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Recreating a place of honour and respect for young people: Insights from community driven and Inuit led environmental stewardship and curriculum development projects

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This panel brings together Inuit leaders and allies from different environmental stewardship projects and curriculum initiatives in Inuit Nunangat to discuss their role in recreating a place of honour and respect for young people in ways it used to be, deeply grounded in Inuit Qaujima-jatuqangit (IQ). Each project will be briefly presented by one of its participants or leaders in light of its key components and contributions to a new generation of “land-based, community-based intellectuals” (Simpson, 2017, p. 160). The panel addresses the conference theme Tukisiqat-tautiniq “understanding each other” in multiple ways, through the philosophy that drives each project, or what Inuit have always known to be true, next to respectful relationships between people, generations, and the land or practices that are relationships. Each presenter will discuss in what ways the projects emerged from community needs and local Inuit leadership, resulting in capacity building over time. Presenters will speak to the ways the projects are models of ways of reawakening an education grounded in and supported by community and relationships in ways congruent with what Inuit have always known to be true (IQ). They are examples of possibilities about “shared wisdom” and the bringing together of traditional knowledge, elders, community, youth, and Inuit language and culture with Western ways, with both having equal status and legitimacy. The session concludes with a discussion of the projects’ implications for lifelong learning and education.