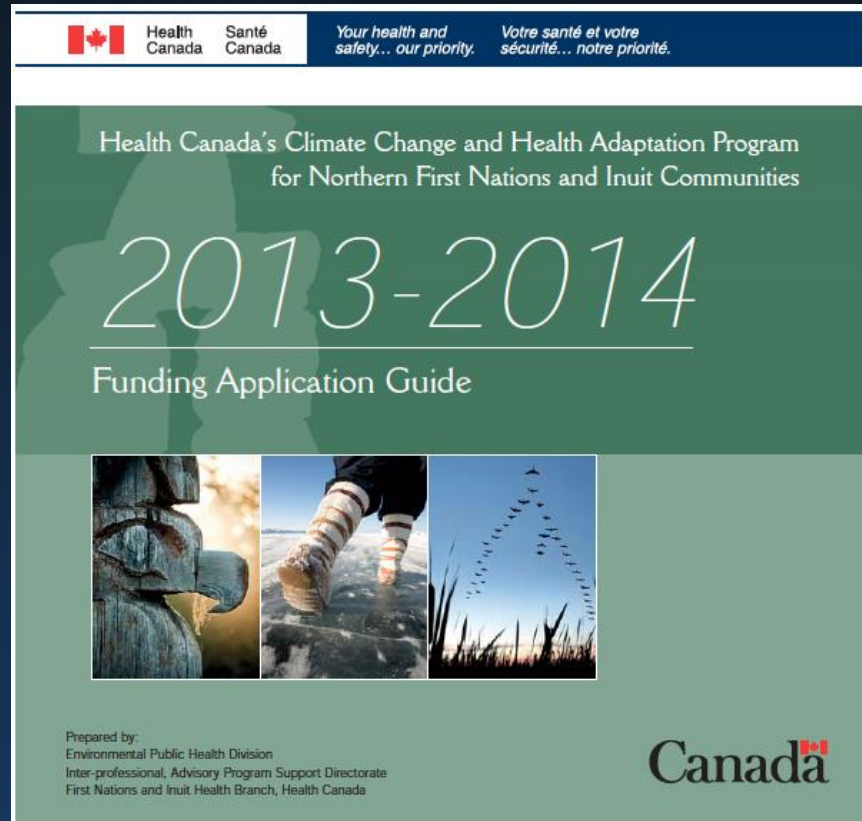


Call for Proposals: Grantwriting as adaptation in the Canadian Arctic



Noor Johnson
Postdoctoral Fellow
Brown University

Northern Research Forum
Akureyri, Iceland
August 22, 2013

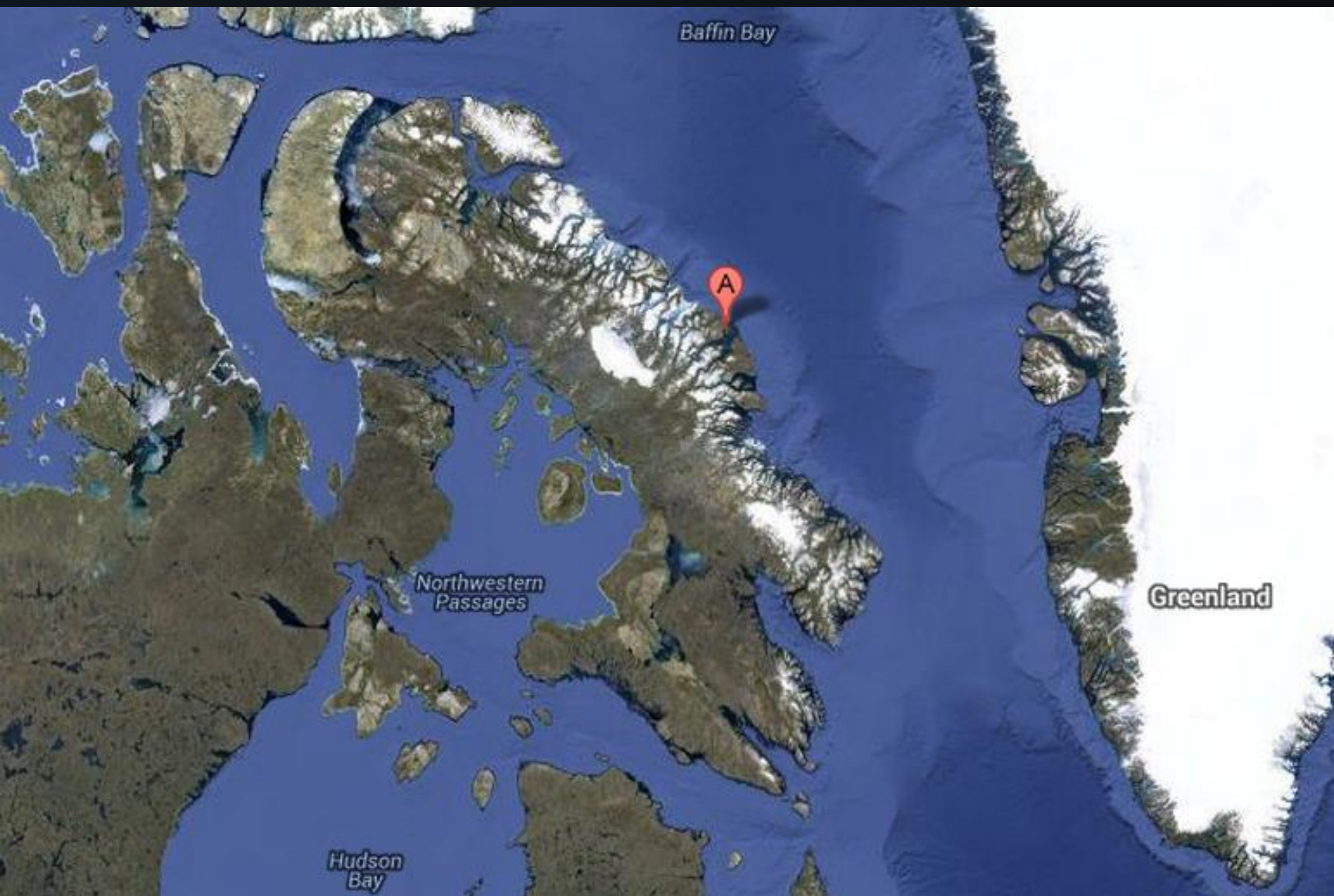
Capacity building: translation from above

“During the workshops, participants were invited to share their perceptions on what kind of changes they were experiencing and their concerns about these observed changes. It was then jointly determined which of the changes they mentioned were linked to climate effects and in turn how these could affect the health and well-being of affected communities. As participants became more familiar with climate change and health, they were invited to think about what kinds of projects they could undertake to reduce these effects” (McClymont Peace and Myers 2012:3).

Capacity building: translation from above

Proposal templates included:

“... a cover page, plain language summary, community background, introduction, project description (background, objectives, rationale, methodology, activities/ outcomes, partners, capacity building, and traditional knowledge), work plan and timelines, budget, project evaluation, communication and/or results, reporting plan, background information on team members, consent forms etc., and letter(s) of support by a mandated authority” (McClymont Peace and Myers 2012:3).



















Report writing: Brokerage from below



FINAL PROJECT REPORT March 24, 2010
"Arnait Project: A Women's Retreat on Climate Change and Health"
Ilisaqsivik Society, Clyde River
Report prepared by: Shari Gearheard



EVENT SUMMARY

The Arnait Retreat was held September 2-7, 2010 at Kiglapait, a camp located approximately 40 km up the fjord from the community of Clyde River. Twenty two women participated in the retreat: 11 women from Clyde River, 7 women from Qikiqtaaluk, 2 female researchers, and 2 female university students. Three men were also present on the retreat as polar bear monitors.

The retreat was a great success. All the women were transported to the site by boat and the first day was spent setting up camp. The Clyde women chose the location which did not have cabins, so the women set up tents which they shared in groups of 2-4. There was huge excitement and joy in just the setting up of the camp as women prepared their sleeping areas, cooking areas, and organized the camp for the week to come.

The structure of activities over the next week were planned in advance by the participating women and other women advisors before we left on the retreat. The women planned discussion topics and chose facilitators for these topics which included themes related to change (both climate and community change), being healthy, traditional plants, raising a healthy family, and how to have a good life. The researchers also planned some of the discussion to include documenting detailed information on the women's roles in subsistence activities and resources they need to take care of their families.

The women decided on a daily schedule of one discussion group in the morning and one in the evening, each followed (and/or preceded) by traditional games. The midday was reserved for berry picking and time for work between partners or small groups on our themes. For example, there were several days when women were paired up (a Clyde woman with a Qikiqtaaluk woman) to talk with each other on one of the themes (e.g. what should we be teaching younger women?). On another day, one of the women led a walk in the area to learn about traditional plants and their uses.

One of the primary goals of the retreat was to create a safe place for the women to share their knowledge, experiences, and concerns and to form a support network for the future. This was very successful in achieving and the women in this group bonded profoundly over the course of the week as they talked, shared tents, shared food, and shared the work to run the camp. It was a very emotional week in many ways, but always with a positive outcome. And, there was no shortage of laughter and joy as we played games every day and all participants jumped in to provide prizes and new challenging games to play. And, as always, camping in the Arctic brought its own unique twists and excitement that brought the women close together including visits by polar bears, a sudden wind storm (which forced our departure, sans gear, a day early), and a visiting child's first catch of Arctic hare.

The researchers collected valuable data during the retreat that compliments their existing SSHRC project on Inuit women and subsistence. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected through focus groups, discussions, and surveys with the women. Several in-depth interviews were also conducted with several of the women. In addition, all the women were given digital cameras. All photos were collected and compiled and each woman went home with a CD full of photo memories from the retreat.

After the retreat was completed, we held an evaluation meeting to learn what the women thought of the retreat. All of the comments were extremely positive. The most positive responses came from the Qikiqtaaluk women who were grateful for being able to come to Clyde River and experience the area and meet other women. They felt like they were warmly welcomed and treated very well. They said they would return to their communities to tell everyone about the new bonds they had made. We felt this showed the success of trying to create the connections between women in these communities and all were happy for these comments.

“One might not think that ‘being a good person’ would fit within a climate change centered project, but it is precisely by being a good, healthy person, in a healthy community, that we will be able to deal with any change that comes our way.”

- Ilisaqsivik Report to Health Canada

Report writing: Brokerage from below



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Brokerage as mediating between
“different rationalities, interests,
and meanings, so as to produce
order, legitimacy, and
'success' and to maintain funding
flows.”

(Mosse and Lewis 2006:13).

Acknowledgements

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