



## **TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PROTOCOL**

Traditional Knowledge describes the collective knowledge of the Inupiat people of Wainwright, gained from living in this region for many generations. It builds on the knowledge of our ancestors as they adapted to environmental, spiritual, social, economic and political change.

Traditional Knowledge gives the Inupiat people of Wainwright a deep understanding of the complex relationships between environmental factors, local ecosystems and our people's interaction with them. It is for that reason that the Traditional Knowledge possessed by the Inupiat people is integral in developing sustainable resource management, understanding environmental issues, and studying the behavior of our subsistence species.

Our Traditional Knowledge may be very different from Western approaches to science and knowledge. Much of our knowledge is orally transmitted, and in some cases is considered sacred. We revere our Elders as bearers of this knowledge. For all of these reasons, it is necessary that the the Village of Wainwright's attitudes and desires regarding the use of Traditional Knowledge be treated with respect.

It is in this spirit that we have developed the following Traditional Knowledge protocol. We ask that visitors:

- Recognize that traditional knowledge can provide guidance to government decision makers for environmental decisions, and can help ensure that these decisions are sustainable. The Village of Wainwright is eager to participate in environmental management activities but needs to be recognized respectfully for the knowledge we have to contribute. Such recognition allows the Native Village of Wainwright to effectively contribute to resource decision-making processes on our traditional territories.



- Acknowledge that Village of Wainwright is entitled to be fully informed about the nature, scope and ultimate integration of the Traditional Knowledge (including methodology, data collection, and the dissemination and application of results). This information is to be given in a form and style that has meaning to the Wainwright community, including translated information where possible.
- Understand that the Village of Wainwright shall remain the exclusive owner of the Traditional Knowledge. The Applicant acknowledges and agrees that it has no interest whatsoever in the ownership of the Traditional Knowledge, including any intellectual property rights thereunder.
- Agree that, when Traditional Knowledge is gathered while conducting a project, credit will always be given to those providing information and will be cited in the final draft.
- Acknowledge that Village of Wainwright has information concerning its Traditional Knowledge, including particular aspects of their culture, traditions, spiritual beliefs and customary laws, that must be maintained and treated as confidential.