





INUIT VALUES AND BELIEFS



Inuit Holistic Lifelong Learning Model

The Inuit Holistic Lifelong Learning Model depicts the linkage between Inuit lifelong learning and community well-being, and can be used as a framework for measuring success in lifelong learning.

The Inuit Holistic Lifelong Learning Model is a result of ongoing discussions among Inuit learning professionals, community practitioners, researchers and analysts. For a complete list of individuals and organizations that have contributed to the development of this learning model, visit www.ccl-cca.ca.

The Inuit Holistic Lifelong Learning Model uses a stylistic graphic of an Inuit blanket toss (a game often played at Inuit celebrations) and a circular path (the "Journey of Lifelong Learning") to portray the Inuk's learning journey and its connection to community well-being.

Lifelong learning for Inuit is grounded in traditional "Inuit Values and Beliefs," as articulated in Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ). To illustrate the strength of IQ, the model depicts 38 family and community members, including ancestors, "holding up" a learning blanket, with each figure representing an IQ value and belief. The inclusion of ancestors represents the sacred Inuit tradition of "naming" – a practice which fosters Inuk identity, kinship relations, and the transmission of intergenerational knowledge.

Within the learning blanket are the "Sources and Domains of Knowledge" – culture, people, and sila (life force or essential energy) – as well as their sub-domains (languages, traditions, family, community, Elders, land, and the environment).

The Inuk's lifelong learning journey is ongoing and he/she progresses through each life stage – infant and child, youth, young adult, adult, and elder – and is presented with a range of learning opportunities.

During each learning journey where he or she can experience learning in both informal settings, such as in the home or on the land, or in formal settings, such as in the classroom or in the community. The Inuk is also exposed to both Indigenous and Western knowledge and learning practices, as depicted by the two colours of stitching along the rim of the blanket.

The Inuk emerges from each learning opportunity with a deeper awareness of Inuit culture, people and sila. In turn, the Inuk contributes his or her newly acquired skills and knowledge to the community, thereby contributing to the determinants of "Community Well-being" (identified as physical well-being, economic well-being, social well-being and environmental well-being), and returns to the learning path to continue the lifelong journey.

* as described by the Government of Nunavut's 38 Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) values and beliefs