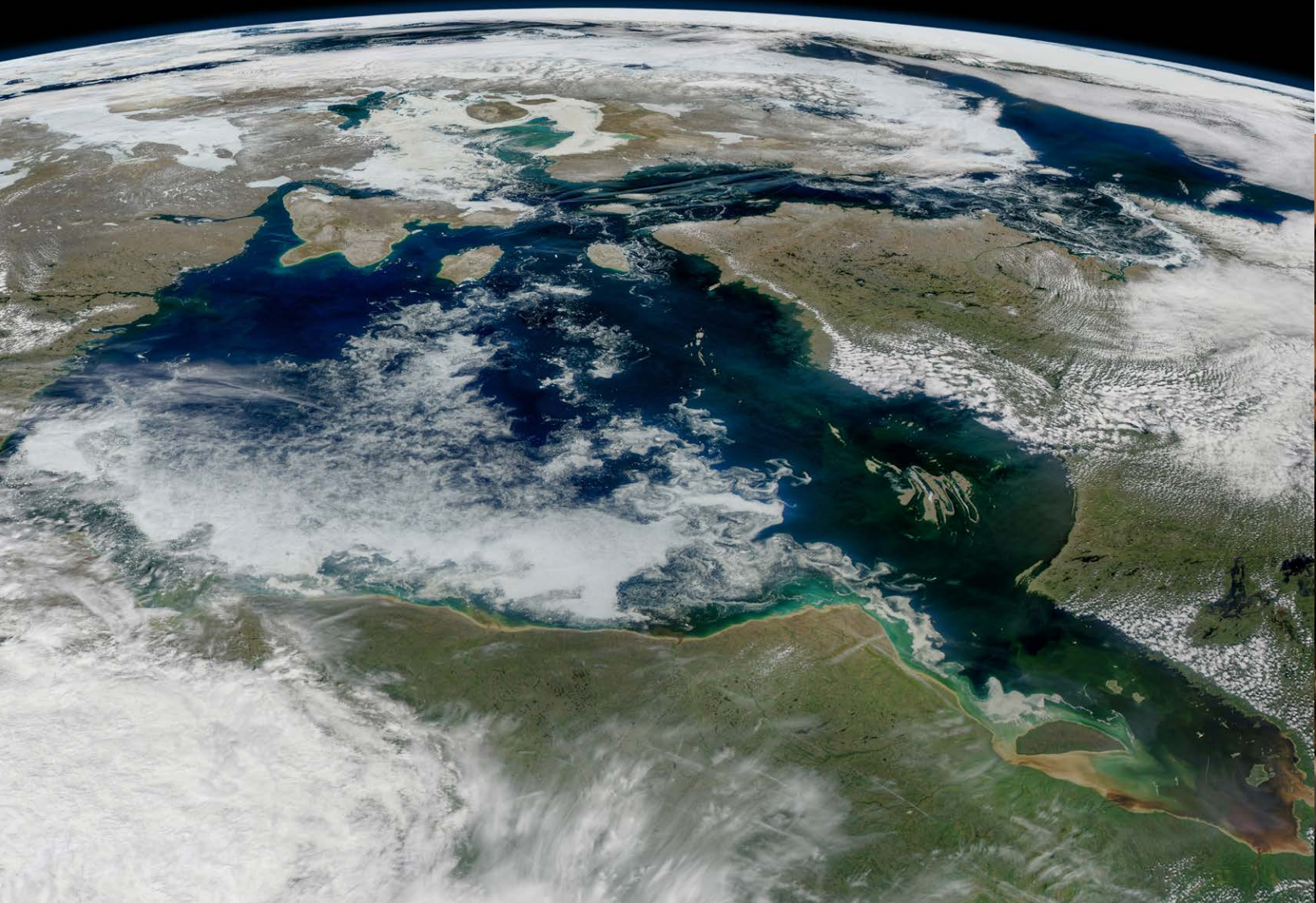




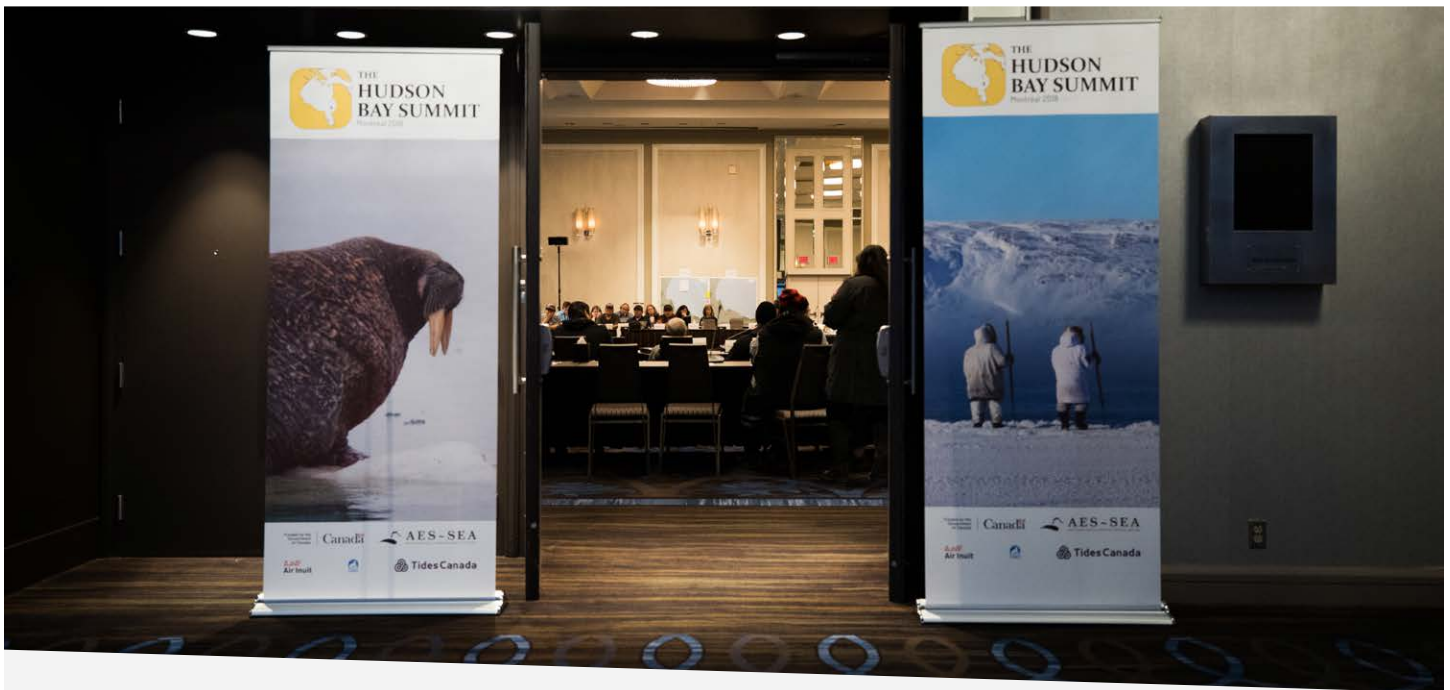
THE
**HUDSON BAY
CONSORTIUM**

2020
PROGRESS
REPORT



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Background

Over the last three years, the formation of the Hudson Bay Consortium has successfully facilitated a collective stewardship effort among the communities, Indigenous organizations, all levels of government and other interested parties around the James Bay and Hudson Bay region. After many years of combined efforts, substantial progress has been made in establishing the capacity required to address the long-standing priorities for Inuit and Cree. This progress represents a milestone for inter-jurisdictional collaboration across the region, and it is essential to continue building on the momentum for environmental stewardship, communication and a shared vision for the region. HBC is committed to continue the work guided by community priorities, recognizing the capacity that has been established, priorities that are progressing and others that are in need of ongoing support.

Progress to-date has been made possible due to the broad partnerships, collaboration and support from individuals, communities, collaborators, funders and sponsors. Together through these synergies we have been able to exceed expectations in accomplishing progress for stewardship and establishing the Consortium. Significant progress has been achieved and much more work remains to continue this momentum. Working Group activities continue, with a Coastal Restoration report now delivered, ongoing planning by the Community-Driven Research and Protected Areas/Stewardship groups and recent progress on coordinating the Communications working group.

As we look to continue these efforts and plan for future Summits and Roundtable meetings, the Consortium is now beginning key strategic planning to move from the formation phase towards the sustainable and ongoing stewardship of the region. Strategic planning will involve all levels of engagement; coordinated by the Steering Committee and Secretariat, augmented by Working Groups and guided by participants and meetings. We invite anyone interested to get involved.

In light of the COVID19 pandemic, strategic planning will also consider how the Consortium can help build the capacity of communities for remote communications and meetings. This support will be key to address the short-term needs of communities seeking to more generally respond and adapt to the pandemic, and will further serve the long-term goals of the Consortium by helping facilitate ongoing-communications outside of in-person meetings and Summits. Continued, and additional, support is needed to sustain these efforts and support communities and the region as a whole in these times of rapid change.

This report outlines the activities over the last three years (2017-2020) that have led to the collaborative formation of the Hudson Bay Consortium. It outlines progress on established priorities, and identifies the key next steps required to continue this momentum for the benefit of the communities and shared environmental stewardship of the region as a whole. It is intended to provide a basis for reflecting on our progress and planning the next phase of the Consortium. We look forward to working with you for the benefit of the region and its future generations.



A Timeline of Environmental Stewardship Efforts
for the greater Hudson Bay Marine Region:
Background of the Hudson Bay Consortium Initiative*



1992 **Hudson Bay Program** was started to address cumulative impacts of the region, including human activities, and promote sustainable development.

1997 **"Voices from the Bay: Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay Bioregion"** published – a project involving 28 Inuit and Cree communities around Hudson Bay. Carried out in 1992-95, the project aimed to build an integrated regional-scale picture of environmental change from the point of view of Hudson Bay/James Bay communities. "As such, this body of research represents a key foundational resource for any future initiatives concerning the ecological protection and integrity of Hudson Bay and has set of standard of cooperation, innovation and excellence that future endeavours would do well to emulate."

Oceans Act adopted by Canadian Parliament. Gave the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the mandate to lead integrated management for all marine/coastal/estuary activities, including the Hudson Bay Region.

2000 **Hudson Bay Ocean's Working Group** – Fisheries and Oceans began a planning process for Hudson Bay focused on Western side of the Bay. Working groups were initially active and published two documents on coordinated management and ecosystem health. This group became largely inactive by 2003.

2004 **Nunavut Hudson Bay Inter-Agency Working Group (NNTK)** was formed. Scientific and technical assessments were prepared in partnership with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq on influx of freshwater from La Grande Complex on Hudson Bay Marine Ecosystem in relation to Rupert River Eastmain 1-A Hydroelectric development.

Activities and Progress To-Date

A long history of efforts led up to the formal creation of the Hudson Bay Consortium. These are outlined in "A Timeline of Environmental Stewardship Efforts for the Greater Hudson Bay Marine Region" document. Decades of hard-work faced complex challenges paralleling the rich history of the region, occasionally stalling and then picking up momentum inspired by innovative efforts of the Indigenous communities of the region. Voices from the Bay was a seminal effort that brought together Inuit and Cree knowledge and has been a guiding light for continued efforts. In 2014 a Planning Meeting was organized in Ottawa followed by a Chisasibi Roundtable meeting in 2016 that together established an approach and process that led to drafting and consulting on the vision statement and guiding principles. Guided by the planning steering committee, the feedback was compiled and brought to the Hudson Bay Summit (2018) for formal adoption and the creation of the Hudson Bay Consortium. A forum has been created that puts community voices first, and allows conversations to happen that reflect thinking of the bays as a whole, without political lines on the map and rather as neighbours working together for the benefit of the region's future generations.

Vision Statement

"Encouraging and facilitating cross-jurisdictional and cross-cultural communication, cooperation and collaboration in the pursuit of knowledge and means to protect, improve and steward the greater Hudson Bay/James Bay ecosystem for the primary benefit of the people, flora and fauna that live there"

Guiding Principles

"As the communities, organizations, bodies of indigenous, local and regional governance and other interested partners of the greater Hudson Bay and James Bay coast, we are indicating our commitment to work together as a network through the Hudson Bay Consortium for the benefit of present and future generations towards a shared vision and common goals for the environmental stewardship and sustainable development of the greater Hudson Bay-James Bay ecosystem. In this spirit, participants will conduct themselves ethically and fairly, with community wellbeing and environmental stewardship as our priorities. In Particular, we will:

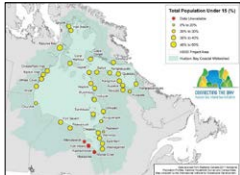
1. *Respect different cultures, values, and the natural environment;*
2. *Work holistically to ensure the Hudson Bay and James Bay ecosystem are managed as a common entity from both physical and human perspectives;*
3. *Recognize Indigenous rights, self-determination and knowledge;*
4. *Communicate and share information towards the pursuit of knowledge and coordination, without impacting the neutrality or decision-making abilities of existing governance and land claim structures;*
5. *Allow all interested groups the opportunity to discuss mutual interests, goals, and responsibilities, and;*
6. *Build strong linkages between Indigenous Knowledge and scientific knowledge towards strong understanding and stewardship of the Hudson Bay-James Bay ecosystem."*

Meetings, Round-tables and Summits

Since creation of the Hudson Bay Consortium at the 2018 Summit, the Steering Committee, Secretariat and Working Groups have been working to plan next steps and organize meetings including a Summit every four years, East Hudson Bay/James Bay Regional Roundtable meetings every two years, coordination with the West Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable group and ongoing steering committee and working group meetings through remote communications. Interested parties are encouraged to get involved.



HUDSON BAY CONSORTIUM



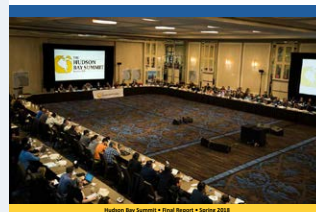
Planning for the future of environmental stewardship, sustainable development and inter-jurisdictional governance connecting the greater Hudson Bay ecosystem.

SPRING 2015 PLANNING MEETING REPORT

Report and follow-up from the Hudson Bay Consortium Planning Meeting held December 9, 2014 in Ottawa, ON.

Ottawa 2014

Over 100 community members, regional organizations, governments & interested parties came together to discuss inter-jurisdictional efforts for coordinating stewardship and begin the planning process for creating the Consortium



Hudson Bay Summit • Final Report • Spring 2018

Montreal 2018

27 communities along with representatives from indigenous organizations, governments, academics, and nonprofits came together to officially launch the Hudson Bay Consortium and identify priorities for the region.

Report from the inaugural
East Hudson Bay/James Bay Regional Roundtable
Ottawa, ON
November 17-18, 2016
An initiative towards a Hudson Bay Consortium



Chisasibi 2016

The inaugural East Hudson Bay and James Bay Regional Roundtable was held in Chisasibi laying the groundwork for consultation on the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.



East Hudson Bay/James Bay
Regional Roundtable



East Hudson Bay/James Bay Roundtable • Final Report • Spring 2019

Timmins 2019

In partnership with the Mushkegowuk Council, over 200 participants registered for the 2nd EHB/B Roundtable where priorities were advanced for the stewardship of the region.



Working Groups

The Working Groups were formed based on priorities identified at the Hudson Bay Summit and are led by subject area experts, and include participants from communities, regional organizations, government and academia. Together, the groups work through teleconference meetings to coordinate on priorities, share knowledge and best practices, develop strategic planning and plan for thematic workshops at Roundtable and Summit meetings. Community priorities have been identified in each area and provide a basis for collaborative stewardship efforts.

Coastal Restoration

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed. Hudson Bay and James Bay communities identified their priorities for coastal restoration at meetings in 2018 and 2019 that included:

- *Cleaning polluted sites and debris*
- *Addressing effects of shipping and changes to hydrology as major contributors to changing coasts*
- *Fixing erosion and habitat loss*

The final report is now available on the Consortium website. This report can be used to develop partnerships to coordinate clean-ups and guide priority areas for government agencies.

Stewardship/Protected Areas

Stewardship, land use planning and conservation efforts are ongoing across James and Hudson Bays by regional Indigenous organizations and coordination facilitates a holistic approach respecting the interconnectivity of water and land resources shared by wildlife and people.

- *Prioritizing areas for conservation is difficult, and many communities would like to protect the entire region rather than smaller designated areas*
- *New tools, that resonate with culture and tradition, for conservation and protection of their lands*
- *Protection of hunting and fishing sites, as well as archaeological and burial sites.*
- *Self-determination is key*

Research and Monitoring

This working group supports communities and organizations in coordinating on their shared priorities, best practices, lessons learned and tools supporting research and monitoring efforts. This is critical as communities face long outstanding capacity and data gaps needed for decision making and adapting to a changing ecosystem.

- *Sea ice monitoring, belugas, eelgrass, changing animal diets and health*
- *Cumulative impacts of development (changes in rivers, watersheds, flooding)*
- *Shipping and pollution (water quality, spills, emissions, contaminants)*
- *New and invasive species*

Communications

The Communications working group plays a coordinating role for participants to stay up-to-date on what work is happening in the region, helps to coordinate among programs, avoid duplication of efforts, and improve opportunities for collaboration. It explores priorities in relation to communicating in between the summits and best practices with knowledge mobilization and intellectual property.

- *Identify ongoing work and progress in other communities*
- *Exchange of knowledge between the communities in the years between the summits*
- *Strengthen existing relationships*
- *Archive documents and reports; maintain a directory of people and organizations*
- *Implement an accessible tool for all the information gathered and disseminated through HBC*

Priority Areas

Based on the priorities outlined at roundtables, Summit and working group meetings, the Hudson Bay Consortium's priority goal is to facilitate sharing knowledge and coordination among neighbours of the Hudson Bay-James Bay region, through compiling and sharing up-to-date information around research, monitoring and stewardship efforts. The following areas were identified as top priorities that can play a key role in achieving this goal and progress is underway on each of these:

Directory of Organizations and Individuals

To facilitate the efforts and work to-date, the HBC has been researching and updating a list of active organizations and representatives from the region. This forms a basis for sharing key updates and coordinating efforts. SIKU includes a directory of organizations, in which representatives of these organizations can activate or create profiles to share their activities with others in the region. Organizations can share reports, publications, press coverage and create blogs on SIKU, which can also be embedded on their own website to streamline communications efforts and help track their own accomplishments. Lists of registered participants are shared in meeting reports but mail lists and personal information are kept confidential. Individuals can create profiles on SIKU as they wish to stay in touch with ongoing activities.

List of Active Projects

Understanding the activities, programs and projects happening in the region can allow communities and regional organizations to coordinate on efforts, share best-practicalities, and be effective in decision making and stewardship efforts for the region as a whole. The HBC Secretariat and Working Groups are helping compile this information; however, this will be most effective if each organization can contribute to sharing their own efforts in a common place. The SIKU platform has been developed specifically with this in mind as a safe space to share and respect Indigenous knowledge. Organizations or individuals can create Project Profiles including pictures, descriptions, regions they operate in and provide social media updates, share documents and otherwise stay engaged through this social media platform. The Hudson Bay Consortium Feed on SIKU provides a common place to browser projects and stay up-to-date on what is happening in the region. Consider creating a Project profile on SIKU to share your projects with others in the region.

Mobilizing Documents and Resources for the Region

This HBC Secretariat and Working Groups have been working to acquire, digitize and mobilize a long history of important reports and hard-to-find documents to make them accessible to communities and organizations. Efforts are underway to create a document library system on SIKU to easily find and access relevant resources. Additionally, organizations, projects and individuals can share their recent reports, press coverage and publications to keep this library up-to-date and easily accessible for the region. Knowing what has already been done and learning from our past efforts is key to moving forward for the benefit of the region. Important knowledge from our elders and communities are contained in these resources which we do not want to lose. Consider adding documents and reports from your organization to SIKU.

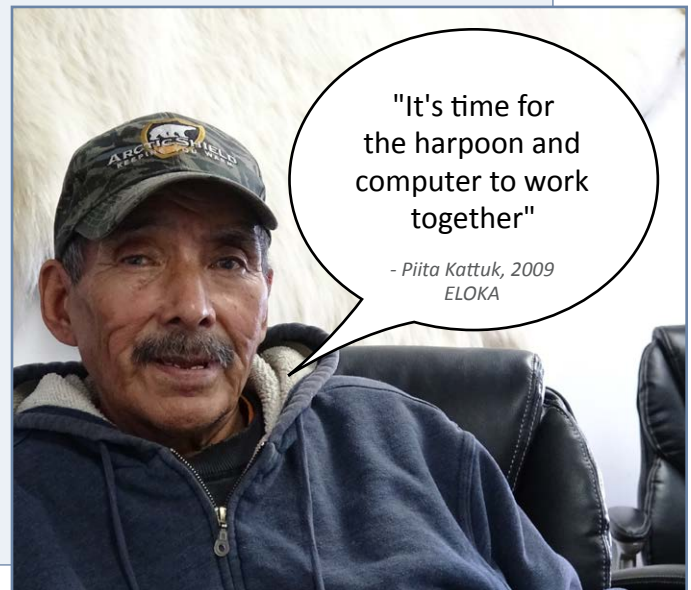
Events and Meetings

Given the geography and large number of groups working in the region, planning meetings and avoiding overlap can be difficult. By curating a list of meetings and events, the HBC hopes to ensure people are aware of ongoing activities and have the opportunity to participate where relevant. This will also help organizations better plan their own meetings. Significant work remains to be done here, new tools for meetings and events will be developed for the HBC on SIKU that can be updated by the Secretariat or by projects and organizations. If you'd like to have your meeting added to our calendar, send us an email and stay tuned for new features to facilitate this effort further.



SIKU: The Indigenous Knowledge Social Network is a social media platform for Indigenous self-determination, offered as a web platform and mobile app, providing an interconnected approach for:

- *services including high resolution satellite imagery, weather, tides and ice data in one place, along side community weather and ice reports, helping users make informed safety decisions*
- *mobilization of community knowledge and observation data to help communities steward the land, make policy decisions and achieve self-determination*
- *strengthen knowledge transfer and the use of the Inuktitut dialects and other languages in numerous environmental and sea ice descriptions*
- *connect individuals, communities and organizations to coordinate and collaborate on project.*
- *Users retain ownership over their Intellectual Property on SIKU and can decide how they share information, what is private or public, and many other features specifically design to respect Indigenous knowledge rights holders*
- *It has been specifically developed to support the Hudson Bay Consortium communications and stewardship activities and priorities, and to make these tools and features available to other Indigenous communities that could benefit from them as well.*
- *Sign up for an account online at SIKU.org or get it for Android or iOS devices in your app store*



Strategic Planning

In addition to organizing future meetings, coordinating working groups and moving forward priority action items, the HBC is beginning a strategic planning phase to ensure the momentum established to-date can be sustained and built upon for long term success. This includes refining the capacity of the Secretariat, recruiting additional individuals to participate in meetings, Steering Committee and Working Groups ensuring diversity and inclusivity of perspectives, and ensuring funding is in place towards sustainable core activities and support for ongoing Summit and Roundtable meetings.

Strategic planning will be facilitated by the Secretariat, guided by the Steering Committee and discussed by Working Groups on each thematic area. Additionally, opportunities for engagement in strategic planning activities will be made available online and consulted on at Roundtable and Summit meetings before a final draft is delivered. A collaborative inclusive approach will be maintained following the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles on which the Consortium was established.

The COVID 19 pandemic is also a key consideration in short-term and longer-term strategic planning. The challenges of remote communication are well understood in this region. In the short-term, the HBC is seeking ways to help communities respond to the pandemic through capacity building for remote communications and online meetings. We are working with partners to establish opportunities to deliver devices, internet and training to each community to facilitate their own responses to COVID restrictions and future possible events. Engagement in stewardship and communications activities are key to community resilience and ability to respond to large unexpected global events like this. By helping communities adapt in the short-term, we will further be building long-term capacity for coordinated stewardship across the broad geographies of the region. We are currently seeking funds to develop and expand this program. We remain committed to supporting the priorities of communities while respecting physical distancing and reducing the need for travel.

In order to adopt a remote communications strategy, and effectively support HBC initiatives, the proper physical infrastructure, including broadband capabilities and hardware components, is required throughout the EHBJB region. With renewed federal and provincial funding efforts directed at high-speed connectivity, the HBC sees this as a beneficial time to seek further funding to support the rapid integration of high-speed internet and the required training to move much of the HBC's engagement activities to an online delivery method

We anticipate that the 2020-21 EHBJB Roundtable meeting will be held by remote video conference vs an in-person meeting and will be working to support communities' ability to participate remotely. We are still aiming for a 2021-22 Hudson Bay Summit as an in-person meeting.

Building administrative capacity to deliver successful, meaningful and collaborative events that continue with the stewardship momentum gained thus far is a key priority. Maintaining funding from key partners and identifying new funders and partners to support the HBC and its activities remains a top priority.

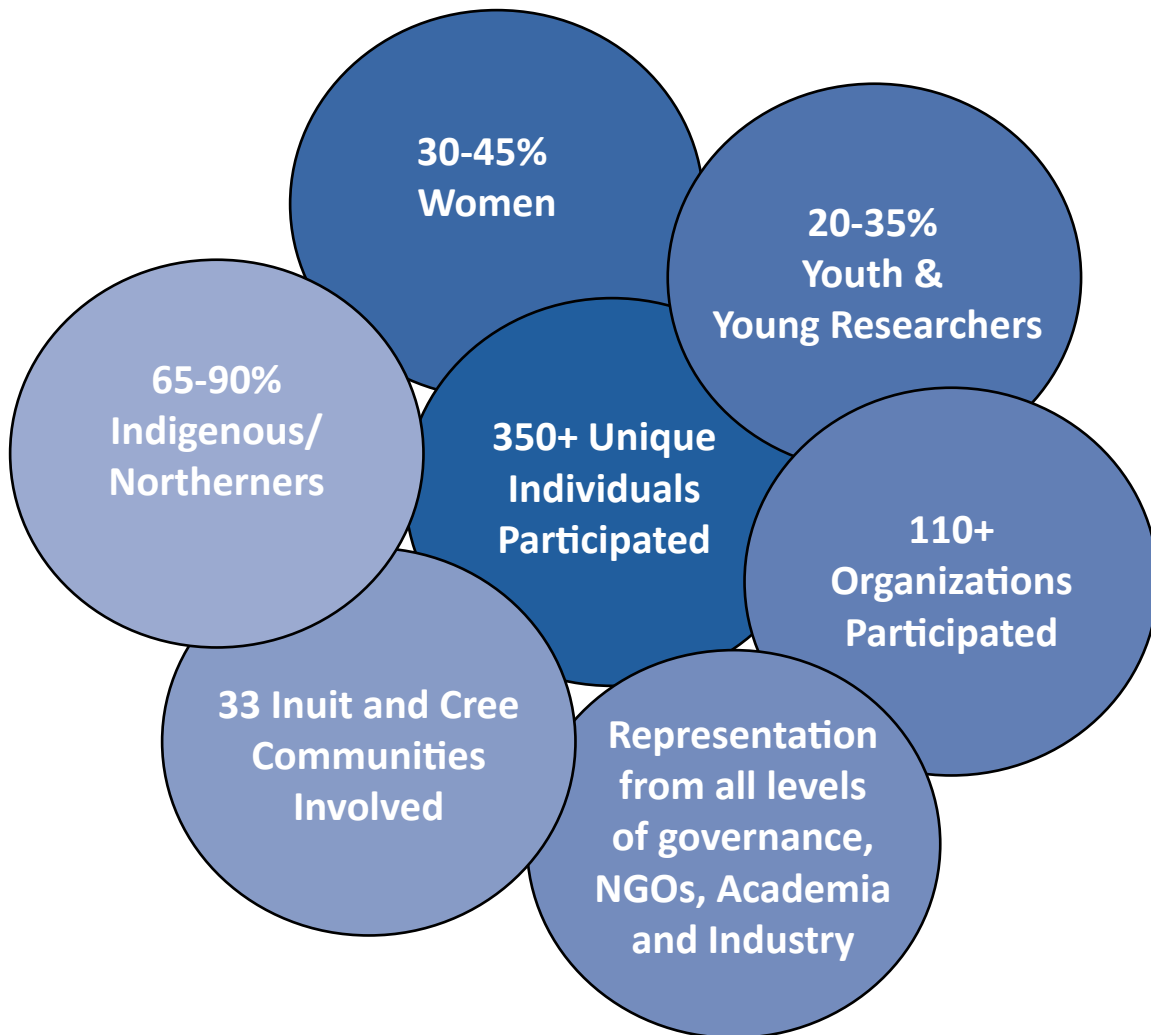
Please reach out to find out how you can get involved in strategic planning, ongoing activities or to discuss sponsorship and support opportunities for the benefit of the region.



What Can You Do to Stay Involved and Stay in Touch?

- Sign-up for our mail list on www.hudsonbayconsortium.com
- Create an account on SIKU to follow the Hudson Bay Consortium feed
- Create a profile for your Organization or Project on SIKU
- Like/Follow our Facebook page for the Hudson Bay Consortium
- Share Documents/Reports from your Organization on SIKU so they are accessible to HBC participants
- Join one of the Working Groups
- Join the Steering Committee

Impact To-Date



HBC will be working to further measure impact of our activities as a part of ongoing strategic planning.

Additional information and reports can be found at (www.hudsonbayconsortium.com) and through the Hudson Bay Consortium project on SIKU (www.siku.org).



THE

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*Prepared by the HBC Secretariat:
info@hudsonbayconsortium.com*