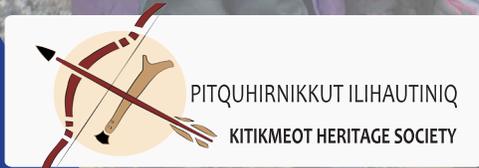
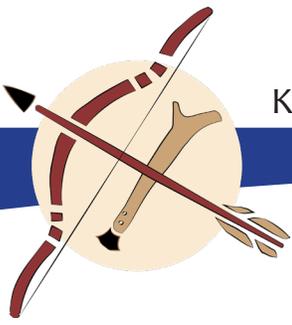




Kitikmeot Heritage Society 2015-16 fiscal year report





Over the course of 2015-16, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society (KHS) has flourished. While the first year of the KHS' new three year strategic plan (2014-15) served to steady the organization, the organization has used its second year to fully capitalize on the experience and hard work of its staff to pursue their shared vision for KHS to become one of the Arctic's leading cultural centres.

Much of the KHS' efforts over the last year were directed towards strengthening its research opportunities through the engagement of multiple academic and research partnerships. To these ends, we have spearheaded multiple large scale research initiatives with staff from Canadian universities including the University of Calgary, Carleton University, University of British Columbia and University of Alberta. In all of these cases, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society has been adamant about creating Inuit-

led research that ensures all elements of the projects--from initial design to delivery--were created in full partnership with local people and knowledge. Throughout the 2015-16 year, we also worked closely with Polar Knowledge to develop a guide for incoming scientists that is designed to create more cross-cultural awareness and understanding in northern research. The process of developing this guide included multiple workshops with the community to produce consensus statements regarding who Inuinnait were, what they wanted from research, and what their research priorities were. Over the course of 2015-16, our organization has increasingly been used as a national and international model for the bridging of scientific and local knowledge, people, and partnerships.

Another strong focus of the KHS has been to create a more public voice for Inuit concerns



Right: KHS staff help to remove a historic Copper Inuit kayak from the basement of an Edmonton household camp. The kayak was shipped to its home in Kugluktuk.



and challenges. The KHS has strived to become a stronger advocate for both the issues and solutions of life in the Arctic. Over the course of the year, we partnered with indigenous architect Dr. Nancy Makin to design and deliver the Shelters for a Thawing Arctic program. This program combined traditional knowledge with climate research and community engagement to consider more sustainable options for Arctic housing. Three community workshops were held at various points of the year to document the construction of traditional dwellings and shelters including fall tents, igluit, and qarmat.

The 2015-16 year saw a strong emphasis on the creation of digital technologies and resources. As part of its library programming, the KHS hosted an extensive digital literacy program, providing regular weekly workshops on basic Internet awareness and skills. Participants learned how to negotiate such things as on-line banking, Facebook and digital buy and sell in a manner that is both safe and respectful. The KHS also embarked on a new photosphere program with the University of Calgary, with staff spending two weeks in Arviat digitally documenting the island of Arvia'juaq. The KHS made significant progress on the 5th Thule Atlas over the course of the year. We pursued the design and development of the pilot Atlas platform alongside Carleton's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre. Our partnership obtained a SSHRC Connect grant to bring the team over to Denmark in November 2015 to inventory existing 5th Thule resources, and begin laying the foundation for an ambitious 3D digitization program at the National Museum

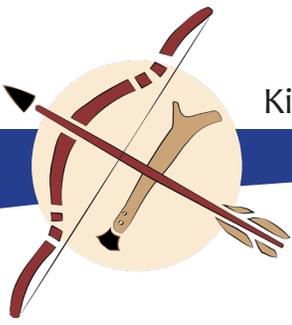
of Denmark. The pilot version of the 5th Thule Atlas was publicly launched in April 2016, and can be accessed at www.thuleatlas.org.



Above: Pam Gross presents the Canadian Ambassador to Denmark with a gift of a decorated seal-skin during a gala thrown for the KHS's Copenhagen.



Above: High resolution images of Arvia'juaq are taken to create photosphere images.



Despite all of its work with southern universities and institutions, the KHS has managed to maintain its focus on designing and delivering community based culture and capacity building programs for Nunavut, and Iqaluktuuttiaq in particular. Among the many initiatives that we undertook over the year, the following programs stand out as highlights:

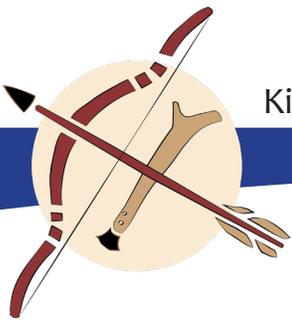
- Kamiik making, a one-on-one youth and Elders mentorship program with participants who have suffered community violence;
 - Creation of a digital literacy guide to assist local Internet users;
 - The Summer Student Program, which saw the hiring and mentorship of three local youth as cultural centre assistants;
 - The Summer Reading Program, providing youth in Cambridge Bay with encouragement and incentives to read though out the summer;
 - Hosting cultural events for the local Frolics, Aboriginal Day, Multicultural Day and Canada Day;
 - Providing 22 participants from Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay with the opportunity to travel to their homeland of Perry River during a 16 day excursion;
 - Returning a historic kayak back to it's home of Kugluktuk as part of a capacity building and exhibit development program at the community's Ulu Centre;
 - Unveiling of the Inuinnauyugut exhibit at the May Hakongak Cultural Centre. This exhibit was developed entirely by the KHS, and provides an overview of 100 years of Inuinait culture.
- Hosting of an atigi-making program for young mothers in which participants learned to make a small atigi for their child using modern materials.



Above: Pamela Gross provides the students of the Kullik Elementary school with a tour of the KHS' new Inuinnauyugut exhibit



Above: Participants at the Perry River camp prepare harvested landfood to feed the camp.



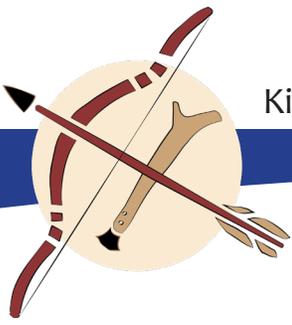
While the KHS has always been dedicated to the involvement of Elders in its programs, the 2015-16 year saw the creation of a formal Elders in Residence program at the cultural centre. A team of 5 Elders was hired to work at the centre 3 days a week to oversee the design and delivery of programs, and ensure that the KHS continues to align its work with local cultural values and priorities. The Elders in the program took on an active research role at the organization. They helped to conduct interviews and document valuable historical knowledge. In March 2016, the Elders' group traveled to Edmonton to present at a research symposium dedicated to the history of Camsell Hospital, a tuberculosis clinic that hosted an extraordinary number of Inuit patients between the 1950s and 1970s. During the same trip, the Elders worked with the University of Alberta to help identify objects within their Arctic ethnographic collection.



Top: The Elders in Residence group show off a donation of seal skins provided for their involvement in a documentary television program.

Middle: Elders visit a stone cairn dedicated Inuit patients who died at Camsell hospital. The Elders worked throughout the year to identify missing and mis-spelled names on the cairn

Bottom: Elder Mary Avalak helps to interpret Inuit collections at the University of Alberta.

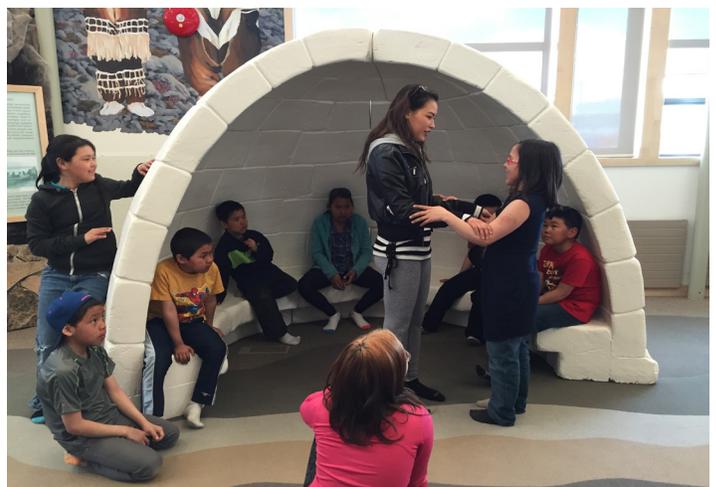


It was also a busy year at the KHS' May Hakongak Library. From April to June of 2015 our organization concentrated on upgrading its digital facilities, installing 8 new touch screen computers with upgraded software in public use areas of the library. The spring of 2015 saw a flurry of activity at the centre, with Elders presentations, a visit from the Canadian Military, and numerous children's programs including cultural bingo and a Mother's Day letter-writing project. Twenty children took part in a throat singing course that took place in the Library in partnership with the local Wellness Centre. With the beginning of the new school year, the KHS resumed its popular back to school program, which sees roughly 40-60 taking part in activities every day between 3:30 and 4:30.

**Statistics of the May Hakongak Library and Cultural Centre
March 31, 2015 to April 1, 2016**

Adult Books Loaned.....	512
Junior Books Loaned.....	1,251
Videos Loaned.....	9,894
Northern Books Loaned.....	124
New Member.....	127
Reference Questions.....	3,769
Programs.....	538
Program Attendance.....	7,417
Centre Drop Ins.....	34,279
Donation Items.....	1,247
Internet/Computer Patrons.....	10,611

In March of 2016, the KHS celebrated its 20th Anniversary as a non-profit organization. As a lead up to this landmark, the KHS took the opportunity to compile extensive video footage and interviews relating to two decades of Elder knowledge collected by the organization. A formal unveiling of a new anniversary sculpture celebrating the contributions of local Elders will take place in November 2016.



Above and Below: Students of the Afterschool Program enjoy the Halloween and throat singing activities