

# Global Challenges, Local Struggles: Dissecting Arctic climate change and Indigenous Peoples adaptation in Nunatsiavut

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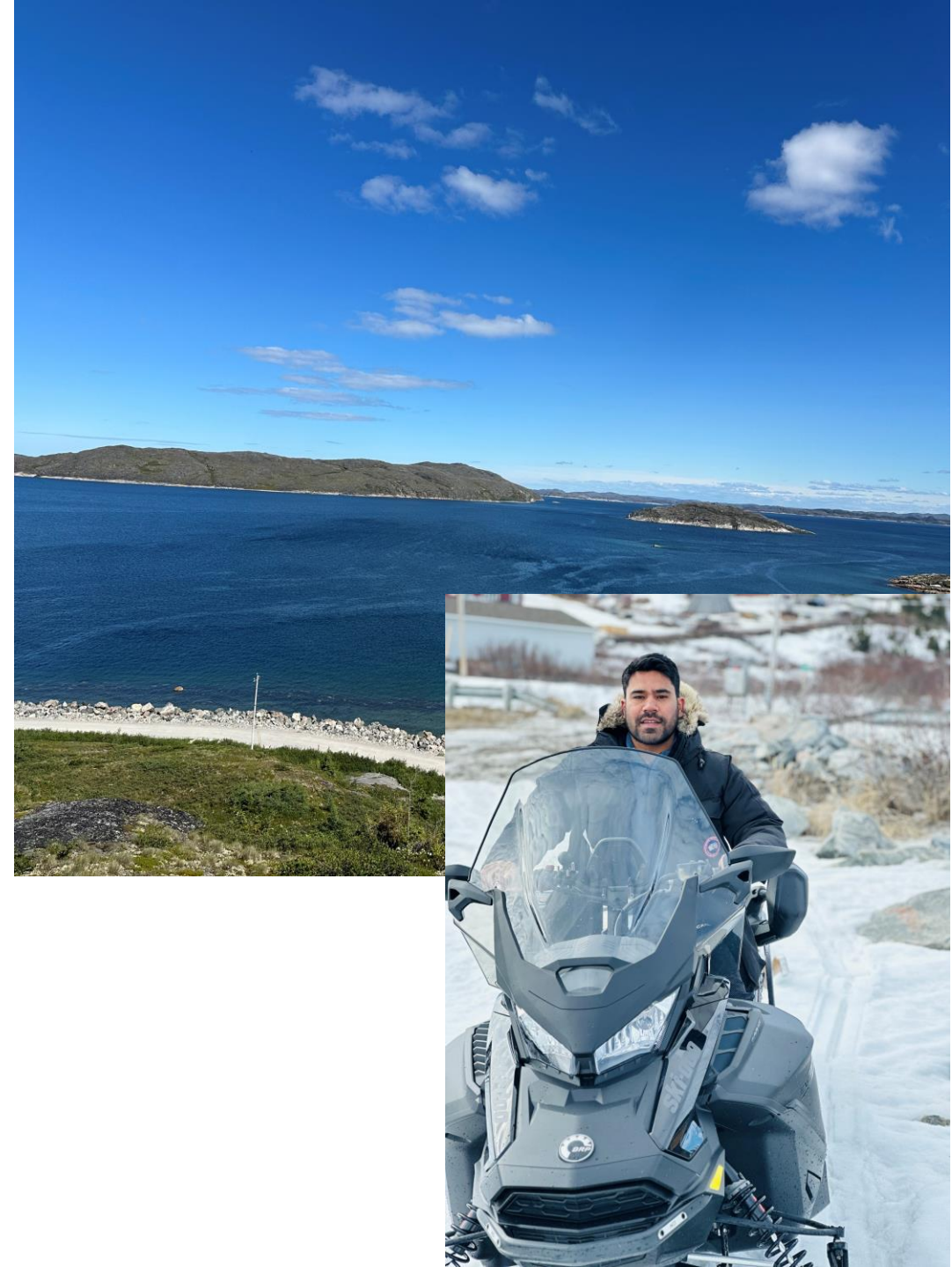
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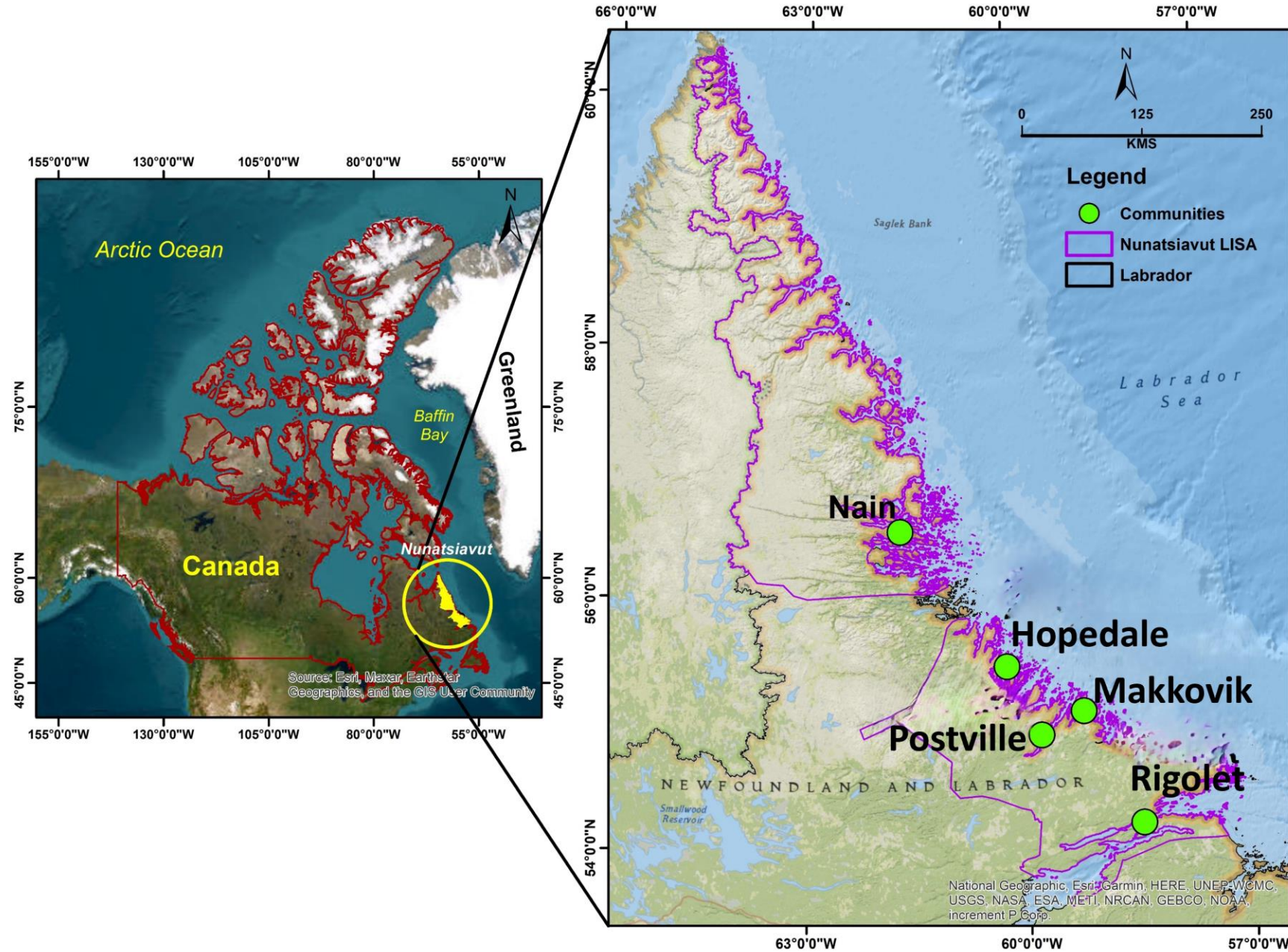
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- This talk explores **three key themes**:
  - **Local climate impacts** – how climate change affects Inuit communities.
  - **Global economic and social pressures** – how capitalism, globalization, and colonialism affect Inuit adaptation.
  - **Adaptation (Strategies and barriers)** – how Inuit communities of Nunatsiavut are responding to challenges, and barriers to adaptation.

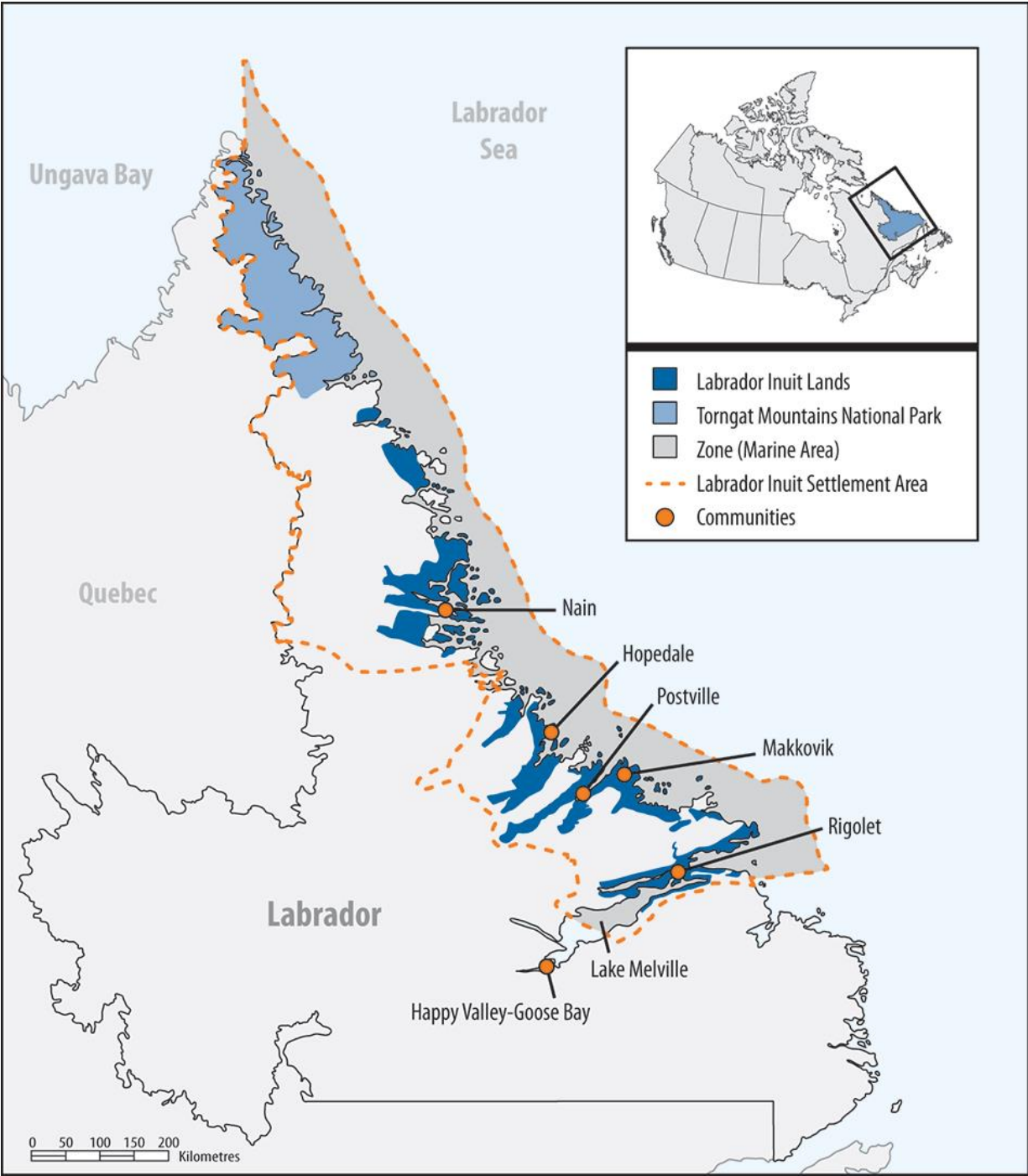
**Nunatsiavut  
means "Our  
Beautiful Land"**

**5 communities in  
Nunatsiavut –  
Nain, Hopedale,  
Makkovik,  
Postville, and  
Rigolet.**





# Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement 2005



Source: Adapted from Government of Newfoundland and Labrador – Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office documentation

- **Climate change impacts**
- ❄️ **Temperature, precipitation, wind, and seasonal changes**
- ❄️ **Food Security Threats**
- Declining populations of caribou, seals, and berries.
- Warmer temperatures affect the availability of traditional foods like Geese and fish, make it harder to fish and hunt.
- Cost of imported foods is extremely high.
- ❄️ **Traditional Livelihoods Disrupted**
- Hunting seasons are shorter.
- Weather patterns are unpredictable, making hunting dangerous.
- Loss of sea ice roads limits mobility.
- **Harvesting Firewood is getting hard** - Some buy from Goose Bay and locally
- ❄️ **Cultural Erosion**
- Traditional knowledge of ice and seasons is becoming less reliable.
- Younger generations face difficulties learning traditional survival skills.





9 April 2024






19 April 2024



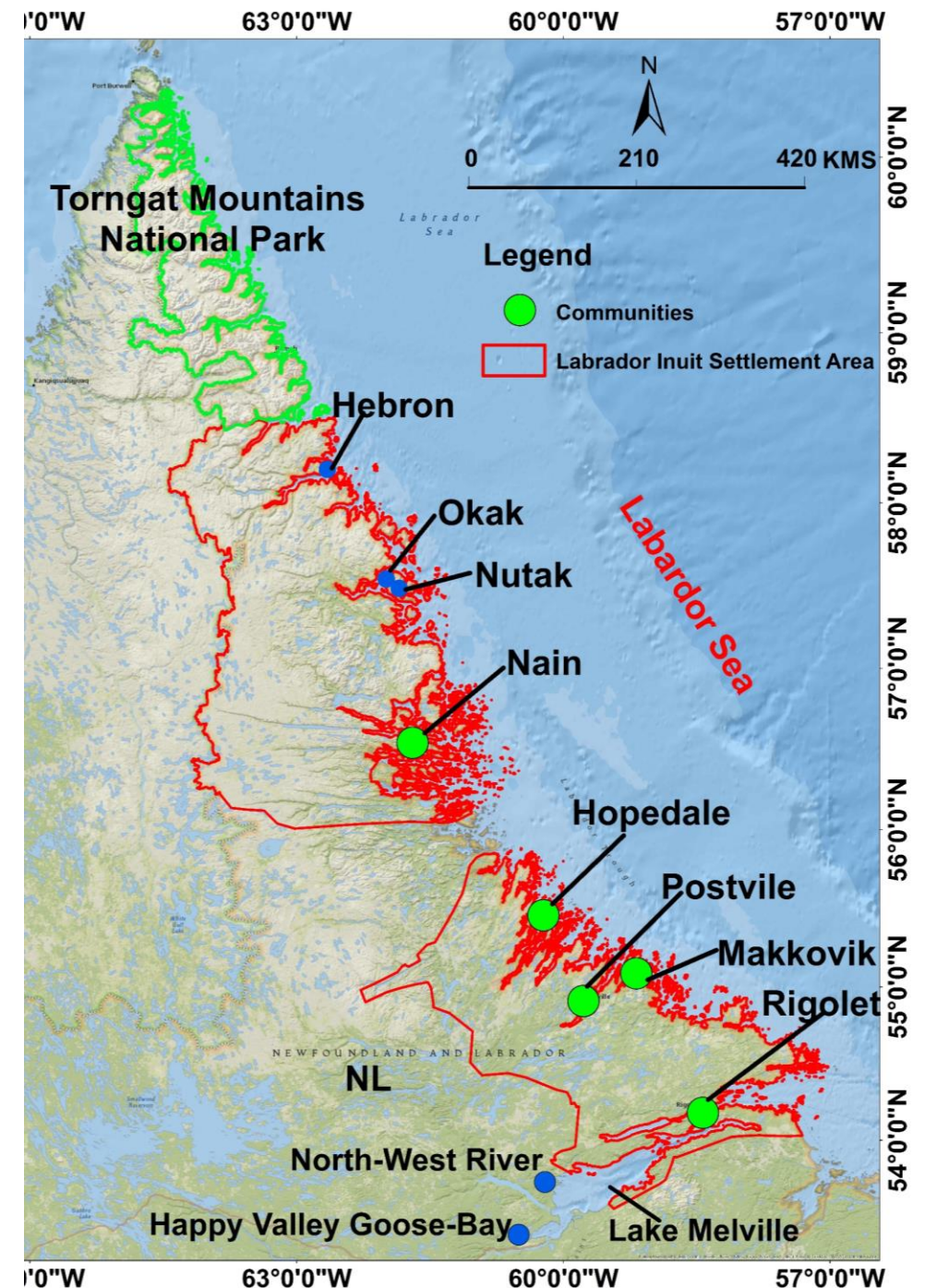


**New Fish and Birds - Killer whales,  
Sharks, Turtles, King Salmon, **Cormorants****

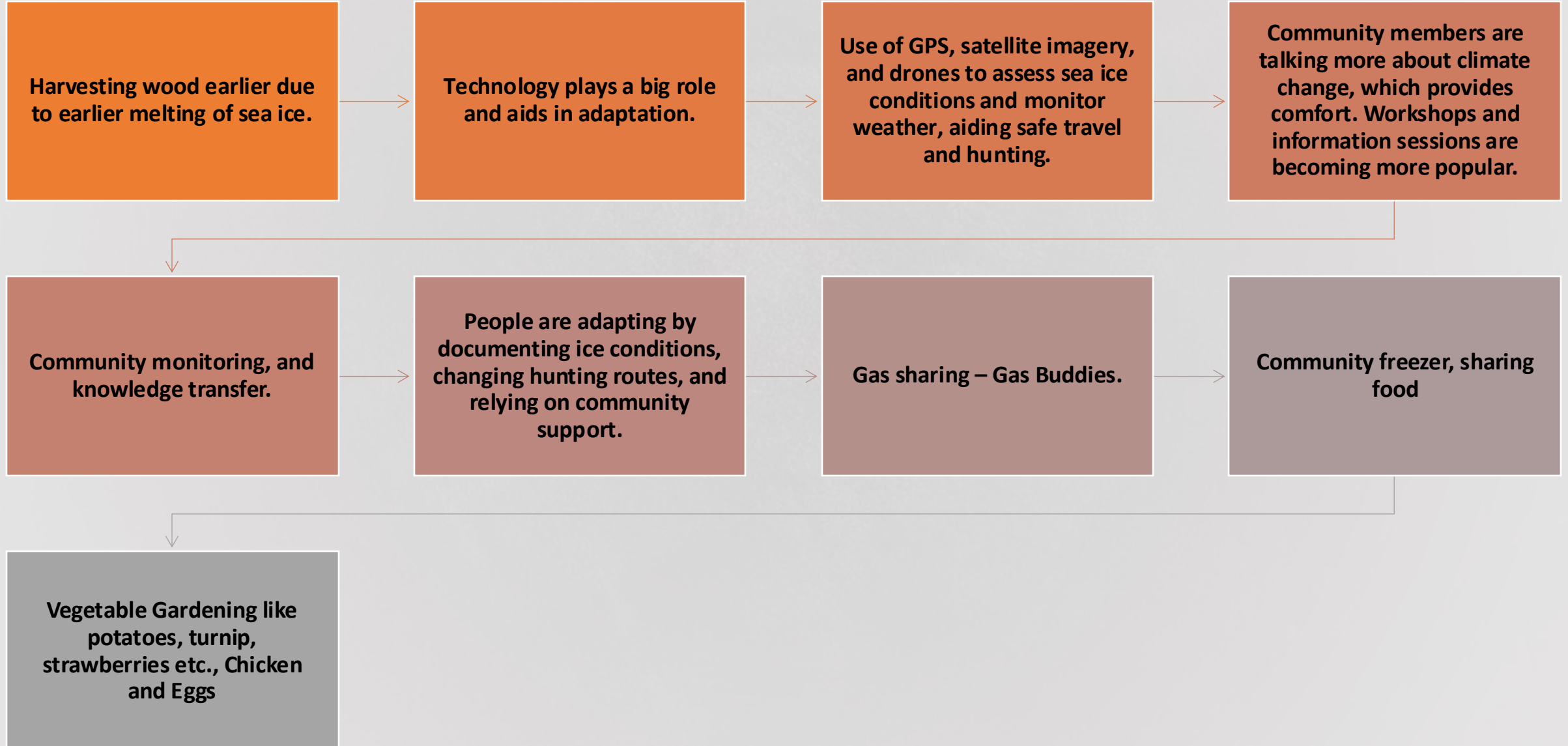
- **Global forces exacerbating local challenges**
-  **Capitalism & High Costs**
-  **Globalization & Market Pressures**
- Economic Dependence & High Cost of Living
- Dependence on wage economy increases, making traditional lifestyles harder.
- Global trade and capitalist market structures make communities economically dependent on imported goods.
-  **Key Issues:**
- Food costs are 2-3x higher than in southern Canada.
- Fuel, electricity, and building materials are imported at extreme costs.
- Traditional food sources (caribou) are in decline, increasing reliance on expensive store-bought foods.
- High dependency on government subsidies to afford basic necessities.



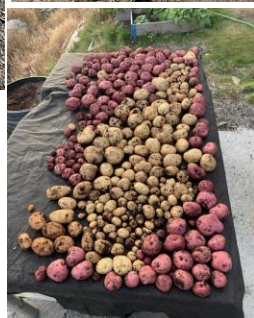
- **Colonialism and Forced Relocation: Nutak, Hebron, and Okak**
- Families were given little time to prepare and had to leave behind homes, food stores, and traditional hunting areas.
- Many were dropped off in unfamiliar locations without proper housing, food, or jobs.
- The promised support never materialised, leaving families in poverty and social distress.
- Many Inuit suffered from severe isolation, depression, and identity loss as they were forced to abandon their ancestral lands.
- Inuit were **separated from their traditional lands**, breaking generational ties to **hunting areas, burial sites, and spiritual places**.



# Adaptation













# Challenges to Adaptation

- **Rapid Environmental Changes:**
- **Limited Infrastructure:**
  - Housing, healthcare facilities, and transportation networks, vulnerable to permafrost thaw, erosion, and extreme cold.
- **Economic Constraints:**
  - High cost of goods, lack of funding
- **Food Insecurity:**
  - Reduced access to traditional hunting and fishing grounds threatens food security.
- **Knowledge Gaps and Limited Data:**
  - Lack of comprehensive, localised data, insufficient integration of Indigenous knowledge with scientific research.
- **Governance and Policy Challenges:**
  - Fragmented policies and lack of coordinated climate action across jurisdictions, limited involvement of Indigenous communities in policy-making.
- **Social and Cultural Disruptions:**
  - Climate change impacts are disrupting cultural practices, language transmission, and intergenerational knowledge sharing.
- **Technological Barriers:**
  - High costs, lack of access to technologies such as real-time environmental monitoring tools, satellite data, & reliable internet
  - Adaptation Inequities: Who Bears the Burden?
  - The Nexus of Social and Economic Pressures in Shaping Adaptation

## Conclusion

- 1. Nunatsiavut Inuit face severe climate impacts**, but their challenges are tied to global economic forces.
- 2. Indigenous knowledge is key to adaptation**, yet it is often overlooked in policy decisions.
- 3. Resilience and innovation are evident**, but require support from broader governance structures.
- 4. Policy change and collaboration are essential** to ensure long-term survival in the Arctic.



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# Understanding the Impacts of Arctic Climate Change Through the Lens of Political Ecology

Ishfaq Hussain Malik [✉](#), James D. Ford

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## ABSTRACT

Climate change is a critical global issue with far-reaching implications for the environment, society, and economy. Political ecology examines the relationship between political systems, social inequalities, and ecological concerns in relation to climate change. It focuses on how power dynamics, resource allocation, and political decisions influence vulnerability, adaptation, and mitigation efforts, highlighting the intersectionality between politics, ecology, and climate change impacts. Climate change in the Arctic is having profound geopolitical, environmental, and socioeconomic impacts on Indigenous Peoples. However, few, if any, studies have examined these interactions



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

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### Climate change, mass casualty incidents, and emergency response in the Arctic

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### Abstract

Acute emergencies have been neglected in efforts to understand and respond to the transformational climatic changes underway in the Arctic. Across the circumpolar north, social-technological changes, extreme weather, and changing ice conditions threaten lives and

Questions?