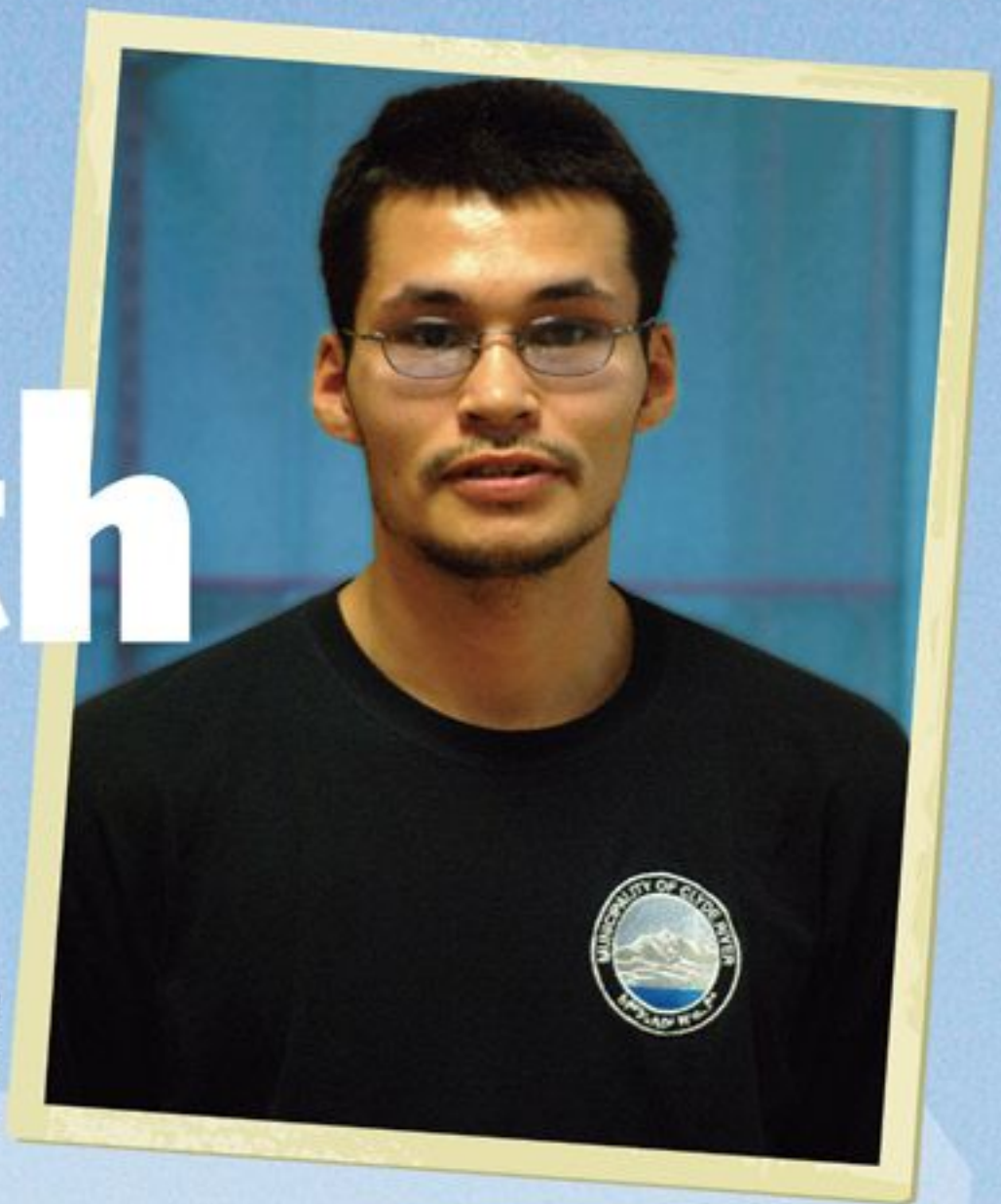


Listening to Mother Earth

Nick Illauq, deputy mayor of Clyde River, Baffin Island, Canada



DANNY SZE

“ We’ve been warning people since 1953.

Nobody heard us.

My grandmother said that was the last year she could have an igloo which stayed solid all winter long. ”

Climate change is having a serious impact on Inuit communities like ours here in the Arctic. In some places it is no longer safe to hunt because of cracks in the ice.

We have to listen to the land in order to adapt and survive. Our elders know more than anyone. Now we are **bringing together our traditional knowledge and science** to track the effects of climate change, working with universities to do coastal erosion mapping, to look at resiliency.

One project uses handheld GPS receivers for Inuit

hunters. While out on the ice, they can input and share information in our language about the location of thin ice, cracks, seals, polar bears and so on. The units also record temperature, humidity and pressure.

Here in the Arctic, the animals are coming north in the summer earlier and leaving later, and sometimes it’s too cold and they don’t make it. Everybody’s confused, the land is confused, the wildlife is confused.

It’s a good time to start listening to Mother Earth.



EDWARD WINGATE

Hunters near Clyde River

Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources...

Earth Charter Principle 12b

ENDANGERED ANIMALS NARWHAL

Narwhals are the unicorns of the sea, found only in the Arctic. They have two teeth. In males, the more prominent tooth grows into a sword-like spiral tusk up to 2.7m long.

PHOTO: PAUL NICKLEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/GETTY IMAGES

