November 2, 2017

**Indigenous and Western Science: Gathering New Knowledge through Co-designed Research**

Organized by: Jennifer Sokol, Polar Knowledge Canada

Speakers: Jean-Sébastien Moore, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Université Laval; Marie-Eve Neron, Director of Climate Change and Clean Energy, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; Angela Nuliayok Rudolph, Master's Student, Arctic and Northern Studies program, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Moderator: David J. Scott, President and CEO, Polar Knowledge Canada   
  
**Takeaways and recommendations**

* Integrating indigenous knowledge into a scientific program can play a major role in its success:
  + The Arctic Char Traditional Knowledge Study used indigenous knowledge to successfully determine the path of migrating fish.
  + The elder-youth knowledge exchange camp (part of the research program supported the community’s exchange of information from the elders to the youth) helped the community participate in and inform the research.
* Incentives and training should be improved to support scientists in involving indigenous communities in research programs.
* Scientists need to better understand the power of the relationship between the communities and the resources they depend on – those resources are the reason why communities were established in those places.
* People want to define indigenous knowledge and how they can use it, but a simple definition is hard to come by.
* Indigenous traditional knowledge is unique to each community.
* Direct translations can lead to inadequate interpretations of indigenous language and terms.
* To use indigenous knowledge in research programs, trust must be established and youth and elders should be engaged: this is a way for youth to be valued and for elders to transmit information, which helps to strength communities.
* A paradigm shift is needed: the best results occur when communities identify their needs and partner with scientists to find answers.