



261 Duckworth Street St. John's NL A1C 1G9

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SMARTICE DEVELOPING NEW TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR INUIT WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE CLIMATE JUSTICE RESILIENCE FUND

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR – SmartICE Sea Ice Monitoring & Information Inc. is proud to announce the launch of the *Sikumik Qaujimajjuti* project with support of the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF). The CJRF is a registered charity in the United States that offers grants to climate change resilience initiatives dedicated to youth, Indigenous peoples, and women. The CJRF is contributing financial support of USD\$500,000 (approx. CAD\$650,000) over three years.

The *Sikumik Qaujimajjuti* project includes the development of a holistic, culturally appropriate, and sustainable training curriculum that provides Inuit youth the skills to interpret satellite imagery and create ice travel safety maps for their community. The project is piloting in Pond Inlet and Gjoa Haven in Nunavut, and Nain, Nunatsiavut with plans for expansion to all SmartICE serviced communities across Inuit Nunangat.

Sikumik Qaujimajjuti roughly translates to 'tool to know how the ice is.' "Although such a tool could refer to anything from a camera to a harpoon, in this case it is an Ice Travel Safety Map, generated by trained SmartICE Community Operators for local sea-ice users", says Trevor Bell, Founding Director of SmartICE. The maps will include Inuit sea-ice terminology, travel hazards based on Inuit knowledge from Elders, and data from SmartQAMUTIKs, SmartBUOYs, ice charts and weather stations. "Our curriculum will cover technical skills like how to interpret sea ice data from a variety of information sources, as well as methods for making and distributing sea ice maps. It will also connect learners to community sea ice experts, who will help them strengthen their sea ice terminology and IQ skills" says Rebecca Segel, Remote Sensing Specialist with SmartICE. Andrew Arreak, Regional Operations Lead for SmartICE in Pond Inlet, and a participant in the pilot program, says "this project will enable us to read and interpret what we see on a satellite image and pass that knowledge along to community members. SmartICE Operators like myself are able to go to a location if a sea ice type is not identifiable and describe what is being seen on a satellite image."

"The map addresses an identified community need, especially for less experienced ice users, to mobilize Inuit knowledge and observations of ice conditions, together with monitoring data from on-ice sensors and satellite imagery" says Bell. Local map production will build community engagement and transferable skills for youth, while ensuring enhanced integration, preservation and transfer of local traditional knowledge. By utilizing inclusive consultation that accounts for the unique geographical, cultural and

community contexts, the project will foster community support and encourage enrollment and retention of participants. Rex Holwell, SmartICE Regional Operations Lead in Nain, says the project will provide him with “a more accurate picture of the ice situation around Nain, and using this, along with other imagery, will give people another tool to hopefully keep them safe while traveling on the sea ice, while practicing their traditional lifestyle.”

“The Climate Justice Resilience Fund made a three-year grant to SmartICE in 2019 after a rigorous application and due diligence process. Their work is unique and compelling in how it links the needs and knowledge of local Inuit ice user groups (Sikumiut) to satellite data and on-ice monitoring. Real-time ice information is vital for Inuit communities in Canada planning safe travel across the increasingly unpredictable sea ice landscape. The work represents a unique, life-saving climate change adaptation for highly vulnerable communities, and is only possible because SmartICE brings together traditional and scientific sources of knowledge” says Heather McGray, Director of CJRF.

“I am extremely grateful to the Climate Justice Resilience Fund for supporting SmartICE in co-developing and piloting the curriculum to train young Inuit to make Ice Travel Safety Maps for their communities” says Bell. Other contributors to the project include Pinnguaq and the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC).

Quick Facts

- SmartICE is a community-based organization offering climate change adaptation tools, designed to incorporate sea-ice monitoring data with local Indigenous knowledge of sea ice conditions, which can contribute to more informed decisions regarding safe land, water, and sea ice use.
- SmartICE, founded in 2016, is currently operating in 18 communities across Inuit Nunangat, with plans to expand into 5 more communities by the end of the 2021 ice season. It is also expected that SmartICE will expand into 30 communities by 2022.
- SmartICE has been awarded the Arctic Inspiration Prize, the United Nations Momentum for Climate Change Solutions Award, the Governor General’s Innovation Award, and the Memorial University President’s Award for Public Engagement Partnerships.
- The CJRF is a registered charity in the United States that offers grants to climate change resilience initiatives dedicated to youth, Indigenous peoples, and women; the groups most impacted by climate change. The CJRF provides support to reduce risks, manage shocks, rebound, and foster sustainable development.

Associated Links

For further information about SmartICE, please visit www.SmartICE.org.
For further information about the Climate Justice Resilience Fund, please visit <https://www.cjrfund.org/>.

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Media Contact

Emily Best
Northern Communications Lead
C. 1.709.217.2711
E. emily@smartice.org



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