



## ***Inukjuak Trip Report***

### ***Trip #1: August 12-21, 2017***

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### **Purpose of the trip:**

A trip was made to Inukjuak in August 2017 to conduct interviews with Elders and hunters to learn about how coastal waters, sea ice, and wildlife have changed in the region since the 1970s.

### **Purpose of this report:**

To update everyone who participated in interviews, and any community members interested in learning about the project's progress.

### **Overview of the interviews:**

With the help of Aali Naluktaruk (LNUK General Manager and Inukjuak project liaison), Annie Weetaluktuk Rousseau (NMRWB Wildlife Officer) and Laura Iqaluk (research assistant and translator), the following nine community members were interviewed: Abraham Kusudluak, Davidee Nastapoka, Charlie Eliasiapik, Eliassie Weetaluktuk, Sakariasie Paulusie, Johnny Mina, Peter Echalook, Nellie Nastapoka, and Josie Nastapoka. Video recording and maps were used in interviews to help document observations.

Throughout summer and fall of 2017 interviews were also conducted in Umiujaq, Sanikiluaq, and Kuujjuaraapik. Thirty-nine interviews have been conducted in all four communities. Currently, all of the interview recordings and notes are being transcribed and maps are being compiled.

### **Key highlights:**

- Changes in sea ice and salinity, particularly since the 1990s, have been widely noted, including a shortened ice season, changes sea ice roughness, and reduced sea ice extent and thickness over the past few years
- Other changes include changes in weather patterns and in wildlife – although many people discussed that wildlife is always changing numerous reasons

### **Next steps:**

- December 2017 - Discuss the project at the 2017 Arctic Change conference in Quebec City
- December to February - analyze transcripts of interview recordings, maps and notes
- Early Spring 2018 – Hold small group workshops in project community to verify our interpretations of the interviews before preparing a first draft of the final report. This will also allow us to talk with key community members who were not available to be interviewed in August.

*I would like to thank the community of Inukjuak for warmly welcoming me, and to the Northern Village of Inukjuak for supporting this project. A special thank you to everyone who participated in the interviews, especially to the Elders who shared extensive details of their experiences and observations. Thank you to Aali Naluktaruk for his guidance in coordinating this project. Thanks to Annie Weetaluktuk Rousseau and Laura Iqaluk for their interpretation, translation, advice, and work coordinating the interviews. Thank you to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board for financial support, and for generously providing space and resources for conducting these interviews, and thank you to Air Inuit for their generous sponsorship. Thank you to Nally Weetaluktuk and Avatag's Nunatop program for providing Inuktitut place names. Additional thanks to the Ohaituk family for their advice and friendship, and for introducing me to akutaq and muktuq. Thank you to the Breton-Honeyman family and to Mark Basterfield for opening up their homes. Thank you to the Arctic Eider Society, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Ontario Ministry of Research Innovation and Science, and the Northern Scientific Training Program for their financial support.*

### **Questions or suggestions?**

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