



SmartICE Sea-Ice Monitoring and Information Inc.

Climate Action and Awareness Fund
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Government of Canada

October 20, 2020

Dear Selection Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support for the Aqqiumavvik Society's application to the Climate Action and Awareness Fund. SmartICE has collaborated with Aqqiumavvik for at least five years and it has been a reliable and effective partner as we expanded our ice monitoring and information service into Arviat and the Kivalliq region of Nunavut. Although the Aqqiumavvik Society has only been formally registered since 2016, they have been successfully operating for 15 years as a vibrant community organization dedicated to promoting community-based research and delivering services and programs to meet community needs. They are an excellent example of how communities can identify their own research priorities, design and execute data collection and analysis, and provide information that contributes to local decision-making. Where necessary they collaborate with experts or organizations (such as SmartICE) that work with local staff to build their research skills and assist in data interpretation. They have built an impressive team comprising program instructors, community animators, videographers, environmental monitors and researchers, and I am proud to say I have had the opportunity to work with many of them over the past decade.

A key goal of the Society is to facilitate research that will provide evidence for positive action. Arviat is a very active harvesting community, and therefore this goal is particularly important in terms of providing reliable information on which robust decisions can be made. This is even more important when you consider how climate change is impacting all aspects of their environment and harvesting; they need locally relevant data to inform made-in-Arviat adaptation strategies. The application that the Aqqiumavvik Society is submitting to ECCC's Community-Based Climate Action program is an excellent example of how a community with its own capacity and vision can potentially exploit opportunities that may result from a changing climate. Their two-part proposal *Assessment of the viability of goose harvesting as a*

response to food insecurity in Arviat builds on their existing strength in wildlife and environmental monitoring (Ujjiqsuiniq Monitoring Program) to estimate goose population dynamics and breeding habitat. In the second component, they propose to investigate the commercial viability of harvesting and creating goose food products through a social enterprise model, to alleviate food security in the community. This is a transformational approach that can have substantial long-term benefits to the community.

In summary, SmartICE enthusiastically supports the activities of the Aqqiumavvik Society in Arviat. I hope you will give their application full consideration.

Sincerely,



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