What does security mean to Inuit?

"Security doesn’t come from the comfort that some find in icebreakers, sonars, and military capabilities. Security from our societal perspective comes from access to the basic essentials of life: food, shelter and water."

- Udlorak Hansen, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK 2013)
Food sharing of “country food” is widely practiced within families in Clyde River; ethos of sharing and providing food is important to Inuit culture.

Food from the land is a central part of Inuit cultural continuity.

Food Security

Source: Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework: How to Assess the Arctic from an Inuit Perspective (ICC 2015)

Threats to food security:

- Climate change (access/availability)
- Contaminants (quality)
- High cost of hunting equipment (access)
- Transmission of knowledge, lack of hunters (access)
- High cost of store-bought food (access)
“Life in the Arctic is dependent on movement, and sea ice is integral to that movement.”

- The Sea Ice Is Our Highway (ICC 2008)

**Water/Ice**

**Community-based sea ice monitoring**

Knowledge co-production: Collaborative development of knowledge by Indigenous knowledge holders and conventional scientists.

**Housing and Infrastructure**

- Housing crisis in Nunavut – Majority of households live in public housing
- Waiting list of more than 2,000 households
- Many 2 – 3 bedroom units housing 3 generations

**Climate Change & Infrastructure**

Severe storms & high wind events, coastal erosion:
- Houses and infrastructure repair, relocation needed

Permafrost melt:
- Slumping of housing, asphalt, bridges, other infrastructure

Wildfires:
- 2015 – Wildfires in Alaska equal to size of state of Massachusetts

Shipping, oil and gas infrastructure:
- Increased services, increased risk for wildlife/subsistence

**Resources & Infrastructure**

Credit: Linus Rippling and Johanna Koto, NORDREGIO
Strengthening Environmental Security

- Use precautionary principle in development, shipping – priority for harvesters
- Mitigate climate change
- Support adaptation (relocation, infrastructure)
- Address gaps in basic needs (housing, food)
- Support Indigenous knowledge transmission & cultural programs
- Devolve decision-making/involve Arctic Indigenous residents
- Community-based monitoring/observing – need for local baseline information