Pangnirtung, Nunavut

Many Strong Voices
Arctic • Small Island Developing States

"Glaciers grow and shrink ..."

Auyuittuq - The Land that Never Melts is Melting

The Inuktitut word Auyuittuq means "the land that never melts." In the past, the glaciers in the park melted at an average of one metre per year. This has been increasing and in the last year, they melted eight metres. Glaciers grow and shrink in response to changing climate. This is particularly true in our community of Pangnirtung.

During the summer of 2008, a suspension bridge over the Weasel River in Auyuittuq National Park was washed away due to a flash flood caused by the high temperatures, rain and lots of snow. The conditions were so bad that tourists had to be rescued from the park by helicopter. Melting glaciers will mean higher sea levels in all parts of the world, which is already happening in our northern communities. Climate change is a growing concern for Elders, youth, and all people living in the North. We need to ensure that our world leaders take action right now before it's too late, as we are already seeing changes to the land and to our Inuit way of life.

— Jenna Kilabuk

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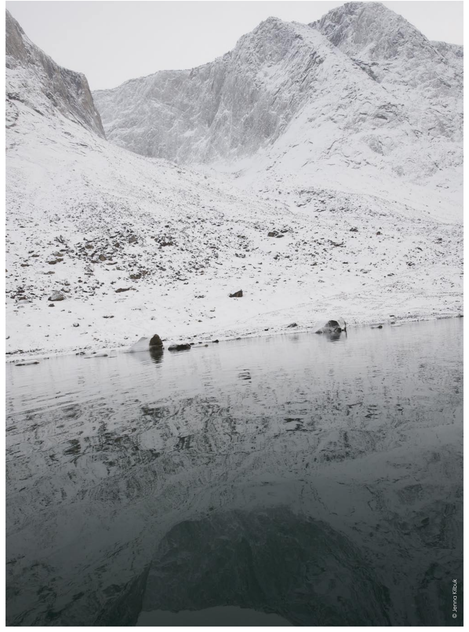
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Portraits of Resilience is part of the Many Strong Voices Programme. It illustrates in a personal way what climate change means to young people in the Arctic and helps communities create their own visual archive of the changes they are experiencing. More @ www.manystrongvoices.org

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