



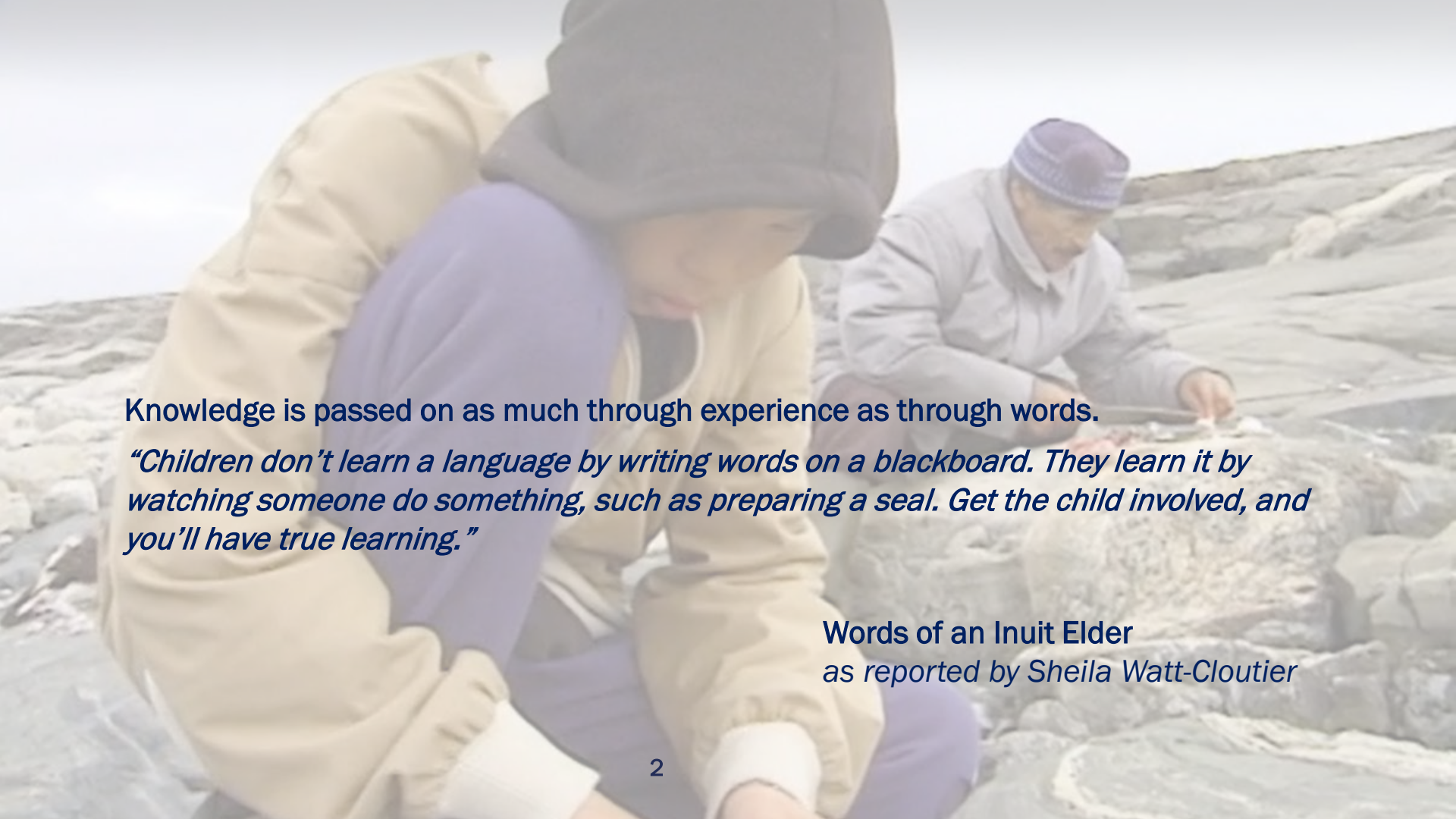
ᐅᐱᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᐅᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᐱᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ
UNGAVA TULATTAVIK HEALTH CENTER
CENTRE DE SANTÉ TULATTAVIK DE L'UNGAVA

FACT SHEET 9 – EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION

Growing, Learning, and Inspiring the Next Generation

Cultural Safety Team
Reference Guide on Nunavik and cultural safety
Sheet 9 of 16





Knowledge is passed on as much through experience as through words.

“Children don’t learn a language by writing words on a blackboard. They learn it by watching someone do something, such as preparing a seal. Get the child involved, and you’ll have true learning.”

Words of an Inuit Elder
as reported by Sheila Watt-Cloutier



WHY THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT AT UTHC

Education and knowledge transmission play an essential role in the development of individuals, families, and communities. In Nunavik, learning isn't limited to school: knowledge is also passed down through Elders, family, experiences on the land, mentoring, and knowledge sharing.

At UTHC, we interact every day with children, teenagers, students, and young employees. Through our warmth, our support, and the example we set, we can encourage the next generation, build confidence, and inspire future careers.

Training the next generation of Inuit professionals also means strengthening community self-reliance and building a healthcare system that better responds to the realities of Nunavik.



*Encouragement received today can inspire the professionals of tomorrow. Photo from the documentary *My Village in Nunavik*.*

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage today, inspire tomorrow.

A word of encouragement, a learning opportunity, or a positive role model can sometimes shape an entire life's journey. By believing in young people's potential and sharing our knowledge, we help build the next generation that will shape the Nunavik of tomorrow.



LEARNING WELL BEFORE SCHOOL

Early learning begins in early childhood, within the family and the community. Children observe, listen, participate, and learn by spending time with their parents, grandparents, and other people around them.

Elders play an essential role in this process of knowledge transfer. Through their stories, advice, and example, they pass on knowledge, values, and skills that help shape young people's identities.

Learning takes place gradually, at the child's own pace, in real-life situations where observation, experience, and independence play a key role. These early learning experiences form the foundation upon which knowledge gained at school, on the land, and in the workplace will be built.



*A mother guides her child through everyday learning.
Photo from the report "Portraits of Inuit Parents in Nunavik."*

LOOKING AHEAD

Learning by Doing, Learning Together

For the Inuit, learning is first and foremost a lived experience. Observing, trying, listening, and participating are natural ways to develop skills, build confidence, and pass on community values.



THE LAND: AN OPEN-AIR SCHOOL

In Nunavik, the land has always been a place of learning. Here, children and youth develop practical skills as well as values that will stay with them throughout their lives.

By accompanying their families and Elders, they learn, among other things, to observe nature, travel safely, hunt, fish, prepare food, and respect animals and the environment.

On-the-land activities also foster independence, cooperation, sharing, patience, and a sense of responsibility. They strengthen the connection to Inuit culture, language, and identity. These activities are found in Kativik Ilisarniliriniq schools, Nurret programs, youth centers, ESUMA initiatives, as well as in numerous projects run by the UTHC, NRBHSS, and community organizations.



*A family travels to their camp by umiak.
Photo from the documentary *Inuuvunga*.*

LOOKING AHEAD

The land continues to teach

Even today, many schools, families, and community organizations organize on-the-land activities to enable young people to continue this learning in a contemporary context. These on-the-land activities allow young people to learn in new ways, build their confidence, and maintain a living connection to their culture, language, and land.



COMPLEMENTARY WAYS OF LEARNING

Today, there are many opportunities for learning. Knowledge is acquired at school, on the land, through mentoring, and in the workplace. In Nunavik, each of these ways of learning is recognized and valued. They complement one another and enable both young people and adults to engage in lifelong learning.

Schools, CEGEPs, and universities provide opportunities to gain knowledge, develop new skills, and open the door to many career paths.

In Education



Guidance from an experienced person allows you to learn by observing, practicing, and receiving advice. This approach aligns with traditional methods of Inuit knowledge transmission.

Through Mentoring



Internships, on-the-job training, peer exchanges, and continuing education help develop skills throughout one's professional life.

In the Workplace



On-the-land activities remain unique opportunities to learn, pass on knowledge, and strengthen ties to culture, language, and the community.

On the land



LOOKING AHEAD

There is no single way to learn

These different ways of learning are not mutually exclusive—they complement one another. Together, they help develop skills, pass on Inuit knowledge, and prepare the next generation to contribute to Nunavik's development.



THE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM: A CONCRETE EXAMPLE

The Nunavik midwifery training program is a concrete example of an approach that combines Inuit knowledge, clinical learning, and mentoring within a single training pathway.

Students gradually develop their skills through training modules, clinical practice, and guidance from experienced midwives. This approach allows them to learn directly within the community, while respecting the culture, language, and realities of Nunavik.



Why is this program unique?



Mentoring

Students learn by observing, practicing, and being guided by experienced midwives.



Complementary Knowledge

The program integrates Inuit knowledge with the clinical skills necessary for midwifery practice.



Community-Based Training

Learning takes place in Nunavik communities, alongside families, and within a context of cultural safety.

LOOKING AHEAD

The midwifery program demonstrates that it is possible to train professionals while valuing Inuit knowledge, mentorship, and community-based learning.



TRAINING PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR NUNAVIK

Training the next generation of Inuit requires more than just high-quality programs: educational pathways must also take into account the geographic, cultural, and family realities of Nunavik. Educational institutions and their partners are therefore adapting their approaches to foster student success and staff.

WHAT SETS THESE PATHWAYS APART



Programs Offered Near Communities

Whenever possible, courses are offered in Nunavik to minimize travel and allow students to stay close to their families and communities.



Recognition of Prior Learning and Skills (RPL)

Knowledge and experience gained through work can be recognized, allowing the training program to be tailored to the student's needs.



Personalized Support

Students benefit from small class sizes, mentoring, academic support, and guidance throughout their training.



Flexible Programs

Programs can be adapted to help students balance their studies, work, family, and community responsibilities.



*Academic advisor and students.
Photo: Radio-Canada/Akli Ait Abdallah.*

LOOKING AHEAD

By adapting educational pathways to the realities of Nunavik, institutions enable students to develop their skills while remaining rooted in their families, culture, and communities.



PARTNERS FOR LEARNING

Several partners are working together to offer educational pathways tailored to the needs of the Nunavimmiut. Here are some resources to help you explore the available opportunities.



Kativik Ilisarniliriniq

- General Education
- Vocational Training
- Adult Education
- Continuing Education

The team at
Adult Education Sector!



NRBHSS

- Training Coordination
- Developing the Next Generation
- Employee Support
- Training Partnerships

Training



Marie-Victorin CEGEP

- Social Work
- Administration
- Human Resources
- Administrative Communication

Cégep Marie-Victorin in the Far North



McGill University

- Health Services Management
- Leadership
- Management Development

Programs for First Nations and Inuit

LOOKING AHEAD

Whether it's vocational training, college, or university, each educational path helps develop the skills needed to meet the needs of Nunavik's communities.



THE NEXT GENERATION IS ON THE MOVE



Photo by Pierre Dunnigan.

Today, more and more young Nunavimmiut are pursuing college, university, or vocational studies to contribute to the development of their community.

While their numbers are still small in certain specialized fields, each new educational path represents a significant step forward for Nunavik.

A NEW GENERATION IS GROWING



A Future Doctor: An Inuit student is currently studying medicine.



Future nurses: A few students are pursuing nursing degrees.



Future social workers: Other young people are choosing careers in social work to support families and communities.



And many other paths... Administration, teaching, midwifery, skilled trades, management, education...

Each path contributes to Nunavik's development.

LOOKING AHEAD

Every young person encouraged today can become a professional tomorrow.

A student's success often depends on the encouragement of their family, community, teachers, mentors... and the staff they encounter along the way.



IN MY WORK AT THE UTHC

Every encounter can be an opportunity to learn

At the UTHC, we welcome students, interns, and new employees every year who are discovering the health and social services field. Each of us can contribute to their learning, regardless of our role in the organization.

Sharing your experience, explaining a procedure, answering a question, or simply offering a warm welcome are all ways to support the development of the next generation..

In our day-to-day work, we can:

- ✓ Share our knowledge and experience
- ✓ Encourage young employees to continue their professional development
- ✓ Recognize everyone's strengths and achievements
- ✓ Be a role model of professionalism, respect, and cultural safety

LOOKING AHEAD

The next generation is built one meeting at a time

For many young (and not-so-young) Nunavimmiut, a positive experience at the UTHC can confirm a career choice, boost their confidence, or inspire them to return to work in their community.



A FEW WORDS IN INUKTITUT

Διάρθρωση – Isumaliriji

Advisor • A person who guides

Literally, a person who helps others reflect or accompanies them on their journey.

ᐃᑭᑦᑎᐱᑦ – Inuusiliriji

Social worker • Someone who works with people

Refers to a person whose job is to support and assist others.

Δεδομένα - Ιλννιανιλιρτζι

Academic Advisor

A person who guides students through their academic or training journey.

Δb^{sq} – Ikajuq

To help • To support

A frequently used verb that reminds us that learning also depends on the support of others.

Λερ^b – Pinasuk

To make an effort • To persevere

Conveys the perseverance and commitment needed to develop new skills.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

..... Kativik Ilisarniliriniq is unique in Quebec?

It is the only school board whose mission is entirely dedicated to a northern region and a predominantly Inuit population.

..... experience can be just as valuable as formal education?

Through the Recognition of Prior Learning and Skills (RAC), skills developed on the job can be officially recognized and shorten a training program.

..... the next generation is being built today?

Although the number of Inuit professionals remains limited in certain fields, more and more young people are pursuing studies in health, social services, education, and management to contribute to the development of their communities.

..... an internationally recognized model?

The Nunavik midwifery program is recognized in several countries as a model of community-based training and care that respects Inuit culture.



THE ESSENTIALS

Key Takeaways

- ✓ In Nunavik, learning is a lifelong process.
- ✓ Traditional knowledge and academic knowledge complement each other.
- ✓ Mentoring, observation, and experience remain at the heart of learning.
- ✓ Developing the next generation of Inuit professionals is a collective responsibility that benefits the entire community.



REFLECTING ON MY PRACTICE

Let's take a moment to reflect...

- In my role at the UTHC, how can I encourage a young person, an intern, or a new colleague to reach their full potential?
- What knowledge, experiences, or values can I pass on to the next generation?
- How can I create an environment where young people feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged to learn?
- Who has been a role model for me along my journey, and how can I become that person for someone else?



UTHC RECOMMENDATION

A History of Education in Nunavik (Presse de l'Université du Québec)

by Véronique Paul, Elisapi U. Tukulak, and Siaja M. Mangiuk.

This book recounts how the Inuit of Nunavik gradually regained control of their school system between 1950 and 1990. It highlights the efforts made to preserve Inuktitut and traditional knowledge while developing an education system adapted to the realities of the communities.

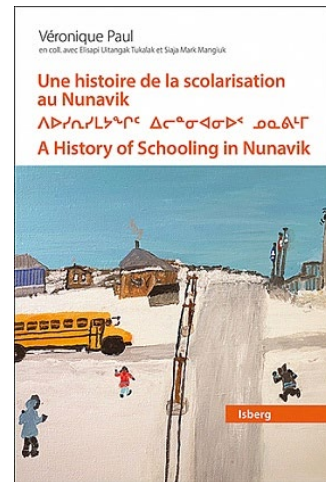
Why read it?

This book provides insight into why many parents, grandparents, and Elders still maintain a cautious—and at times distrustful—relationship with certain institutions.. This historical perspective helps readers better understand the importance placed on an education rooted in the Inuit language, culture, and communities.

Also available:

The research paper. This research is the result of a partnership between the communities of Ivujivik and Puvirnituq and UQAT, illustrating a research approach conducted with the communities rather than on the communities.

The **presentation** by Véronique Paul and Elisapie Lamoureux summarizes the main findings of the research and outlines the evolution of education in Nunavik.





FURTHER READING



The People of the Ice (NFB 2003)

For more than four thousand years, the Inuit people have lived in harmony with the Arctic continent. Their ancestral wisdom, deeply rooted in their knowledge of the land and its unique wildlife, has enabled them to endure through the ages and adapt to numerous changes. Today, as global warming threatens the very nature of their environment, will the People of the Ice be able to adapt to this new upheaval?



Three Thousand (NFB 2017)

This experimental film uses archival footage and animation to explore 3,000 years of Inuit culture across three chapters: the past, the present, and the future.



The “Inuit Holistic Lifelong Learning Model”

This model, developed by the Canadian Council on Learning, illustrates the Inuit vision of lifelong learning. Presented in the form of a tree, it shows how language, culture, the land, family, and community all contribute together to personal development.



ESUMA – Youth Projects in Nunavik

Discover projects that promote / foster / support school retention, leadership, and the development of young Nunavimmiut.

Knowledge transmission is a living legacy. By learning from one another and encouraging the next generation, we are helping build the future of Nunavik.

