

Mission of ArcticNet:

- ArcticNet is a network that brings together scientists and managers with their partners from Inuit organizations, northern communities, federal and provincial agencies and the private sector. One objective of ArcticNet is to study the impacts of climate change in the Canadian Arctic.
- Arctic Net is conducting an Integrated Regional Impact Study (IRIS) in four Canadian Arctic regions. The report and recommendations for the Nunavik and Nunatsiavut region were presented in 2012.

Life expectancy 10 years shorter than most Canadians

- Policies must be adopted to address the current significant health inequity and lower life expectancy
- Promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle must be encouraged to improve quality of life; the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol cannot be ignored
- Promotion of health and nutrition in communities is crucial
- Research-driven interventions which are successful must be pursued. (example: study on marine fatty-acids providing protection against cardio-vascular diseases)



Food insecurity for families

- Access to a sustainable supply of healthy country food is of paramount concern.
- Healthy store-bought foods need to be available and affordable
- Initiatives such as ice monitoring, trail marking and access to survival equipment must be encouraged
- Search and rescue capacity at a local regional level must continue to be improved and supported
- Traditional and land skills knowledge transfer between generations must be encouraged



Populations of the large caribou herds are declining

- Caribou habitat, calving areas and migration routes must be conserved
- Sport hunting, if it affects the health of the herds or Inuit subsistence harvesting, should be curtailed or banned
- An across-boundary partnership and coordination entity should be established for caribou management



Arctic char is an important food resource at risk

- The sustainability of the Arctic char harvest must be assessed
- Habitat enhancement and restocking for Arctic char should be considered
- Community-based monitoring of Arctic char populations should be implemented

Berry production is predicted to decline under increased shrub cover

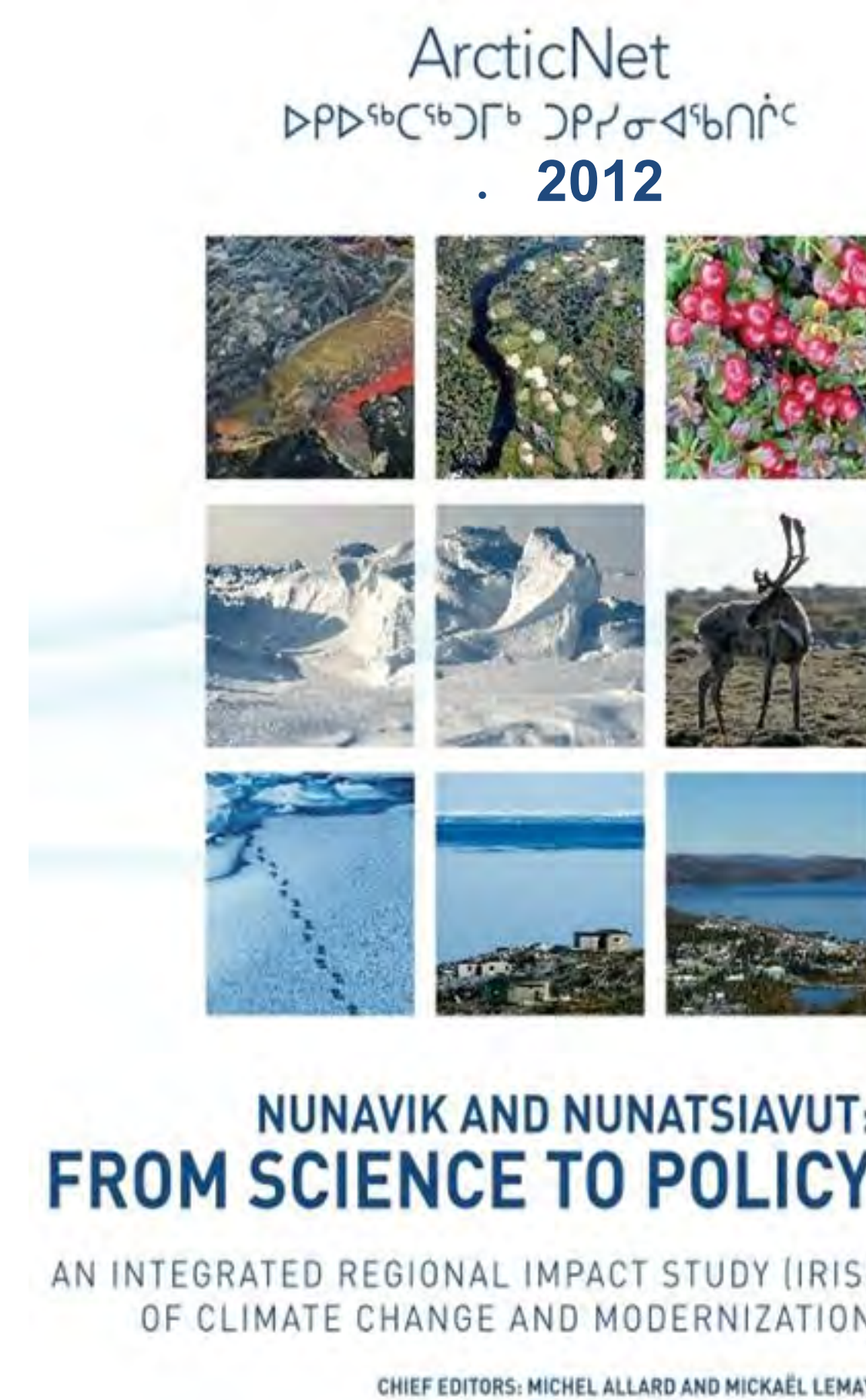
- Important berry harvesting areas close to communities should be protected



ArcticNet Recommendations

Maintaining good quality drinking water in communities is a challenge

- Monitoring of water quality for both primary and secondary sources of drinking water should be improved
- Important sources of drinking water close to communities should be protected



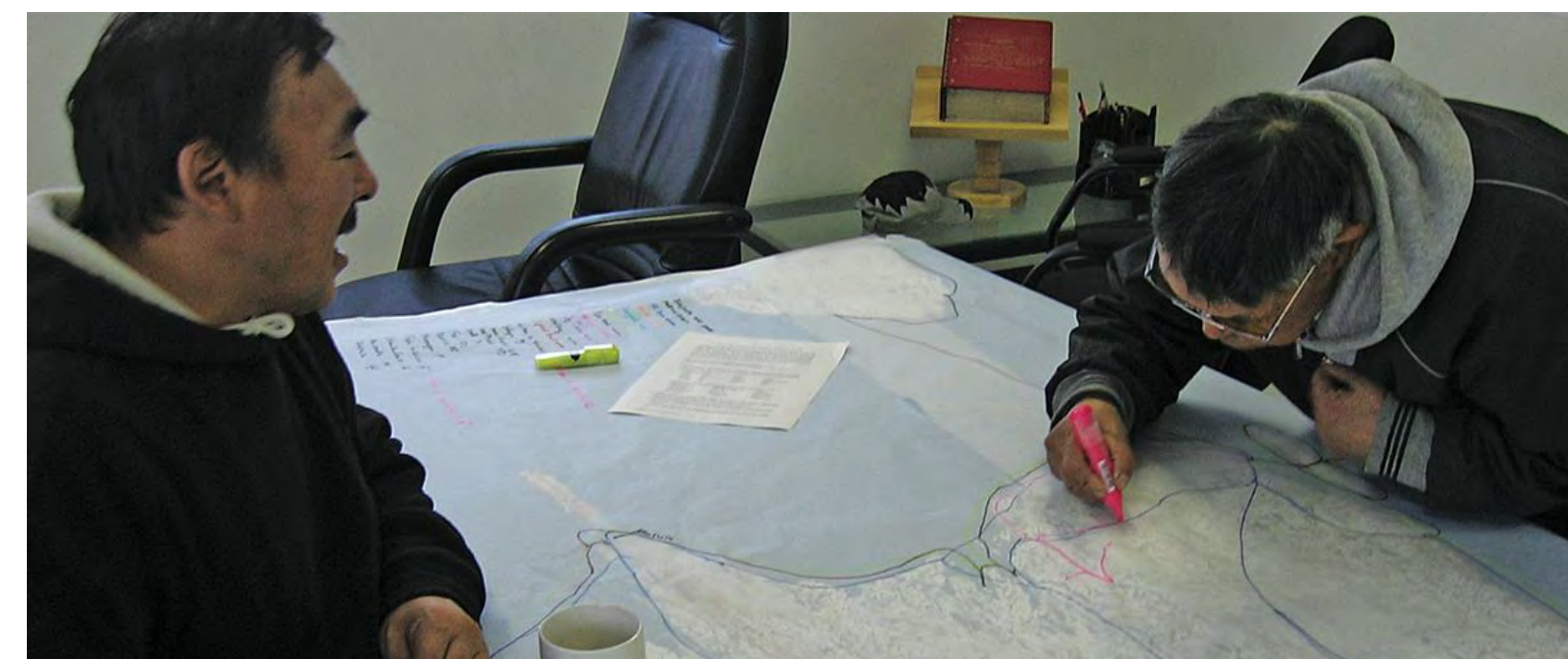
The thawing of permafrost modifies the natural environment and requires adequate infrastructure

- Improved urban planning and appropriate engineering practices should be applied to take into account local environmental conditions including permafrost and climate change effects for construction projects



Nunavik and Nunatsiavut have begun implementing land use plans

- Parks, protected areas and land sheltered from development should continue to be identified for the conservation of valued ecosystems



Sea ice cover is diminishing in its extent and duration and fjord ecosystems are changing

- A better understanding of Nunavik and Nunatsiavut river and coastal systems is crucial



Nunavik and Nunatsiavut are experiencing rapid warming

- Improvements are needed in weather forecasting and environmental prediction at regional and local scales

