

Shelly Lee Katherine Elverum

Accolades

Fellow, Ashoka: Recognized as a “Changemaker” for supporting the re-centring of traditional Inuit knowledge systems - called Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or “IQ” - into Western science, in the process creating new roles for Inuit youth as valued members of the Arctic’s social and scientific communities. (2019 – present)

Governor General’s Innovation Award: Awarded as part of the SmartICE Team for our “...ground-breaking work on climate change adaptation... that integrates on-ice technology, remote sensing and Inuit knowledge to generate near real-time information of ice conditions for Arctic communities.”(2019)

Fellow, Royal Canadian Geographical Society: for work in Canada’s Arctic building capacity for Inuit science and capacity-building, and making “Canada Better known to Canadians and the World” (2018-present)

Arctic Inspiration Prize (double laureate) nicknamed the “Nobel of the North”. “The Arctic Inspiration Prize recognizes and promotes the extraordinary contribution made by teams in the gathering of Arctic knowledge and their plans to implement this knowledge to real world applications for the benefit of the Canadian Arctic, Arctic Peoples and therefore Canada as a whole.”

- Ikaarvik (2013) for enabling northern Indigenous youth to develop and act on local research priorities, develop transferable skills and increase community capacity for ensuring that research is a tool for Northern peoples.
- SmartICE (2016) enabling Inuit communities to utilize both Inuit knowledge and technology to ensure safe ice travel

TIDES Canada Top 10 (2013)

Recognized as “...one of Canada’s most innovative leaders working to solve pressing social justice and environmental challenges...” through my work with environmental and cultural capacity building.

Education

Master of Arts (History and archaeology)

Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta. 1995-2000.

- Trained in the collection, analysis and interpretation of oral and documentary historical materials.

Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology)

Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta. 1990-94.

- Trained in the collection and interpretation of anthropological, archaeological and historical materials.

Traditional Knowledge, Community Development and Resource Management Experience

Co-Lead, Ikaarvik (2014-Present)

Ikaarvik works with Indigenous Youth to determine community research priorities, and partner with government and academic researchers to help answer the questions around balancing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and science to create better knowledge and frameworks for decision-making in 5 Nunavut communities, and 2 Yukon First Nations (Kluane and Champagne-Aishihik First Nations)

Current and Completed Ikaarvik Projects

- SciQ (Funded by RBC Future Launch) – Ikaarvik youth have developed a framework to balance Inuit societal values and the strengths of science and technology as a way of informing and improving Arctic science.
- Arctic Corridors and Northern Voices: Ikaarvik youth trained as co-researchers to study the impact of proposed shipping corridors and increased shipping through Arctic waters (Transport Canada / University of Ottawa)
- Socio-Economic Impacts of Baffinland Iron Mine (Government of Canada)
- SIKU – a living wiki-archive of Inuit knowledge and a social mapping platform for knowledge sharing amongst Northern Communities. Ikaarvik youth in Gjoa Haven are helping to beta-test the app and platform. (Google Impact Challenge award winner)
- Invasive species: Marine environmental DNA research – Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Green Energy – Canada's most northern grid-tied solar/Pond Inlet Community Hall
- SmartICE (Polar Knowledge Canada) – award winning project enabling Inuit communities to utilize both Inuit knowledge and technology to ensure safe ice travel
- Health of the Coppermine River (Funded by Health Canada)
- Plastics and microplastics in the Canadian Arctic Marine Environment (Ocean Wise)
- Satellite Imagery and Sea Ice (Public Safety / Search and Rescue funding) – training Inuit youth with the technical skills to assess and map satellite images of sea ice
- Nova Zembla: Archaeological and Cultural study of a Scottish whaling ship on Baffin Island (Arctic Institute of North America)
- ArcticNet Student Day – Our youth researchers have led workshops for over 200 Master's and Ph.D level students from across Canada – an unprecedented opportunity to influence and guide future Arctic researchers.

SmartICE - Community Capacity and Support (2016-present)

SmartICE is developing a near real-time sea-ice monitoring and information sharing system that blends Inuit traditional knowledge with state-of-the-art technology. My role with SmartICE is to support community researchers to:

- Improve community access to information for safe travel on the ice,
- Create employment and training opportunities for local communities,
- Provide important information for emergency response (SAR) and national defense (military, Rangers),
- Support the merging of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and remote sensing for the benefit of Inuit communities

Lead Instructor

Environmental Technology Program, Nunavut Arctic College

A wildly successful pilot project, the ETP was offered for the first time in the high Arctic community of Pond Inlet and resulted in the graduation of 11 students from the diploma program. As Lead Instructor, it was my responsibility to both teach courses in Arctic environments, resource development and cross-cultural management practices, as well as support the students academically, and sometimes emotionally, through the two year program. The graduates of the program have gone on to make outstanding contributions to their community, towards enabling a stronger voice for Inuit in Arctic science and management, as well as inspiring other Nunavut communities to follow the same model.

August 2010 – December 2012

Senior Social Scientist / Traditional Knowledge Project Coordinator

Nulujaak /Mary River mine project

Knight Piesold Consulting

I coordinated, trained and supervised Inuit in the communities of Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Igloolik to collect and map Inuit traditional knowledge as part of the environmental assessment for the proposed mining development at Mary River, Nunavut. This work involved both documentary and community-based traditional knowledge collection with community Working Groups and local elders.

April 2005 – November 2010

Community Facilitator, Inuit Knowledge Project – Parks Canada

As part of the Inuit Knowledge Project for Parks Canada, Nunavut Field Unit, I provided advice and assistance to Parks Staff and graduate students and assisted the community-based Working Group to prioritize traditional knowledge research topics for Sirmilik National Park.

May 2005- May 2007

Inuit Use of Satellite Imagery – European Space Agency / Centre for Cold Ocean Research (Memorial University)

I collected and presented the community and cultural impacts of satellite imagery of ice conditions in the Pond Inlet area. Through a process of oral interviews and questionnaires, I was

able to provide the researchers with Inuit traditional knowledge, community views, concerns and priorities for future remote sensing work.

April – August 2004

Inuit Traditional Knowledge Evaluation - *Parks Canada, Nunavut Field Unit*

As part of a pilot project for Sirmilik National Park, I collected, analyzed and organized existing oral history and traditional ecological knowledge information for park planners.

October – December 2003

International Arctic Internship

WWF Arctic Coordination Office Oslo, Norway.

Working on an a program funded by the Arctic Council and offered through the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), I worked on arctic conservation issues ranging from whales watching to the impacts of tourism. While in Norway, I was mentored on a variety of circumpolar conservation and development issues, including circumpolar protected areas networks, climate change and toxins. I gained a valuable circumpolar perspectives, experience and networks. Participated in the “*Indigenous Observations of Climate Change*” conference in Tampere, Finland, and the “*Comparison of Indigenous Rights in Northern Canada and Norway*” workshop hosted by the Canadian Embassy in Norway.

- Conducted a workshop for WWF staff on working in cross-cultural environments
- Invited participant of the “Canada – Norway Roundtable on Northern Issues” with Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and HRH King Harald of Norway.

Sep 2001 – March 2002

References Upon Request