



Working Together: Ice Thickening Research in Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut

Project: Arctic Ice Thickening Field Test Qikiqtarjuaq

Location: Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut

Research Team Lead Organization: Arctic Reflections

Community Partners: Qikiqtarjuaq Hamlet, Hunters & Trappers Organization (HTO), SmartICE

NIRB (Nunavut Impact Review Board) File No: 25YN078

NRI (Nunavut Research Institute) Research Licence No.: 01 008 26N-M

Arctic Reflections recognizes the vital importance of engaging Inuit communities ethically and equitably in our work. As we research sea ice thickening as a climate intervention, we are committed to aligning our practices with the Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement, developed by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC). These protocols are a foundational guide for collaboration based on respect, mutual benefit, and the recognition of Inuit sovereignty and knowledge. In this document, we state our commitments to these protocols, and especially our commitment to the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent as well as our commitment to bringing community benefits and recognizing community member's contributions to the research. Next to this, our Ethics Statement is available on our website.

1. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC): The Community's Voice Matters

We are truly grateful for the warm welcome we received in Qikiqtarjuaq during our visit in September 2025, and for the positive letters of support from both the Hamlet and the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO). We are excited to work with the local community on this ice thickening research in February 2026 and beyond.

Our Approach to Consent:

- We take Free, Prior and Informed Consent very seriously. We know that trust is earned, not given, and we are committed to maintaining the trust you have placed in us.
- Community members are welcome to share any concerns or questions about our research at any time. This feedback is important to us, and we will try to be as approachable as possible.

Community Review and Feedback:

- Representatives of the HTO and Hamlet Council have kindly offered to act as our local advisors and periodically review our project. We will work closely with them to ensure open communication and respect for community priorities.
- Instead of organizing separate meetings, we will ask to be included on the agenda of regular HTO and Hamlet meetings. This way, we can hear about feedback and give updates on our work without adding extra meetings.

Community Concerns:

- We have set up a dedicated email address (qikiqtarjuaq@arcticreflections.earth) for community members to share any concerns or dissent directly to us at any time. This email will be checked regularly, and we will respond promptly.
- Community member can also voice concerns through the Qikiqtarjuaq Research Centre. In addition, we will make sure that any concerns voiced to Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) and Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq will be documented by designated contact persons and formally communicated to Arctic Reflections.
- Clear, easy-to-follow information on above process will be shared on posters displayed in well-visited places such as local stores and the community centre.
- All concerns, complaints, or requests to withdraw consent will be formally logged, acknowledged, and addressed by Arctic Reflections in consultation with at least one of these bodies, and with all three where appropriate. Where concerns indicate a loss of community support or consent, Arctic Reflections commits to adapting, suspending, or terminating its field activities until the issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the relevant Inuit organizations and the community.

Mitigation of Unforeseen Side Effects:

- This research follows the principle of no harm, ensuring that social cultural, environmental and personal well-being of the Inuit communities is protected, and it adheres to the Inuit Circumpolar Council's guidelines on the use of Inuit knowledge, and land. In the unlikely event that our research causes any material unexpected issues, we will immediately pause relevant activities and consult our local advisors from Hamlet and HTO on next steps.



Renewing Consent:

- We will ask for renewed support before any new fieldwork, such as in 2027. The community's ongoing agreement is essential to us.

2. Community Benefits and Recognizing Community Members' Contributions

Working with the community is vital for our research, and we strive to bring benefits to the community and recognizing community members' contributions.

Valuing Indigenous Knowledge:

- We believe Indigenous knowledge is just as important as scientific evidence. We will always credit and respect the insights and guidance we receive from Elders and community members.

Co-Authorship and Recognition:

- Local collaborators who contribute to our field tests will be offered co-authorship on scientific papers (with their permission). We will make sure your names and contributions are recognized in our reports and publications.

Skills and Compensation:

- We will provide on-the-job learning opportunities and pay for community members who join us in the field, to give the possibility to gain new skills and be fairly compensated for their time.

Sharing What We Learn:

- We will share our findings with the community first, in ways that are useful and accessible—such as community meetings, plain-language reports, and Facebook updates. We want our research to be accessible and support the community's needs and priorities.

3. Working with the Community

- **Contact Person:** Bipasha van der Zijde will be the main contact, ensuring information flows both ways between the research team and the community.
- **Feedback Shapes Our Work:** We are here to listen, learn, and adapt. Community input is what makes this partnership strong. Community advisors from Hamlet and HTO will review our project periodically.

Prepared by: Arctic Reflections

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