

" We must all work together, for the next generations."

*Trimble Gilbert (Gwich'in), Arctic Village, AK  
Traditional Chief, Reverend and Honorary Doctorate,  
June 2014 ReAC<sup>1</sup> Camp*

#### Call to Action

This is an invitation to Arctic Indigenous communities to add your own stories Ì narratives of history, research, culture and leadership Ì to the volumes of academic literature on observations and studies in the Arctic region. This is also a call to non-Indigenous researchers and others working in the Arctic to make space for other voices to be heard. I hope this call is a catalyst for a broader discussion on the critical

worked to break the close bond that Indigenous Peoples have with the lands, waters, and animals, and hinder our ability to continue to observe and interact with our local ecosystems.

#### A Path Toward Balance and Increased Equity

Meaningful collaboration requires an ongoing commitment by everyone to build and maintain relationships and to work to achieve the following.

*Correct the imbalance* - Help address the power imbalance felt by Indigenous Peoples in academic spaces and policy discussions, by recognizing and using Indigenous protocol. Look for ways to have smaller group discussions with multi-step processes. Hold meetings that are led and convened by Indigenous Peoples in a place where we have a connection to the land.

*Provide resources* - Provide abundant resources in an equitable way that uplifts Indigenous Peoples and knowledge holders to participate in research and policy. Create new and different funding structures that build capacity in Indigenous communities.

*Evolve institutions* - Ensuring that underserved voices are heard from Indigenous Peoples and other people of color requires disruption of existing institutions and coordinating bodies. Working together with diverse perspectives and leadership across all levels of an organization can change the power balance and support resourcing. Listening to these voices can help set priorities within those structures so that they reflect the reality of the Arctic.

#### Actions Toward Partnership

Start from a place of personal reflection. Acknowledge the lack of understanding around equity and the systemic issues that need to be addressed in order for different knowledge systems to be valued equally. Further understand or explore your historical or current privilege and take action to extend or create a balanced space. Take personal responsibility to learn, read, research, and gain a better understanding of the Indigenous Peoples and cultures you engage with, and challenge your apparent or subtle assumptions about us.

Follow personal reflection with tangible action. Use this greater understanding to enhance engagement, partnerships, and co-production of knowledge with Indigenous Peoples. We, all people, must work to achieve these