

20 January 2023

Mosha Cote
Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Box 1720, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca



RE: Scientific Research License # 03 003 22R-M

Dear Mr. Cote,

Please accept this 2022 Annual Summary Report for the Nunavut Research Institute scientific research license # 03 003 22R-M. There are no changes to the study area, or research methods associated with this research license. We would like to request renewal of this license so that we can continue to collect and analyze multi-year permafrost data from the existing instrumentation (ground temperature, air temperature, water temperature, moisture content, and ground heave).

I am currently preparing an amendment application for this research licence to extend the use of geophysical surveys over lakes. The research method is not significantly different from methods documented in the current research license, but will involve data collection supported by snow machine over lake ice. I will keep you informed of the amendment process.

Any visits to Nunavut communities will be conducted in strict accordance with evolving public health guidelines and directives issued by Nunavut, the Federal Government, and any applicable local authorities.

1) April–October 2023: 2 personnel (Greg Oldenborger, A.-M. LeBlanc, or B. Faucher) from the Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa for approximately 10–20 days for data retrieval and instrument maintenance for existing instrument sites in the Rankin Inlet area.

Best Regards,
Greg Oldenborger
Geological Survey of Canada
Natural Resources Canada
183-601 Booth St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0E8
613-868-2474
greg.oldenborger@canada.ca

Nunavut Scientific Research License # 03 003 22R-M: 2022 Annual Summary

The Kivalliq region of Nunavut is undergoing significant infrastructure development associated with natural resources, transportation, energy, and community infrastructure. Information on permafrost is required to ensure resilience in the face of climate change. Measurements of ground temperature and observations of ground ice conditions are critical for permafrost characterization, but are sparse in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut.

In the summer of 2016, the Geological Survey of Canada and the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office started a multi-year research study on permafrost for the western coast of Hudson Bay with focus on the Rankin Inlet area. Fieldwork has involved: 1) landscape observations and examination of surficial geological materials, 2) installation of permanent boreholes to record long-term permafrost temperatures in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet for developed and undeveloped land use, 3) installation of several shallow permafrost monitoring stations in the vicinity of Rankin Inlet, 4) collection of permafrost cores and geophysical data to detect ground ice, 5) observations and measurements of water level changes, and 6) collection of satellite remote sensing data to monitor ground subsidence associated with thawing.

The global COVID pandemic has limited field operations since 2020. A short field visit to Rankin Inlet was possible in the summer of 2021, followed by a 5-day field visit to Rankin Inlet conducted by LeBlanc and Faucher in September 2022. Fieldwork consisted of data collection, instrument maintenance, and repair at existing sites. These visits were crucial to maintain the integrity and continuity of data records. In the last two years, efforts have transitioned to analysis and synthesis of the data collected since inception of the project. Ground-based and satellite data have been integrated to develop methods for predicting ground subsidence associated with thawing permafrost. The utility of using drone-based data for mapping topography, geology, and permafrost conditions was assessed by comparison of drone imagery and products to satellite and ground-based observations. Satellite data were also used to produce a ground subsidence map over the region of Arviat, and to map permafrost features along the Kivalliq hydro-fibre corridor.

Ground temperature data from ten permafrost sites near Rankin Inlet are currently being analyzed for the period of 2017–2022. Monthly means, minimum, and maximum annual temperature envelopes, and active layer thickness will be published in a format suitable for stakeholders. Permafrost cores collected in 2017 and 2018 have been analyzed using CT-scanning to precisely quantify ground ice content and legacy permafrost information is being compiled from old geotechnical boreholes records from the oil and gas industry. These data are being used in the development of a regional ground ice map and a summary of the permafrost knowledge for the Kivalliq region.

mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

$$d\dot{C}^a \Delta,$$

greg.oldenborger@canada.ca

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Publications associated with NRI Scientific Research License 03 003 22R-M

Scientific Journal Papers

Oldenborger G.A., Short N., LeBlanc A.-M., 2020. Electrical conductivity and DInSAR ground displacement in permafrost terrain. *Journal of Applied Geophysics* 181, 104148.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jappgeo.2020.104148>

Oldenborger G.A., 2021. Subzero temperature dependence of electrical conductivity for permafrost geophysics. *Cold Regions Science and Technology* 182, 103214.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coldregions.2020.103214>

Oldenborger, G.A., Bellehumeur-Génier, O., LeBlanc, A.-M., McMartin, I., 2022. Landform mapping, elevation modelling, and thaw subsidence estimation for permafrost terrain using a consumer-grade remotely-piloted aircraft. *Drone Systems and Applications* 10, 309–329.

<https://doi.org/10.1139/dsa-2021-0045>

Oldenborger, G.A., Short, N., LeBlanc, A.-M., 2022. Permafrost thaw sensitivity prediction using surficial geology, topography, and remote-sensing imagery: A data-driven neural network approach. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* 59, 897–913. <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjes-2021-0117>

Departmental Reports

Oldenborger G.A., LeBlanc A.-M., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Grosset C., Holzman S., Masson C., 2016. Community workshop on permafrost and landscape change, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 8057. <https://doi.org/10.4095/298806>

Short N., LeBlanc A.-M., Bellehumeur-Génier O., 2016. Seasonal surface displacement derived from DInSAR, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Geological Survey of Canada, Canadian Geoscience Map 291. <https://doi.org/10.4095/298815>

Bellehumeur-Génier O., Oldenborger G.A., LeBlanc A.-M., 2017. Historical fluctuations of lake shorelines based on geomorphological analysis in the vicinity of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 8224. <https://doi.org/10.4095/328869>

Oldenborger G.A., Bellehumeur-Génier O., LeBlanc A.-M., Tremblay T. 2018. Performance analysis of RapidEye multi-spectral land cover mapping for the western coast of Hudson Bay, Nunavut. Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 8380. <https://doi.org/10.4095/311216>

Oldenborger G.A., Faucher B., LeBlanc A.-M., 2021. Multi-spectral permafrost terrain classification, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 8824. <https://doi.org/10.4095/328869>

Special Publications

Tremblay T., Kendall M.S., LeBlanc A.M., Short N., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Oldenborger G.A., Budkewitsch P., Mate D.J., 2015. Overview of the surficial geology map compilation, RapidEye land-cover mapping and permafrost studies for infrastructure in the western Hudson Bay area, Nunavut. Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Summary of Activities 2015, 145–160.

<https://cngo.ca/summary-of-activities/2015/>

LeBlanc A.-M., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Oldenborger G.A., Tremblay T., 2016. Understanding permafrost conditions through integration of local and traditional observations with geoscience data in the region of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Summary of Activities 2016, 75–88. <https://cngo.ca/summary-of-activities/2016/>

Oldenborger G.A., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Tremblay T., Calmels F., LeBlanc A.-M., 2016. Permafrost studies in the Rankin Inlet and Ennadai Lake areas, southern Nunavut. Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Summary of Activities 2016, 67–74. <https://cngo.ca/summary-of-activities/2016/>

Oldenborger G.A., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Tremblay T., LeBlanc A.-M., 2017. Ground temperatures and permafrost conditions, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Summary of Activities 2017, 117–128. <https://cngo.ca/summary-of-activities/2017/>

Oldenborger G.A., Bellehumeur-Génier O., LeBlanc A.-M., 2018. Performance of a consumer-grade unmanned aerial vehicle for acquisition of imagery and creation of digital elevation models and ground displacement maps in permafrost terrain, Rankin Inlet area, southern Nunavut. Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Summary of Activities 2018, 153–166.

<https://cngo.ca/summary-of-activities/2018/>

LeBlanc A.-M., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Oldenborger G.A., Short N., 2020. Lake area and shoreline changes due to climate and permafrost-related drivers, Rankin Inlet area, Nunavut. Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Summary of Activities 2019, 79–92.

<https://cngo.ca/summary-of-activities/2019/>

LeBlanc A.-M., Oldenborger G.A., 2021. Ground temperature, active layer thickness and ground ice conditions in the vicinity of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Summary of Activities 2020, 63–72. <https://cngo.ca/summary-of-activities/2020/>

Conference Proceedings

LeBlanc A.-M., Oldenborger G.A., Bellehumeur-Génier O., 2017. Local and traditional knowledge in conjunction with geoscience data to understand permafrost conditions and guide research activities, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting, Quebec, QC, 285–286.

Tremblay T., Oldenborger G.A., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Short N., Leblanc A.-M., 2017. Surficial sediments, land cover mapping and permafrost characteristics in the Western Hudson

Bay area, Nunavut. Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, Yellowknife, NWT, 115.

Oldenborger G.A., Short N., LeBlanc A.-M., 2018. Comparison of apparent conductivity to ground displacement and surficial geology for continuous permafrost. European Meeting of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics, Porto, Portugal, Tu 24A 04.
<https://doi.org/10.3997/2214-4609.201802515>

LeBlanc A.-M., Bellehumeur-Génier O., Oldenborger G.A., 2018. Lake shoreline evolution and permafrost-related drivers, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting, Ottawa, ON.

LeBlanc A.-M., Oldenborger G., Short N., 2019. Comparison between seasonal and inter-annual ground surface displacements based on surficial geology to assess permafrost conditions, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Canadian Permafrost Conference, Québec, QC.
<https://doi.org/10.1061/9780784482599.071>