



Institut nordique  
du Québec  
Together for the North

# ACTIVITY REPORT

2024 | 2025



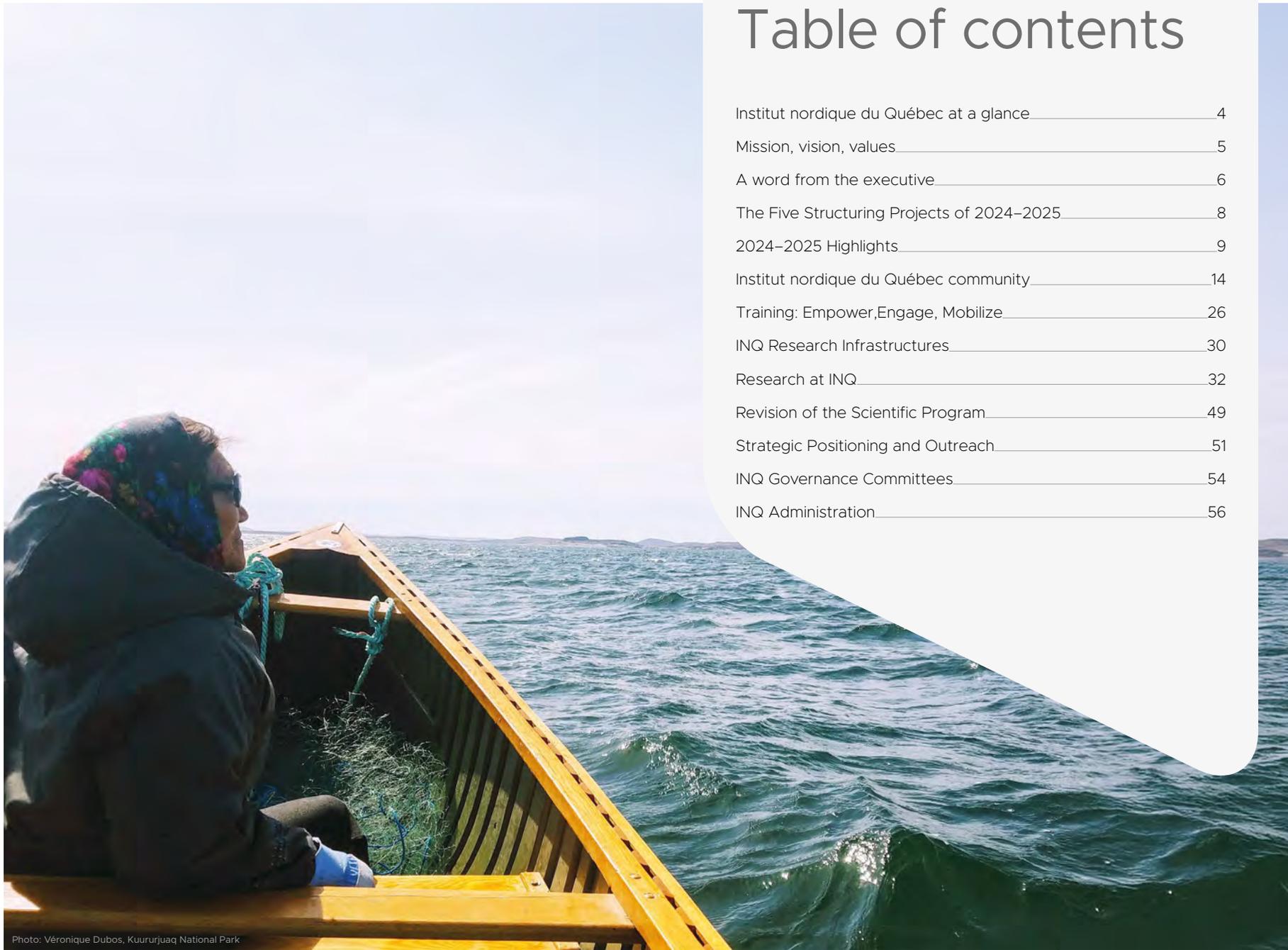


Photo: Véronique Dubos, Kuururjuaq National Park

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# Institut nordique du Québec (INQ) at a glance



**16**

Quebec university  
member institutions



**90+**

Affiliated research entities  
(research centres, laboratories,  
institutes, and groups)



**70+**

Research Chairs with  
an INQ-affiliated chairholder



**4**

Founding nations  
(Inuit, Cree, Innu, and Naskapi  
of Kawawachikamach)



**5**

Committees and working  
groups devoted to priority  
issues in the North



**278**

Affiliated researchers



**3**

INQ Research Chairs



**6**

Research projects  
underway as part  
of the *For A Sustainable  
North* program



## Mission

Bring together expertise and knowledge that contribute to enriched training, creative research of value and the development of adapted, resilient and concrete solutions for the North and the Arctic.



## Vision

To be a recognized leader in the northern and Arctic research ecosystem in response to the major challenges of nordicity.



## Values

INQ's actions are motivated by the following values:

Respect / Engagement

Boldness / Collaboration

# A word from the executive

The 2024–2025 year was, for Institut nordique du Québec (INQ), a period of consolidation, outreach, and collective momentum toward the future. It highlighted the richness and relevance of an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral network, rooted in northern and Arctic realities, and firmly committed to sustainable, equitable, and inclusive development of the North.

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, INQ began an important redefinition process, building on a decade of solid achievements. Five major initiatives were launched, bringing together all stakeholders around a clear ambition: to strengthen the foundations of INQ and chart a path forward. This collective reflection led to the development of the new 2025–2030 strategic plan, positioning INQ as a key leader in the northern and Arctic research ecosystem. In parallel, four other structuring initiatives were carried out: revision of the scientific programming, membership renewal, update of the Research Guidelines—an ethical guide developed by the First Peoples Committee—and the long-term funding file, which is essential to INQ's continuity.

Thus 2024–2025 laid the groundwork for our future, culminating in the hosting of a strategic forum at Le Monastère des Augustines. This day of reflection brought together our members and partners to prepare the 2025–2030 strategic plan—an essential exercise to define our key directions.

The year was also marked by a temporary change in INQ's scientific leadership. We warmly thank Professor René Therrien, a distinguished hydrogeologist and long-standing INQ member, for agreeing to take on this responsibility until Professor Jean-Éric Tremblay returns in May 2025. His extensive expertise has ensured valuable continuity during this pivotal period.

We wish to highlight that the renewal of 15 Quebec universities as regular members of INQ, together with the membership of Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO), brings the number of member institutions to 16. This strengthening of our network is part of a renewal dynamic and reflects the growing recognition of INQ as a strategic hub for northern research in Quebec.

Among other major events, our annual Symposium, held in May in Quebec City, brought together nearly 200 participants to discuss the adaptation of northern infrastructures. Issues related to health, environment, economy, and social cohesion were addressed in an integrated manner, illustrating the cross-cutting approach that characterizes our institute. This moment of exchange was also an opportunity to celebrate the next generation through the Mon Projet nordique competition, a true showcase of student dynamism and the power of science communication.

Anchoring our work in Indigenous realities has remained at the heart of our priorities. INQ's First Peoples Committee Forum provided an opportunity to showcase projects led by, or carried out in collaboration with, northern Indigenous communities, addressing issues as fundamental as resource management, food security, and self-determination. These exchanges highlighted the importance of co-constructing research through respectful and adapted approaches.

We also had the privilege of highlighting the remarkable commitment of a strategic ally of INQ. Thanks to the generous contribution of Mr. Frederik Paulsen, made through the Albédo Foundation, the development of our future scientific complex has reached a new decisive stage. This philanthropic gesture reaffirms the international scope of our mission.

Finally, the launch of the call for projects for the CASCADES scientific expedition, in collaboration with the Swiss Polar Institute and the French Polar Institute Paul-Émile Victor, confirms our commitment to promoting northern research on the international stage. This collaboration marks a significant step in strengthening Quebec's expertise in circumpolar research.

This report reflects the vitality of a community united by a shared vision of using research to drive transformation, innovation and justice in the North. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our partners, colleagues, and allies, as well as to northern communities for their trust and commitment. We firmly believe that collective strength and diverse expertise are key to finding sustainable solutions for the North and the Arctic. With confidence, commitment and humility, we will continue to pursue this mission.

Together, we continue on our path toward a sustainable, inclusive North, guided by science.



**Eugénie Brouillet**

Chair, Executive  
Committee, INQ



**Brigitte Bigué**

Executive Director  
of Operations, INQ



**Jean-Éric Tremblay**

Scientific Director, INQ



**René Therrien**

Interim Scientific  
Director of INQ

(1 May 2024 to 31 March 2025)

## A Year Guided by Collective Intelligence

The INQ Institut Nordique du Québec team invites you to discover a defining year driven by collaboration and commitment. This report showcases the power of a network that brings together researchers, partners, northern community members, and government representatives. By combining scientific knowledge with local expertise, we are collectively helping to inform decision-making processes and build a sustainable, vibrant and resilient future for the North.

# The Five Structuring Projects of 2024–2025

In 2024–2025, Institut nordique du Québec identified five major structuring projects to consolidate its role and address emerging priorities in northern and Arctic research. The following paragraphs provide a brief overview of these structuring initiatives, which will shape the development and activities of INQ in the coming years.

## 1) AN AMBITIOUS STRATEGIC PLAN TO GUIDE INQ THROUGH 2030

In 2024, INQ began developing its new strategic plan, building on the progress of the previous one. Driven by impressive mobilization, the process was supported by extensive consultations, targeted analyses, and a forum bringing together universities, researchers, committees, working groups, and partners. This collective effort made it possible to define a renewed mission, vision, and values, along with ambitious objectives.

## 2) HEADING TOWARD A RENEWED SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

In 2024, INQ continued the revision of its scientific program initiated in 2023, mobilizing its research community through consultation workshops, meetings of the scientific committee, and exchanges with First Peoples. The new program, currently being drafted, is intended to be dynamic, evolving, and rooted in northern and Arctic realities. Four cross-cutting issues will guide its implementation: protection and responsible management of resources; food security and the safeguarding of traditional activities; responses to global changes; and contributions to the vitality and well-being of communities.

## 3) RENEWAL OF INQ MEMBERSHIP

INQ instigated a major update of its membership. This call for renewal received a unanimous response: all existing members chose to continue their commitment, thereby reaffirming their support for INQ's mission. This process also welcomed a new member, Université du Québec en Outaouais, bringing the number of affiliated universities to 16. This new collective momentum illustrates INQ's growing influence and recognises its essential role in advancing northern research in Quebec and beyond.

## 4) UPDATE OF THE RESEARCH GUIDELINES

At the request of the First Peoples Committee, INQ is updating the Research Guidelines, initially published in 2017. Research in Indigenous contexts is constantly evolving and setting new standards in terms of ethics and respect. Indigenous communities and nations, as well as government bodies, now call on the entire scientific community to deepen its understanding of Indigenous issues and to actively contribute to the decolonization of research. In its enriched version, this new edition addresses, among other things, the notions of reconciliation, self-determination, and Indigenous methodologies, while integrating key references published since 2017. Through this initiative, INQ reaffirms its support for efforts to promote ethical, respectful, and collaborative research practices.

## 5) LONG-TERM FUNDING OF INQ

Since its creation in 2014, INQ, supported by the Government of Quebec, has established itself as a flagship initiative in northern and Arctic research. In order to pursue its mission and respond to the growing needs in this field, it worked to ensure its continuity. In 2024–2025, INQ's leadership intensified its exchanges with strategic partners — governments, universities, the private sector, and northern communities — to strengthen the organization's financial and operational foundations. These efforts reaffirmed the importance of INQ's mission and highlighted its tangible impact, both through its scientific reach and its contribution to sustainable development and innovation in the North, at provincial, national, and international levels.

# 2024–2025 Highlights

APRIL 15, 2024

## UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC EN OUTAOUAIS JOINS INQ

On April 15, 2024, Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO) officially joined Institut nordique du Québec, bringing the number of INQ member institutions to 16. The membership agreement was signed by Mr. Edel El Zaïm, Vice-Rector for Research, Creation, Partnerships, and Internationalization at UQO. This membership is part of a broader renewal process at INQ, an initiative aimed at strengthening the network's collaborative capacity and enhancing the INQ's legitimacy with its partners. In the coming months, UQO researchers whose work focuses on northern and Arctic regions will be invited to join INQ. This new commitment reflects INQ's growing influence and the relevance of its mission for institutions engaged in northern research.



MAY 1, 2024

## INQ'S INTERIM SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP ENTRUSTED TO PROFESSOR RENÉ THERRIEN

As part of Professor Jean-Éric Tremblay's research and study year, INQ entrusted its interim scientific leadership to Professor René Therrien, a renowned hydrogeologist and dedicated member of the INQ community. A specialist in groundwater modeling in northern environments, he adopts an interdisciplinary approach that bridges Earth sciences, engineering, and environmental studies, with a view to sustainable resource management. He is also one of the three co-directors of INQ's Axis 5, which focuses on the sustainable development of northern natural resources—whether forestry, mineral, hydroelectric, or wind—while taking into account the fragility of ecosystems and the aspirations of local communities. A long-standing collaborator, he notably chaired INQ's implementation committee from 2014 to 2019, while serving as Vice-Dean of Research in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Université Laval. A full professor and Director of the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, he will fulfill this strategic role until the return of Professor Jean-Éric Tremblay, scheduled for May 1, 2025.

MAY 7-8, 2024

## INQ'S ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

On May 7 and 8, 2024, nearly 200 people gathered in Quebec City to take part in Institut nordique du Québec's Annual Symposium, dedicated this year to the adaptation of northern infrastructures in the face of current challenges. Health, economy, environment, and social cohesion: the discussions highlighted the interdependence of these issues and the need for an integrated approach. This key event fostered rich dialogue between researchers and partners from both the North and the South on sustainable solutions to reduce infrastructure gaps across Quebec's northern territory. The Symposium was also marked by highlights such as the provincial final of the My Northern Project (MNP) competition, a special collaboration with Air Inuit, a photo contest, awards for the best scientific posters, and the selection of five finalists who proudly represented Quebec at the international grand final of MNP in Iceland.



# 2024–2025 Highlights

MAY 7, 2024

## PROVINCIAL ROUND OF THE MY NORTHERN PROJECT COMPETITION

As part of Institut nordique du Québec's Annual Symposium, the provincial round of the My Northern Project science communication competition once again highlighted the excellence and creativity of the next generation of northern researchers. Fourteen students from several Quebec universities took on the challenge of presenting their northern research project in just five minutes—clear, accessible, and captivating. Selected following a call for applications launched in February 2024, these young researchers brilliantly illustrated the diversity, richness, and relevance of the work being carried out in the North. Their performances powerfully demonstrated the impact of science communication in making research accessible to the public and in showcasing northern knowledge beyond academic circles.

Five Quebec finalists were ultimately selected to represent Quebec at the international final of My Northern Project in October 2024, held as part of the Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland.

- > **Ariane B. Barrette**, PhD in Oceanography, Université Laval
- > **Mariane St-Aubin**, Master's in Biological Sciences, Université de Montréal
- > **Alex Mavrovic**, PhD in Environmental Sciences, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
- > **Madeleine St-Cyr**, Master's in Earth Sciences, Université Laval
- > **Charlie Wenger**, Professional Master's in Architecture and Master's in Architectural Sciences, Université Laval



Congratulations to **Charlie Wenger**, who received the **Audience Choice Award** for her presentation entitled *Dwelling in Inuit fiction: words, images and architecture*. This award highlights the eloquence of the work, at the crossroads of cultural knowledge and architectural practice.

MAY 7, 2024

## RECOGNITION OF A STRATEGIC ALLY

Université Laval and INQ hosted a dinner in honor of Mr. Frederik Paulsen at the Cercle de la Garnison in Quebec City. This special occasion highlighted the exceptional commitment of this philanthropist and polar explorer to INQ. Through a \$5 million donation made via the Albédo Foundation, Mr. Paulsen is making a decisive contribution to the construction of the new scientific complex.

During his visit to Quebec City, Mr. Paulsen had the opportunity to tour the construction site with partners and representatives from INQ, Université Laval, and the University of the Arctic (UArctic). This event underscored the strategic significance of this infrastructure, which is set to become a true hub for northern and Arctic research, both at Canadian and international levels. It also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the inspiring vision behind this major philanthropic gesture, one that carries an ambitious future for science in the North.



Jean-Éric Tremblay (Scientific Director of INQ), Brigitte Bigué (Executive Director of Operations at INQ), and Frederik Paulsen (philanthropist, businessman, and Swedish explorer) during the visit to the INQ Scientific Complex construction site.



Photo: Rachel Hussherr

# 2024–2025 Highlights

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

## RELEASE OF THE REPORT OF INQ'S FIRST PEOPLES COMMITTEE FORUM

In October 2023, INQ's First Peoples Committee held a landmark forum in Chicoutimi on *The Impact of Climate Change on Ecosystems and Indigenous Research*. Over two days, Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers came together to share research projects conducted by and with northern Indigenous communities, in a spirit of dialogue, mutual recognition, and territorial anchoring.

The event highlighted Indigenous perspectives on research, while underscoring both the complementarities and tensions with conventional academic approaches. Through five major themes — resource management, food security, knowledge valorization, climate innovations, and self-determination — the discussions revealed the current priorities of communities, as well as the conditions necessary for research that is meaningful and yields tangible results.

Participants reaffirmed the importance of using research frameworks adapted to Indigenous realities, integrating and respecting the knowledge, practices, and aspirations of the communities. They also raised several structural challenges: rigid institutional frameworks, administrative complexity, timelines incompatible with community rhythms, and inadequate funding mechanisms.

More broadly, the forum underscored the fundamental role of research in processes of decolonization, cultural safety, and social transformation in a northern context.

A **detailed report** from this meeting is now available, in French and English, on INQ's website. It is intended for a wide range of stakeholders involved in research in Indigenous and northern territories:

- > **Researchers, research teams, and students:** to find ethical guidelines and respectful approaches to integrate into their work.
- > **Members of Indigenous communities:** as a support tool for community-led research initiatives.
- > **Managers of funding agencies and government programs:** to adapt their practices to on-the-ground realities.
- > **Teachers:** who wish to integrate Indigenous perspectives into their teaching content.
- > **Managers of funding agencies and government programs:** to adapt their practices to on-the-ground realities.



This report is a collective call to rethink research with First Peoples, in a spirit of respect, reciprocity, and lasting collaboration.



DECEMBER 16, 2024

## EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR DESIGN OF INQ'S FUTURE SCIENTIFIC COMPLEX UNVEILED

The artwork *Passage* by artist Luca Fortin was selected as part of the INQ Scientific Complex project. Inspired by sediment cores used in scientific research, this two-part creation — a nine-meter exterior column and a black granite circle inside the building — offers a poetic dialogue between science and nordicity. It will showcase materials sourced from quarries located near the 49th parallel and will feature the quote 'The passage from yesterday to tomorrow becomes today,' from the collection *Message Sticks – Tshissinuatshitakana* by Innu writer Joséphine Bacon.



This artwork is part of the Policy for the Integration of Arts into the Architecture and Environment of Government and Public Buildings and Sites. Luca Fortin's model was selected by an ad hoc committee from among the proposals received for this artistic project. 'The depth of reflection, the structured and coherent approach, the composition, the materials, the simplicity, and the dialogue proposed between the two components, which echoes that of the North and the South, captivated the selection committee,' noted Brigitte Bigué, Executive Director of Operations at INQ and member of the selection committee.

DECEMBER 18, 2024

## A PIVOTAL MOMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF INQ: 2025–2030 STRATEGIC PLANNING FORUM

2024 was marked by a major undertaking for Institut nordique du Québec: the development of its upcoming 2025–2030 strategic plan. A true pillar of the vision and actions to come, this process was carried out in a rigorous, inclusive, and collaborative manner, consulting all stakeholders across the INQ network.



The highlight of this initiative was the *Forum on the Future of Institut nordique du Québec*, held at Le Monastère des Augustines in Quebec City, which brought together around fifty participants from academic, governmental, and community sectors. This day of collective reflection marked a pivotal step in shaping INQ's 2025–2030 strategic plan.

Through participatory workshops and fruitful discussions, participants helped identify priorities, key issues, and directions to be prioritized for the years ahead. The Forum fostered ambitious ideas, strengthened synergies among network members, and laid the foundation for a strategic plan that is mobilizing, inclusive, and firmly oriented toward the future of the North.

MARCH 18, 2025

## LAUNCH OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS – CASCADES EXPEDITION INQ-SPI-IPEV

INQ, in partnership with the Swiss Polar Institute (SPI) and the French Polar Institute Paul-Émile Victor (IPEV), launched the CASCADES scientific expedition as part of the Apogee Transforming Climate Action (TAC) program. This call for projects is open to TAC-affiliated scientists at Université Laval and Université du Québec à Rimouski, as well as their colleagues at Dalhousie University, Memorial University, and research teams in Switzerland and France. Selected projects will conduct their fieldwork in the Arctic during the summer and fall of 2026.

# Institut nordique du Québec community

The INQ community brings together scientists from its 16 member universities, representatives of the four Indigenous Peoples of the North, students, as well as partners from the public and private sectors. Together, they contribute to cross-sectoral research aimed at the sustainable and ethical development of the North.

The true strength of INQ lies in this plurality of expertise, backgrounds, and perspectives: that of an inclusive network capable of mobilizing complementary knowledge in the service of northern territories.



## MEMBERSHIP IN NUMBERS

Regular Members of INQ (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025)	Number of Affiliated Researchers	Number of Affiliated Centers	Number of Affiliated Chairs
École de technologie supérieure	4	2	-
École nationale d'administration publique	3	2	-
Institut national de la recherche scientifique	20	3	4
Polytechnique Montréal	11	2	2
Réseau de l'Université du Québec	-	-	-
Concordia University	2	-	2
Université de Montréal	11	8	2
Université de Sherbrooke	16	8	3
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	19	10	9
Université du Québec à Montréal	15	5	5
Université du Québec à Rimouski	20	8	5
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	7	2	1
Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	3	1	-
Université du Québec en Outaouais	1	-	-
Université Laval	77	12	25
McGill University	68	32	14
Université TÉLUQ	1	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>72</b>

Affiliation of Associated Scientists
University of New Brunswick
Laurentian University
Northeastern University
Trent University
University of Ottawa

## REGULAR MEMBERS OF INQ

A regular member of INQ is a higher education institution or a legal entity in Quebec conducting research related to northern or Arctic issues.



### ÉCOLE DE TECHNOLOGIE SUPÉRIEURE

ÉTS researchers contribute to northern sustainability by focusing their work on the impacts of climate change on hydrology in northern regions, as well as on energy, with a particular emphasis on dielectric materials and the aging of insulation systems used in electrical engineering.



### ÉCOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION PUBLIQUE

ENAP researchers focusing on northern regions stand out for the excellence and complementarity of their work. Their research addresses governance and diplomacy issues specific to Indigenous communities, as reflected in political discourse and social media. Other projects fall within the fields of public administration and political science, including the analysis of factors driving conflict and cooperation between states, the role of northernness as an identity marker in Canada and Quebec, and the involvement of the Canadian Armed Forces in delivering government services in the North.



### INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

INRS, Canada's leading university in research intensity, is dedicated to research and graduate training in strategic sectors. Since 1969, it has contributed to Quebec's economic, social, and cultural development. Three of its four centers are closely linked to INQ's activities: the Eau Terre Environnement Research Centre, focused on sustainable development in hydrology, aquatic biogeochemistry, earth sciences, sanitation, and resource recovery; the Armand-Frappier Santé Biotechnologie Research Centre, specializing in biotechnology and environmental toxicology with an emphasis on sustainable health; and the Urbanisation Culture Société Research Centre, which, through DIALOG and the ODENA alliance, plays a key role in Indigenous studies and in supporting the development of First Peoples.



### POLYTECHNIQUE MONTRÉAL

Polytechnique Montréal supports northern sustainability through research and training in engineering. Dams and infrastructure, glaciology, geotechnics and permafrost, environmental engineering, structural geology, cold-region hydrology, water quality modeling, geothermal energy, mining exploration and development, and rare earths are among the areas of expertise of its researchers. Their work makes a distinctive contribution to INQ, particularly in adapting civil and industrial infrastructure to climate change and advancing the transition to a more sustainable society.



### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Concordia University researchers advance knowledge and solutions related to climate change, sustainable infrastructure, and renewable energy in northern Canada. Many collaborate with Indigenous partners, supporting their leadership and knowledge in managing northern ecosystems. Their expertise spans community well-being, food security, mental health, and access to healthcare in remote regions. Through both research and research-creation, Concordia's Indigenous scholars engage with Northern landscapes, traditions, and storytelling, thereby strengthening cultural connections.



### UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

Université de Montréal serves as a catalyst for interdisciplinary and interinstitutional initiatives in animal health and climate sciences. A pioneer in northern arts studies and research on Indigenous rights, it remains at the forefront of issues related to territories and societies. Its innovation labs work to integrate diverse forms of knowledge into research, including experiential, memorial, cultural, heritage-based, and narrative knowledge. The university also promotes greater inclusion of First Nations and Inuit within its academic community. In a spirit of reconciliation, it seeks to highlight their philosophies and cultures.



## UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE

Université de Sherbrooke researchers contribute to the characterization of water and snow across northern territories. They also specialize in remote sensing and geographic information systems, studying the complex relationships between human activity, climate change, and natural hazards in the North.



## UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À RIMOUSKI

UQAR brings together a wide range of researchers interested in northern environments from an interdisciplinary perspective. These scientists are affiliated with several research units, including the Institut des sciences de la mer, the BORÉAS Research Group on Northern Environments, three Canada Research Chairs focusing on northern biodiversity, the integrative biology of northern flora, and marine geology, as well as the Research Chair in Coastal Geoscience. UQAR is also a partner of the Uapishka Station and is actively engaged in developing its research potential.



## UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À CHICOUTIMI

UQAC brings together expertise in regional engagement across several fields: Indigenous studies, land use planning and management, history and archaeology, northern economy, and eco-counseling. It also stands out in risk management in remote regions, whether for tourism development or other purposes, and in ensuring the safe delivery of outdoor activities in tourism, education, industry, or research contexts.



## UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À TROIS-RIVIÈRES

UQTR builds on the dynamism of environmental sciences and advances research in tourism, economics, engineering, and health sciences. Its researchers take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding transformations in northern ecosystems and the cryosphere. Specialists in psychoeducation contribute to improving services for Inuit, while midwives trained at UQTR support maternity care in Nunavik and play a vital role within these communities.



## UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL

Fourteen departments are active in northern and Arctic research. Training activities with a specific focus on the North span a wide range of disciplines, including history, political science, tourism, literature, arts, religious studies, linguistics, and sociology. UQAM researchers collaborate with Indigenous communities on numerous projects addressing the social, cultural, economic, and environmental issues linked to northern and winter contexts. The UQAM Northern and Arctic Research Portal highlights research and training activities carried out or organized at the university. It also aims to strengthen connections among researchers from different disciplines and to encourage the development of multisectoral training initiatives.



## UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC EN ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

From studying the hydrogeological dynamics of aquifers north of the 49th parallel to analyzing the impact of mining sites on northern biodiversity and developing best practices in research ethics in Indigenous contexts, UQAT has established itself as a pioneer in participatory research with First Peoples. UQAT researchers also hold recognized expertise in forestry. The university hosts the Forest Research Institute (IRF), whose mission is to help sustain the services provided by forest ecosystems. The IRF fulfills this mission through an interdisciplinary approach to research and training, as well as by disseminating and integrating new knowledge among the many users of the land.



## UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC EN OUTAOUAIS

Université du Québec en Outaouais contributes to advancing knowledge on the social dimensions of sustainable development in northern contexts. Research focuses on the social acceptability of mining and energy projects. These studies, grounded in the literature on public participation and energy transition, help to better understand the dynamics specific to northern environments.



## MCGILL UNIVERSITY

McGill University is the founding institution of the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment, the Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Alternative Development, the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science, the McGill Arctic Research Station, and the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. McGill has also been assigned an Integrated University Health Network (RUIS), giving it responsibility for a territory extending from Montréal to Nunavik. With a mission to improve access to healthcare for Quebecers, the McGill RUIS supports Nunavik and its residents by contributing to healthcare delivery, teaching, research, and health technology assessment.



## UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

A pioneer in northern and Arctic research for more than half a century, Université Laval hosts several major interuniversity research groups, including the Centre d'études nordiques (CEN), Québec-Océan (QO), and the Centre interuniversitaire d'études et de recherches autochtones (CIERA). It is also home to Institut nordique du Québec, the pan-Canadian ArcticNet network, leads the Canada First Research Excellence Fund program Sentinel North, and is a partner of the Transforming Climate Action program—four flagship initiatives in Northern research. Internationally, Université Laval also hosts Amundsen Science, which manages the research icebreaker CCGS Amundsen; the Takuvik International Laboratory, co-funded by France's Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS); and the Sustainable Development Working Group secretariat of the Arctic Council.



## UNIVERSITÉ TÉLUQ

Open to the world, Université TÉLUQ promotes lifelong learning and advances knowledge through a wide range of online programs and courses accessible from anywhere. Its training offer is both innovative and engaging, through the content it delivers and the pedagogy it emphasizes. Its faculty is committed to developing new knowledge, conducting high-level research, and driving pedagogical innovation.



Photo: Jean-Jacques Poirier

## AFFILIATED RESEARCH ENTITIES

The research entities affiliated with INQ are at the heart of knowledge production on the North. Through the richness of their expertise and the excellence of their work, they lead cutting-edge northern research and contribute fully to INQ's mission. Here is a look at two of them.



The Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite / Nikanite First Nations Center (CPNN) at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC) has been an officially recognized structure since 1991. Its main mandates are to provide university-level education for Quebec's First Nations populations and to raise awareness of their cultures within both the university community and the general public.

The Nikanite First Nations Center is firmly committed to First Nations self-determination in education and works alongside them to achieve the objectives defined by their community representatives. The Center has also contributed to the research community of Institut nordique du Québec since 2023, when UQAC hosted the 2nd First Peoples Committee Forum. Finally, CPNN has served as a member of INQ's Training Committee since 2024.



The Observatory on Politics and Security in the Arctic / Observatoire de la politique et la sécurité de l'Arctique (OPSA) is a research center specializing in Arctic governance and geopolitical issues. Based at the École nationale d'administration publique, OPSA publishes analyses, organizes conferences, and conducts studies to improve understanding of the region.

In recent years, the Observatory has focused on issues such as connectivity, disinformation, natural resource exploitation, and environmental protection, to name just a few areas of interest. Since 2019, OPSA has also published The Arctic Year, an annual review analyzing the major changes that have taken place in the region over the past year.

## AFFILIATED SCIENTISTS

INQ now brings together 278 researchers. This report highlights two scientific contributions that exemplify the excellence of our network.



PHILIPPE GACHON

Full Professor  
Department of Geography  
Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Philippe Gachon received his PhD in Environmental Sciences from UQAM in 1999, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maurice Lamontagne Institute. From 2003 to 2014, he was a research scientist at Environment Canada within the Climate Research Division, working in the Impacts and Adaptation Group and at the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis. Since December 2014, he has been a professor of hydro-climatology in the Department of Geography at UQAM. From 2017 to 2019, he held UQAM's Strategic Chair on Hydrometeorological Risks Related to Climate Change. From 2019 to 2022, he was Director of the ESCER Research Center (Étude et Simulation du Climat à l'Échelle Régionale) at UQAM. Since 2018, together with colleagues from McGill University, UQO, and INRS-ETE, he has co-directed the Réseau Inondations Inter-Sectoriel du Québec (RIISQ), which brings together 18 universities and more than 190 researchers across Quebec. His expertise includes regional climate modeling, extreme weather events, regional climate scenarios and associated hydrometeorological risks, as well as the impacts of weather and climate hazards on natural and human systems.



STÉPHANIE GUILHERME

Assistant Professor  
Department of Civil and Water Engineering  
Université Laval

Stéphanie Guilherme has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Water Engineering at Université Laval since 2023. Previously, between 2020 and 2023, she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Ottawa.

Her research projects, primarily based in northern villages of Nunavik, focus on both drinking water and wastewater. Among other things, these projects address the protection of water sources, monitoring of drinking water quality consumed by the population, optimization of water and wastewater treatment, and wastewater-based epidemiological surveillance.

All of these projects are developed and carried out in close collaboration with Nunavik's regional authorities (the Kativik Regional Government and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services), as well as with local representatives of northern villages. In this same spirit of collaboration and co-construction, she created a committee that brings together all stakeholders in the field of water management in Nunavik to ensure project follow-up and alignment of the research with the needs and expectations of the Nunavik population.

## UP-AND-COMING SCIENTISTS

INQ places the next generation of scientists at the heart of its actions. Two dedicated students here illustrate the dynamism and potential of the new generation of northern researchers.



ALEX GÉLINAS

PhD in Environmental Sciences, UQTR

Project: Characterizing Soil Permittivity to Improve Snow Monitoring by Radar

Supervisors: Alexandre Roy (UQTR) and Alexandre Langlois (UdeS)

A PhD candidate in Environmental Sciences at UQTR, Alex Gélinas holds a Master's in Materials Engineering from Université Laval and a Bachelor's in Physics from Université de Sherbrooke. Skilled in scientific writing, he completed his master's with two published articles. As part of his doctorate, he was selected for a Mitacs Globalink internship at the University of Bordeaux in France. Passionate about fieldwork in remote regions, he has carried out several missions in James Bay, Northern Ontario, the Rockies, and Nunavut. In 2023, he also took part in the International Doctoral School on Arctic Snow in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. In 2025, Alex taught the Remote Sensing course in the undergraduate Geography program at UQTR.



FIONA CHAPMAN

PhD in Earth Sciences, INRS

Project: Assessing Geothermal Potential to Support the Remote Community of Burwash Landing, Yukon, Canada

Supervisors: Jasmin Raymond (INRS), and Renaud Soucy La Roche (INRS)

A PhD candidate at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Eau Terre Environnement Center (INRS-ETE), Fiona conducts her research within the geothermal team led by her supervisor, Jasmin Raymond. Her project, co-supervised by Renaud Soucy La Roche, aims to assess the geothermal potential around Lhu'aan Man (Kluane Lake) in southwest Yukon. Carried out in partnership with the Yukon Geological Survey and the Kluane First Nation, this research seeks to generate essential knowledge to support informed decision-making regarding the exploration and development of geothermal energy on their traditional territory.

## COLLABORATORS

INQ's partners bring diverse expertise that strengthens the impact of research. This report highlights two long-standing collaborators.



FRANÇOIS FOURNIER

President and Chief Executive Officer  
COREM

Francis Fournier has worked in the field of natural resources for more than thirty years. A trained forest engineer, he has over two decades of experience in management, research, and innovation. In 2018, he became President and Chief Executive Officer of COREM, Canada's largest center for research and expertise in mineral processing.

Convinced that collaboration is a key driver of innovation, Francis Fournier has established a coordinated national approach, bringing together industrial stakeholders, provincial and federal governments, as well as public and private research partners. His strategic vision fosters the development of sustainable and competitive solutions for the mining industry.

Actively engaged in the governance of innovation, he sits on several boards of directors, including Groupe MISA, Sillons, Innoventures Canada, and Cégep de Sainte-Foy, as well as on the management committee of Institut nordique du Québec, to which he has contributed actively since its creation.

The complexity of northern occupation and development requires the contribution of research and innovation communities. It is in this context that Institut nordique du Québec contributes through the implementation of its mission.



VALÉRIE LEVÉE

Science Journalist

Valérie Levée holds a PhD in Plant Biotechnology from Université d'Orléans in France. She came to Quebec in 1996 to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at the Laurentian Forestry Centre in Quebec City. She then pursued various research positions in government, academia, and the private sector, notably at Medicago.

After ten years exploring plant genomes, she traded pipettes for the pen and launched her career in science communication. Since 2008, she has contributed to about ten magazines, including Quatre-Temps, Québec-Oiseaux, FORMES, PLAN, and *L'actualité*. On radio, she hosts the program *Futur Simple* on CKRL 89.1 FM and is a regular contributor to *Moteur de recherche* on Radio-Canada.

She remains active in academia by collaborating with research centers such as the Centre québécois sur les matériaux fonctionnels and Institut nordique du Québec. She is also a facilitator at Centre Déclic, whose mission is to encourage dialogue between scientists and the public. In collaboration with the Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas) and the Association des communicateurs scientifiques (ACS), she also provides science communication training for researchers and students.



Photo: Jean-Jacques Pangrazi

# Working Groups and Committees



INQ's committees and working groups bring together affiliated scientists, partners from the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of northern communities. Their members, with diverse backgrounds, develop strategies, tools, and activities to advance reflection on major northern issues. Committees are permanent bodies, while working groups are created temporarily to meet specific needs and are dissolved once their mandate is fulfilled.

## WORKING GROUP ON NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGIES

This group is actively seeking alternatives to fossil fuels in the North, which have a negative impact on the ecological footprint of northern regions. The costs associated with both the fuel itself and its transport also place an economic burden on these areas. Additionally, the working group is exploring several other options to meet the energy needs of Quebec's remote regions. All these options focus on new and renewable energy to support the energy transition essential for the sustainable development of Northern Quebec.

### Leader

**Louis Gosselin**  
Université Laval (ULaval)

### Members

**Kodjo Agbossou**  
Université du Québec  
à Trois-Rivières (UQTR)

**Olivier Arsenault**  
Hydro-Québec

**Myriam Blais**  
Société du Plan Nord (SPN)

**Marie-Pier Breton**  
Société d'habitation  
du Québec (SHQ)

**Martin Bourbonnais**  
Cégep de Jonquièrre  
Centre TERRE

**Christian Chabot**  
Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Lutte contre les  
changements climatiques,  
de la Faune et des Parcs  
(MELCCFP)

**Charles Cyr**  
Institut de recherche  
d'Hydro-Québec (IREQ)

**Guy Dumas**  
ULaval

**Marie-Ève Dupont**  
IREQ

**Véronique Gilbert**  
Kativik Regional Government

**Nicolò Giordano**  
Géotherma solutions

**Jean-François Gravel**  
Ministère des Affaires  
municipales et de l'Habitation  
(MAMH)

**Didier Haillot**  
École de technologie  
supérieure (ÉTS)

**Marianne Huot**  
ArcelorMital

**Innocent Kamwa**  
ULaval

**Christophe Krolik**  
ULaval

**Patrick Labbé**  
Hydro-Québec

## KEY ACHIEVEMENT IN 2024-2025

- > The group met twice, providing project managers with an opportunity to present their initiatives and explore future collaborations.

**Nicolas Laflamme**  
Ministère de l'Économie,  
de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie  
du Québec (MEIE)

**Joë Lance**  
Tarquti Energy

**Rachid Laouamer**  
IREQ

**Lionel Lux**  
Nergica

**Félix Ménard-Saint-Denis**  
SHQ

**Taha Ouarda**  
Institut national de  
recherche scientifique (INRS)

**Simon Paradis**  
Nergica

**Mathieu Payeur**  
Transition Énergétique  
Québec

**Julie Poulin**  
MEIE

**Julia Purdy**  
Natural Resources Canada  
(NRCan)

**Jasmin Raymond**  
INRS

**Marc-André Richard**  
IREQ

**Laurie-Ann Rioux**  
SPN

**Jean Rouleau**  
ULaval

**Thomas Stringer**  
Polytechnique Montréal

**Meli Stylianou**  
NRCan

**Robert Poirier**  
Cégep de Jonquièrre

**Marie Towo**  
SPN

**Éric Vandal**  
Cégep de Jonquièrre  
Centre TERRE

**Matthew Wadham-Gagnon**  
MELCCFP

**Coordinator**  
**Djénane Gaspard**  
INQ



## INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

This committee manages and optimizes the shared use of INQ's research infrastructure, in cooperation with the members and partners who possess the infrastructure. It makes recommendations to the Science and Development Committee with regard to the funding, deployment, and sharing of research infrastructure. It also works to promote research infrastructure, ensure its upkeep, and establish rules for the use of such infrastructure by researchers.

### Leader

**Marie-Hélène Forget**  
Takuvik

**Mickaël Lemay**  
Centre for Northern Studies

### Members

**Karolane Dufour**  
Québec-Océan

**Lise Rancourt**  
INRS

### Coordinator

**Alexandre Forest**  
Amundsen Science

**Pierre-Yves Savard**  
INQ



## TRAINING COMMITTEE

The committee has five main objectives: Make an inventory of existing training programs on Northern Quebec at the founding partner universities; support universities in their initiatives to train students, future stakeholders in the North, and professionals working on northern issues; develop an uncredited continuing education program for transferring knowledge to academics, professionals, and the general population; offer an uncredited general training program on Northern Quebec in the form of a nanoprogram; and encourage the involvement of Indigenous people in all aspects of and at all levels of their educational program.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024-2025

- > Organization and delivery of the second edition of the Northern Retreat in November 2024
- > Delivery of the first edition of an Introduction to Inuktitut course in winter 2025
- > Revision of the committee's objectives and action plan (being finalized)

### Leader

**Stéphanie Guilherme**  
ULaval

**Isabelle Laurion**  
INRS

### Members

**Paul Bégin-Duchesne**  
Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite

**Marie-Ève Marchand**  
ULaval

**Jean-Pascal Bilodeau**  
ULaval

**Sophie Pouillé**  
UdeM / APECS Canada

**Romain Chesnaux**  
UQAC

**Danielle Rousselot**  
Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite

**Caroline Duchesne**  
Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite

**Coordinator**  
**Rachel Hussherr**  
INQ



Photo: Andrianna Beardsell



### FIRST PEOPLES COMMITTEE

The First Peoples Committee, composed of representatives from the Inuit, Innu, Cree, and Naskapi nations, ensures that the aspirations and interests of First Peoples are integrated into research projects. It promotes the co-production of research, supports traditional knowledge, and fosters mutual respect between Indigenous researchers and academics. By facilitating exchanges and showcasing research methodologies adapted to Indigenous and Northern contexts, this committee contributes to more inclusive and collaborative research.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENT IN 2024–2025

- > Publication of the Report on the Forum 'The Impact of Climate Change on Ecosystems and Indigenous Research'

#### Leader

**Melissa Saganash**  
Representative  
of the Cree Nation

#### Members

**Serge Ashini Goupil**  
Representative  
of the Innu Nation

**Noah Brosseau**  
Deputy Director  
Nunavik Research Centre  
Makivik Corporation

**Loretta Robinson**  
Representative  
of the Naskapi Nation

**Glenda Sandy**  
Representative  
of the Naskapi Nation

#### Coordinator

**Marie-Eve Marchand**  
INQ



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee draws on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and validates those that are relevant for the North within INQ, while developing appropriate indicators and putting together a sustainable development toolbox for northern research.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENT IN 2024–2025

- > Gradual creation of the group through engagement with different stakeholders in the field.

#### Members

**Sabaa Khan**  
David Suzuki Foundation

**Céline Guéguen**  
Université Sherbrooke

#### Coordinator

**Djénane Gaspard**  
INQ

# Training: Empower, Engage, Mobilize

A central pillar of INQ's mission, training continued to grow in 2024–2025. The offering expanded with the addition of a brand-new Introduction to Inuktitut course, which generated strong interest. Alongside the MOOC, the introductory course on northern research and issues for the next generation of scientists, the History, Culture and Contemporary Realities of the Inuit training open to all, and the Northern Retreat designed for the professional northern research community, this diversified program reflects a renewed commitment: to train an agile next generation, support the professional development of established scientists, and raise awareness among a broad audience about northern and Arctic realities.

By focusing on the acquisition of practical skills, the sharing of knowledge, and the building of connections across disciplines, generations, and sectors, INQ is helping to build a scientific and professional community that is better equipped, more aware of northern realities, and respectful of Indigenous knowledge.



Photo: Gabrielle Fortin

## ■ INQ OFFERS A FIRST INTRODUCTION TO INUKTITUT COURSE

Under the leadership of Professor Stéphanie Guilherme, head of the Training Committee, INQ offered for the first time, in winter 2025, an Introduction to Inuktitut course taught by Mr. Louis-Jacques Dorais.

With degrees in anthropology and linguistics, Mr. Dorais taught for nearly 40 years in the Department of Anthropology at Université Laval and has been Professor Emeritus since 2014. He long served as instructor for an Introduction to Inuktitut course.

Since his first fieldwork as a student in Nunavik in 1965, his research has mainly focused on the semantics, dialectology, and sociolinguistics of the Inuit language. He has also studied community organization and identity issues among Inuit, as well as Vietnamese in the diaspora, the Huron-Wendat, and North America's francophone minorities.

The course offered in the winter 2025 session covered the following:

- > An introduction to the basics of the language and its structure;
- > Thematic workshops focused on vocabulary adapted to the needs and interests of participants;
- > An interactive approach including conversation exercises.

**Target audience:** anyone wishing to gain practical initiation to Inuktitut, including researchers, northern professionals, or those passionate about Indigenous languages and cultures.

Following the success of this first edition, the training will be offered again in fall 2025. This time, it will be led by Ms. Aurélie Maire, who holds a degree in Inuit Language and Civilization from INALCO (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales) in Paris, and is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Inuit Studies*.

## INQ'S GENERAL TRAINING OFFER

COURSE TITLE	History, Culture and Contemporary Inuit Realities (course offered in French only)	Introduction to Inuktitut	MOOC   Northern Québec: Issues, Spaces and Cultures	Northern Retreat	Introduction to Northern Research and Issues
FORMAT AND DURATION	Online (12 hours)	In person (12 classes, 2 hours/week)	Online (7 weeks, 4 hours/week)	In person (2 days)	In person (2 to 4 days)
AVAILABLE	Year-round	Offered annually	Offered annually (winter term)	Offered every two years (next: Fall 2026)	Offered every two years (next: Fall 2025)
TARGET AUDIENCE	Students, researchers, and professionals connected to Nunavik	Anyone interested in learning Inuktitut	Anyone interested in Northern Quebec	Professionals and early career professors in the northern and Arctic research community	Graduate students
LEARNING OBJECTIVE	To understand Nunavik, its history, culture, and issues	To gain an introduction to the language and culture of the Inuit of Nunavik	To introduce the issues, cultures, and dynamics of Northern Quebec	To promote professional development and exchanges on northern issues	To develop skills for mobilizing and sharing knowledge in northern contexts
LEAD(S)	Caroline Hervé (Université Laval, Research Chair on Relations with Inuit Societies)	Institut nordique du Québec	Thierry Rodon (Université Laval, INQ Research Chair on Northern Sustainable Development)	Institut nordique du Québec	Institut nordique du Québec
PARTNER(S)	Université Laval, Sentinel North, Institut nordique du Québec	Louis-Jacques Dorais and Aurélie Maire	Institut nordique du Québec, Université Laval	Partners vary from one edition to another	Partners vary from one edition to another



#### ■ MOOC | NORTHERN QUEBEC: ISSUES, SPACES AND CULTURES

From February 3 to April 4, 2025, the annual edition of the MOOC | Northern Quebec: Issues, Spaces and Cultures brought together 585 registered participants. Designed under the direction of Professor Thierry Rodon (holder of the INQ Research Chair in Northern Sustainable Development and professor in the Department of Political Science at Université Laval) and offered every year since 2017, this free online course has established itself as a leading educational tool for better understanding northern realities.

Combining academic knowledge with firsthand accounts from the field, the MOOC encourages a deeper look at the sociopolitical issues shaping Northern Quebec, the ancestral territory of several Indigenous nations. It is intended for anyone interested in gaining insight into the history, social dynamics, and contemporary challenges of the North.

#### CONTRIBUTING TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERRITORY

Many INQ-affiliated professors recommend this MOOC to their students before they begin a northern research project. Since its launch, it has attracted nearly 15,000 registrations, underscoring the strong interest in deepening the understanding of northern regions.

In this way, INQ continues its mission by actively contributing to the training of a new generation that is well-informed and attuned to the cultural, political, and territorial realities of the North.

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#### ONE-TIME TRAINING ACTIVITY

INQ partners with selected training initiatives when their objectives align with its own. In 2024–2025, it supported a workshop on peer review organized by APECS Canada and Arctic Science. Offered in a hybrid format from Université Laval's campus on April 3, 2024, the workshop brought together about twenty early-career researchers.

## ■ NORTHERN RETREAT

On November 14–15, 2024, INQ held the second edition of the Northern Retreat Program, a professional development activity for the community working in northern and Arctic research. Organized every two years by the INQ team, in collaboration with members of the Training Committee and several partners, the event brought together 59 participants and was a resounding success.

The training took place at Le Baluchon Écovillégiature in Saint-Paulin, in a setting conducive to exchange and reflection. It gathered participants from diverse professional and disciplinary backgrounds, making this gathering a privileged moment for dialogue and learning.

Highlights included an inspiring talk on Indigenous cultures with Ms. Joséphine Bacon, stimulating discussions on climate justice led by Ms. Sabaa Khan, and presentations on action-research and knowledge mobilization projects carried out with the northern village of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

"I greatly appreciated the program, which was marked by genuine multidisciplinary. Indigenous participation significantly enriched the discussions by bringing an essential perspective. In addition, the balance between panels, lectures, workshops, breaks, and meals created an environment particularly conducive to networking."

— Anonymous participant testimonial



## INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING OR REPRESENTED IN THE NORTHERN RETREAT PROGRAM

Kativik Regional Government, Atanniuvik, Lanaudière Native Friendship Centre, Collège Rosemont, David Suzuki Foundation, Montréal Insectarium, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST), McCord Stewart Museum, Birds Canada, Polar Knowledge Canada, Université de Montréal, UQAC, UQAM, UQTR, Université Laval, Université de Sherbrooke, Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- > **Stéphanie Guilherme**  
Assistant Professor at Université Laval and Head of the Training Committee at INQ
- > **Sabaa Khan**  
Director General, Quebec and Atlantic Canada, David Suzuki Foundation
- > **Sophie Pouillé**  
PhD Candidate at Université de Montréal and APECS Representative
- > **Marie-Eve Marchand**  
Research Professional, Research Chair on Relations with Inuit Societies, Université Laval
- > **Rachel Hussler**  
Regional Coordinator (UQ Network Hub)

# INQ Research Infrastructures



## **INSTITUT NORDIQUE DU QUÉBEC'S SCIENTTIFIC COMPLEX**

Construction of INQ's scientific complex continued this year on Université Laval's campus. Scheduled to open in 2026, this world-class facility will host more than twenty research teams, state-of-the-art analytical laboratories, and the administrative centers of the Centre d'études nordiques, Amundsen Science, ArcticNet, Québec-Océan, the Takuvik International Joint Unit, and the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group.

It will serve as a strategic hub for northern expeditions, both on land and at sea, and will act as a technopole dedicated to northern innovation, interdisciplinarity, and collaboration. This unique space will foster partnerships with First Peoples, northern communities, the 16 member universities, the college sector, as well as public- and private-sector partners.

### **A Multifunctional Complex Serving Science and Northern Sustainable Development:**

- > Analytical platforms and services
- > Versatile and reconfigurable laboratories
- > Incubator for technological and social innovation
- > Multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral training environment
- > Educational showcase on the North in transformation
- > Welcoming space for exchange among the scientific community, First Peoples, partners, and the general public



Photo: Alexis Pageau, Uapishka Station

## **INQ FIELD FACILITIES**

### **Uapishka Station**

Located at the foot of the Uapishka Mountains and the Manicouagan Reservoir, the Uapishka Station is an ecotourism enterprise co-managed by the Innu Council of Pessamit and the Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve (RBMU). It supports scientific research, highlights Indigenous culture, and offers lodging, dining, and outdoor activities.

In 2024–2025, Uapishka Station strengthened its role as a support hub for scientific research in the Manicouagan backcountry. New interpretive panels, dedicated to Innu culture and research, were installed in partnership with Pessamit’s Land and Resources sector and the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Heritage and Tourism at Université Laval.

A citizen science program was launched in the Uapishka Biodiversity Reserve to monitor plant species at risk and invasive alien species. The initiative invites all land users to actively contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Finally, Uapishka Station joined the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT NPA), thereby strengthening its network of international collaborations. This membership opens the door to knowledge exchange, the development of joint projects, and hosting international researchers.

### **CEN-INQ Umiujaq Research Station**

In 2024–2025, the project to build a new research station in Umiujaq continued to move forward. Following the sale of the former station—a single-family house acquired in 2010—to the benefit of the local community, CEN managers are actively working to create a new space dedicated to northern research, training, and participatory science.

The functional and technical program (FTP) has been completed, and the firms STGM (architecture) and CIMA+ (structure and electromechanical systems) were selected through a public call for tenders. The project aims to construct a carbon-neutral building powered by alternative energy sources and equipped with innovative systems, including thermosyphons for passive geothermal energy. A training room accessible to the Umiujaq community is also planned.

Efforts are ongoing to secure full funding for the project. While awaiting confirmation of certain funds, design work is temporarily on hold. Managers are continuing their efforts to bring together the conditions required to restart the project.

# Research at INQ

Research at Institut nordique du Québec revolves around five main priorities. It is carried out within the INQ Research Chairs and through the For a Sustainable North program. The following is an overview of our research program dedicated to the sustainable development of the North.



## SOCIETIES AND CULTURES

Improve our knowledge of social and cultural issues of Northern Quebec by studying different development models as well as heritage, identities, territoriality, knowledge, living environments, and governance. This axis also emphasizes the planning of research agendas, compliance with ethics protocols in Indigenous settings, and the decolonization of research.

### CO-DIRECTORS



**Emilie Fortin-Lefebvre**  
Professor  
Department of Management  
Université du Québec à Montréal



**Thierry Rodon**  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Université Laval



## HEALTH

In keeping with the themes and priorities identified by people in the North, and using a partnership approach, this axis focuses not only on research into illness and disease, but also on resilience, adaptation, and the positive aspects of health. Intervention research, both clinical and population-based, aims to identify optimal solutions and best practices to improve the health of northern populations and reduce health-related inequities.

### CO-DIRECTORS



**Faiz Ahmad Khan**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Medicine  
McGill University



**Romina Pace**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine  
McGill University



**Cathy Vaillancourt**  
Professor  
Armand-Frappier Santé  
Biotechnologie Centre  
Institut national de la recherche  
scientifique



### ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The ecosystems of high northern latitudes are feeling the combined effect of accelerated socioeconomic development, strong demographic growth, and global warming. This axis examines the consequences of such stresses on marine, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems with a view to preserving and protecting food security and the well-being of people living in the North. This research priority explores global warming, thaw, freshwater, food security, and the greenhouse effect, with an emphasis on coastal environments.

#### CO-DIRECTORS



**Philippe Archambault**  
Professor  
Department of Biology  
Université Laval



**Esther Lévesque**  
Professor  
Department of Environmental  
Sciences  
Université du Québec  
à Trois-Rivières



### INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

Developing Northern Quebec requires new technologies and infrastructure adapted to its harsh environment characterized by a cold climate, remote communities, and thawing permafrost. To address the needs of northern communities, this axis explores issues including the rapid implementation of telecommunications channels, development of environmental technologies to ensure the protection of potable water supplies of northern communities, the development of infrastructure adapted to harsh environments, and the conversion and management of waste from a health and sustainable development standpoint.

#### CO-DIRECTORS



**Jean-Pascal Bilodeau**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Civil  
and Water Engineering  
Université Laval



**Louis-César Pasquier**  
Associate Professor  
Centre Eau Terre Environnement  
Institut national de la recherche  
scientifique



### NATURAL RESOURCES

The North's ecosystems are home to considerable forestry, mineral, hydroelectric, and wind resources. This axis looks at the economic value of natural resources while taking into account the extreme vulnerability of northern ecosystems to climate change and the impact of human activity. In keeping with the aspirations of northern communities, it studies and documents overexploitation, seeks to achieve social acceptability, and encourages the local spinoffs of economic activity. Through optimization and planning, this priority seeks to develop tools that will ensure that strategic resources in the North are developed in a sustainable manner.

#### CO-DIRECTORS



**Jasmin Raymond**  
Professor  
Centre Eau Terre Environnement  
Institut national de la recherche  
scientifique



**René Therrien**  
Professor  
Department of Geology  
and Geological Engineering  
Université Laval



**Simon Dumais**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Mining,  
Metallurgical and Materials  
Engineering  
Université Laval

# INQ Chairs in Action

## INQ-McGill Northern Research Chair in Respiratory Health & Health Services

1	McGill University	
2	Université Laval	
3	Université de Montréal	
4	Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec	
5	National Research Council Canada	
6	United College London	
7	University of Oxford	
8	Department of Family Medicine, McGill University	
9	Department of Radiology, McGill University	
10	Observatoire international sur les impacts sociétaux de l'IA et du numérique (Obvia)	

11	Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services	
12	Ungava Tullattavik Health Centre	
13	Inuulitsivik Health Centre	
14	Nunavik Housing Bureau (NHB)	
15	Kuujuarapik	
16	Akulivik	
17	Salluit	
18	Kangiqsujuaq	
19	Kuujuaq	
20	Kangiqsuallujuaq	
21	Montréal	

## INQ Northern Geothermal Potential Research Chair

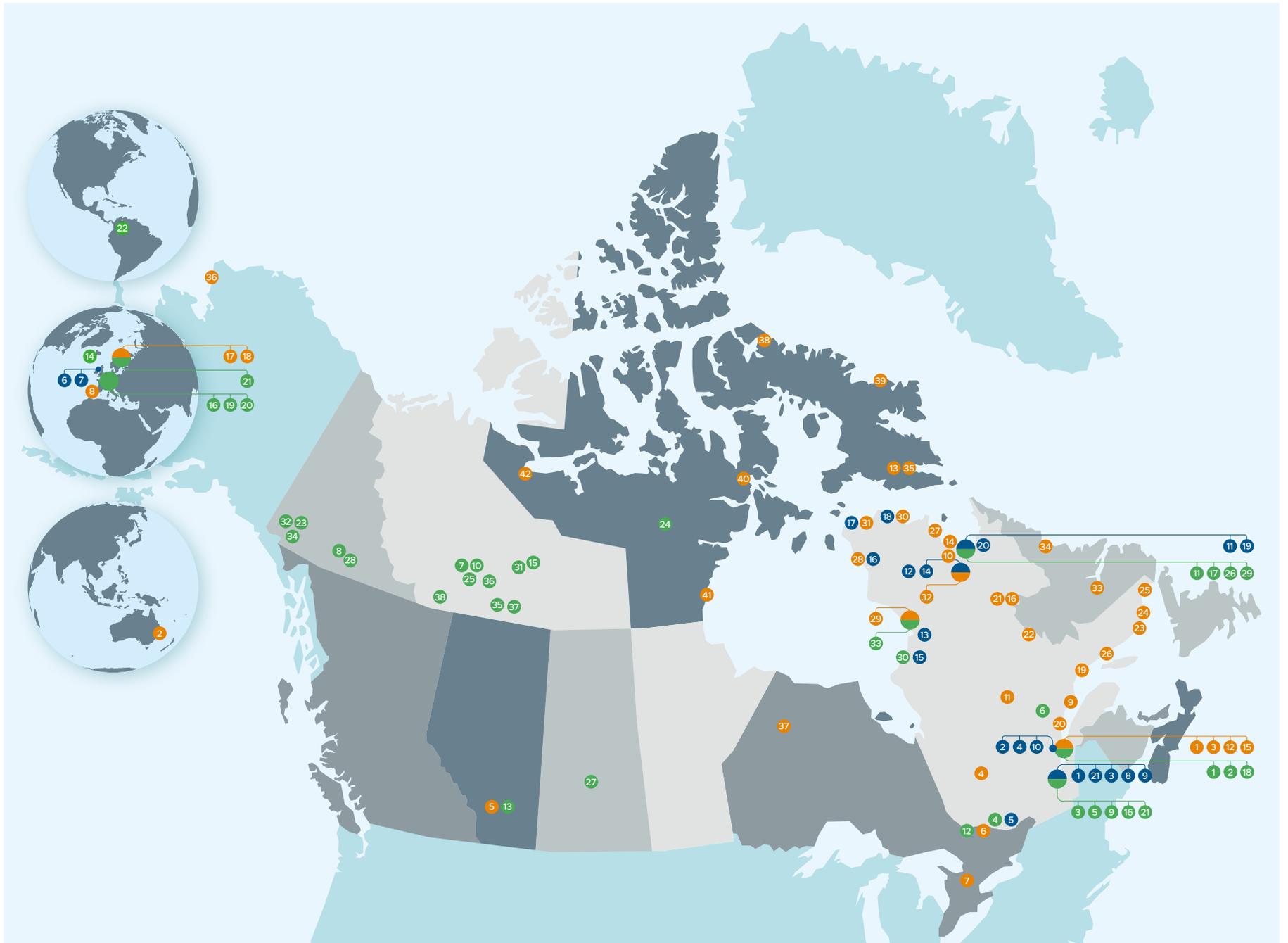
1	Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)	
2	Université Laval	
3	École de technologie supérieure ETS	
4	Université du Québec en Outaouais	
5	Université Concordia	
6	Cégep de Jonquière (Centre TERRE)	
7	Fort Simpson First Nations	
8	Yukon Geological Survey	
9	Institut de recherche d'Hydro-Québec (IREQ)	
10	Dehcho First Nations	
11	Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund	
12	CanmetÉNERGIE (Ottawa)	
13	Geological Survey of Canada (Quebec and Calgary offices)	
14	Reykjavik University	
15	Northwest Territories Geological Survey	
16	Tarquti Energy	
17	Société Kuujuaumiut	
18	Induktion Géothermie	
19	French Geological Survey	
20	University of Rennes	
21	Baker Lake	
22	University of Medellín	
23	Kluane First Nation	
24	Qulliq Energy Corporation	
25	Fort Simpson	
26	Avataa	
27	RESPEC Consulting Inc.	
28	Takhini Hot Springs	
29	Kuujuaq	
30	Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik	
31	Con Mine	
32	Kluane Lake	
33	Umiujaq	
34	Burwash Landing	
35	Hay River	
36	Fort Providence	
37	Enterprise	
38	Fort Liard	

## INQ Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair

1	Université Laval	
2	Griffith University	
3	Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)	
4	Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, campus de Val-d'Or	
5	University of Calgary	
6	Carleton University	
7	Wilfrid Laurier University	
8	Université de Rouen Normandie	
9	Regroupement des femmes de la Côte-Nord	
10	Makivik Corporation	
11	Comité condition féminine Baie-James	
12	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	
13	Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre	
14	Kativik Regional Government	
15	Société du Plan Nord	
16	Conseil de la Nation Innu Matimekush-Lac John	
17	Université de technologie de Luleå	
18	UiT The Arctic University of Norway	
19	Sept-Îles	
20	Sacré-Cœur	
21	Schefferville and Matimekush-Lac John	

22	Fermont	
23	Chevery	
24	La Tabatière	
25	Rivière-Saint-Paul	
26	Havre-Saint-Pierre	
27	Kangirsuk	
28	Akulivik	
29	Umiujaq	
30	Kangiqsujuaq	
31	Salluit	
32	Kuujuaq	
33	Happy Valley-Goose Bay	
34	Nain	
35	Iqaluit	
36	Red Dog Mine	
37	Kingfisher Lake	
38	Pond Inlet	
39	Qikiqtarjuaq	
40	Nauyasat	
41	Arviat	
42	Kugluktuk	

LEGEND Principal investigator's institutional affiliation | Co-investigators' institutional affiliation | Partner | Research site



The Chairs overseen by INQ focus on geothermal energy production in northern contexts, sustainable development of the North, and respiratory health in Nunavik.

# The Three INQ Chairs

## INQ NORTHERN GEOTHERMAL POTENTIAL RESEARCH CHAIR



**Chairholder: Jasmin Raymond**  
Professor  
Centre Eau Terre Environnement  
INRS

The scientific objective of this Chair is to improve the understanding of heat transfer processes that define the extent, sustainability, and feasibility of exploiting geothermal resources in Northern Quebec and Canada. The Chair also aims to raise awareness among northern communities and businesses, helping to strengthen knowledge related to the development of geothermal and energy efficiency projects in the Far North.

Over the years, the Chair has trained a critical mass of graduate students who have carried out, or are completing projects, demonstrating that heating northern buildings with geothermal energy would be more economically viable and less environmentally damaging than relying on diesel. This research marks a turning point, with demonstration projects being developed to show, on a small scale, that geothermal energy could be more widely harnessed for the benefit of northern communities.

In 2024–2025, Professor Raymond's team worked on the following demonstration projects:

- > Hybrid geothermal-biomass heating system — Centre TERRE (Jonquière), in collaboration with *Cégep de Jonquière*
- > Geothermal thermosiphons for the Centre for Northern Studies (CEN) research station in Umiujaq

- > Pilot ground-coupled heat pump system for the Forum building in Kuujuaq with the Société Kuujuaquiut
- > Permanent column well for the Burwash Landing drinking water plant with Kluane First Nation

Professor Raymond and his team have begun supporting several communities in Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Nunavik in defining their geothermal resources. Many of these projects are still at the prefeasibility stage, and no installations are planned in the short term.

### **The highlights of the Chair for 2024–2025 are:**

- > Fracture surveys to assess rock permeability and the potential of deep geothermal resources in Baker Lake, Nunavut
- > Surveys on social acceptability and geothermal energy with the communities of Fort Simpson (Northwest Territories) and Kuujuaq (Nunavik)
- > Presentation of ongoing research at various conferences (ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting, European Geosciences Union General Assembly, Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, Geothermal Rising Conference, etc.)
- > Publication of more than a dozen scientific articles, including one in the journal *European Geologist* describing the challenges of interdisciplinary research.



## INQ RESEARCH CHAIR ON NORTHERN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**Chairholder: Thierry Rodon**  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Université Laval

The main objective of the Chair is to analyze and define development models tailored to the specific needs of the North while meeting the imperatives of sustainable development in a northern context. With funding for the Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods (MinErAL) ending on March 31, 2026, the Chairholder and his team devoted the past year to showcasing and disseminating the results of the work carried out under this international network..

### **The highlights of the Chair for 2024–2025 are:**

> **Beyond Hot Air: Dialogue and Knowledge Weaving around the Supply of Critical Raw Materials for the “Green” Transition.** Led by Gertrude Saxinger of the University of Vienna, this project on critical minerals examines energy transition discourses and mining companies’ narratives, as well as their impacts on Indigenous communities. It brings together partners in Australia, New Caledonia, Norway, Austria, and Canada within a comparative and international framework.

- > **Spectroscopy and Photocatalysis for an Environmental Mining Economy (SPEME):** Funded by the FRQNT Stratégia program, this project is led by Dominic Larivière from the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Université Laval. Thierry Rodon collaborates with the communities affected by the Torngat Minerals rare earth project (Matimekush, Kawawachikamach, and Kangiqsualujjuaq) to ensure they have access to factual information that supports free and informed decision-making regarding the project’s acceptability.
- > **Northern Voices database:** The Chair’s team continues to update the Northern Voices database, which brings together transcripts from public hearings related to more than 40 development projects in northern Canada.
- > **Publications and Knowledge Transfer:** Among the key achievements, an open-access collective volume entitled *Mining and Indigenous Livelihoods: Rights, Revenues, and Resistance* was published in August 2024, featuring contributions from the MinErAL network. In addition, the Chairholder authored around ten articles and book chapters and participated in—or organized—six knowledge transfer activities over the past year.



Photo: Claire Préfontaine

## INQ-MCGILL NORTHERN RESEARCH CHAIR IN RESPIRATORY HEALTH & HEALTH SERVICES



**Chairholder: Faiz Ahmad Khan**

Associate Professor  
Department of Medicine  
McGill University

The work of the Chair in Nunavik helps shed light on the challenges faced by Nunavimmiut in accessing medical care, as well as the structural barriers that limit the health care system's ability to meet patients' needs. This clinical and policy work in Nunavik has led to the development of a health research program grounded in patient and community priorities, built on partnerships with community members and Inuit health leaders. The program strives to support—and remain aligned with—the assertion of rights, identities, lands, and self-determination by Indigenous peoples in Canada and Quebec..

### **Puvaqatsianirmut — The Committee for Healthy Lungs**

The Puvaqatsianirmut, a committee of Inuit from Nunavik representing the region's three coasts, oversees the Chair's Inuit health research program. The four research teams consult and follow the Puvaqatsianirmut's recommendations at every stage of their work.

### **The Chair's core objectives:**

1. Strengthen and protect lung health in Nunavik by enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of Nunavik's health and housing services thanks to evidence-based, multidisciplinary interventions that address the biomedical and social determinants of lung health.
2. Partner with the Indigenous health research community, Quebec's northern Indigenous health authorities, and community representatives to develop a common approach to facilitate Indigenous health research while ensuring ethical conduct and co-ownership of research.

### **The highlights of the Chair for 2024–2025 are:**

Tuberculosis-related work

- > A team led by Glenda Sandy, Nurse Consultant at the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), is helping to define roles and community training for tuberculosis care. The results, presented in Inuktitut, guide the community health worker program.
- > Doctoral student Coralie Geric is developing a clinical and radiological database on tuberculosis.
- > The Chair, together with Natasha MacDonald (Silatusarniq) and Glenda Sandy (NRBHSS), secured \$2 million through the CIHR Project Grant program.
- > Anna Dunn-Suen led the development of a tuberculosis care manual for Inuit health workers in Nunavik, in collaboration with the Qannik team (RRSSSN). Funding from the Plan Nord supports its translation into Inuktitut.
- > The Chair works in collaboration with clinicians in Greenland and Denmark. It has presented on tuberculosis at Queen Ingrid Hospital in Nuuk and will co-host a symposium at the World Conference on Lung Health (Copenhagen, November 2025) entitled "*Tuberculosis in the Era of Arctic Self-Determination*."
- > As tuberculosis rates rise in Nunavik, the Chair has provided commentary in the media, including CBC and *Nunatsiaq News*.

### **Educational Initiatives**

- > At McGill, the Chair has given lectures on tuberculosis in Nunavik. Together with Natasha MacDonald, it designed a new course for medical students that integrates reconciliation, cultural safety, sociopolitical issues, and epidemiology.

### **New Development**

A joint INQ–RI-MUHC regional coordinator position, shared with INQ, was created to strengthen northern research links in Montréal and Sherbrooke. This role is held by Djenane Gaspard, who also supports the Chair's activities.

# For a Sustainable North Program

## PROJECT 1 | Modeling the coupling of terrestrial/aquatic carbon fluxes in the regional forest landscape in a changing climate

1	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	
2	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	
3	Université Laval	
4	La Boîte Rouge vif	
5	Lac Dechêne	
6	Lac Simoncouche	
7	Manicouagan-Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve (MUWBR)	

## PROJECT 2 | Inhabiting the Saint-Augustin-Pakua Shipu Sand River: Biogeomorphological and social transformations

1	Université du Québec à Montréal	
2	Université Laval	
3	Agent culturel de Pakua Shipu	
4	École Saint-Augustin	
5	Université Rennes 2	
6	Pakua Shipu	

## PROJECT 3 | Back on traces: Detection of contaminants and nanoparticles as markers of the Anthropocene in the Arctic

1	Université Laval	
2	Université Laval	
3	Université du Québec à Rimouski	
4	Cabinet conseil Erèbia	
5	Bylot Island	

## PROJECT 4 | COMIRCHAN Project: Co-construction of an intersectoral model of heat networks in Nunavik

1	Université Laval	
2	Université Laval	
3	Université du Québec en Outaouais	
4	Kativik Regional Government	
5	CanmetÉNERGIE	
6	Tarquti Energy	
7	Hydro-Québec	
8	Kuujuamiut Corporation	
9	Société d'habitation du Québec	
10	Société du Plan Nord	

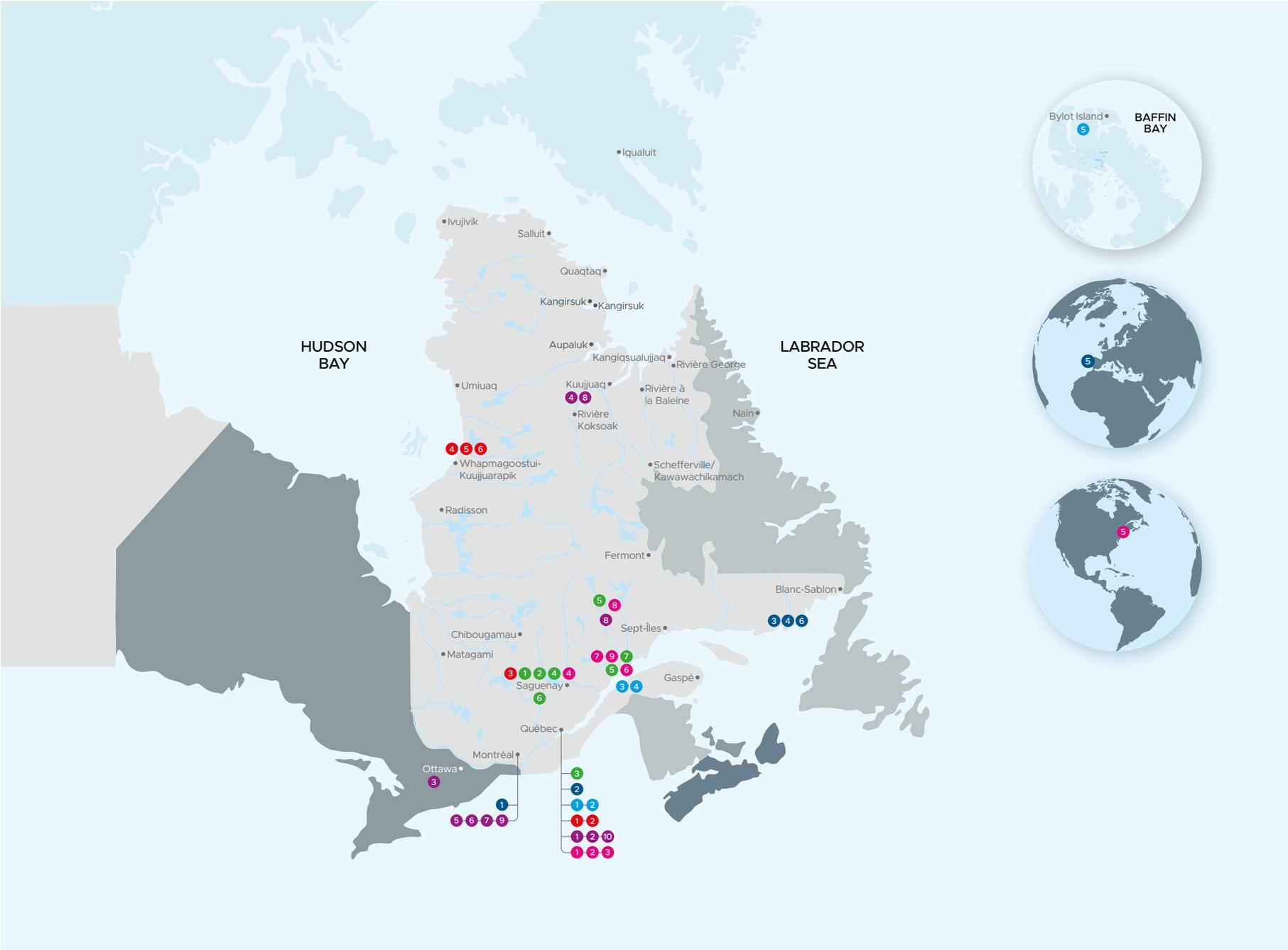
## PROJECT 5 | Manicouagan-Uapishka imaging through aquatic and cultural territory prospection

1	Université Laval	
2	Université Laval	
3	Institut national de la recherche scientifique	
4	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	
5	Northeastern University	
6	Pessamit Innu Council	
7	Manicouagan-Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve (MUWBR)	
8	Uapishka Station	
9	Lake Manicouagan	

## PROJECT 6 | Study on the preparation, use, and chemical composition of Northern Labrador Tea (Rhododendron subarticum) decoctions as consumed by the communities of Nunavik

1	Université Laval	
2	Université Laval	
3	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	
4	Whapmagoostui First Nation	
5	Northern Village of Kuujjuarapik	
6	Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaraapik	

LÉGENDE Lieu d'attache du chercheur principal | Lieu d'attache des cochercheurs | Partenaire | Terrain de recherche



Launched in 2019 by Institut nordique du Québec and Sentinel North, the *For a Sustainable North* program supports research that sheds new light on the North and the Arctic. Six projects were active in 2024–2025, and an overview of their activities over the past year is presented in the following pages.

## MODELING THE COUPLING OF TERRESTRIAL/AQUATIC CARBON FLUXES IN THE REGIONAL FOREST LANDSCAPE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

PROJECT LAUNCHED IN JULY 2023

### Principal Investigator

**Jean-François Boucher**, Professor, Department of Fundamental Sciences, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)

### Co-applicants

Maxime Boivin, Professor, Department of Human and Social Sciences, UQAC

Patrick Faubert, Associate Professor, Department of Fundamental Sciences, UQAC

Paul George, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Bioinformatics Université Laval (ULaval)

Catherine Girard, Professor, Department of Fundamental Sciences, UQAC

Milla Rautio, Professor, Department of Fundamental Sciences, UQAC

Olivier Riffon, Professor, Department of Fundamental Sciences, UQAC

### DESCRIPTION

Climate change is having profound impacts on the boreal forest, including shorter, warmer winters, which are transforming the ice and snow regime, altering the carbon cycle in this biome that dominates Quebec. This is an important issue, as the majority of terrestrial carbon sequestration occurs in forest ecosystems, and little is known about the role of winters in this biogeochemical cycle. Recent studies have shown that the carbon assimilated during photosynthesis in summer can be lost the following winter through respiration, and that winter losses can account for up to 50% of fixed carbon in the form of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide and methane. Shorter winters will therefore have major repercussions on GHG and forest carbon balances, affecting the forest's role as a carbon sink. This is in addition to the consequences of other disturbances the region is experiencing, such as forestry, which itself affects the snowpack and winter respiration. Moreover, shorter, warmer winters are affecting Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities who live in the boreal forest, including the Innu First Nation, whose ancestral territory is Nitassinan. The ecosystem services provided by this biome are being transformed by warming, including through

reduced ice and snow cover (access to remote regions, ice roads, and ice fishing). The aim of this project is to produce a GHG emissions model for the boreal forest in winter, one that incorporates terrestrial and aquatic environments as well as forest management practices. Lac Simoncouche in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (SLSJ) and Lac Dechêne on the North Shore have been identified as study sites. More specifically, the work aims to 1) determine the functional links between the forest and boreal lakes, to which part of the carbon is leached when the snow melts; 2) model carbon fluxes between the forest and lakes over the winter, integrating silvicultural exploitation; 3) apply this model across the SLSJ and North Shore regions; and 4) create a network of Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge on the ties between the boreal forest and lakes, as well as on land use.

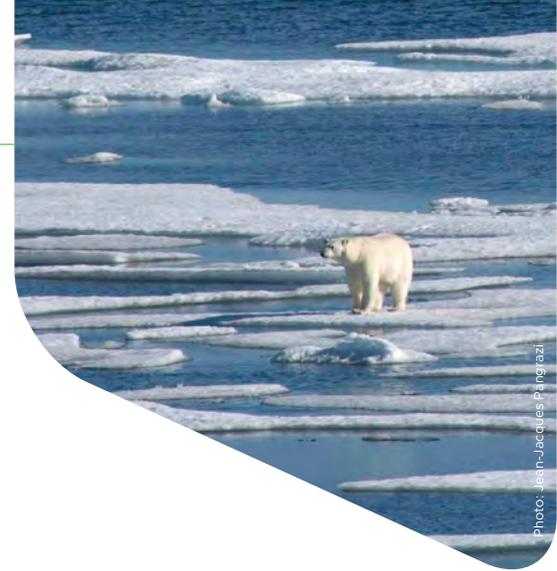


Photo: Jean-Jacques Piquazi

## INHABITING THE SAINT-AUGUSTIN-PAKUA SHIPU SAND RIVER: BIOGEOMORPHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

PROJECT LAUNCHED IN JULY 2023

### Principal Investigators

Daniel Germain, Professor, Department of Geography,  
Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Laurie Guimond, Professor, Department  
of Geography, UQAM

### Co-applicants

Caroline Desbiens, Professor, Department  
of Geography, ULaval

Justine Gagnon, Assistant Professor, Department  
of Geography, ULaval

### Professionals

Yoan Jérôme, Innu Geographer

Violaine Lafortune, Artist

### Student Involvement

Étienne Gariépy-Girouard, Doctoral student, Université  
du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Mehrnoosh Heidary, Doctoral student, UQAM

Valérie Potvin, Master's student, UQAM

### DESCRIPTION

Today, northern biogeosystems are being particularly hard hit by the effects of global warming and, to date, there has been little documentation on the synergistic effects between biotic and abiotic environments and the communities living on these lands. On the Lower North Shore, the banks of the St. Augustin River are experiencing accelerated erosion and more frequent landslides. This leads to the emergence of sandbanks and shoals in the river, as well as the buildup of numerous dead trees. These environmental changes, in turn, create i) impacts on wildlife, due to erosion destabilizing beaver lodges in some places, and the abundance of dead wood raising concerns about the migratory ability of trout and salmon; and ii) navigation constraints and difficulties for local populations due to sandy shoals and their intra- and inter-annual mobility. The need for knowledge co-constructed with local communities is immediate and crucial, firstly, to better anticipate

future changes in the Saint-Augustin River, and second, to better equip communities to ensure the long-term survival of the Innu and Lower North Shore cultures. These cultures depend largely on river access to the land and its wildlife, fish, and forestry resources. For thousands of years, the river has been a vital route for the Pakua Shipu Innu into the nutshimit (inland) to hunt, trap, fish, gather, and to practice innu-aitun (Innu culture). Villagers from the Municipality of Saint-Augustin have been using it for similar purposes since the 1870s. In other words, the river has strong cultural and social importance, and the changes currently affecting it have left no one indifferent

### 2023-2024 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In May 2024, two outreach activities were carried out with high school students in Saint-Augustin and Pakua Shipu: a workshop on riverbank erosion and an activity on interpreting aerial images. These initiatives were accompanied by meetings with local partners and stakeholders. In October, field data collection was conducted as part of Mehrnoosh Heidary's doctoral project, followed by her doctoral examination in January 2025. In February, the team met to review progress and plan the next steps. Finally, an ethics certification application was prepared during the winter of 2025



Photo: Sarah Galloway

## BACK ON TRACES: DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS AND NANOPARTICLES AS MARKERS OF THE ANTHROPOCENE IN THE ARCTIC

PROJECT LAUNCHED IN JULY 2023

### Principal Investigator

Julien Gigault, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, ULaval

### Co-applicants

Philippe Archambault, Professor, Department of Biology, ULaval

Pierre Legagneux, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, ULaval

Mélanie Lemire, Professor, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, ULaval

### Other

Catherine-Alexandra Gagnon, Érébia Consulting, UQAR

### Student Involvement

Marie Le Bagousse, Doctoral student, ULaval

Madeleine-Zoé Corbeil-Robitaille, Doctoral student, ULaval

### DESCRIPTION

The anthropogenic impact on ecosystems has been building rapidly over the past 20 years, and the effects are far more pronounced in the polar zones than anywhere else on the planet. Human-generated materials (plastics, ores, soot, etc.) now exceed all the biomass created on Earth by all living organisms. This flow of materials, including chemical contaminants, plastics, and titanium dioxide, has already reached Arctic ecosystems.

But behind these man-made materials hides an enormous fraction—nanoparticles—that have been largely ignored until now, but that could cause far greater damage than their micrometric or millimetric counterparts. Due to their tiny size and high diffusivity and specific surface area, even in an ultra-trace state, these nanometric particles are highly reactive with biota and can be transported over long distances, increasing the bioavailability of a wide range of chemical contaminants within organisms.

The goal of this project is to explore and document the presence of nanoparticles and associated contaminants in Arctic terrestrial and marine ecosystems, drawing from available biological archives, including a long time-series for snow goose feathers dating back to 1886. Professor Gigault and his team will be examining the extent to which concentrations of these nanoparticles and contaminants could affect the exceptional quality of traditional foods that are central to Inuit culture and health.

Communications on sensitive issues relating to ecosystem health and food security will take the form of artistic co-creation, using visual art, interactive art and, in particular, animation, which is very popular with Inuit youth and holds great potential for dissemination at festivals and on social media. Discussions between the community of Pond Inlet and communities in Nunavut and Nunavik will focus on local waste management and mining practices, as well as potential international actions to ban the use of these toxic products.

### 2023-2024 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Over the course of the year, an innovative method for extracting nanoplastics and trace metals from feathers was developed for environmental analysis. A paper describing this approach is currently being prepared for submission to *Analytical Chemistry*. In parallel, work focused on analyzing annual trends in metal concentrations in thick-billed murre and snow goose eggs between 1999 and 2024, with a manuscript in preparation to present the main findings. Finally, nanoplastics and nanoparticles were identified in Arctic Indigenous communities (Umiujaq, Pond Inlet, Ittoqqortoormiit) in connection with waste incineration. These results were published in *Environmental Science & Technology*.

## COMIRCHAN PROJECT: CO-CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERSECTORAL MODEL OF HEAT NETWORKS IN NUNAVIK

PROJECT LAUNCHED IN JULY 2023

### Principal Investigator

Christophe Krolik, Professor, Faculty of Law, ULaval

### Co-applicants

Alice Friser, Professor, Department of Administrative Sciences, UQO

Louis Gosselin, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, ULaval

Ali Hakkaki-Fard, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, ULaval

Jasmin Raymond, Professor, Centre Eau Terre Environnement, INRS

### Research Professional

Jean Rouleau, Research Professional, ULaval

### Student Involvement

William Baudon, Master's student, ULaval

Emna Barki, Doctoral student, ULaval

Mafalda Miranda, Postdoctoral fellow, INRS

### DESCRIPTION

Most of the buildings in Nunavik are heated with diesel from the South, creating risks of spills, air pollution, greenhouse gases, and energy dependency. Yet there are locally available heat sources. The objective of COMIRCHAN is to gather the knowledge needed to co-construct, with the community of Kuujuaq, a guide to recovering, distributing, and connecting buildings to local heat sources. The guide will feature technical and economic knowledge, best practices for community engagement, as well as requirements, constraints, and possible legal solutions for recovering, distributing, and connecting buildings to local heat sources. This local heat will come from existing facilities (such as electricity generators), future facilities to be built (such as waste incineration), and from available renewable energies (such as geothermal sources). In addition to meeting the needs of communities using a co-construction approach, this project will spur the development of new knowledge in several areas. A unique team has joined together to tackle this significant challenge. It is made up of researchers with experience in Indigenous contexts, from the natural sciences (engineering and earth sciences) and social sciences (sociology, management, and law). Seven partners

are also playing a role in this collaboration, including community representatives; federal, provincial, regional, and local institutions; as well as provincial and Inuit energy companies. This collaboration will bring to light the community's ideas and proposals, as well as the experience of the key people involved in this field, and make these results, desirable, credible, and operational. COMIRCHAN was designed with the community members in mind, and will be built with and for them. The team's activities will contribute significantly to the development of the North, by publicizing new knowledge on local heat potential and on the preferences expressed by the community of Kuujuaq, the proposed work, and potential legal solutions. This model could subsequently be deployed in other parts of the North. It will need to be adapted to each context, enabling the emergence of new economic, social, and environmental spin-offs.

### 2023-2024 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The layout of the future network has been defined and the buildings to be connected have been identified. The distribution model, currently being developed in TRNSys, incorporates potential energy sources. On the social side, the team obtained ethics approval from CÉRUL and conducted a survey in Kuujuaq as part of a geothermal pilot project: while other priorities were expressed, the community consulted was supportive of using this energy source for local projects. The Law team, for its part, analyzed the applicable legal frameworks and the stakeholders involved in the project's implementation.

## MANICOUAGAN-UAPISHKA IMAGING THROUGH AQUATIC AND CULTURAL TERRITORY PROSPECTION

PROJECT LAUNCHED IN JULY 2023

### Principal Investigator

Patrick Lajeunesse, Professor, Department of Geography, ULaval

### Co-applicants

Dermot Antoniades, Professor, Department of Geography, ULaval

Caroline Desbiens, Professor, Department of Geography, ULaval

Pierre Francus, Professor, Centre Eau Terre Environnement, INRS

Justine Gagnon, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, ULaval

Catherine Girard, Professor, Department of Fundamental Sciences, UQAC

Mark Patterson, Professor, College of Science, Northeastern University

### Research Professional

Léo Chassiot, Department of Geography, ULaval

### Student Involvement

Marilène Blain-Sabourin, Doctoral student, Université Laval (ULaval)

## DESCRIPTION

The flooding of Lake Manicouagan (Tshishe Manikuakan) by the construction of the Manic-5 dam has led to profound disturbances of the natural ecosystem, formed around a meteorite impact crater, and on its occupants, the Innu of Pessamit. Hydroelectric development came in the wake of the logging and mining that marked the second half of the 20th century on their ancestral territory. The IMPACT research project aims to document the territory's socio-environmental trajectories using a multidisciplinary (natural sciences and humanities), co-constructive approach in partnership with local stakeholders, including the community of Pessamit. IMPACT was developed as a follow-up to a project that studied the sociocultural and morphosedimentary impacts of the Manic-5 dam. It aims to document the traces of ancestral occupation by the Innu and quantify the impacts caused by human intervention on the human and physical environments of Lake Manicouagan reservoir and Lake Dechêne (Papukuashun), an adjacent lake located at the foot of the Uapishka Mountains. The project consists of a university team

from five research institutes as well as partners from the Pessamit Innu Council's Land and Resources Office, the Manicouagan-Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve, and Uapishka Station. The data that is collected, which highlights a boreal territory designated as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, will offer first-hand results regarding: 1) the overlapping territorialities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples on a territory; 2) the cumulative impacts of resource extraction; 3) the historical trajectory and functioning of a large lake turned reservoir; 4) natural hazards; and 5) the restoration of a flooded cultural heritage. This data will bolster the promotion of cultural landscapes through outreach and awareness tools developed with the support of Uapishka Station, tools that will help boost the development of sustainable, Indigenous tourism, to protect the territory's biodiversity and honour the cultural heritage of the Pessamit Innu. A field school program will ensure the transfer of skills and knowledge (ancestral and academic) to project participants.



Photo: Geneviève Vachon

## 2023-2024 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Sedimentological analyses of the sediment cores collected in 2022 continued, including grain-size distribution and radionuclide dating. A scientific paper is in preparation, with submission planned for spring 2025. The doctoral examinations of Marilène Blain-Sabourin have been completed, and interviews with members of the Pessamit community are scheduled for the spring.

## STUDY ON THE PREPARATION, USE, AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF NORTHERN LABRADOR TEA (RHODODENDRON SUBARTICUM) DECOCTIONS AS CONSUMED BY THE COMMUNITIES OF NUNAVIK

PROJECT LAUNCHED IN JULY 2023

### Principal Investigator

**Normand Voyer**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, ULaval

### Co-applicants

Stéphane Boudreau, Professor, Department of Biology, ULaval

Caroline Hervé, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, ULaval

Jean Legault, Professor, Department of Fundamental Sciences, UQAC

### Research Professional

Jean-Christophe Séguin, ULaval

### Student Involvement

Alison Philippe, Master's student, ULaval

David Fortier, Doctoral student, ULaval

Tommy Fraser, Doctoral student, ULaval

Mehdi-Benjamin Quittelier, Doctoral student, ULaval

Laurie Tremblay-Martin, Research assistant, ULaval

### Northern Sampling

Cheryl Bobbish, Whapmagoostui First Nation

Sarah Mastypimego, Whapmagoostui First Nation

### DESCRIPTION

Northern Labrador Tea, also known as Dwarf Labrador Tea or *Rhododendron subarcticum* (tiirluk in Inuktitut, wiisichipikuush in Cree), is a shrub that is commonly found in Nunavik. It is widely consumed among the Cree and Inuit communities in Northern Quebec, primarily as a decoction. In recent years, the popularity of this tea has greatly increased, especially in Cree communities further south. However, there has been very little scientific research done on Northern Labrador Tea decoctions. The aim of this project is to study Northern Labrador Tea decoctions through an interdisciplinary project in partnership with the Indigenous communities of Whapmagoostui and Kuujuarapik (W-K). The joint work of chemists specializing in natural products, anthropologists studying Inuit societies, biologists specializing in plant ecology, and experts in molecular pharmacology will result in an in-depth and valuable characterization of this beverage. In addition,

an anthropological component aimed at documenting Indigenous knowledge and the practices of gathering, preserving, preparing, and consuming decoctions of this shrub will help conserve, promote, and disseminate this knowledge within the communities. With the help of Cree and Inuit harvesters and partners, samples will be collected every month during the growing season, as well as once during the winter, over a three-year period. The samples will be taken at three sites with different ecological characteristics, in order to study the impact of harvest timing and sites, preservation methods, and decoction preparation on the drink's chemical composition, medicinal properties, and toxicity. This information will enable communities to back up their traditional knowledge, and to better define the best practices for deriving maximum health benefits and avoiding negative side effects.

### 2023-2024 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This year marked the beginning of the planned two-year monthly sampling campaigns. Two harvesters from Whapmagoostui took part in the summer collection of Labrador tea, contributing to the development of extraction methods and the analysis of active metabolites. Preliminary tests conducted by the teams of Professors Jean Legault and Normand Voyer revealed promising anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antimicrobial activities. On the anthropological side, a research agreement is being drafted with the Cree Research Institute to guide the documentation of traditional uses of herbal teas.

# Revision of the Scientific Program

Throughout the year, INQ continued the revision of its scientific program initiated in 2023, through consultation workshops across its five research axes and meetings of the Scientific and Development Committee. Currently in the drafting phase, the new version of the scientific program is designed to be dynamic and opportunity-generating. It reflects a commitment to continuous improvement, where exchanges and discussions constantly enrich reflection and updates. Thanks to its active research community, including members from First Peoples, it will be able to evolve and expand well before the end of a five-year cycle.

In addition, serving as an intellectual and methodological compass, guiding principles and cross-cutting issues will be emphasized to reflect the realities of northern contexts and to catalyze research that creates value for all northern and Arctic stakeholders.

As part of the ongoing workshops and meetings, four cross-cutting issues have been identified by stakeholders. To determine these and to ensure alignment with the aspirations and research needs of First Peoples, they agreed to build on the research axes defined at the Forum on the Impact of Climate Change on Ecosystems and Indigenous Research (Centre Nikanite/UQAC, October 2023):

- > Protection and Responsible Management of Resources
- > Food Security and Traditional Activities
- > Responses to Global Changes
- > Contribution to Community Vitality and Well-Being

These issues aim to mobilize diverse fields and sectors of northern and Arctic research in order to find comprehensive solutions to complex challenges.



The following section highlights INQ's strategic positioning at national and international levels. It reports on the efforts made to enhance the visibility of INQ, its components, and its expertise, notably through active participation in major networks, engagement in high-profile events, and communication initiatives.

# Strategic Positioning and Outreach

SEPTEMBER 2024

## MEETING WITH THE NORWEGIAN CHAIR OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Institut nordique du Québec took part in the official visit of Ms. Inga Nyhamar, Chair of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), by welcoming the delegation to the construction site of its future scientific complex. This meeting highlighted INQ's strategic role in shaping northern and Arctic collaborations at both the national and international levels.



From left to right: Béatrice Toutant, Policy Analyst, Global Affairs Canada; Martin Fortier, Deputy Vice Rector, Research and Innovation (International and Knowledge Mobilisation); Kimberly Aiken, Communications Officer, SDWG; Inga Nyhamar, Chair, SDWG; Brigitte Bigué, Executive Director of Operations, INQ; Eugénie Brouillet, Vice Rector, Research and Innovation; Anna Martz, Representative of the U.S. Delegation to the SDWG; Jean-Éric Tremblay, Scientific Director, INQ; Emmanuel Boucher-Fassett, Executive Secretary, SDWG; and Joël Plouffe, Advisor, Arctic Council Secretariat.

OCTOBER 2024

## INQ AT ARCTIC CIRCLE ASSEMBLY

Institut nordique du Québec actively participated in the Arctic Circle Assembly, held in Reykjavík from October 17 to 19, 2024. On this occasion, INQ co-organized the international final of the Mon Projet nordique / My Northern Project competition in partnership with UArctic, with support from the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie through the Quebec–Nordic Council of Ministers Cooperation Program.

Due to the withdrawal of one candidate, four finalists from the provincial final of Mon Projet nordique, held in Quebec City in May 2024, ultimately represented Québec at the event:

- > Charlie Wenger (Université Laval): Dwelling in Inuit Fiction: Words, Images and Architecture
- > Mariane St-Aubin (Université de Montréal): Following an Electrifying Current in a Subarctic River of Nunavik
- > Madeleine St-Cyr (Université Laval): On the Trail of Disappearing Permafrost in Umiujaq
- > Ariane B. Barrette (Université Laval): Fantastic Molecules and Where to Find Them: The Secrets of Belugas

These four young researchers gave outstanding presentations of their work to an international audience. The jury awarded the prize to Ariane B. Barrette, a doctoral student in oceanography at Université Laval, for the dynamic presentation of her project at the crossroads of marine ecology, ecotoxicology, biochemistry, and population health.

Through its participation in the Arctic Circle Assembly, INQ strengthens its international partnerships and highlights the essential role of science communication in making research accessible and visible beyond the academic sphere.

# Strategic Positioning and Outreach

DECEMBER 2024

## PRESENCE AT ARCTIC CHANGE

INQ took part in the 2024 edition of the Arctic Change conference, organized by ArcticNet and held in Ottawa from December 9 to 12. Its participation, including an exhibit booth, showcased its initiatives and strengthened ties with the scientific community specializing in northern and Arctic issues.

MARCH 2025

## ARCTIC CONFERENCE – FLETCHER SCHOOL, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

On March 7, the Fletcher School of Global Policy at Tufts University in Boston hosted the 11th edition of its annual Arctic conference, organized by the Department of Maritime Studies. This edition offered diverse perspectives on key themes such as governance, sustainability, security, and Indigenous visions.

Djenane Gaspard, Regional Coordinator of INQ's Montréal–Sherbrooke hub, played a key role in organizing the event.

MARCH 2025

## INQ PARTICIPATION IN ASSW AND ICARP IV

INQ participated in the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) and the 4th International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV), two events held jointly in Boulder, Colorado. Bringing together nearly 800 participants from some thirty countries, these gatherings provided a forum to discuss the major priorities that will guide Arctic research over the next decade. INQ highlighted Quebec's expertise in northern and Arctic research, driven by a network of nearly 300 multidisciplinary scientists. This participation reflects INQ's commitment to strengthening its international collaborations and to consolidating the structuring role it plays in Quebec's northern research ecosystem, notably through its future scientific complex. Through this engagement, Quebec positions itself as a key player, demonstrating both the will and the capacity to play a decisive role in shaping the future of northern and Arctic regions.

## SCIENTIFIC NEWS

To highlight the richness and diversity of research conducted north of the 49th parallel, INQ launched a series of popular science articles written by science journalist Valérie Levée. This initiative aims to showcase the work of scientists affiliated with INQ and to raise awareness of issues specific to northern and Arctic regions.

In 2024–2025, seven new articles were published, covering topics as varied as justice, the environment, language, housing, wildlife, as well as security and Canadian Arctic policy:

- > Bringing Justice to Nunavik – Caroline Hervé (Université Laval)
- > Monitoring Water Reservoirs – Stéphanie Guilherme (Université Laval)
- > Tracking the Metamorphosis of Arctic Landscapes – Frédéric Bouchard (Université de Sherbrooke)
- > The Long Words of Inuktitut – Richard Compton (UQAM)
- > Revisiting the Inuit Home – Habiter le Nord Project Team (Université Laval)
- > Snow Geese, from Île-aux-Oies to Bylot Island – Pierre Legagneux (Université Laval)
- > Arctic Security: A Question of Identity – Stéphane Roussel (ENAP)

Since the launch of the series in March 2021, a total of 29 articles have been published. All are available in French and English in the News section of INQ's website.

## INQ AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Institut nordique du Québec deploys a multichannel communication strategy to highlight the initiatives of its community and promote its activities. Its regularly updated website serves as a key showcase for discovering its activities, resources, training opportunities, and publications, in both French and English. INQ's bilingual newsletter, published about eight times a year and reaching nearly 1,400 subscribers, shares scientific news, upcoming events, and partner projects, while providing the entire network with an accessible communication platform. Complementing this is a strong social media presence—with more than 1,500 followers on LinkedIn and over 2,700 on Facebook—which strengthens the Institute's visibility and maintains a dynamic connection with its audiences.



Photo: Clara Prefontaine-Paquette

# INQ Governance Committees

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Chair of the Executive Committee  
Vice Rector, Research and Innovation  
Université Laval

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Scientific Director  
INRS

### **Dominique Bérubé**

Vice-president Research and Innovation  
McGill University

### **Sébastien Charles**

Vice Rector, Research and Development  
UQTR

### **François Deschênes**

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Université de Sherbrooke

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Société du Plan Nord

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Deputy Executive Director  
Grand Council of the Crees

### **Adamie Delisle Alaku**

Vice President  
Makivvik

### **Francis Fournier**

Chief Executive Officer  
COREM

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Fonds de recherche du Québec-Santé

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Université Laval

### **Martin Fortier**

Deputy Vice Rector, Research and Innovation  
Université Laval

### **Jean-Éric Tremblay**

Scientific Director  
INQ

### **René Therrien**

Interim Scientific Director  
INQ

### **Brigitte Bigué**

Executive Director  
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## SCIENTIFIC AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### [Research priorities](#)

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Professor, Director, Centre d'études pour l'autonomie économique des peuples autochtones (AEPA)  
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### **Thierry Rodon**

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Professor, Chairholder, INQ Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair  
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### **Faiz Ahmad Khan**

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Professor, Associate Director, Clinical Research – McGill International TB Centre  
McGill University

### **Romina Pace**

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Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine  
McGill University

### **Cathy Vaillancourt**

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Professor, Institut Armand-Frappier  
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Mobilization of Communities' Shared Issues  
Representative of the Innu Nation

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Deputy Director, Nunavik Research Centre  
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**Glenda Sandy**

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**Jean-Éric Tremblay**

Scientific Director  
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# INQ Administration



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**Jean-Éric Tremblay**  
Scientific Director



**René Therrien**  
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**Andréanne Bernatchez**  
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**Debra Christiansen-Stowe**  
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**Carine Dubois**  
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**Djénane Gaspard**  
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**Josiana Guidolini**  
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**Marie-Eve Marchand**  
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**Pierre-Yves Savard**  
Operations  
Coordinator

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