

Rankin Inlet Climate Change Community Engagement Summary Document

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Climate Change Section of the Government of Nunavut's (GN) Department of Environment (DOE) lead and assisted in community engagement activities in Rankin Inlet from January 28th to February 4th, 2016 to gather and share how permafrost is shifting in the Rankin Inlet surrounding areas. Discussions focused on what changes have been noticed in hunting routes and camping areas outside of the community. These activities engaged community members, including the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA), GN employees, and the Rankin Inlet Hunters and Trappers Association. These consultations were part of a larger project led by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) to map observations of landscape features and landscape changes that may be related to permafrost.

MEETINGS WITH HAMLET, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, KIA, RANKIN INLET HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, AND GN EMPLOYEES

Project partners and stakeholder groups had the chance to meet over the span of 3 days in informal knowledge-sharing meetings that were hosted by GSC. The purpose of these meetings was to incorporate traditional knowledge into areas that GSC has been studying. It was a very interactive meeting, with markers available for attendees to show directly on regional maps what permafrost activity they have observed. The Climate Change Section was at the meetings to provide plain language and technical support by being the meeting recorders. Although the mapping areas GSC covered were all outside of the community area, there was a lot of discussion on areas in town that are being impacted by shifting permafrost. It would be worth going back and possibly doing a study within the community boundaries where a number of permafrost



Examples of steel piles and mesh skirting around a house.

activities have been observed.

As a result of the meetings, attendees had the opportunity to voice what environmental changes they have noticed. This was very important to the Climate Change Section as one of our values is incorporating Traditional and Inuit Knowledge into our projects. Although it was not a GN led project, we were happy to partner with GSC and provide a

Nunavut

Perspective on the development of these activities.



Stakeholders record and observe areas of permafrost activities during a workshop.



Fun activities for elementary students learning about the impact of permafrost on building foundations

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Youth climate change engagement activities were held throughout the week with a few age groups. The entire Simon Alaittuq School (Middle School) participated in a hand(s) on permafrost activity that included building model houses on thawing permafrost to see how the houses deal with the changes, as well as a short introduction in each classroom to climate change and permafrost. We also hosted an open door climate change afternoon over a

period of two days. The first day consisted of children aged Kindergarten to Grade 5. The second day was for Grades 6 to Grade 12. Both days included art activities, introductions to climate change, and interactive climate change games.

ELDER CONSULTATIONS

Having Elders involved in the workshops proved to be very beneficial and highlighted invaluable information. Elders noted changes to the landscape and water bodies outside of town, and commented on how water levels of freshwater bodies have dropped over the years. This is an important piece of knowledge because they have been hunting and traveling on this land for generations. They also noted that the landscape in and around town has changed, with water bodies being filled in or altered. Although they had a large amount of input for other climate change observations, the permafrost changes are what the workshop especially focused on.



Elder's attend a mapping workshop where they record areas of permafrost activity.

COMMUNITY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Community events were held throughout the week to provide a wide range of engagement opportunities for the Rankin Inlet community members. Events included:

- ✚ A call-in radio show that featured an “Ask the Expert” session where the community members could call in with their climate change observations and questions to permafrost researchers
- ✚ A climate change movie night where the documentary *Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change* was shown. GSC staff were also on hand to talk about their project and answer questions. There were opportunities to win Climate Change Section prizes for both of these events

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- ✚ The GN and GSC will continue to engage with Rankin Inlet community members and update them on permafrost thaw and activity.
- ✚ The GSC will continue to monitor and study permafrost activity in Nunavut and share existing resources
- ✚ The Climate Change Section will develop new permafrost activities for schools, and ensure they fit properly with the curriculum
- ✚ Continue to engage teachers at all school levels; conduct similar educational outreach activities in future communities



DOE staff host a radio climate change call-in show.