

## **Exploring the social-ecological resilience of different generations in Aklavik, NWT**

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In Indigenous communities of the Canadian Arctic, along with other communities globally, the phenomenon of intergenerational division has been documented and highlighted as a concern for social-ecological resilience. It has been labeled as a vulnerability factor for communities to respond to social-ecological change and describes a cultural and knowledge gap between youth, adults, and elders. Much research that has explored this intergenerational division has focused on elders. This research works with youth, adults, and elders in the case study community of Aklavik to explore epistemology and function of resilience as a stepping point for reconnecting generations. This Gwich'in and Inuvialuit community in the Western Canadian Arctic has faced social and ecological changes ranging from residential school, to flooding, and caribou population change over the past century. While the Resilience Alliance describes social-ecological resilience as having a breadth of three defining characteristics, the literature on resilience for Indigenous communities in the Arctic has emphasized social angles, which is where we have focused our research. We engaged community based collaborative research with Aklavik, with the objective of understanding how different generations perceive resilience and subsequently how each engages different attributes of resilience. We used a mixed methods approach with semi-structured interviews in each age group as well as focus groups to collect data on resilience. This data was qualitatively and quantitatively analyzed and triangulated to offer an understanding of the perception and practice of resilience across different generations. Preliminary results suggest that despite the documented intergenerational divisions, there may also be similarities between youth, adults, and elders in perception and practice. This suggests there could be valuable areas of similarity and difference for communication, collaboration, and learning that might support a bridge across generational divisions and nurture intergenerational resilience in the Canadian Arctic. It is our hope that this work might contribute to the ongoing reflection on resilience across local, cultural, and generational scales.