

Summary of People at the Poles Polar Day activities



Polar Days were created by the IPY International Program Office to raise awareness and provide information about particular and timely aspects of the polar regions. Polar Day activities include press releases, contacts to experts in several languages, activities for teachers, on-line community participation, web-conferencing events and links to researchers in the Arctic and Antarctic. People at the Poles is the 6th Polar Day event during IPY.

The 2007-2008 IPY program includes human health, social, political, and economic aspects of the polar regions in its research program and has engaged polar communities in research development, implementation and dissemination. Canada, specifically the Canadian IPY Secretariat and the Federal Program Office, took the lead in developing international and national educational activities and innovative ways to share this story with the broader IPY community and public. The focus of this day was on the 'perceptions of people' around the world of the polar regions. Researchers and community leaders gave presentations on the dynamics of life at the poles and answered questions from students around the world about polar environments, animals and local customs. Activities began on Sept 22, culminated on Sept 24 and ended officially on Sept 26, 2008. All of these activities are archived at www.ipycanada.ca and www.ipy.org.

Summary of Activities: Connecting Communities

As part of the educational activities for People Polar Day, student discussions took place in classrooms across the globe from Inuvik, Northwest Territories to Zambia. Students and teachers downloaded copies of the activity from the IPO website and explored the following questions about their community:

1. How would you describe your community?
2. What is life like where you live?
3. How does the physical environment of WHERE you live affect HOW you live?
4. What are some of the changes you are seeing in your community?
5. What issues are you experiencing in your community?
6. How is life different for you than for your parents or grandparents at the same age?
7. How would you like your life to be when you are their age and how do we get there?

Then, they tried to look answer the same questions from a different perspective: For example, if you live in a non-arctic area such as Australia or the U.S. mid-west, choose a community in an Arctic area (i.e. Greenland or the Canadian Arctic) where students are answering these same questions and see if you can put yourself in their shoes. Or, if you live in northern Norway, pick a non-arctic area like Brazil and imagine what their lives are like.

Summary of Activities: Live Global Radio Broadcasts

For 24 hours on People Day CKLB Radio connected people around the world through an Internet radio stream. Researchers answered questions about their research (what they're doing, why it's important, initial results, how these will funnel back to northern communities), and answered students' questions about what it's like to live and work at the poles and how climate change may impact northerners' way of life.



Dane Gibson and William Greenland working hard in the CKLB studio!



There were three opportunities globally for students to speak LIVE with the radio show announcers and experts. They sent in questions by email or blog as real time questions through the CKLB website for the IPY researchers.

CKLB Radio - an independent aboriginal community radio station based in Yellowknife, NWT, Arctic Canada is run by the Native Communications Society of the Northwest Territories. CKLB broadcasts to 30 NWT communities and three diamond mines across Canada's Arctic and on September 24 to the globe!

Broadcast Schedules

European Broadcast Sept 24 7:30-9:30am (EST)

Interviewees:

Gianluca Frinchillucci (*Italy, Map of the Arctic*)

Grete Hovelsrud (*Joint Committee and Norwegian IPY Committee member*)

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen and 2 grad students (*Global Change, Social Challenges*)

Sverker Sorlin (*Chair Swedish IPY Committee*)

Yvon Csonka (*Greenland, Moved by the State*)

Participating classes: United Nations Youth Association of Zambia (YUNA-Zambia), Lusaka, Zambia and High School of Fira, Santorini Island, Greece (Sotiris Kopatsarsis, student)



(YUNA-Zambia)

Summary of Activities: Live Global Radio Broadcasts

Americas Broadcast Sept 24 1:00-3:00pm (EST)

Interviewees:

Cindy Dickson, Chris Furgal, Eric Loring and Scot Nickels (*Caribou and Inuit health*)

Claudio Aporta (*Inuit Sea Ice Use and Occupancy*)

Andy Mahoney (*Arctic and Antarctic research*)

Martin Jeffries (*National Science Foundation and University of Alaska, Fairbanks*)

Martin Nweeia (*Inuit and Scientific Descriptions of the Narwhal*)

Participating classes:

Grandview Heights Elementary School, Edmonton AB Grade 5

Weledeh Catholic School, Yellowknife NWT Grade 7

Colégio Puríssimo Coração de Maria & Colégio, Neruda, Brazil various classes



Student from Weledeh Catholic School in Yellowknife asking Dr. Martin Nweeia questions about narwhals.



A student from Brazilian elementary school during a debate after the broadcast.

Australia/Asia Broadcast Sept 24 11:00pm-1:00am (EST)

Interviewees:

Narelle Campbell (*Mawson Research Station manager*)

Julia Jabour (*Antarctic tourism*)

Max Holmes (*U.S.-Siberia, The Polaris Project*)

Special guest Chief Bill Erasmus (*Regional Chief of the Northwest Territories*)

Special guest Rhian Salmon (*International Polar Office*)

Participating class: Helen Cotter's grade 5 class from Perth, Australia ask our intrepid interviewers challenging questions about life in the North.



Students from Roleystone Primary in Perth, Australia.

The Secretariat also worked with [Rod Taylor of Canberra Community Radio's Fuzzy Logic program](#) – he spoke with Australian researchers about what it's like to live and work in the Antarctic. This program aired on Sept 28.



Feedback/responses from radio participants

Dane Gibson, CKLB

Thanks so much for your support. We were proud to be a part of the team [and] honoured to speak to such an incredible community of people.

William Greenland, CKLB

Mahsi, for the great support you all provided, during this great Day...I never thought we would be hearing so many student yelling with excitement, and the Questions were real good too. I too look forward to responses, and if anyone needs a radio host in their Country, I'm ready to go...



Helen Cotter and students

Gianluca Franchillucci, Map of Arctic People

It has been a wonderful experience for me, especially work with Mr. Greenland, a very kind and pleasant person.

Grete Hovelsrud, Member of IPY Joint Committee, Member of Norwegian IPY Committee, Leader of Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions

It was fun. I liked chatting with Dane.

Helen Cotter, Grade 5 teacher Roleystone Primary School, Perth, Australia

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your show. The children were excited to be a part of it and also to hear themselves on the radio! They

learnt a lot from listening to the presenters at the beginning of the program and also by the answers that they got to their questions. I appreciate you allowing them all to be answered because they were all keen to participate. We were, indeed, lucky to have Chief Bill Erasmus to help answer some of the questions.

Julia Jabour, Antarctic Tourism, University of Tasmania

Thank YOU for the invitation to speak. I imagine it was a really big day for Dane and William and I am just thrilled that I had the opportunity to be part of it. Please pass on my best regards to all.

Martin Nweeia, Inuit and Scientific Descriptions of the Narwhal, Connecting Parallel Perceptions: Integrative Studies of the Narwhal with a Focus on Tusk Function, Harvard University

That was really fun. Something happens to me when I'm with kids [who] are excited about their world. Being connected with so many around the world was really a credit to all of you involved on so many levels to make this happen. Thank you for the invitation to be a part of this legacy to the IPY.

Miriam Almeida, Colégio Puríssimo Coração de Maria & Colégio, Neruda, Brazil

I thank YOU and IPY for such great opportunity!! Dane was really fantastic! It was quite difficult to get through, actually. We had talked two days ago, after many tries. The students were really excited and I was very happy to have two of my colleagues joining us. And then, just before they called us, a primary teacher arrived bringing her pupils along. It was great!!!



Brazilian teachers Miriam (English), Dalberto (Geography) and Kido (Biology)

Martin Jeffries, researcher University of Alaska (Fairbanks)

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to participate in IPY People Day. We listened to all the North America broadcast - much better than boring old work.

Sverker Sorlin, researcher, Joint Committee member

Thanks, it was a pleasure being able to contribute and be part of it. It was somewhat bewildering to be on that train in 250k seeing the landscape swooshing by and speaking to NWT and Zambia in real time.

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, researcher

It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to talk about the project, and I know that my group in East Greenland enjoyed to be participating as well.

List of participating Canadian researchers

Claudio Aporta, Carleton University, Inuit Sea Ice Use and Occupancy Project (radio)

Cindy Dickson, Arctic Athabasca Council and CYFN

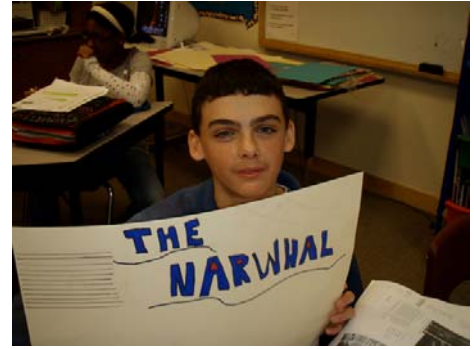
Chris Furgal, Trent University

Eric Loring, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Scot Nickels, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Bill Erasmus, Regional Chief of the Northwest Territories (radio)

Catherine-Alexandra Gagnon ("expert" for TIG-based educational activity)



Classrooms participating in radio and global discussion activities

Grandview Heights Elementary School, Edmonton AB Grade 5 (Lona Ani, teacher)

Douglas Harkness Elementary, Calgary AB (Global Discussion)

Weledeh Catholic School, Yellowknife NWT Grade 7 (Joanne McHugh, teacher)

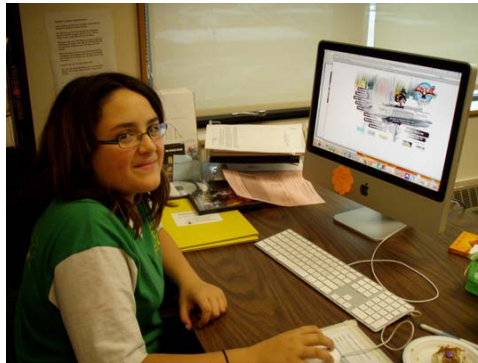
Colégio Puríssimo Coração de Maria & Colégio, Neruda, Brazil, various classes (Miriam Almeida, teacher)

United Nations Youth Association of Zambia (YUNA-Zambia), Lusaka, Zambia (Lucky Musonda, teacher)

Kent Center School in Connecticut, U.S.A. Grades 7 and 8

High School of Fira, Santorini Island, Greece (Sotiris Kopatsarsis, student)

Atuarfik Edvard Kruse School, Umannaq, Greenland (Global Discussion)



Live Webcast from Gatineau, QC



International Polar Day -
People at the Poles
September 24, 2008
Watch Archived Webcast

The Government of Canada IPY office hosted a live webcast from the Museum of Civilization in Gatineau on Sept 24. Speakers included members of the Ottawa Inuit community, Students on Ice, the Cir-

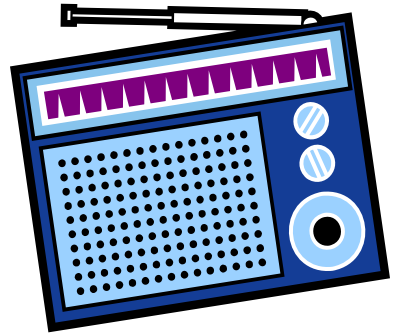
cumpolar Young Leaders Program, members of Northern Aboriginal organizations, and students from the National Capital Region. The webcast is archived on the IPY Federal Program Office website (http://www.api-ipy.gc.ca/index_e.html).

Media Coverage—Radio

[CBC interview from Inuvik](#)

(available at http://www.ipycanada.ca/web/guest/Polar_Day)

Listen to Katie Blasco (NRCan) and Jody Felix (grad student) discuss their work mapping the geology and biology of the seafloor in the Beaufort Sea. They're using traditional knowledge of elders to help them locate biological hotspots and identify areas that should remain free of industry and pipeline development. (The interview runs from about 03:00-05:00 minutes.)



[Radio Romania](#)

(<http://www.srr.ro>)

Host Corina Negrea spoke with Davidi Carlson of the IPY International Program Office and highlighted Polar Day and IPY research on news and culture programs (Acualitat) on Sept 25th.

Media Coverage—Print

Articles are available at http://www.ipycanada.ca/web/guest/Polar_Day

International Polar Day focussing on People Science [Sept 24 08]

Get ready for the Inuit oil millionaires *New Scientist Blog* [Sept 24 08]

Cambridge Centre Honda celebrates Polar Day - oops, maybe it's soap in the fountain *Cambridge NOW* [Sept 24 08]

Happy International Polar Day! *Duke NUS Blog* [Sept 24 08]

Canada marks International Polar Day *Marketwire* [Sept 23 08]

Polenet scientists at The Ohio State University engage returning students at the university's annual Student Involvement Fair *Polenet* [Sept 22 08]



Who participated in Polar Day?

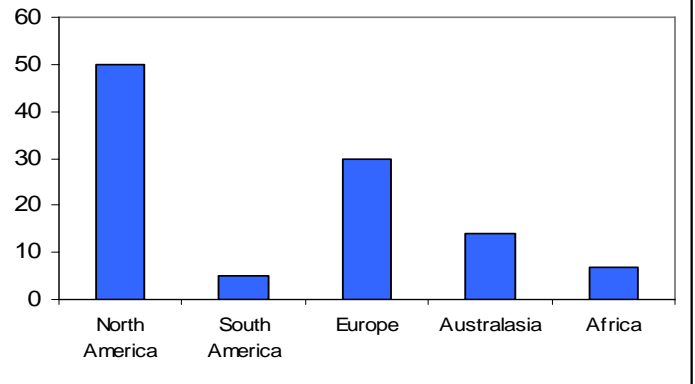
Number of balloons launched worldwide: 107
Number of countries participating: 35
Number of Canadian balloons launched: 20

Of these 20 balloons, 9 were from classrooms/
schools across the country

Locations of balloons in Canada (province/
territory):

Alberta	3
Yukon	1
Newfoundland	1
Quebec	5 (1 from Kuujjuaq)
Ontario	5
Manitoba	2
NWT	2 (1 from Inuvik)
New Brunswick	1

Number of balloons launched by region



Virtual Balloon Launch

