



**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR POLAR GRANT APPLICATION – LONG-TERM CHANGES IN  
BIRD POPULATIONS BASED ON LAKE SEDIMENT RECORDS, DR. JULES BLAIS,  
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA**

The [Ahiak \(Queen Maud Gulf\) Migratory Bird Sanctuary](#), located between Umingmaktok, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven on the mainland, was created in 1961. Through the [Nunavut Agreement](#), an [Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area](#) was signed by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the three Regional Inuit Associations (Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Qikiqtani Inuit Association) and the federal Minister of the Environment, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ratified in 2006 and again in 2016). This Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement created co-management committees for these protected areas in Nunavut. The Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary is co-managed by Inuit (from Umingmaktok, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven) and the Canadian Wildlife Service (a part of Environment and Climate Change Canada) through the Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee.

Part of the mandate of the Ahik Area Co-Management Committee was to write a Management Plan for the Ahik Migratory Bird Sanctuary (currently in Press). The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the federal Minister of the Environment approved it August 2018. The Management Plan for the Ahik Migratory Bird Sanctuary lays out the vision, goals, objectives, activities that are, and are not allowed, management considerations (concerns, threats, challenges), and the management approaches that will be taken to address the management considerations including addressing the gaps in our knowledge and research priorities for the protected area.

The project proposed by Dr. Jules Blais is a good fit with the Vision of the Management Plan for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary:

*The Ahiaik Migratory Bird Sanctuary will be managed to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the land for use by all wildlife, including migratory birds, and, for uses by people that do not threaten the integrity of the habitats that wildlife need to thrive.*

In particular, these specific Goals and Objectives of the Management Plan:

*Goal 1: Protect the area for all wildlife and culture resources.*

*Objective 1.2: Ensure areas rich in wildlife and cultural resources are documented, conserved and protected.*

*Goal 2: Manage and conserve the protected area consistent with the rules of the legislation.*

*Objective 2.2: Encourage research that addresses the management considerations.*

The Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee is particularly interested in research related to overabundant light geese (Snow Goose, Ross's Goose) and their effects on their habitat and habitat used by other birds and wildlife species.

As such, the Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee is pleased to support the proposed research by Jules and his team and we look forward to working with him on this project if it goes forward. The estimated in-kind value of the Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee's contribution to Jules's project is \$4,000.

Please be advised that entry into the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary, in this case for the purposes of research, requires a permit. The Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee as well as Canadian Wildlife Service biologists review permit applications. Applications for permits to enter and conduct research in the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary can be obtained by contacting the Canadian Wildlife Service Permitting Officer in Iqaluit at [ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca). The firm deadline for work occurring in the spring/summer of a given year is 01 February.

Sincerely,



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Vice-Chair  
Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee for the  
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