



Gwich'in Research Priorities Study

Gwich'in Council International is carrying out a study to identify the areas that are a priority for research among the Gwich'in nation. The outcomes of the study will be shared with international researchers, governments, and will help to shape GCI's priorities within the Arctic Council.

Please help us to identify which areas research priorities for Gwich'in by completing this survey in writing or by interview.

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| <p>1. Have you participated in research within your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Yesb. No <p>2. If so, how have you participated (please circle all that apply)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. As a researcher.b. As an environmental monitoring.c. As a community liaison.d. As an interviewee.e. Other (please describe):
_____ | <p>3. How often have you been asked to participate in research?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Frequently - More than 3 times a year.b. Often - Between 1-3 times a year.c. Rarely - Once every couple of years.d. Never. <p>4. Why do you think people ask you to participate in research? Do you have a specific skill-set that they are trying to learn from?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
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11. What areas do you think are most in need of research?

- a. Caribou
- b. Migratory Birds
- c. Oil and Gas
- d. Freshwater Quality and/or Quantity
- e. Climate Change Prediction
- f. Climate Change Adaptation
- g. Cold Climate Technologies
- h. Renewable Energy
- i. Emergency Preparedness
- j. Wildfires
- k. Solid Waste Management
- l. Gwich'in Language and Culture
- m. Indigenous Language Revitalization
- n. Indigenous [Traditional] Knowledge
- o. Indigenous Rights
- p. Governance
- q. Specific Flora or Fauna species (please identify which one(s)):

r. Specific wildlife species (please identify which one(s)):

- s. Economic Indicators
- t. International Peace and Security/ Geopolitics
- u. Reconciliation
- v. Meteorology
- w. Hydrology
- x. Pollutants
- y. Food Security
- z. Health
- aa. Mental Health and Addictions
- bb. Environmental Regulations
- cc. Constitutional Issues
- dd. Land Claims
- ee. Other (please identify):

12. Are there areas that you think are being over-researched?

- a. Caribou
- b. Migratory Birds
- c. Oil and Gas
- d. Freshwater Quality and/or Quantity
- e. Climate Change Prediction
- f. Climate Change Adaptation
- g. Cold Climate Technologies
- h. Renewable Energy
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- ee. Other (please identify):

Background

On April 19-20, in Inuvik, NWT, Gwich'in Council International held a capacity-building workshop on Environmental Impact Assessments. One of the reoccurring themes that arose as part of the Workshop was the evaluation of the multitude of research proposals that require evaluation by local community organizations. While there were challenges expressed about the volume, as well as understanding the proposals as written by researchers who are largely unfamiliar with the communities, there was also a recognition that there is a lot of resources available to academics, including from the international community, to carry out research. Therefore, the proposal was put forth to be more proactive in identifying what areas are priorities for the communities, evaluate where there are gaps in knowledge that can be filled, and create capacity around how the communities want to engage in research.

Responding to the concerns raised at the Workshop, GCI submitted a proposal for funding, so that it could interview community members and compile the findings into a report.

Study Uses

This project will also be used by Gwich'in Council International in the following ways:

- In May 2017, the Arctic Council member states signed the *Agreement on Arctic Science Cooperation*, which facilitates increased scientific cooperation between Canada and other countries. It is anticipated that the Agreement will facilitate an increase in research in the Arctic. GCI will share the report with international researchers, organizations participating in research, and research funders to encourage them to investigate areas identified as priorities for Gwich'in.
- In October 2018, the Ministers responsible for Science from all eight Arctic states and key nations engaged in research will meet in Berlin. The report will be shared.
- GCI is a member of University of the Arctic and will share the study with universities throughout the Circumpolar region, as well as UArctic thematic networks on specific research streams.
- GCI will use the study to help to identify which Arctic Council Working Groups and projects should be prioritized for GCI involvement.
- GCI is a member of the Arctic Council Advisory Committee organized by the Government of Canada, which connects all federal departments, territorial and provincial governments, and Permanent Participants active within the Arctic Council in Canada. The report will be shared with the Committee to encourage federal, territorial, and provincial partners to align their own activities and priorities with the areas identified as priorities for research by Gwich'in.
- Other forums where GCI is asked to comment on research or policy.