



# Aqqiumavvik Arviat Wellness Society

Kukik Baker, Executive Director

Presentation delivered by Jrene Rahm, Université de Montréal  
in collaboration with Kukik Baker, Shirley Tagalik , Joe Karetak, &  
Aqqiumavvik Society, Arviat Nunavut



# Who we are...



Joe Karetak  
IQ Research Coordinator  
Aqqiumavvik Society



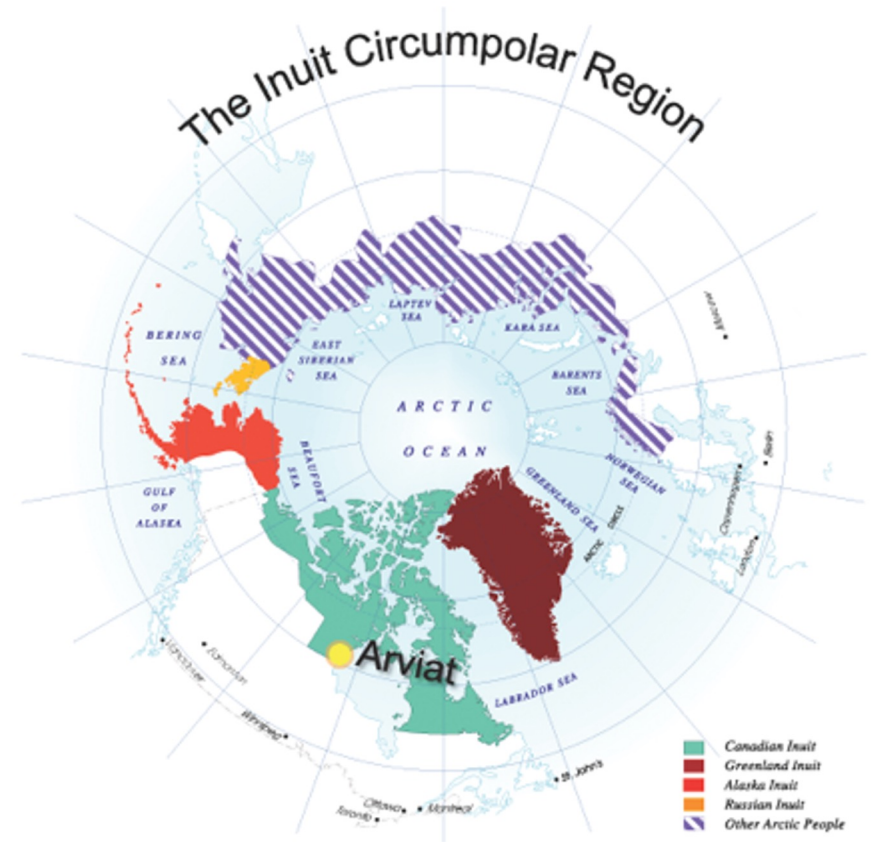
Shirley Tagalik, board chair of the Aqqiumavvik Society, which runs Young Hunters



Kukik Baker, executive director of the  
Aqqiumavvik Society



# Arviat, Nunavut



Hudson Bay Summit 2022

# Plan of the Presentation

The Aqqiumavvik Society

History and mandate;  
Different programs & projects

How get youth involved?



Irkok adjusts rope attached to a gamutik, a traditional wooden sled, in a field of cotton grass on the outskirts of Arviat.





# Foundation of Cultural Strengths

We are the keepers of the environment, of the animals, of the water and the sila (weather), and we occupy this land. We should take care of it, the same way we take care of our personal items...

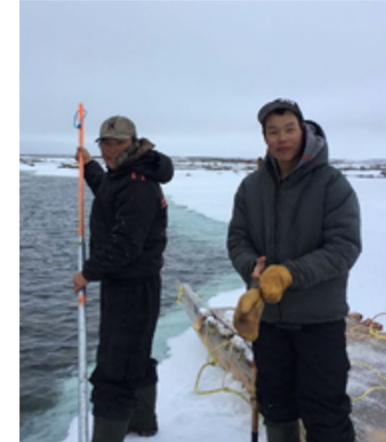
The water and land we harvest from must be taken care of and used properly, like it always was, in the old days. We should only catch what we can handle; these were the kind of rules and instructions we had to follow, and they are still very good rules to follow. As we all know, it takes a lot of effort to do the right thing and I feel it is important to start emphasizing that to our children, as early as we can. Our opportunity to influence any people is to try and do that at an early age.

Mark Kalluak





**Kukik Baker explains program components**  
(Video clip is still in rough format; We thank everybody who was involved and Boîte Rouge VIF for their support in making this happen)



## Ujjiqsuiniq Begins with Elders' Knowledge

Each group is taught:

- Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Cultural Beliefs)
- Inuit Maligait (Foundational Laws)
- Traditional sustainable harvesting practices
- Tool and weapon making
- Ujjiqsuiniq (Observation/data collection)
- Environment/animal monitoring
- Arctic survival, way finding and weather







# Core Program Components

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**Inunnguiniq** is the process of raising a person to become a capable human being

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**Pilimmaksarniq** is about becoming highly skilled & knowledgeable, a lifelong process

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**Inuuqatigiitsiarniq:** importance of relationship building, respecting others and caring for others

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**Avatimik kamattsiarniq** – carefully attend to environment for survival & sustainability

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**Qanuqturunangniq:** being resourceful to solve problems, think deeply about observations

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**Pijitsirarniq:** humanity, how use our skills & abilities to improve lives of others

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**Piliriqatigiingniq:** Coming together with common goals



# Two Examples of Monitoring Projects

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# Arctic Corridors Northern Voices Research

- <https://www.arcticcorridors.ca/2019/12/13/arviat-nu-community-report/>
- New and improved charting
- Permanent lighted navigational buoys and GPS co-ordinates to mark reefs etc.
- S&R and spill responses should seek input from community experts
- Spill response plan, training & coordination
- Understand the impacts of coastal erosion
- Understand the impacts on ice



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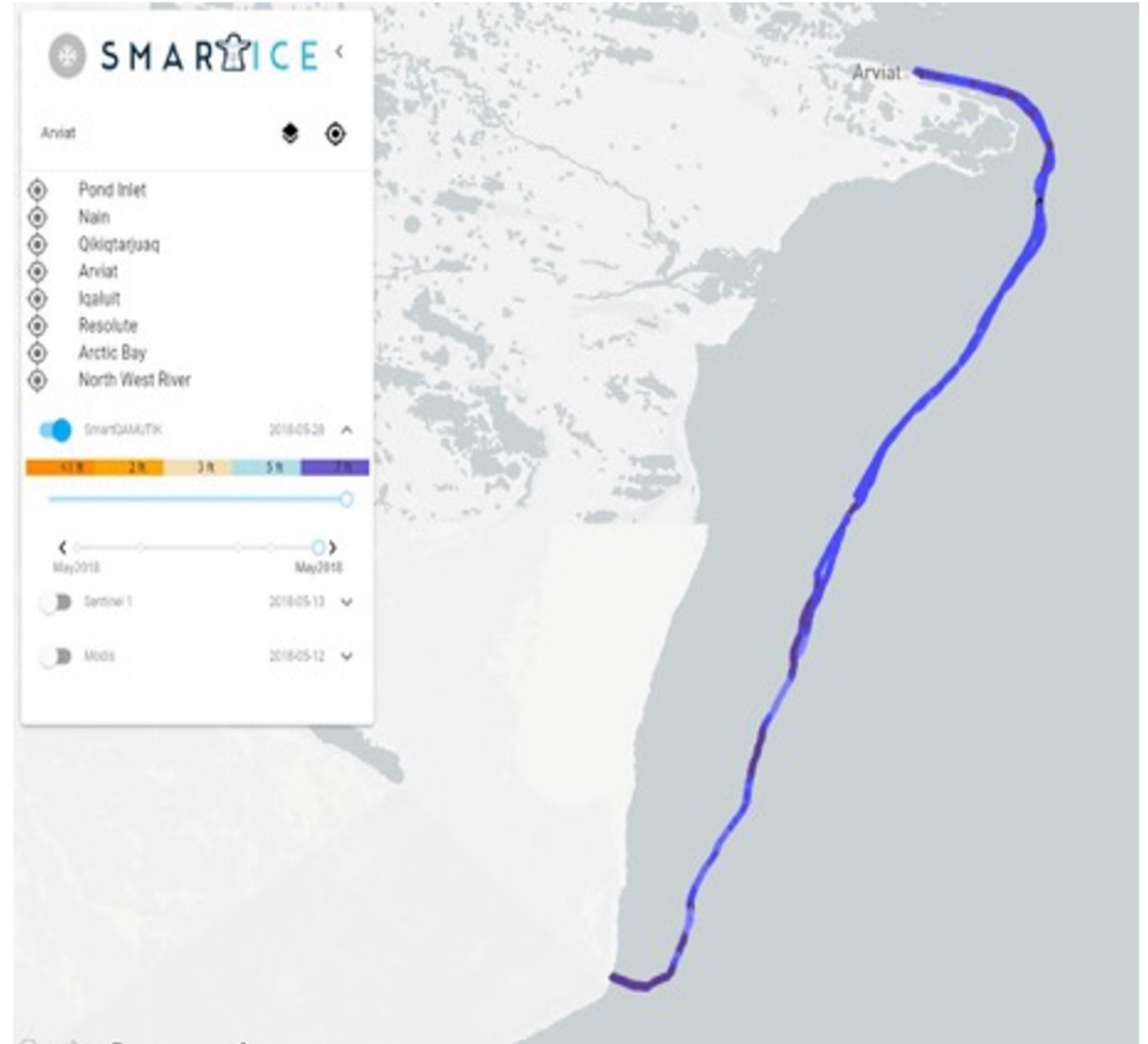
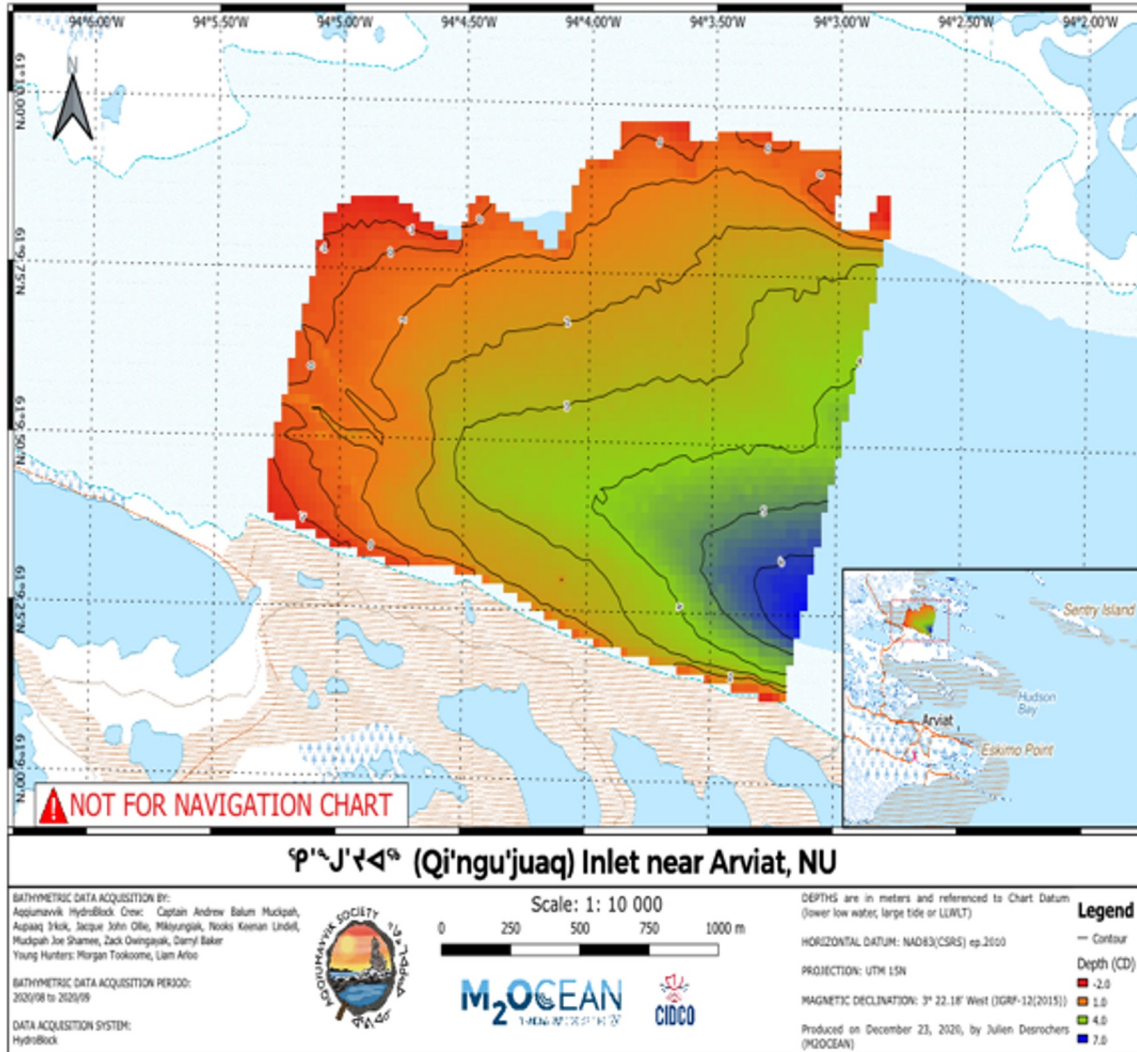
# Understanding Ice & Shipping Impacts

- Concerns about changes to ice conditions: safety & evidence of changes that can impact travel in ice
- SmartICE monitoring
- Training youth
- Sharing information





# Community Action



# Proactive Protections

- Search & Rescue recognition of local expertise
- Advocating for community preparedness
- Community engagement in proactive lobbying





# Concerns for Marine Wildlife



# Next Steps

- Becoming very systematic & effective in monitoring efforts
- Training continually
- Communicating what we are learning to all levels
- Building a sense of urgency that can impact change
- Establishing technology partnerships to gain expertise

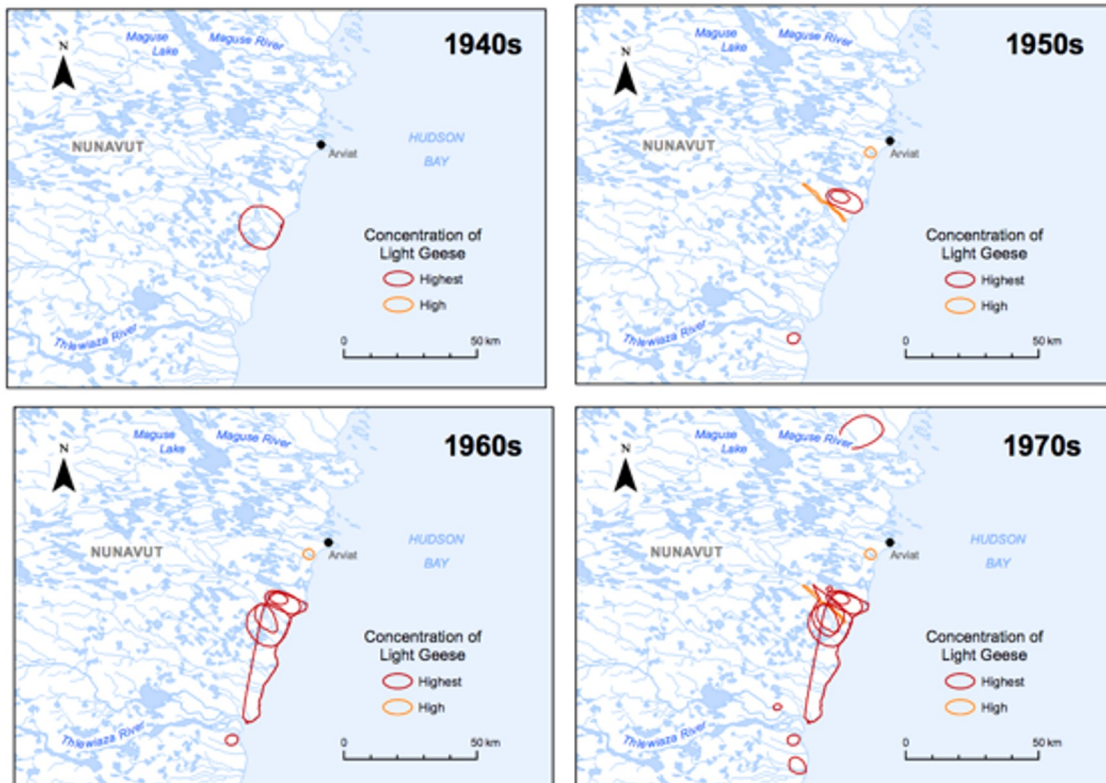




# Goose Project

## Initial Study

High concentration areas of light geese around Arviat over different decades (based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit)



<http://kangut.ca/>



In the Canadian Arctic, populations of light geese (mainly Lesser Snow and Ross' Geese; *kangut* and *kangunnaaq* in Inuktitut) have increased dramatically in the last 50 years. Scientists are studying the impact that geese have on the land and other animals, including shorebirds.

# Also a question about Food Insecurity and Climate Change



Photos: Kukik Baker

Through previous research in the Kangut project that documented Inuit knowledge of light geese in Arviat, Nunavut, community priorities highlight an interest in increasing the light goose harvest to address food insecurity in Nunavut. Light geese include Ross's and Lesser Snow Goose, which are currently overabundant in Nunavut.



# Learning About Productivity

- Discussing objectives
  - When do geese start nesting each year, and has it become earlier?
  - How many eggs do they lay now?
  - How many nests are successful now?
- Steps
  - Need to visit about 100 nests of each species for good estimates
  - When to start?
    - Need to be checking when first eggs start to be laid, since timing of nesting can vary by weeks year-to-year
  - Measure eggs to determine which species has laid the eggs (sometimes adults leave before you can determine if snow or ross's geese)



Arviat Hunters can use SIKU app to mark goose nest locations and Tag "Arviat Goose Mapping Project" to enter into contest. Each goose Nest tagged will be one entry into contest. The contest is open to all Arviat Hunters .

You can download the SIKU app from the app store. For more information how to use the app or help download the app contact Aupaa Ikkok @ (857) 857 - 2037 or come by to Agqumavik office.

**Prizes:** 1st 12 g Weatherby Elements water fowler max-5 semi-automatic shotgun  
2nd Benelli Nova 3 1/2 12 gauge pump action shotgun  
3rd Garmin GPS map 78s handheld GPS  
4th 45 gallons Gas slip  
5th 20 gals Gas slip

## Steps

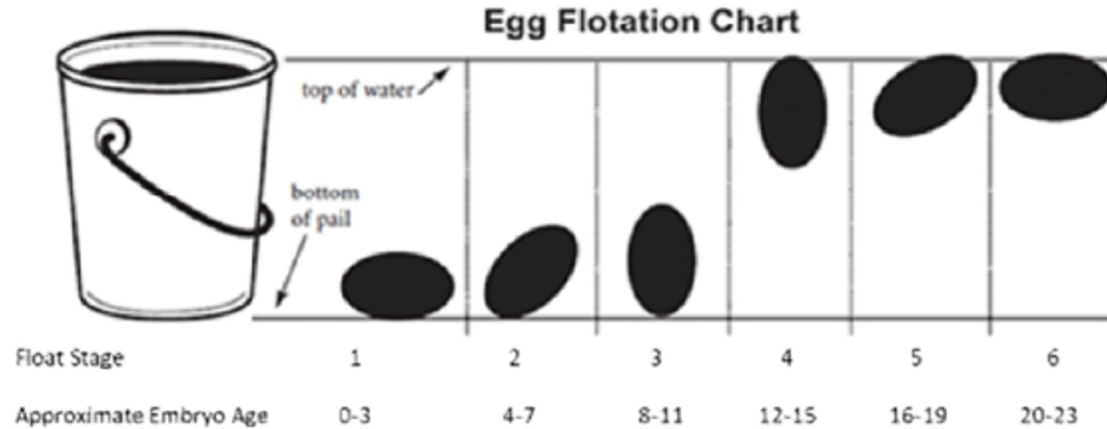
- Count number of eggs
- Measure length and width of darkest stained egg (first egg laid)
  - Eggs of Ross's geese are smaller than snow geese





## Steps

- Float darkest stained eggs
- As the gosling develops, the egg becomes more buoyant
- Record the float stage
- We can use the number of eggs, known laying interval, and float stage to determine when the first egg was laid



# Productivity

## Productivity

- The % of nests that hatch at least one gosling are considered 'successful'
- If we want to monitor this, we have to return to nests near the end of incubation to look for sign of success
  - Successful nests:
    - At least 1 egg caps (ends of the egg)
    - At least 1 egg membrane
    - At least 1 goslings in the nest
  - Unsuccessful nests:
    - Many small egg shell fragments
    - Sticky down in the nest (crushed eggs- bears)
    - Pecked hole in eggs (gulls/ravens)
    - No membranes or egg caps
- If working in very dense areas, can label nest ID on egg with marker to determine which nests were successful





# Goose Banding

(August 2022)

Ujjiqsuiniq Young Hunters goose banding this week with Environment Canada. Banding hasn't happened in Arviat since 2006, thanks to the Ujjiqsuiniq Goose Project we have been able to partner with Environment Canada to bring back banding in Arviat and involve youth in the project.





## How Get Youth Involved ? ...Some Recommendations

- Youth need to see the **fun** in becoming involved
- They want relevant experiences **doing** things
- Create opportunities to **explore** in new ways (using technologies)
- They want skills that will actually **help them** in life
- They want opportunities to practice skills and apply them in ways that **help the community**
- Programs need to be sustained over time and have consistent predictable **goals**



# Conclusion: Sustainability

- Building on the cultural strengths of the past we want to train our youth in the values and beliefs around **Avatimik Kamatsiarniq** (Environmental Stewardship), practicing sustainable respectful harvesting.
- This will ensure our youth can continue to live sustainably off the land in their future.



# For more information



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