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SmartICE Research Collaboration Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Research Collaboration Policy is to establish guiding principles for collaborating on research projects with SmartICE.

Why Collaborate with SmartICE?

SmartICE is a leading not-for-profit social enterprise, which seeks first and foremost to support the needs of the communities in which it operates. SmartICE has valuable experience working in Arctic communities, supporting the economic development of communities and the preservation of local cultures.

Benefits of Collaborating with SmartICE

Collaborating with SmartICE can provide an excellent opportunity to leverage and share expertise, equipment and other resources. Projects may also allow for the sharing of knowledge and data, from which solutions to complex problems can be found.

Types of Collaborations

SmartICE receives requests from academic institutions and other research organizations to collaborate on a variety of projects. These collaborations often benefit both parties, facilitating an exchange of knowledge, data, or equipment.

Previously, requests have been made for sea ice data collection, usage of SmartICE equipment, facilitation of training, and more. Other reasons for collaboration may include:

- The alignment of objectives in conducting sea ice surveys and collecting data
- The presence of SmartICE staff in specific Arctic communities
- The use of SmartICE equipment to assist research
- The use of SmartICE's connections to communities to help broker introductions

Collaborations will be evaluated based on SmartICE's capacity and ability to mobilize resources within a proposed timeline, as well as the alignment of projects with SmartICE's values.

SmartICE's Research Values

SmartICE seeks to augment and preserve local knowledge, support traditional sea ice use and promote Inuit culture. We recognize that Inuit have unique insight into the challenges facing their communities and can thus ensure research aligns with community needs and priorities.

SmartICE research is guided by the ITK's National Inuit Strategy on Research, which prioritizes the right to

Inuit self-determination within the area of research.¹ To build Inuit self-determination, free, prior, and informed consent must be acquired prior to research activity, and Inuit must be engaged as partners throughout the entirety of the research process.² Thus, in potential research collaborations, SmartICE looks for the engagement of local communities in the design, implementation and dissemination of research.

Expectations

Researchers are expected to conduct research in accordance with professional standards of ethics and transparency, and have all required permits in place for the project. Potential collaborations must not interfere with or compromise the values, aims, and integrity of SmartICE and its operations. Collaboration agreements will further outline details related to IP protection, confidentiality, and the dissemination of data.

Process

If you wish to collaborate with SmartICE, please contact charding@smartice.org and/or dave@smartice.org for more information.

¹ Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). (2018). *National Inuit Strategy on Research*.
<https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ITK-National-Inuit-Strategy-on-Research.pdf>

² Ibid.