

so that's how I grew up. I wanted to become a lawyer so I could sue them for what they'd done. So I was working on that in my head in my office and I just said, you know, I just going to forget that and forgive them; they didn't even know what they were doing and we have a good life now. I just said, I'm going to forgive them.

A week or two before, Greenpeace had written an apology for the effect that the seal ban had on Inuit culture and our way of live, how it was effected. Everything to that nature. I didn't have the will to read it at the time, but that time [two weeks later] I started reading it just to see what it says and it was pretty emotional for me at the time; just to get over my hatred toward them. So I write them a letter; very very short notice they agreed that we were going to work together. They had a lawyer they could approach. The first one didn't work out and finally we got the lawyer we had, and it worked out really well from then on. Basically, there was no one else to turn to.

Q: Why do you think the others you turned to didn't help?

A: At the time it didn't look like we'd win. I didn't know this when it was happening, but afterward I started hearing things about why and it was that nobody thought we could win. That was the only reason.

Q: What other organizations did you contact for help?

A: We contacted WWF [World Wide Fund for Nature/ World Wildlife Fund] in Iqaluit and Oceans North who also have an office in Iqaluit. They had the reason of funding for why they couldn't help. After all that, I was talking with Greenpeace, after we first started after talking with all these organizations and Inuit organizations for help and no one could help, we were talking about fundraising and that was one of the hot topics with people having concerns that Greenpeace was just trying to make money off of us. That was a big concern. Because of that, it was always really good that we always had the last word on what they were going to do, but I told them, "go make all the money that you can from us because none of these other organizations wanted to help because of money so fundraise like hell!" They saved us. Years ago they killed us, but then they saved us.

Q: So people wouldn't help you because it wasn't a guaranteed win?

A: Exactly! That's really strange but they are not going to say that out loud. They are going to say something like, "we cannot afford such a case" but it wasn't even half a million dollars over three years, the court costs anyway. That was one thing that was baffling to us because in the beginning we were being told that there just isn't any money and when it was over and we seen how much it cost, we thought how could there not be any money?! Basically, that's why we reached out to Greenpeace. During that process, I have to say, we were working

very closely with local hunters and trappers and us – the Hamlet Council. After I talked with my father he said I could go ahead and I did my bit, I approached these organizations to see if they also agreed for me to approach Greenpeace as the mayor. That meeting, there was 18 of us, hunters and trapper board members and the hamlet council. These were all guys that had lived there that year and hunted that year. It was quite a heated debate, and I like to call it healing time that hopefully we had as a community. For the board members at the time it was quite emotional and very hard to deal with.

Q: What did Greenpeace have that you wanted or needed to forward your case?

A: There was the money and other things, like the network they have with the membership they have and it really worked out well for media purposes. They handled all our media, all our lawyer or money, but it was a really good relationship because before they put out anything in regard to our case and in regard to our relationship, we always had the last word here in Clyde River; if we liked it or not. That was really great for us because we were not only changing as a community, getting over our hatred and working with an organization we had regarded as our enemy, but also on their side too. They had never worked with an Inuit group of any kind and they know that they are looked at in a certain way. So on both sides there was all this change happening.

Q: How did you get in contact with Greenpeace?

A: On their newspaper apology they did in Nunatsiaq News there was a lady there, who signed that apology, so I took that and made a phone call and left a message. I was called back and we had a talk and I said that I wanted to write this letter and would you accept it, and sure enough it happened, but it happened through that apology in the paper. Everything happened totally unexpectedly and the way it all worked out, it is really unbelievable.

Q: How did you envision the working relationship when it started?

A: In the beginning, because we are strangers and at the time it seemed like it was going to stay like that and that we were going to be far apart from each other; never see each other, just handle the money, lawyer and media attention that we need for all of our support and I'd never have to meet any of them. As it turned out, we made great friends. I think life lasting friendships were made. We all treated each other really nicely. They got to come up and we gone to go down and it just worked out very well.

Q: How did the working relationship meet your expectations?

A: We won, but we had always looked at Greenpeace as the enemy and against our culture. Their ship came up,

the *Arctic Sunrise*, and three of us rode on that ship and we went up and had cook-outs cooking seal meat and polar bear meat and whatnot and they all ate with us and we had great picnics and this and that happened. When they were up here, if we lost the court case we wanted to fight further and the only thing to do if we had lost was to go up to the ship and do what activists do. You know, climb aboard and tie yourself down on their rails and something like that. We were all willing to do that here, the local people. So we had a little training with their ship on how they do it. That was a lot of fun! They had the spray guns going and this and that, trying to kick us off and trying to prevent us from climbing the ship and we had to use their hooks that they use to climb up. They were all just natures.

That was one thing too. It was our perception that Greenpeace and activists that do this are hippies and untrained, but there is training and lots of professionalism; trying to keep people safe and trying to keep yourself safe that is involved in activism. That was one thing they allowed us to see and hopefully a lot of our community members got to see because they had ship tours and we just had a great time learning about each other.

Q: What were the challenges in forming this relationship?

A: I think the biggest challenge was having to change my mind because of what my father said, and when the board members met together to approve it, that was the biggest challenge because once I got the okay from local people and we all agreed that it was more important to protect the oceans and the animals that we live off of, everything went very smoothly from there.

Q: Who did you specifically work with from Greenpeace?

A: We worked with Jessica Wilson, Sara Chon, Joanna Curr. We mainly worked with them. There were others too, in the media department, but these three were really the leaders of Greenpeace up here at the time.

Q: How important was their contribution to the success of the working relationship?

A: Very important. It was very very important. Their personality and their character. They were very important because they were open to learning new things, they care about people and not just the wildlife, and so I found that to be very important and I hadn't thought they were going to be these kinds of people, but they were. There are really nice.

Q: So they weren't the stereotype of what you thought you would encounter?

A: Exactly. They were not against our hunting culture. That's not how they live their everyday lives, but they didn't have the attitude: "You can't kill that! You can't kill that!" It was supportive because that is how we live and they've seen the Arctic now and there is no other

way to live up here and they were very supportive of it, seal catching and all these things that they witnessed. They are open-minded and this was very very beneficial.

Q: How did your working relationship with Greenpeace influence your perception of them?

A: It really changed my perception. I considered them the enemy at the time and they are very good friends to me still today. It made me see that there can be good people in these organizations. It doesn't always have to be these people who we think might want to shut us down and stop our culture, when in fact, some of them don't want that to happen. They want the culture to flourish and the way of life to flourish and luckily enough we did get to meet those people.

There was lots of joking around too. In Inuktitut, the word for Greenpeace means, "those that fight on behalf of animals." That's the Inuktitut word for them and as they were working with us, I would jokingly tell them, "you stay with the animals, I'll save the people." Open-minded, open-hearted; just really good people.

Q: What lessons do you think Greenpeace and ENGOS can learn from your community's experience working with Greenpeace?

A: I would say that first of all we have to agree that if we are going to work on something together related to wildlife, the ocean, and the ecosystem as a whole then we have to agree then that's what we're doing. On the Inuit side, as well, us Inuit have to agree that we are working to protect the environment, but secondly because we live off it. When we have that mutual agreement, I think both sides of the table have to be welcoming and open-minded to receive criticism and praise as well. We have to be in agreement. And, like I said before, any time Greenpeace was going to do any media work or reach or fundraising, all these things, you have to agree up front. One thing I said was very beneficial to us is that we have to have the last say before anything goes out.

Q: Would you recommend working with Greenpeace to other Arctic or Northern communities?

A: I definitely would, yes. Usually when you meet people you can tell if it is going to work out or not. It's up to them.

Q: Any last thoughts?

A: If I had to reach out to other organizations I would. It is only a 5-year moratorium, so it might come up again. We'll see. If not, it won't, but we have allies now.

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AINA NEWS

AINA's 75th Anniversary

December 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the Arctic Institute of North America. The colourful history of AINA has been described in a number of *Arctic* publications. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the institute in 1966, Raleigh Parkin, John C. Reed, and David C. Nutt each wrote about its origins, past and current history, and the future of the institute (Nutt, 1966; Parkin, 1966; Reed, 1966). In 2005, Robert MacDonald (2005) wrote a paper for the institute's 60th anniversary that celebrated its many accomplishments and described the challenges it has faced.

Our 75th year opened with the extraordinary challenge of the pandemic, but the institute remained busy with almost uninterrupted work at the journal *Arctic*, the Kluane Lake Research Station, and the Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS). Two new postdoctoral fellows and an undergraduate student have joined in current AINA projects (see below), building on the institute's program to support our mandate to preserve and disseminate information on environmental, physical, and social conditions in the North.

Postdoctoral Fellow Michael Allchin Joins AINA

Dr Michael Allchin has joined AINA as a post-doctoral fellow specializing in mountain environment observation and monitoring. Funded in part by the Canadian Mountain Network and Yukon Government, his initial goal is to improve understanding of the distribution of equipment and activities involved in measuring a wide range of environmental phenomena in and around Canada's upland landscapes. The findings of this research will help to identify gaps in coverage and assist in the development of a comprehensive mountain observation strategy. These outcomes will, in turn, guide the development of new systems to support the discovery, search, visualization, and retrieval, and thus sharing, of scientific data and Indigenous knowledge relating to mountain environments among government agencies, academic researchers, and the lay community.

Michael's career in the environmental sciences dates from the early 1990s. Having graduated with a BSc in geology from the University of Bristol, and following military service and a short spell with an international IT consultancy, he was employed as an environmental information systems development manager at the UK Natural Environment Research Council's Institute of Hydrology, subsequently the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. On moving to British Columbia, Canada, in 2001, he continued to work with the same group as a contractor for another ten years developing geospatially based software to implement the outputs of hydrological research within operational systems primarily for use



Michael Allchin (Photo by Kirsten Allchin).

by environmental regulatory and protection agencies. From 2009–12, he was employed by the University of Saskatchewan as data and information manager for two major research networks focused on cold-regions hydrology and cryospheric change. He went on to take (remotely) a MSc in geographical information science with the universities of Leeds and Southampton before embarking on doctoral studies at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) where his research described and quantified trends in seasonal snow cover across the Northern Hemisphere between the early 1970s and late 2010s. Since 2016, he has also worked as the manager of the Quesnel River Research Centre, a UNBC field station in the foothills of the Cariboo Mountains.

Postdoctoral Fellow Srijak Bhatnagar Joins AINA

Srijak Bhatnagar joined AINA in the fall of 2020 as a postdoctoral fellow in the Genome Canada-funded project entitled, "The Role of Genomics in Fostering and Supporting Arctic Biodiversity: Implications for Wildlife Management, Policy and Indigenous Food Security." Dr. Bhatnagar earned his PhD in microbiology from the University of California Davis, where he studied the effect of various environmental factors on the microbial ecology of ecosystems. Subsequently, he joined the Energy Bioengineering and Geomicrobiology group at the University of Calgary where he has been mapping the microbial ecosystem of the Canada's Arctic Ocean with a special focus on biodegradation and cleanup of oil spills. With expertise in genomics, he joins the Genomics in Society Interdisciplinary Research Teams (GiSRT) at AINA. The GiSRT project aims to harmonize the distributed genomics knowledge pertaining to species that are of cultural, social, and economic interest to northern Indigenous peoples. As part of the project, Dr. Bhatnagar will engage with partner organizations to jointly develop



Srijak Bhatnagar (Photo by Margaret Cramm).

genomics knowledge mobilization tools that will support scientific decision making. Dr. Bhatnagar will work with a team of genomics experts and end-users to assess gaps in scientific work associated with conservation and biodiversity with a view to supporting end-users with interests and responsibilities in co-management of wildlife and monitoring of conservation and biodiversity.

Emily Marston Joins AINA as a Project Coordinator

Emily Marston, an undergraduate student from Royal Roads University, joined AINA in December 2020 as the project coordinator for Dr. Maribeth Murry and Dr. Peter Pulsipher's project, "The Role of Genomics in Fostering and Supporting Arctic Biodiversity: Implications for Wildlife Management, Policy and Indigenous Food Security."

This project brings together expertise across disciplines and a diversity of cultures and organizations to collaboratively develop genomics knowledge-mobilization tools that support environmental decision making. Emily's role is to help maintain organizational discipline, support a synergistic approach, and share progress reports through project progression.

A born and raised Alberta farm kid, she graduated from Olds College in 2018 with a diploma in environmental stewardship and rural planning and is in her third year at Royal Roads University, pursuing an environmental management degree, with hopes of continuing on to a masters degree.

Emily is most grateful for the generous support of Dr. Maribeth Murry and Genome Canada in providing her with



Emily Marston (Photo by Jen Chipperfield Photography).

the opportunity to work on the project, considering it the "best Christmas present ever." She anticipates that working on the project with its team of experts, while continuing with her studies, will greatly build her professional expertise.

Data and Information Services News

The ArcticNet Publications Database (www.aina.ucalgary.ca/arcticnet) now describes more than 4700 publications from ArcticNet, 359 publications from the Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study (CASES), and 211 publications from the International North Water Polynya Study (NOW). There are more than 5100 publications in this database including 3400 refereed publications, 714 student theses, and 1000 other non-refereed publications. AINA is pleased to work with ArcticNet to provide this searchable archive of ArcticNet's refereed and non-refereed scientific publications.