Recent dramatic transformations in the polar regions have brought Inuit studies to the forefront of policy, international relations and scientific work.

The Inuit Studies Conferences began in 1978 in Quebec City when members of the Inuksiutit Katimajiit invited scholars to meet and share their research concerning Inuit. This meeting has met every two years since then in different cities worldwide.

In 2012, the 18th ISC will be hosted by The Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

The Smithsonian Institution has contributed to over 160 years of northern studies through research and collecting northern materials, with an emphasis on exhibitions, publications, and public education. The meeting will be held in close proximity to government, foundations, and international agencies, making the historic district of Washington, DC an ideal location for the 18th Inuit Studies Conference. This is the first time the conference will be held in the contiguous United States.

Conference Sub-Themes
- Heritage, Museums and the North
- Globalization: An Arctic Story
- Power, Governance and Politics in the North
- The ‘New’ Arctic: Social, Cultural and Climate Change
- Inuit Education and Health
- Inuit Languages and Literature
- Inuit Art, Film and Media: Visual Anthropology of the North
- Perceptions of the Past, A More Inclusive Archaeology

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