



Hamlet of Grise Fiord
P.O. Box 77, Grise Fiord
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May 28, 2018

To Dr. David Burgess:

On behalf of the Hamlet of Grise Fiord, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for your proposal 'Impacts of ice-ocean interactions on marine primary productivity in the Canadian Arctic: A collaboration with Grise Fiord, NU'. By seeking to understand the impact of melting glaciers draining Devon Ice Cap on marine primary production in Jones Sound, this project will provide much needed scientific information, which together with indigenous knowledge, will help us all better understand the impacts of climate change on the ocean waters where we traditionally harvest marine wildlife (ie. Whales, seals, walrus, and polar bear), upon which we are critically dependent for food and resources.

Over the past few decades, the Hamlet of Grise Fiord has been experiencing first-hand the impacts of climate change through reduced water availability in the local watershed, and recent damage to community infrastructure due to storm surge activity, as was recently reported by the CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/grise-fiord-climate-change-budget-1.4036677>. Since 1998, the Geological Survey of Canada has measured annual rates of ice melt from the local glacier which represents a potentially important source of drinking water for the community. Results from this work have provided us with a scientific perspective on climate change which has helped our community better understand and adapt to the rate and impacts of climate change affecting our watershed and surrounding regions. Similarly, this proposed ArcticNet project aimed at assessing the impact of melting tidewater glaciers on marine productivity, will also expand our knowledge of potential impacts (positive and negative) of climate change on our traditional food supply harvested from the ocean. Results from

this project will inform us on how we can best adapt to future climate change and secure traditionally harvested food for our community.

Significant long-term benefits from this project to the Hamlet will be gained through involvement of our community members in sample collection and sharing of traditional knowledge about marine wildlife activity near the glaciers that terminate in Jones Sound. Engagement of youth and elders will facilitate inter-generational knowledge transfer amongst the community participants, which will in-turn empower our community with valuable scientific and traditional indigenous knowledge necessary to better understand and adapt to future climate change scenarios. Income gained through direct involvement of our citizens in this project will contribute to the local economy, and specialized training will contribute to highly qualified personnel trained in the field of scientific data collection in marine environments.

On behalf of the people of Grise Fiord, I fully support this unique opportunity to co-consider indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge so that we may collectively improve our understanding of the impacts of climate change on our local food sources and the lands and waters that sustain them. We wish you success on the proposal and look forward to working with you soon on this exciting and important project.

Sincerely



Meeka Kiguktak

Mayor