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Alexandre Forest, Laurel McFadden, Martin Fortier, Isabelle Dubois photos / ArcticNet

# Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter for [ArcticNet](#) in the Eastern Canadian Arctic. This will be a regular newsletter that encourages information exchange between [ArcticNet](#) scientists who generate knowledge in the physical, social and health sciences and decision-makers who use scientific knowledge to make choices and inform policy in all sectors of society. These two groups are the intended audience for our newsletter.

In this first issue we introduce readers to the Network of Arctic scientists known as *ArcticNet* and describe some of its goals and activities in the region. We also introduce ourselves as the leader and coordinator for *ArcticNet* in the Eastern Canadian Arctic and invite you to be part of our regional network through participation in the knowledge exchange.

Our newsletter focuses on one of ArcticNet's main initiatives in the Eastern Arctic – an Integrated Regional Impact Study. We provide more information on the goals and planned activities of the Eastern Arctic IRIS below.

We hope you find the newsletters informative and we encourage your feedback and suggestions.

Trevor Bell  
Philippe LeBlanc



## ArcticNet at a glance

The Arctic is experiencing significant changes in environmental conditions (for example, reduced sea-ice, permafrost thaw and rising sea levels). These changes, alongside rapid social, economic, and political transformation, may pose significant challenges to the culture, livelihood and health of Northerners. Governments, communities, industries and individuals facing these changes need access to scientific information to better prepare for the impacts of change.

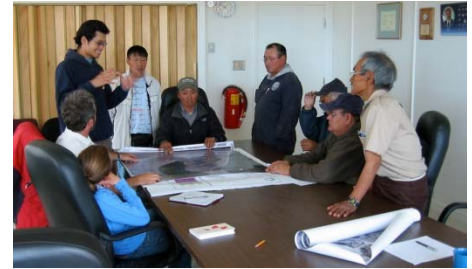


Martin Fortier Photo / ArcticNet

**ArcticNet** brings together scientists and managers with northern expertise in the natural, human health and social sciences to partner with Inuit organizations, northern communities, federal and provincial agencies and the private sector.

## ArcticNet in numbers

*ArcticNet* is supported by the Government of Canada through the *Networks of Centres of Excellence* programs. In November 2007, *ArcticNet* successfully completed its first mid-term review, allowing the Network to secure funding until the end of its first 7-year funding cycle in March 2011. This second phase of funding constitutes an investment of over \$19 million by the Government of Canada for the continuation of *ArcticNet* activities. The network now funds over 110 scientists and 400 graduate students as part of its research program. These researchers are based at 28 Canadian universities, and 19 federal or provincial agencies/departments. International collaborations have been established with research teams in 12 countries around the world.



Trevor Bell photo / ArcticNet

The central goals of the network are to study the impacts of climate change in the coastal Canadian Arctic and disseminate this knowledge to help northern societies and industries prepare for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Although *ArcticNet's* research program is broadly based and covers the entire coastal Canadian Arctic, it has structured its knowledge transfer by region, which recognises the diversity of issues facing different parts of the Arctic and helps facilitate locally-relevant information exchange. The research plan calls for an integrated study of potential impacts of climate change in each of four regions – Eastern Arctic, Western Arctic, Hudson Bay and Eastern Sub-arctic. **IRIS** is the abbreviation we use for these **I**ntegrated **R**egional **I**mpact **S**tudies.

## ArcticNet in the Eastern Canadian Arctic

There are 28 current *ArcticNet* research projects that are directly relevant to the Eastern Canadian Arctic (see below). Together these projects are tracking the present transformation of the Arctic environment and anticipating the consequences of climate, environmental and societal changes. The scientific information being generated by these projects has relevance for understanding the impacts of a changing environment and can help formulate adaptation strategies.

To encourage knowledge translation from science to policy, *ArcticNet* is conducting a Regional Impact Assessment (RIA) for the Eastern Arctic. The assessment will focus on key priority issues or systems, identified by both scientists and decision-makers, and will analyse how they are being affected by ongoing changes in environment and society. Key indicators will be identified for each issue or system and projections for future change will be generated. The impact assessment will be published as a series of short illustrated chapters that are presented in an accessible style. Its key findings will convey a synthetic vision of the impacts of change across the region.

## Next Steps

1. Highlight in newsletter format each one of *ArcticNet*'s projects that are directly relevant to the Eastern Arctic IRIS
2. Link policy/decision makers with *ArcticNet* IRIS process through our steering committee members, outreach and newsletters
3. Compile and distribute (via newsletter) documented priority issues for the Eastern Canadian Arctic
4. Use the IRIS steering committee to help select the regional issues that can be best addressed from both policy and scientific perspectives in the first IRIS report
5. Confirm IRIS report format and structure and identify lead and contributing authors
6. Host an *ArcticNet* regional science meeting in the Eastern Arctic to solicit face-to face feedback on first draft of IRIS report
7. Publish and distribute the first *ArcticNet* IRIS report for the Eastern Arctic



Martin Fortier Photo / ArcticNet

## Eastern Arctic IRIS Personnel

The IRIS team will be working closely with *ArcticNet* scientists, Inuit organizations, local government, industries and other networks to prepare a regional report that draws on *ArcticNet* knowledge to inform regional issues.

- **Philippe LeBlanc** is the research coordinator for the Eastern Arctic IRIS. He is supported by *ArcticNet* and is hosted by Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's.
- **Trevor Bell** is the designated research leader for the IRIS. He is a Professor of Geography at Memorial University and has spent 25 years investigating environmental changes and human adaptations in the Canadian Arctic and Subarctic.

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## ArcticNet in the Canadian Eastern Arctic: Principal Investigators and their Projects

Michel Allard / Permafrost and climate change: impacts and adaptations for communities  
 Philippe Archambault / Impact of climate change on the life of the Arctic Ocean floor  
 David Barber / Impacts of sea ice changes in the Arctic  
 Trevor Bell and Donald Forbes / Instability of coastal landscapes in Arctic communities and regions  
 Dominique Berteaux / Effects of climate change on the Arctic wildlife  
 Michael Byers / The law and politics of Canadian jurisdiction over Arctic Ocean seabed  
 Laurie Chan / Climate change impacts on traditional food security in Inuit communities  
 Eric Dewailly / Impacts of climate change on the health and well-being of Inuit  
 Terry Dick / Monitoring the marine environment in the Arctic  
 Gerard Duhaime / Integrated analysis of human development in the Canadian Arctic  
 Steven Ferguson / Research on Arctic marine mammals  
 James Ford / Climate change and food security in regional Inuit centers  
 Yves Gratton / Monitoring changes of the Canadian Arctic Ocean  
 Greg Henry / Impacts of vegetation change in the Arctic  
 Rob Huebert / The emerging Arctic security environment  
 John Hughes Clarke / The Canadian Arctic seabed: navigation and resource mapping for community  
 Arn Keeling / Industrial development and Arctic communities: Environmental and social change  
 Scott Lamoureux / Impacts of climate change on rivers and lakes  
 Frederic Lasserre / Climate change and commercial shipping development in the Arctic  
 Paul Myers / Past and present changes in climate in the Arctic  
 Tim Papakyriakou / Effects of Climate Change on Carbon Exchange Dynamics in the Arctic  
 Michael Power / Factors affecting the Arctic Charr in Eastern Canada  
 Thierry Rodon / Improving access to university education in the Canadian Arctic  
 Barry Smit / Community adaptation in a Changing Arctic  
 Gary Stern / Effect of climate change on carbon and contaminant cycling in the Arctic  
 Jean-Eric Tremblay and Michel Gosselin / Impacts of climate change for the marine Arctic  
 Fiona Walton / Inuit Qaujimatugangit and the transformation of high school education in Nunavut  
 Warwick Vincent / Assessment of future changes in the Eastern Arctic freshwater ecosystems



Trevor Bell Photo / ArcticNet



Gerald Darnis Photo / ArcticNet



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