



Before Igloolik: Exploring Inuit Settlement and Subsistence in the Early 20th Century

Between late July and mid-August 2018, I will carry out a small research project on historic Inuit life at the now-abandoned historic village site *Avvajja* (NiHg-1), nearby to Igloolik. Based upon information I have gathered from local elders' accounts and historical records, it is clear *Avvajja* was one of the most important sites in the region immediately before the establishment of the modern community (Igloolik). Along with a small field crew of between one and three field assistants and an Inuk high-school student (who will be trained in mapping techniques and paid an honorarium), I hope to achieve the following at *Avvajja*:

1. On-site **consultation with Iglulingmiut elders** who have firsthand knowledge of life at the site;
2. Detailed **mapping of the Inuit-built sod house features** at the site, as well as the *Tuniit* houses located nearby; and
3. **Limited archaeological testing** of parts of the site identified by elders as places where animal bones and other food waste were deposited.

The crew will travel to *Avvajja* by boat, and will maintain a small campsite for the duration of the project (approx. four weeks). Our impacts on the cultural heritage at the site and the land itself will be minimal. At every stage of the work—from the design of the project to interpretation of the results—I hope to involve Inuit in meaningful ways. I understand the deep connection many Iglulingmiut elders have to these recently occupied places, and I am interested in learning more about them through *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I believe promoting elders' knowledge of the site both within and beyond Nunavut, as well as learning more about hunting and diets at the site through scientific methods, would be greatly beneficial to Iglulingmiut.

Sincerely,

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