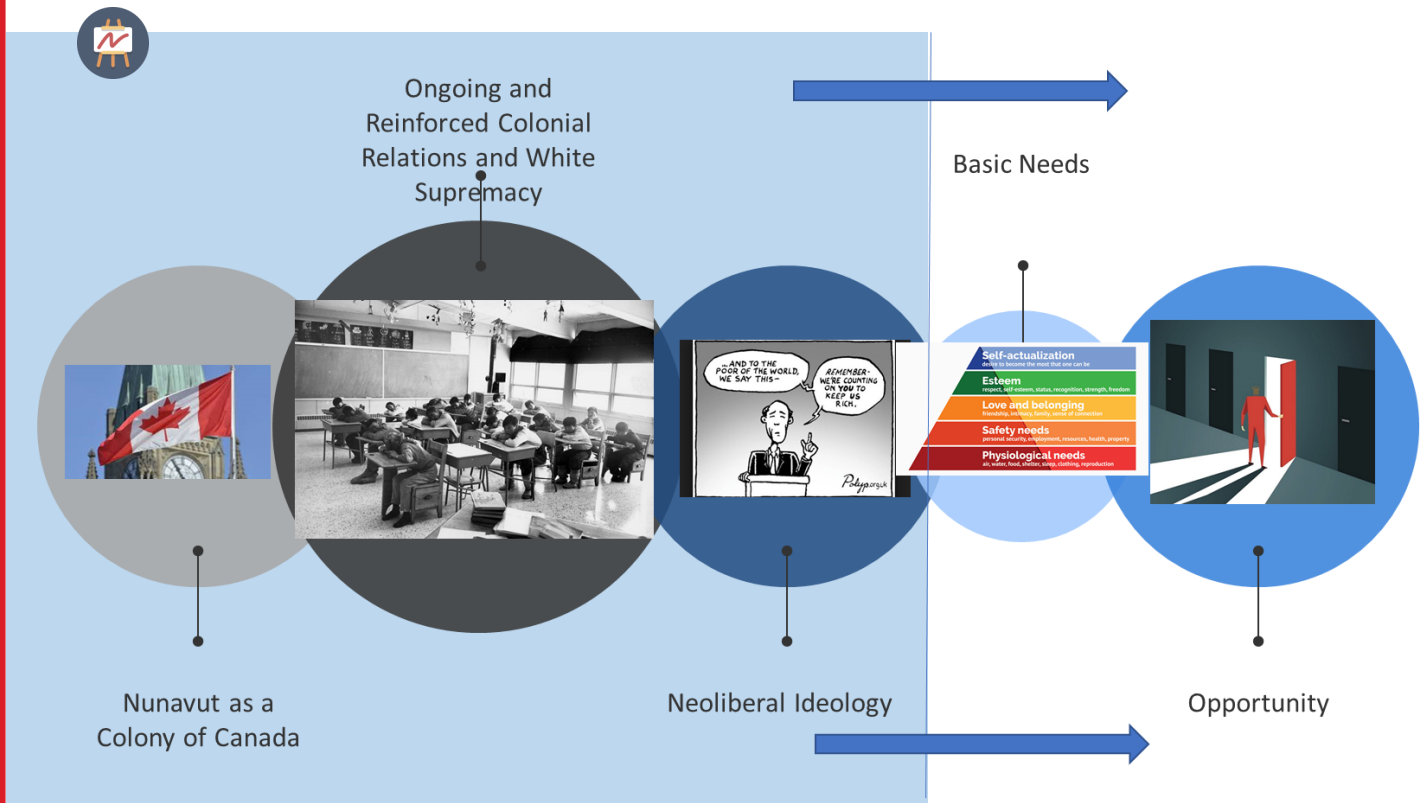


## [What You May Not Know About Sino-Russian Cooperation in the Arctic and Why it Matters](#)

With concerning trends regarding Russia and China working together in the Arctic, it is important that the United States watches the interactions between them to help divide cooperation between the two nations and increase the United States' own engagement with the Arctic.



# Understanding the Impact of Geopolitics & Governance in Nunavut, CA



9

## Community Strengths

**Community Resilience**

**Patience and Adaptability**

**Collective Support and Care**

# Structural Challenges in Nunavut, CA

## ECONOMIC

Poverty, high dependency ratios, little employment opportunities, lack of community infrastructure

## SOCIAL

High rates of social issues such as intimate partner/ family violence, community 'stretch,' few opportunities, limited resources and services

## GEOGRAPHICAL

Poor/limited access, limited communication and basic technological issues

## CULTURAL

Changing community norms, large young population and decreasing number of Elders, Language, access to cultural activities

### State of Rural Canada

The radical nature of this change, and the structures that were created to manage the change, have created what many are now referring to as a "historical trauma" for these communities. This trauma has resulted in a range of social, cultural, and health issues that represent enormous challenges for the communities of Nunavut. While the creation of Nunavut was seen as a first step in helping these communities deal with these challenges, the first 16 years of existence of Nunavut have shown that, while some improvements are starting to be realized, many obstacles remain.

### Arctic Communities at Crisis Point Dealing with Social Issues: Nunavut Health Minister, 2018

Nunavut's health minister says more than one Arctic community is at a crisis point dealing with social problems.





The five seasons in Nunavut correspond with the growth of the wildlife and plant life that the Inuit share the land with. The Inuit have a connection to the land — a traditional knowledge passed down through generations. Each region in Nunavut has its own calendar as the seasons move across the Territory.

**Arctic Wolf**  
The Arctic Wolf Arctic has the ability to run at speeds up to 64km/hr over short distances.

**Ringed Seals**  
5' in length and 130 lbs in weight.

**Berries**  
Nunavut enjoys a brief but intense summer growing season thanks to the midnight sun. Picking blueberries, blackberries, and crowberries is a family event.

**Walrus**  
An adult walrus can reach 13' in length and over 4,000 lbs.

**Alianait**  
End of June  
A celebration of Northern Artists under 24-hours of sunlight.

**Toonik Tyme Festival**  
Early Spring  
A celebration of the return of spring with traditional Inuit activities.

**Narwhal**  
Narwhals feed at depths of 1,500 m under the ice in winter.

Season of the denning polar bear

Season of the igloo

Season of the seal pups

Season of the skin tents

Season of the nesting geese

Season of the running char

Season of the berries

Season of the caribou hunt

# The Inuit Year

**Omingmak Fiolics**  
Mid-May  
Welcome the return of spring in Cambridge Bay with three days of fun-filled festivities.

## Flowers

Small and resilient flowers flourish in the summer months.

## Birds

Nunavut is home to over 100 species of birds. Ravens, Snowy Owls, and Ptarmigans are permanent residents.

## Caribou

Caribou are an important resource, harvested for food, clothing, shelter and tools.



# Food Insecurity

## [Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada Food Insecurity](#)

Food security is a key issue for Inuit women, children and families. Pauktuutit works to incorporate the impacts of food insecurity across all policy and project goals. Pauktuutit is a member of ITK's Food Security Network Advisory Group where we advocate for the unique impacts and needs of Inuit women and youth as it relates to food insecurity.

## [Aqqiumavvik Wellness Society Resources on Healthy Eating](#)

Projects cover a wide range of wellness areas and target issues that are environmental, social, family, community, and health related. Often working together with other local organizations and always with the direction of Elders and community, the programming run through Aqqiumavvik is continually developing and adapting to needs and realities of Arviat.

## [Food Insecurity Rising in Nunavut Since Subsidy Launch, 2019.](#)

Food insecurity in Nunavut has got worse since the introduction of the Nutrition North program in 2011, according to a study published today in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. We spoke to Iqauit Mayor Madeleine Redfern about why food insecurity is such a problem in the territory.





# Benefits and threats to food security and Arctic life: seeking a ban on heavy fuel oil

LISTEN TO  
ARCTIC VOICES

Indigenous leaders are highlighting heavy fuel oil (HFO) and the potential impacts to food security, culture, and ways of life for communities in a changing Arctic.

## 1 Arctic Life

Arctic communities' way of life is intrinsically linked to the environment. For millennia, this close association to the natural environment has built and preserved:

A rich cultural heritage of ancestral traditions such as the right to [access the land and the sea](#), which in turn provides communities with food security and a nutritious local diet.



A way of life in [harmony with an environment rich in wildlife](#) driven by the seasons.



“The Oceans are the life force and source of life for us as Inuit of the Arctic.”

Sheila Watt-Cloutier - Environmental, Cultural and Human Rights Advocate

“...food security is very important for those living in our communities.”

Lisa Koperqualuk - Inuit Circumpolar Council, ICC Canada



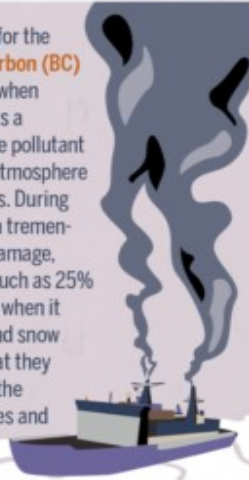
## 2 The threats

With changing climate come physical changes to the environment that both humans and wildlife rely on to thrive. The Arctic is experiencing an increase in environmental threats:

With increased shipping comes increased risks, including the potential for oil spills. In snow and ice the response to a spill is challenging, especially for a [spill of heavy fuel oil \(HFO\)](#). The consequences of any oil spills will be both long lasting and devastating.



A less visible risk for the Arctic is [Black Carbon \(BC\)](#) emitted by ships when burning HFO. BC is a short-lived climate pollutant that stays in the atmosphere only days to weeks. During that time it does a tremendous amount of damage, contributing as much as 25% of Arctic warming when it settles onto ice and snow increasing the heat they absorb, affecting the Arctic communities and environment.



The loss of access to natural resources has direct economic consequences, with communities having to import food stuff at high costs (and increasing shipping in the region). It also represents a [loss of food security and way of life](#).



“Black carbon is a short-lived climate pollutant that stays in the atmosphere only days to weeks.... it does a tremendous amount of damage when it settles onto ice and snow.”

Melissa Heflin - Bering Sea Elders Group



# Culture



## [Lighting the Qulliq: The First Master of Education Program in Nunavut](#)

The impact of Western Education on Traditional Indigenous Knowledge. The decolonization of Indigenous education to prepare Inuit for roles in leadership.



## [Prohibition in Northern Canada: VICE INTL \(Canada\)](#)

Officially founded in 1999, Nunavut is the youngest territory in Canada. It's only been two generations since Canada's stewardship of the land forced the Inuit people out of their semi-nomadic way of life and into a modern sedentary one. But while the introduction of contemporary conveniences seem to have made life more comfortable, the history of Canada in the arctic is mired in tragedy, and the traumatic effects of residential schools and forced relocations are still being felt. Today, Nunavut is in a state of social crisis: Crime rates are four times the national average and the rates of suicide are more than ten times higher than the rest of Canada. If you ask people here what the driving force of the problem is, a lot of them will say: alcohol. Even though alcohol is completely illegal in some parts of the territory, it's been reported that 95 percent of police calls are alcohol-related.

## [Federal Government Commits to Funding Shelters for Inuit Women](#)

The idea to build five emergency shelters – one in each of the four regions of Inuit Nunangat and one in Ottawa, which has the largest population of urban Inuit in Canada – was championed by Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada (Pauktuutit), the national Inuit women's organization in Canada.

## [Controversies Around Endangered Indigenous Languages in the Canadian Arctic \(Part 1\)](#)

The state of Indigenous languages in Arctic countries is critical. The International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL) in 2019 raised hope to strengthen the appreciation of their importance and their links to identity, culture, and human rights. In a two-part series, I will explore the situation of Indigenous languages in Arctic countries. Instead of providing a comprehensive account of the entirety of Indigenous languages spoken in the Arctic, the aim of these articles is to highlight some issues and experiences.

## [From the United Nations to the Arctic: Celebrating Indigenous Languages](#)

Protecting Indigenous languages is important, not only because it allows communities to maintain their traditions and livelihoods, but because languages are intimately tied up with questions of identity, tradition, cultural history, and memory. Perhaps most importantly, they allow knowledge to be passed on from one generation to the next.



# Child Welfare & Education



## [Arctic Children: Preschool and School Education](#)

The nomadic school project is aimed at the analysis and evaluation of educational practices without interrupting the traditional way of life of Indigenous peoples – children of nomads, providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to function fully as effective members of both their own community and mainstream society.

## [Greenland, Denmark Ministers Receive 16 Recommendations for Improving Child Welfare In Arctic](#)

The social affairs ministers of Greenland and Denmark have received recommendations for improving child welfare in the Arctic and pledged on Friday to start implementing them starting in September, 2020.

## [Indigenous Peoples and Education in the Arctic Region](#)

Indigenous peoples of the Arctic region, such as the Aleut, Arctic Athabaskan, Gwich'in, Inuit and Sami, face significant challenges in protecting their traditional cultures and languages in the face of contemporary environmental, social and economic pressures. While the role of traditional cultures in education has improved in the past few decades, assessment of any achievements remains difficult. The present chapter provides an overview of Arctic indigenous peoples' education issues, challenges and successes.



## [Children of the Arctic](#)

Children of the Arctic is a portrait of five Native Alaskan teenagers coming of age in Barrow, Alaska - the northernmost community of the United States. As they embark on their journey into adulthood, they strive to be both modern American kids and the inheritors of an ancient whaling culture. For the Iñupiat teenagers of Barrow growing up has become more complicated than it was for their ancestors who named this place "Ukpiagvik" ("a place to hunt snowy owls"). They are the descendants of a culture that has endured for more than a millennium on this isolated, but now rapidly changing tundra. (small fee required)

# Sovereignty in the Arctic

## [America is Preparing for the Wrong Arctic Crisis](#)

The first U.S. coordinator for the Arctic is mostly a veteran of Afghan war diplomacy—but the issues in the far North aren't primarily military ones. In the Arctic, cooperation consistently prevails over conflict. It's a region where transnational governance is based on dialogue, mutual interest and respect for Indigenous rights.

## [Treaties, Modern Negotiation, and Indigenous Resource Management in the Canadian Arctic, The Arctic Institute](#)

Caught between two legal and political systems with conflicting interpretations of history, the Dehcho self-government negotiations falter. The task: the Dehcho Dene, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Canada must harmonize their competing visions through nation-to-nation partnership and treaty federalism.

## [Pesticides and Industrial Pollutants Found Atop Arctic Glaciers](#)

Svalbard, Norway has experienced minimal local industrial pollution, apart from the coal mining industry, which began when Norway gained sovereignty over the archipelago in 1920 and collapsed under government pressure in 2017. Like myriad other Arctic regions, however, Svalbard's ice, soils, and water are subject to inputs of persistent organic pollutants.

## [The Plan to Protect Indigenous Elders Living Under the Northern Lights](#)

A remote region with a thriving tourism economy, a strict shutdown, and a surprising transformation.

## [Arctic Sovereignty: A View from the North](#)

Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic waters will be challenged as a warming climate decreases the levels of polar ice coverage, thereby making navigation easier for international marine traffic.





# Curriculum Resources



## [Arctic Imperative—Canadian Geographic](#)

Use this lesson as a launching point to learn more about specific issues related to Arctic sovereignty.



## [Arctic Council Simulation](#)

Lead your students through Contemporary Sovereignty Issues in the Arctic.



## [Discovering The Arctic—Interactive Education for Schools](#)

Investigate the challenges people face, discover the wildlife and learn how the Arctic is governed.



## [A Year in the Ice](#)

Multidisciplinary lesson plans on the Arctic.



## [Lesson Plan: Debate—Should Oil Drilling Be Allowed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?](#)

This lesson plan is designed to be used in conjunction with the film Arctic Son, which captures the lifestyle of Native people (the Vuntut Gwitchin) living above the Arctic Circle in the Canadian Yukon while documenting the reunion of a father and son after a lifetime apart. This lesson asks students to conduct a role-play debate that discusses whether or not oil drilling should be allowed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



## [International development](#)

Students will discover the principal issues facing the world today, understand Canada's role in international development, and identify the needs of certain less-developed countries.



## [Arctic Expedition Primary Resource](#)

Plan an imaginary class trip to explore the extreme environment of the Arctic.



## [Lessons and Activities about Arctic Peoples](#)

Teaching about indigenous peoples and cultures in elementary school is vitally important, yet challenging. How do you ensure that your lessons are accurate and avoid stereotypes and misconceptions?



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