

# RE-ASSEMBLING RELATIONSHIPS

In understanding that our current position does not foster any solutions for Northern communities, our approach highlights the need for an exchange of information that will allow for the development of climate and culture-based knowledge.

Before proposing a structure, there is an apparent need for a collaborative experience among Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures. Not just in the North but worldwide, this can take form in many different ways.

It is important however to understand that Inuit populations - being the ones that are experiencing a loss of culture through the degradation of their surrounding environment - have first hand knowledge as to what impact climate change has on communities and that we must learn from each other's experiences.



*Currently, the divided relationship between cultures facilitates the hastening of climate change. Industrial development is leading to more carbon emissions, causing increasing global temperatures and polluted environments. Many Indigenous groups continue to live off the land and rely on Earth's resources to live. Some are still nomadic and rely on certain migrational cycles to survive. Climate change is impacting their relied upon resources, therefore forcing them to adapt at faster rates.*

*Indigenous*

*Earth*

*Non-Indigenous*

*As time continued mankind decided to transition from a balanced nomadic lifestyle to a more sedentary way of life. Climate change was introduced as cities became more populated and developed new tools and technologies. As we became more dependent on technology, our affinity with the Earth weakened. Meanwhile Indigenous groups continued to live off the land in harmony with the Earth.*



*As colonization and exploration occurred, there became a clash between the two cultural groups. European settlers imposed their ways of life on Canadian, Indigenous communities. Non-Indigenous groups did not see the Earth or Indigenous groups as equals and treated them with a lack of respect. This created an imbalance between the two groups, and a halt of sharing information.*

*In the beginning all mankind lived in balance with the earth and its resources. Humans were nomadic and constantly in motion, living rhythmically with the changing seasons and animal migration patterns. Communities shared information which in turn, translated into direct knowledge. Climate change was not an issue at this point in time, this traditional lifestyle was successful.*

*Together the myriad of cultures makes up an intellectual and spiritual web of life that envelops the planet and is every bit important to the well being of the planet as is the biological web of life that we know as the biosphere.*

**Wade Davis, *The Wayfinders***

*“The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift.”*

**Albert Einstein**

*Indigenous groups know a lot about climate change due to their consistent connection with the earth. Scientists are continuing to research into better ways to overcome climate change. Both cultures possess valuable information that can be combined and used as a tool for future knowledge.*

**We propose an exchange of information from both non-Indigenous and Indigenous cultures leading to practical knowledge. This knowledge would act as a base for future infrastructure that will be ecologically considerate. This process can take any form as long as both parties are open to listening. In order to continue our existence on Earth adaptive combined knowledge is necessary to create a sustainable lifestyle, promoting a biophilic relationship with nature.**

