

Annual Report 2021-22

Project Development
& Mentorship



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Foreword

The present report provides a summary of the main activities conducted by ArctiConnexion during the 2021-22 fiscal year. It was compiled with the goal to make the information readily available to our members, board of directors, and funders.

During 2021-22, ArctiConnexion has been very active in its mission to supporting community-based research and action projects in indigenous communities. 2021-22 was marked by the extended Covid pandemic and the sanitary measures in Nunavut and occasional outbreaks. However, travel for our southern-based mentors have been possible as early as spring 2021.

We expanded human resources and internal capacity to provide services to new communities and develop new original projects. We developed new large-scale projects with our partner the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association dealing with the development of a protected area steered by Inuit, and the development of a food-based conservation economy in Taloyoak. During 2021-22, ArctiConnexion became a registered consultant for the Qiqiktani Inuit Association and was granted its first contract.

We worked toward improving the consistency of our projects, improving relationships with clients and partners, and worked toward ensuring continuity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'VH' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Vincent L'Hérault, President/Director

Background

MISSION: To support, through mentorship and knowledge sharing, indigenous communities in the development of local competencies and leadership for research and applications promoting community well-being.



VALUES:

Equality & Respect

Acknowledging the past and the need for reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous cultures. Moving forward by combining our different epistemology; our strengths and weaknesses.

Caring

Developing genuine relationships with and understanding the needs of communities and people. Listening, being helpful, and maintaining continuity.

Leadership

Steering our own way based on resourcefulness and original expertise and knowledge. Leading by example and taking responsibilities. Being trustable and playing a positive influence on others.

Excellence

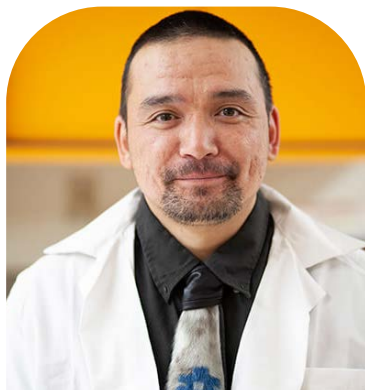
Maintaining high expectations in quality and ethics in all aspects of our work. Offering top-end services to communities to the best of our abilities. Showing high commitment and continually seeking improvement.

SERVICES: We provide guidance and training through personalized and culturally relevant mentorship. Mentorship is mostly delivered by Inuit mentors, promoting a balanced reconciliation of scientific and local knowledge. Mentorship emphasizes hands-on learning - observation and experience first- and takes place both in community settings and at “southern” partner institutions.

OUR DETAILED SERVICES ARE

Fundraising · Project planning & Coordination · Community-based Training & Implementation · Protocol development · IQ Documentation · Data Analysis & Reporting · Video production · Social Media & Outreach · Project expansion · Business Development

Board of directors and officers



TIM ANAVIAPIK SOUCIE
Nunaligalanni Qaujisarti - Pond
Inlet



JIMMY ULLIKATALIK
Manager, Spence Bay Hunters and
Trappers Association - Taloyoak



MAGGIE LUCY KILABUK
Community Justice Officer, Government
of Nunavut - Pangnirtung



ÉMILIE TRUCHON
Association des Constructeurs
de Routes et Grands Travaux
du Québec



MARIE-HÉLÈNE TRUCHON
(Treasurer)
Midwife, U de Trois-Rivières



VINCENT L'HÉRAULT
(President)
ArctiConnexion



VÉRONIQUE PEREZ
(Secretary)
ArctiConnexion

Summary of Activities

FUNDING PROGRAM	PROJECT TOPIC	COMMUNITY	STAGE
NGMP	Shipping & Aquatic ecosystems	Chesterfield Inlet - Baker Lake	Year 3 of 3
CCHAP - CCPN	Young Hunters Program	Pangnirtung	Year 1 of 2
CCHAP - CCPN	Fish habitats	Baker Lake - Taloyoak	Year 2 of 2
ICBCMP/CCPN/CCHAP	Niqihaqut - Cut & Wrap Facility	Taloyoak	Year 1 of 3
ECCC - Nature Funds	Aqviqtuuq	Taloyoak	Year 2 of 2
ICBCMP/CCHAP	Terrestrial & Marine ecosystems	Rankin Inlet	Year 2 of 2
Kivalliq Wildlife Board	Meliadine Mine	Rankin Inlet	Year 1 of 1
QIA	Snow monitoring near the Project Area (BaffinLand)	Pond Inlet	Year 1 of 1
Garfield Weston Foundation	AC - Business Development	--	Extended

Update on activities

1. Industry, water, and people: a community-based monitoring synergy in Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet



FUNDER: Nunavut General Monitoring Plan

MAIN PARTNER: Baker Lake HTO, Akigiq HTO

COLLABORATORS: Ryerson U, Waterloo U, Frank Tester

OUTLINE: In July 2021, Lars Qaqqaq and John Etegooyok travelled along the shipping route between Baker Lake and Chesterfield inlet to collect additional water samples to combine with 2020. The samples were shipped to ALS environmental in Winnipeg to measure the levels of contaminants and oil by-products in the freshwater & marine ecosystem. ArctiConnexion started the analysis of the results collected in 2020 and 2021 (shipping data, contaminants and trail cameras). Individual interviews were conducted in Qamani'tuaq and Chesterfield Inlet with Elders of the communities.

DELIVERABLES: Annual Activity and Finance Report. Compendium of Elder's testimonies (<https://vimeo.com/857607545>).

BUDGET: Total = **2021-22 = \$84,914**

2. Pangnirtung Young Hunters Program



FUNDER: Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program & Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program

MAIN PARTNER: Hamlet of Pangnirtung

COLLABORATORS: Maggie Lucy Kilabuk, Natalie Baird, Jamie Evic

OUTLINE: In 2021, we launched a Young Hunters Program offered to the youth of community and delivered by two local coordinators. We ran 10-week YHP programs at spring, summer, fall of 2021 and in the winter of 2022. Programs involved between 10 to 15 local youth from different age groups. Youth were taught traditional hunting and surviving skills and learned to build shelters and tools. Youth harvested country foods that they shared with Elders and family members in the community promoting food security. Youth were taught in Inuktitut during the programs promoting culture and language acquisition. Local partnership was established with the Attagoyuk high school to allow the youth attending both school and the YHP.

In 2021-22, the YHP has graduated over 60 youth from the community. The Pangnirtung YHP is very successful so far and has grown a lot of support from the community residents. Many parents and Elders have praised the program, and the local Hunters and Trappers Association wishes for a permanent program in the community.

DELIVERABLES: 2021-22 Activity and finance report.

BUDGET: 2021-22 = \$215,721.00

3. Qamani'tuaq and Taloyoak addressing climate impacts and adaptations on fish habitats



FUNDER: Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program & Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program

MAIN PARTNER: Spence Bay Hunters & Trappers Organization, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization

COLLABORATORS: Ryerson U, DFO.

OUTLINE: At summer 2021, we conducted field work in both communities to assess the quality of fish and fish habitats in both communities. In Taloyoak, Joe Tularialik and Laisa Jayko sampled fish in the major fishing areas during the winter and summer. In Qamanituaq, John Etegoyok and Lars Qaqqaq were hired to collect lake trout samples at different lakes, water and sediment samples, as well as lakes, streams and water ponds located along the road to the Meadowbank goldmine. Interviews and mapping sessions with Elders were conducted in Qamani'tuaq in November 2022.

DELIVERABLES: Activity and finance report. 1 movie on fish habitats in production

BUDGET: Total = 2021-22 = \$234,738

4. Niqihaqut



FUNDER: CIRNAC: Indigenous Community Based Climate Monitoring Program, Climate Change Preparedness in the North & Indigenous Services Canada: Climate Change and Health Adaptation

MAIN PARTNER: Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association

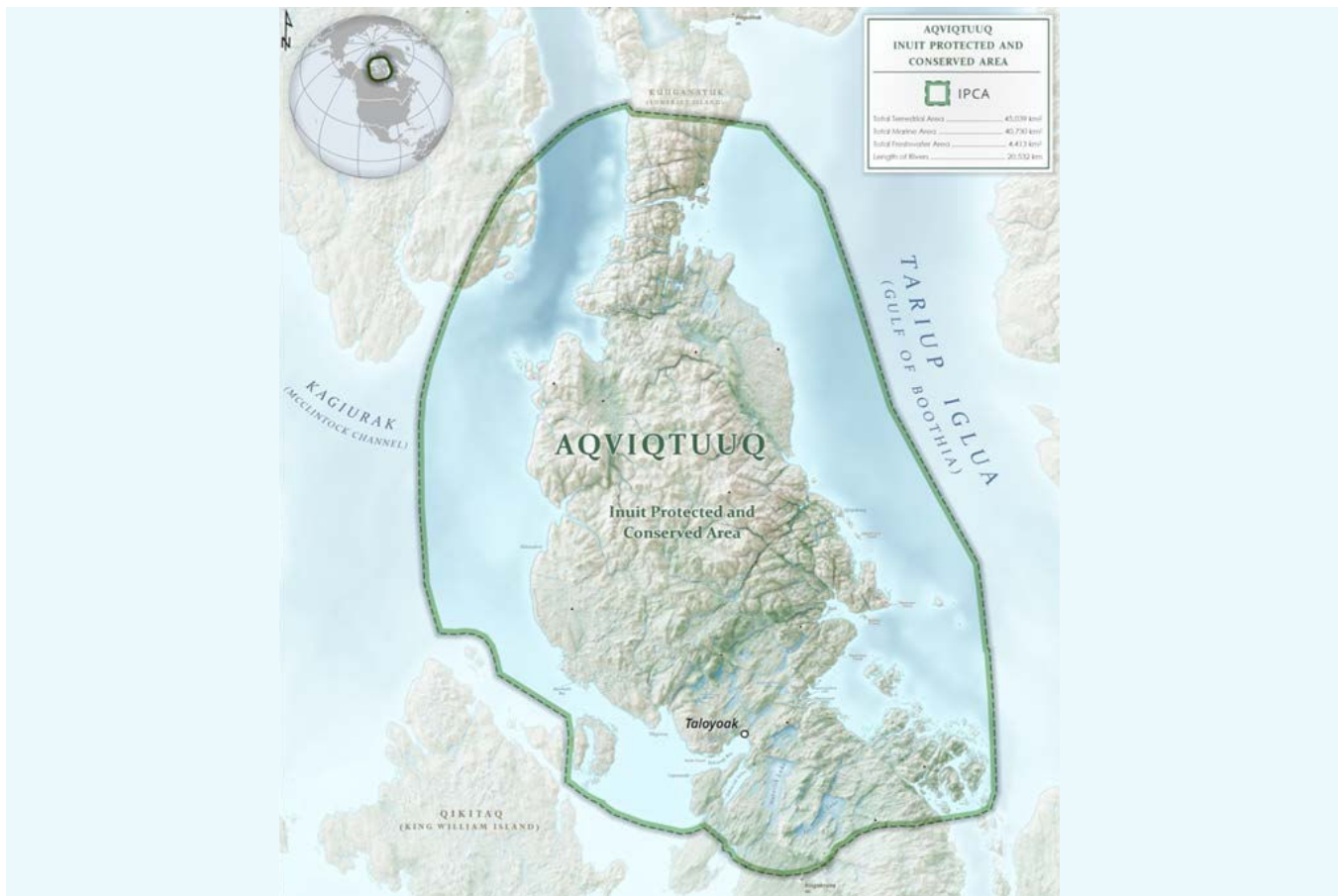
COLLABORATORS: WWF-Canada, Hamlet of Taloyoak, MakeWay Foundation, Nunavut Food Security Coalition.

OUTLINE: Niqihaqut is a project born in Taloyoak, Nunavut, addressing the problem of country food access under the dire of climate change. Our goal is to prepare and build capacity to develop new country food services in the community improving food access for all. In order to make sure that our country food access remains resilient, we will prepare and put into action an adaptive Sustainable Harvest Plan based on traditional values and integrating monitoring data on environmental and wildlife changes and create training opportunities through intergenerational exchanges.

In 2021-22, we created the Niqihaqut committee to help us steer the project with vision and action plan. We consulted the community and launched our wildlife monitoring program in the community. Several training activities with the youth and Elders, and training activities down south had to be postponed because of sanitary reasons. We were active on social media and in the news to communicate the progress of Niqihaqut. The community is 200% supportive and ready to move on with the pilot project.

BUDGET: 2021-22 = \$265,532.50

5. Aqviqtuuq



FUNDER: ECCC-Nature Funds

MAIN PARTNER: Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association

COLLABORATORS: WWF-Canada, Hamlet of Taloyoak, MakeWay Foundation, Nunavut Food Security Coalition.

OUTLINE: Spearheaded by the Taloyoak Umarulirigut Association (TUA), the Aqviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) is a land that we seek to permanently protect from industrial development. The IPCA will protect 45,039 km² of land (0.44% of Canada's terrestrial area), 40,730 km² of surrounding ocean (0.77% of Canada's marine area) and 4,413 km² of freshwater habitat. The Aqviqtuuq IPCA will make a significant contribution to the federal government's commitment to protect 30% of Canada's lands and waters by 2030. The first years of the program were dedicated to consultations with the community and lobbying with stakeholders including the regional Inuit association, the government of Nunavut and the Federal government. ArctiConnexion was asked to join the Aqviqtuuq initiative in the fall of 2021.

BUDGET: 2021-22 = \$487,500

6. Climate, wildlife, and people: terrestrial and marine monitoring promoting adaptation and food security in Kangiqliniq



FUNDER: *Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program & Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program*

MAIN PARTNER: Kivalliq Wildlife Board

COLLABORATORS: Mitch Campbell (GN), U Laval, U Rimouski (ISMER), U of Moncton

OUTLINE: In partnership with Clayton Tartak at the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, we developed a monitoring program to study the linkages between climate change and the marine ecosystem of the North-Western Hudson Bay near Rankin Inlet, as well as the caribou population. Pierre Coupel travelled to Rankin Inlet to train and support the local team for establishing a marine monitoring program. The program monitors ice algae, phytoplankton, zooplankton, benthic invertebrates, fish, and top predators. The local team worked from early spring to late fall 2021 to monitor the environment.

DELIVERABLES: Final Activity and finance report. Animated film of the project.

BUDGET: 2021-22: \$251,025

7. Environmental impacts of the Meliadine Mine near Kangiqliniq



FUNDER: Kivalliq Wildlife Board

MAIN PARTNER: Kivalliq Wildlife Board

COLLABORATORS: Pierre Blier, UQAR

OUTLINE: In partnership with Clayton Tartak at the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, we reviewed the literature and developed a protocol to study the impacts of the Meliadine mine on the aquatic environment and the proposed water pipeline project. We implemented the protocol at summer of 2021 when we travelled to Meliadine Lake (Tasirjuaq) to collect freshwater, zooplankton and fish samples. We monitored several stations located along a gradient starting from the mine outward and a reference station. We worked with Elder Barney Tootoo, who owns a cabin and a boat by the shores of Tasirjuaq, who guided the expedition. We documented on camera his experience dealing with the mine and his observations on the changing environment. In Rankin Inlet, we documented the testimonies of local land users and Elders who shared their experience dealing with the mine.

DELIVERABLES: Literature review of the mining impacts. Sampling protocol.

BUDGET: 2021-22: \$36,820

8. Snow monitoring near the Mary River mine



FUNDER: Qiqiktani Inuit Association

MAIN PARTNER: --

COLLABORATORS: --

OUTLINE: We prepared the field program and lab work for QIA to evaluate the impacts of dust on the environment around the Mary River Project, Baffin Island, Nunavut. The project was designed by an external firm but facilitated in Pond Inlet by our team.

BUDGET: 2021-22: \$25k

9. Business development

FUNDER: W. Garfield Weston Foundation

COLLABORATORS: U of Rimouski

OUTLINE: Partnership development (Qiqiktani Inuit Association, Taloyoak (Aqviqtuuq), and administration.

DELIVERABLES: 2021-22 Activity and finance report

BUDGET: 2021-22: \$39k

Summary of human resources

a. Core's activities

COMMUNITY	PROJECT TOPIC	NB MENTORS (AC)	NB LOCAL EMPLOYEES	NB PEOPLE WITH HONORARIA	NB ELDERS
Chester-Qamani'tuaq	Shipping	2	3	3	10
Pangnirtung	Young Hunters Program	2	2	0	0
Taloyoak-Qamani'tuaq	Fish	3	5	4	7
Taloyoak	Niqihaqut	2	3	5	5
Taloyoak	Aqviqtuuq	0	0	0	5
Rankin Inlet	Marine Ecosystem and Caribou	3	4	4	0
Pond Inlet	Snow monitoring	1	0	7	1
TOTAL		13	17	23	28

b. Administration

- 1X Administrative assistant
- 1X Accountant

c. Management

- 1X Director

d. Projects

- 1X Research Analyst

e. Business development & Marketing

- 1X Graphic designer
- 1X Movie producer

Update on the 2019-22 Strategic Plan

Driven by the firm desire to improve our service offer and relationships, ArctiConnexion's board of directors developed in 2019 strategic directions that will enable our personnel to work toward common objectives for the growth and flourishing of our organization.

THE 2019-22 STRATEGIC PLAN ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING FIVE PRIORITIES:

1. Increase mentorship capacity and diversify our expertise
2. Improve organizational structure & capacity;
3. Establish a working relationship framework with partners;
4. Build reputation by:
 - consolidating our leadership in mentorship & indigenous capacity building
 - clarify our service offer and make it known to communities;
5. Ensure the sustainability of our activities in the future

DURING 2021-22 WE IMPLEMENTED SEVERAL ACTION ITEMS LISTED IN OUR 2019-22 STRATEGIC PLAN.

- We diversified our expertise by stepping into new opportunities and contracts such as the new working relationship established with Taloyoak and their partners related to the Inuit Protected and Conserved Area and the development of a country food business. We also expanded our work related to mining assessment and environmental impacts. We also hired on a full-time basis our contractor Pierre Coupel to run our Science and research branch.
- We worked toward improving the consistency of our projects, we improved relationships with clients and partners, and we ensured continuity.

Annual Financial Statement

See document attached



ArctiConnexion