



Dear **INSPIRED** members:

October 26, 2004

We are now moving on from the success of the *Nunavut @ 5 Policy Symposium* of May 2004 [<http://plato.acadiau.ca/courses/pols/nunavut@5>] to the creation of specific **INSPIRED** research projects. Our first teleconference was held while Peter Irniq was visiting campus on Tuesday October 19th and though we understand that many of you were unable to be part of that meeting, we welcome and value your continued participation on the INSPIRED team.

INSPIRED vi@Acadia ready to go

[<http://plato.acadiau.ca/courses/pols/inspired/inspired.htm>] is the Institute for **International Nunavut Studies: Policy Innovation, Research and Educational Development vi@Acadia** – a forum born of the Nunavut Policy Symposium experience. INSPIRED offers opportunities for creating a collaborative research agenda that responds to a Nunavut-defined research agenda and community priorities. The key objective of INSPIRED is to support Nunavut's policy interests and priorities.

Please note the *INSPIRED* website we established for information-sharing and communication, at present, is a shell (*with an image of geese in flight, you'll notice, Millie*). It is a place where any documents and links can be posted or shared, as well as project initiatives' supported.

Initial Project/Focus Articulated

At this time we are ready to move forward with the first of what we hope are many research endeavours generated via INSPIRED. The information below outlines the beginning of this journey. Please let us know if you would like to join in this first, longer-term initiative and how your specific policy and research needs might be met through the process.

Teleconference Discussion on Tuesday, October 19th 2004:

In the first teleconference much of the discussion was focused on what you told us were the more urgent policy research needs with respect to the role of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in the operations of the Nunavut government at both a territorial and municipal level.

Questions arose such as:

- *How does Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit live in the workplace?*
- *What are the administrative and policy implications for a more culturally-relevant work environment?*
- *How can a community-based education effort be realized that would assist the process of ensuring that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is at the heart of public policy processes and administrative systems?*

Stories were shared about instances where policies and practices, at present, are in collision with culturally-appropriate needs and action, i.e. supervising your elders; definitions of 'family' for leave and benefits; elders participation at community consultations .

The foundation of any research initiative, it was suggested, should be comprehensive work towards the full articulation of IQ and efforts in the first five years to incorporate IQ into the policy system. Such an effort would include an examination of policy fields where IQ has been successfully integrated as well as barriers to its inclusion.

Possible Research Project:

As Victor Tootoo (ADM of Health) has shared, the Nunavut government has implemented a comprehensive tele-health program in each Nunavut community. However, there exists a gap between the potential to be realized from this network and its present use. Part of this gap can be bridged through community- based education in concert with professional development opportunities for health care workers. Key points are that the education and training experiences would need to be :

- culturally-based and culturally-responsive;
- easily accessible for participants;
- bilingual.

Acadia University is unique in the country for the ability to develop and design interactive, digital learning simulations based on real policy cases in the fields of health, education, economic development, housing, justice and the environment. Through the use of an interactive virtual learning environment (DVD), policy scenarios are recreated and learners, assuming a role ,make choices and see the consequences. One might imagine a interactive movie where you could take-up the role of any character, and be faced with a number of choices to make a key points in the policy processes, each with different effects/results that would be enacted.

The process of creating this educational product would entail the collaboration of elders, youth, Nunavut film makers, educators as well as relevant professionals, and policy makers . The process would bring to the table substantive consideration of *Inuit Qaujimajtuqangit* within the policy worlds of Nunavut government departments. The product could also facilitate the building of a vision for how *Inuit Qaujimajtuqangit* can be a foundation for institutional practice.

Next Steps: Applying for Funding

There is a funding opportunity through the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council that suits the INSPIRED goals of community partnering with academics to carry out research agendas identified and driven by the community. It is called the C.U.R.A. - Community University Research Alliance initiative.

A Letter of Intent for a C.U.R.A. would need to be submitted by December 6, 2004 outlining our specific research project with the possibility of obtaining funding for \$200,000 per year for 5 years. If our letter of intent is successful, we would receive \$20,000 to develop a more detailed plan for submission in August of 2005. We are also thinking that the model, we are starting to articulate together, could lead to other major funding opportunities, such as the Major Collaborative Research Initiative, also funded by SSHRC, which provides \$250,000 for each of five years.

There is a real opportunity here to ensure that the research development is undertaken in a way that

- provides significant community education and economic development opportunities
- supports the Fellowship program we talked about at the Nunavut Policy Symposium.

So what do you think? How can this research project be of use to you? We think in addition to the immediate application for the Department of Health there are natural linkages to Human Resources and Education at the municipal and territorial levels, with serious attention paid to the regions and their interests.

We welcome all feedback and look forward to discussing this project with you. If you prefer a phone chat to e-mail – we can do that as well.

Sincerely, your Acadia Colleagues,

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