

# **Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) camp on Greiner Lake, Cambridge Bay**

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## **Annual Report for 2020**

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Due to the lockdowns and travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, during 2020 the camp remained unoccupied, and no activities of any kind were performed there. During this time CHARS staff visited the camp twice in order to make sure that the camp structures are undamaged and everything is in order.

### **Plans for 2021**

In the winter months of early 2021, the two structures of the POLAR camp will serve as emergency shelters for both POLAR staff, and Cambridge Bay community members. Depending on COVID-19-related guidelines and restrictions, starting in May 2021, the POLAR camp will be prepared for the start of the summer field season by checking and fixing the possible damage to the existing structures that may have occurred during the winter.

In June 2021, the summer field season activity will start in the camp. All-season individual tents will be installed in the camp. POLAR will continue a range of field research activities, and if allowed to Nunavut, a number of visiting research scientists, their graduate students, as well as northern students will come to Cambridge Bay to conduct this research. Most of these research activities, as well as the deployed scientific instrumentation are on the northern shore of Greiner Lake in the IMA. For safety and convenience, some researchers will be stationed in the camp near these research and monitoring sites. Measures will be taken to mitigate the risk presented by barren-ground grizzly bears in the camp, such as keeping food and garbage away from camp, and erecting bear fences.

The POLAR research projects include: tundra ecosystem description and mapping, arthropod monitoring, freshwater lake surveys, as well as maintenance and deployment of research instruments such as a weather station, frost tubes and thermistor arrays, river gauging stations,

and eddy covariance towers. Researchers will come and go over the summer; there will be no more than 10 people in camp at any one time. Normal occupancy will be 4–5 people.