

Nunavut IQ

For related insights into understanding Inuvialuit Adult Learning in Canada's western Arctic, we can look to the progress made with Inuit Adult Learning in Canada's eastern Arctic territory of Nunavut. In 1999, after years of negotiation, the Nunavut Territory was carved out of the centuries-old Northwest Territories and given official territorial status. Early in its new territorial status, Nunavut's residents, the *Nunavutmiut*, established a government priority to strengthen adult learning skills and proceed with the ongoing documenting Inuit knowledge that began years earlier in partnership with the Inuvialuit (GNWT, *Inuuqatigiit*, 1996). "The spirit of reaching away from town and into the past to find more authentic sources of Inuit knowledge and wisdom is evident in the implementation of a new Nunavut Government policy called *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, or *IQ*, as it is known to most people in Nunavut" (Searle, p.97, In Stern, 2006.). The Nunavut Government policy of IQ "treats Inuit and qallunaat [southern, non-Inuit] knowledge systems [hence ways of knowing] as separate..." (Searle p.99 In Stern, 2006). A detailed etymology of the Inuit word for *qaujimajatuqangi*, or "knowledge acquired long time ago" reveals that "*qauji* means 'to find out'; *qaujima* means 'to know'; *qaujimajaq* means 'what or that which is known'; *qaujimajatuqaq* means 'something which has been known for a long time'; and

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit means 'something that Inuit have known for a long time'.

(Alexina Kublu. In Stern, 2006, p.101).