

October 20, 2020

Ms. Shirley Tagalik  
Aqqiumavvik Society  
Box 444  
Arviat, NU, X0C 0E0  
inukpaujaq@gmail.com



Dear Ms. Tagalik,

Please accept this letter as the Wildlife and Landscape Science Directorate – Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC-WLSD) support for Aqqiumavvik Society's proposal to initiate a community-led research and monitoring program on the effects of climate change on Arctic nesting geese in Arviat, Nunavut.

I also support the involvement of two of our ECCC researchers in this proposed project. Dr. Dominique Henri (Wildlife Research Division, based in Montreal, QC), is an environmental social scientist who has established a long-term research program aiming at mobilizing Indigenous knowledge and Western science to support wildlife management and decision-making in northern Canada and Dr. Jennifer Provencher (Ecotoxicology and Wildlife Health Division, based in Ottawa, ON) who has an active research program that examines contaminants in marine birds, including chemical contaminants and plastic pollution. Additionally, Dr. Provencher has experience in planning and implementing training workshops in northern Canada to train community members to dissect and sample marine birds for contaminants.

ECCC recognizes that Arctic ecosystems are particularly sensitive to the effects of global climate change and that Arctic nesting geese are important study species given their cultural importance to Inuit and that recent population increases have led to habitat alteration in some portions of the central and eastern Canadian Arctic. Inuit knowledge and research contributions have been important in describing long-term changes in geese abundance, understanding the effects of geese on Arctic vegetation, and identifying management recommendations for Arctic nesting geese. ECCC has a decade-long history of collaborating with Arviarmiut on goose and wildlife health research and has been engaged in research questions focusing on geese population dynamics and their impacts on Arctic ecosystems and habitats, as well as on wildlife health and contaminants. This collaborative research proposal will provide the opportunity to: (a) assess the health of the various goose populations around Arviat (through monitoring of pathogens, emerging diseases, plastic pollution and contaminant levels); (b) better understand the impacts of climate change on geese; and (c) establish sustainable levels of harvests for the various goose populations nesting around the community. This project will contribute significantly to ECCC's mandate of conserving biodiversity in Canada by protecting migratory birds and the ecosystems on which they rely. The collaborative nature of the proposal will contribute significantly to our understanding of how migratory birds are affected by a range of contaminants and climate change.

Throughout the duration of the five-year funding (2021-2026), Environment and Climate Change Canada will contribute approximately 15 weeks of Dr. Henri's research time (around \$30,000) and approximately 15 weeks of Dr. Provencher's time (around \$30,000). Pending operational availability and the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, ECCC may support the project by providing technical support for three one-week periods during field work (approximately \$15,000 including staff time and travel expenses). This support from ECCC will provide an in-kind total contribution of approximately \$75,000.

Sincerely,



Daniel Leclair  
Acting Director General  
Wildlife and Landscape Science Directorate  
Science and Technology Branch  
Environment and Climate Change Canada