Arctic Innovation Lab: Finding Solutions and Forging Resilience for the Arctic

Are you a young Indigenous leader from the Circumpolar North with a passion for innovation and a desire to make a positive impact on your community? Are you ready to join a dynamic, collaborative, and forward-thinking group of peers and mentors to explore solutions to pressing challenges facing Indigenous communities in the Arctic? If so, we invite you to apply for the Arctic Innovation Lab!

The Arctic Innovation Lab hosted at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government is a unique initiative that fosters interdisciplinary research, innovation, and collaboration to address the complex challenges facing the Arctic region. The Lab brings together experts from various fields, including climate science, engineering, policy, and social sciences, to develop sustainable solutions for the Arctic's future.

The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR) and UArctic EÁLAT Institute in unique cooperation with the Arctic Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center are committed to empowering reindeer herding and Indigenous youth to be leaders in their communities. The Lab is a part of the global 10545 GEF-UNEP Reindeer Herding and Resilience project.

The Arctic Innovation Lab is a unique opportunity for Indigenous youth aged 18-30 to come together and engage in a creative and transformative learning experience. The course curriculum will emphasize the importance of utilizing Indigenous knowledge to address Arctic related issues including land degradation and permafrost thaw. Organized by the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, UArctic EÁLAT Institute, and the Arctic Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, this Lab provides a platform for young Indigenous leaders to:

- Develop innovative solutions to address pressing challenges in Indigenous and reindeer herding communities.
- Foster cross-cultural collaboration and networking.
- Gain insights from experienced mentors and experts.

- Build leadership and problem-solving skills.
- Create lasting connections and friendships.

Eligibility Criteria

- Indigenous youth between the ages of 18 and 30.
- Holders of traditional knowledge of the Indigenous peoples.
- Strong communication skills in English (verbal and written).
- Availability to participate in the entire duration of the program.

Benefits

- Immersive learning experience.
- Mentorship from experts.
- Networking opportunities.
- Travel and accommodation support for selected participants.
- Access to resources for project development.

How to Apply

To apply for the Arctic Innovation Lab, please complete the [application form](#) by **November 15, 2023**. Be sure to articulate your motivations, experiences, and aspirations in your application.

Note: Travel, accommodation, and meals during the training program will be covered for selected participants. All participants are required to participate in all the course activities.

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline: November 15, 2023**
- **Lab Dates: January 5-12, 2024**
- **Location: Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, Cambridge, MA**

Application Process

To apply for the Arctic Innovation Lab, please submit the following documents:

- Completed application form: https://forms.gle/9SmXj6EvoSLsVcreA
- Curriculum vitae/resume outlining your educational background, leadership experiences, and community involvement.
- Personal statement (maximum 300 words) explaining your motivation to participate in the program and your vision for the future.
- Letter of recommendation from a community leader, mentor, or organization supporting your application

Contact

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Please submit your completed application form along with any required supporting documents to mt@reindeercentre.org by **November 15, 2023.**

Join us in shaping the future of Indigenous communities in the Arctic through innovation, collaboration, and leadership. Together, we can make a difference!