

AINA NEWS

AINA Director Re-appointed

Members of Board of Directors of AINA are pleased to announce that Dr. Maribeth Murray has been re-appointed as the institute's director for another five-year term. Dr. Murray is currently on research leave for one year, which commenced in July. During this time, she will focus on writing up research results from a number of projects that the institute is involved in. AINA assistant director, Dr. Brent Else of the University of Calgary's Department of Geography, will step in to assume administrative tasks while Murray is on leave.

Arctic in the Classroom

During the spring of 2023, Kristina Penn, operations manager at KLRS and a northern hydrology PhD candidate from the University of Calgary, delivered presentations

in the institute's Arctic in the Classroom program. The program was developed to teach school children about the history, ecology, and peoples of the North. This year the grade 1 and 2 students have been learning about the Arctic Ocean as well as Arctic animals and plants, and the effects of climate change. Kristina talked to the students about the Arctic environment and the Inuit people in the region. She brought several objects that have been gifted to the institute over the years including an ulu, snow goggles, sealskin mittens, and a *qulliq*, a half-moon shaped soapstone lamp that provides light and heat (Fig. 1). The students were invited to handle the objects and learned what they were made of and how they are or were used. The students also had an opportunity to see a polar bear (*nanuq*) pelt and a musk ox (*umingmak*) skull. They were excited to make observations on the objects. One student was surprised that the *qulliq* looked like a bowl but was used as a lamp, and others were impressed with the thickness of the polar bear pelt and the sharpness of its claws.



Fig. 1. AINA Arctic collection pieces used as teaching resources in the Arctic in the Classroom program.