Focus on the Arctic:
Nowhere on our planet today is change more apparent, rapid and severe, than in the Arctic. Profound changes are underway in the physical environment that have the potential to disrupt social, environmental, and economic structures and systems, and by implication, opportunities for sustainable development and the economy of the North. This compels us to assess these changes and accelerate our preparations for a very different near-term Arctic future.

This society-wide concern demands the sharing of views, meeting challenges, and developing collaborative action amongst the people of the North, those responsible for the management and administration of its natural resources and practices, scientists, NGOs, industry, and most importantly, the youth who will be inheriting a very different world.

Conference Planning:
The Coastal Zone Canada Association (CZCA)\(^1\), in partnership with MEOPAR (the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network)\(^2\), will convene the Coastal Zone Canada 2020 conference in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada from June 14\(^{th}\) to the 17\(^{th}\) 2020. The Coastal Zone Canada Association Biennial Conference series has been convened since 1994 at key locations around Canada’s four coasts. Each coast, host province, and city have a unique cultural, social, economic and ecological character. Each CZCA conference is tailored to address the main issues, challenges, and opportunities for that region, and to build lasting partnerships for practical solutions.

To inform and guide the conference theme and structure, a pre-conference planning workshop was convened in Iqaluit on May 28\(^{th}\), 2019. A cross-section of representatives from Inuit organizations, government, Non-government Organizations (NGOs), and industry officials, and young practitioners participated in the discussion. A workshop summary is provided on our

---

1 The Coastal Zone Canada Association (CZCA) is a nationally incorporated non-profit society of coastal zone management professionals committed to promoting Integrated Coastal Zone Management practices in Canada and abroad. The CZCA was incorporated in 1993 with the objective of sponsoring Coastal Management conferences and otherwise promoting improvements in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) practices. Conferences are held every two years, on the even year and this will be the Association’s 14\(^{th}\) biennial conference. The CZCA Mission is to promote the adoption and practice of ICZM in Canada and worldwide. ICZM includes the understanding and management of inter-related human activities and natural environments, physical processes, and living and non-living resources within the coastal zone.

2 The Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR) is a federally-funded Network of Centres of Excellence established in 2012. It is an independent not-for-profit that funds research, trains highly-qualified personnel, develops strategic partnerships, and works to support knowledge mobilization in marine challenges and opportunities for the benefit of the Canadian economy and society, particularly in the area of marine risk and resilience.  www.meopar.ca
Both a direction and a commitment to work together were made to ensure Conference success.

CZC2020 strives to be culturally sensitive and in this regard, we will be guided by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) which constitutes the Inuit epistemology or knowledge base that is founded on four Maligait or natural laws:

1. Working for the common good;
2. Protecting all living things;
3. Maintaining balance; and
4. Continually planning and preparing for the future.3

These laws, when applied to managing the coastal zone, are consistent with the CZCA Mission and guide the overarching themes of the Iqaluit Conference.

Conference Theme:
Consistent with IQ, the themes of ‘change’ and ‘preparing for the future’ ran through all the ideas and recommendations shared at the May 2019 planning workshop. To quote: “The Arctic is dynamic and northern communities are used to change. ‘Change’ shouldn’t necessarily be seen as negative, especially if one is prepared.” This optimistic and realistic perspective was used to establish our conference theme:

“Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit: Planning and Preparing for the Future”

Adapting to Change:
How should we adapt to change and prepare for the future in the Arctic? We will create a special agenda for two main ideas during the conference: First, a focus on the upcoming generations who will have to live with, and adapt to, the changes underway. How best can we inform and prepare our youth to assume leadership roles and responsibilities? Second, we need a comprehensive view of the changes underway and devise approaches and solutions that are adaptive, practical and resilient in an increasingly geopolitically-charged Arctic.

We need to embrace the principles of IQ, modern science, citizen and industry views, and a forward-looking perspective that is both hopeful and practical. There is also a wealth of knowledge and lessons that can be shared from other regions of the world and we will develop opportunities for global practitioners and the Arctic community to plan and prepare for the future.

Structure:
Our organizing sub-committees include representatives from Inuit organizations, respected elders, all levels of government, industry officials, NGOs and youth. We will plan a series of structured and unstructured workshops, cultural events and information sessions with keynote speakers. There will be more conversations than one-way presentations, with a focus on practical steps forward.

Funding:
It is recognized that travel and services are considerably more expensive in the North. Thus, finding the required funding is always a challenge. To address this challenge, CZCA can offer tax receipts for private organizations or individuals who will support the conference. In addition, we

will be seeking support from all sectors and levels of government. Our goal is to provide as much assistance as possible for northern community members to participate in Iqaluit 2020.

**Attendance:**
We have planned for a conference of 250 - 300 people, derived from a cross section of Arctic Youth, scientific community, academia, government, NGOs, and industry.

**Conclusion**
We are positioned to bring together different groups and create opportunities for building bridges that didn’t, or haven’t existed previously – cultural, scientific, governmental and educational. Collectively this Conference can make a difference for all who attend, as we will reach a larger, more diverse audience and look to IQ to plan and prepare for our common future.