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THE GRASSROOTS VOICES ARE GETTING LOUDER: HOW TO ENGAGE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE RESEARCH PROCESS

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Researchers have a tendency to work in silos and work independently (or with a team of scientists) on research designs. Rarely are the indigenous people who inhabit the arctic involved in the research planning and design. This presentation will examine what it looks like when that partnership does exist and how that can prove beneficial to the researcher and the community. By focusing on respect, relevance, reciprocity, and responsibility this presentation will provide insight on how to put the policy (Tri Council Policy Statement for Research Involving Humans: Chapter 9; Research with First Nations, Inuit and Metis (TCPS-2)) into practice (partnership with NunatuKavut Community Council). From a grassroots and academic perspective (“two-eyed seeing”), this presentation will show how these relationships are necessary for the natural sciences to thrive in the arctic. These relationships may appear more relevant in the social sciences and humanities and it’s applicability to the natural sciences is less obvious. This presentation will show how it applies to everything from folklore to geology to biology by highlight the work being done in NunatuKavut, Labrador, Canada about the ways that researchers conduct their work in these communities. As a subarctic, geographically dispersed ‘community’, NunatuKavut is well positioned to provide insight about how to meaningfully engage indigenous communities in the research planning and design. As an Indigenous researcher, I will emphasize both an indigenous and academic perspective on how to engage indigenous people in the research process by drawing on a decade-long partnership with NunatuKavut and other Indigenous communities in Canada’s arctic.