



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2018 – 2019

# Arctic Speaker Series

## Barriers to Bridges: youth bridging research and communities in Canada's Arctic

**Speaker:**  
Eric Solomon

**Date:**  
Thursday,  
November 15, 2018

**Time:**  
6:00 – 7:00 pm

**Location:**  
University of Calgary;  
Science Theatres 132



From the Land Claims Agreements and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the TRC Calls to Action and ITK National Inuit Strategy on Research, there is a broad and sustained call for greater and more meaningful community and Indigenous engagement in Arctic research. Both northern communities and southern-based researchers are committed to this goal but there is little information available to provide guidance on just how this should happen “on the ground”.

In this talk, Eric Solomon will discuss how Indigenous youth in Arctic Canada are working to identify and act on local research priorities and become the bridge between research and their communities. The program, Ikaarvik: Barriers to Bridges, grew out of a desire by Inuit youth in Pond Inlet, Nunavut, to see their community become more directly involved in setting the research agenda on issues of local relevance. Ikaarvik is now an award-winning program that is building capacity among Arctic youth and their communities to engage meaningfully in research that addresses local concerns through both scientific approaches and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit Traditional Knowledge, values and customs).

Eric will provide examples of meaningful engagement of Arctic communities in research, ranging from river health monitoring to invasive species, microplastics and shipping impacts, that have been facilitated by local Ikaarvik youth.

**Biography:** Eric Solomon is Director of Arctic Programs at Ocean Wise Conservation Association, the nonprofit organization that runs the Vancouver Aquarium among several other initiatives. He has dedicated much of the last decade toward working with Arctic Indigenous communities and scientific researchers to facilitate co-creation of research that addresses issues of local concern. A Laureate of the Arctic Inspiration Prize, Eric was a co-creator and oversees the operation of Ikaarvik: Barriers to Bridges, a program that works with northern Indigenous youth to be the bridge between scientific research and Arctic communities. He holds a bachelor's in Psychology, a master's in Marine Ecology and advanced graduate studies in Science Education, none of which compares to what he has learned while working with Indigenous communities across the North.

This event is **free and open to the public**

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