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April 29, 2024

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Attention: Director, STAR Lab/ DroneZone – University of Manitoba

RE: Support Letter on ArcticSat & ACCESS Projects – Chesterfield Inlet

As the Mayor of Chesterfield Inlet, I Simionie Sammurtok, would like to offer the full support from the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet for your research projects entitled ArcticSat and the Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability, and Service (ACCESS) that aims to discover and address both the challenges and opportunities associated with the disruptive, high bandwidth connectivity that our community is facing today.

We see Chesterfield Inlet as leading the way when it comes to Arctic community innovations. We have invested in state-of-the-art water treatment and fish processing systems, as well as a comprehensive education system for children through adults. Communications both within our community and outside have improved in recent years with the advent of satellite broadband, but gaps remain, particularly for those travelling outside of our community.

The community has noticed some major environmental effects over the past few years as climate change has accelerated, further exasperating the gaps in communications infrastructure we are experiencing. Sea ice is not as safe for as long as it used to be, volatile weather patterns put hunters and trappers at risk, and longer open water seasons have brought increases in marine shipping traffic that is affecting wildlife migration patterns. Together, these represent challenges that we need to study in support of a more resilient and prosperous community in the future. We anticipate the ArcticSat and ACCESS projects will help lay the groundwork for new information pathways, communications infrastructure, and training opportunities for our community for years to come.

We, in Chesterfield Inlet, appreciate and support the research being done through a collaborative and inclusive approach with the University of Manitoba. We appreciate that the research team values the perspectives and contributions of our community members and look toward this project informing our community and future development in relevant and meaningful ways.

The Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet is looking forward to work and coordinate with University of Manitoba on programs and services.

Sincerely,

Simionie Sammurtok, Mayor