

## Arctic Watch Lodge Project Summary

Canadian Arctic Holidays (CAH) operates Arctic Watch Lodge, a tourism facility located in Cunningham Inlet on Somerset Island. The lodge is on federally leased land.

In order to properly conduct a tourism operation, Arctic Watch guides and clients must access Inuit Owned Land adjacent to the crown lease. During July and August, Arctic Watch guides take 50 to 100 tourists, across Inuit Owned Land and Crown land on foot and by ATV and special truck, primarily for wildlife viewing for beluga whales, muskox and polar bears. Groups from Arctic Watch travel a maximum of thirty kilometres from Arctic Watch In order to minimise the environmental impact, guides stick to existing trails, particularly when travelling on ATVs and truck.

One day per year Arctic Watch holds a running race on a 55km loop. The race trail is part of the trail system used by Arctic Watch. The race normally has approximately 5 to 15 participants.

Canadian Arctic Holidays also has a 50 ft by 3500 foot airstrip on IOL. Tourists arrive on chartered aircraft from Yellowknife, typically a Dornier or a Dash 8. On the airstrip is a wind sock on a tower. There is a gas powered, walk behind compactor stored in a wood box. There is a John Deer 550 bulldozer stored on the side of the airstrip. It will be parked on a berm for protection from spills. The airstrip is used for 15 to 20 lands per year. It is used to bring all the tourists from directly from Yellowknife.

Arctic Watch runs a federally incorporated non-profit corporation called the Arctic Watch Beluga Foundation. The Foundation supports scientific research in Cunningham Inlet and youth Education. In 2012 and 2013 the Foundation sponsored beluga scientists to start research on the beluga in Cunningham Inlet. The Foundation sponsors a youth expedition for Inuit and southern youth to experience the land, learn tourism skills from experts. 2013 will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this program. The plan is to integrate some of the Inuit youth graduates from the Youth Expedition into the Arctic Watch staff. The Foundation is working to install a solar powered satellite internet web camera on the belugas in Cunningham Inlet. The live feed would be available free for schools in Nunavut, the Canadian Museum of Nature and other public institutions.