

Bedding Mapping at Uvauk Bay

Joshua Laughton, Geological Survey of Canada

This project will focus on bedrock mapping near Uvauk Bay along Chesterfield Inlet, in the eastern area of the Kivalliq region. According to western science, this area, which has only been briefly studied in the past, could provide critical information involving the initial assembly of North American continents. We aim for this project to take place between August 1st to 14th. This project is in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Canada and Canadian universities.

A team of up to four geologists will focus their efforts on bedrock mapping and collecting small rock samples for laboratory analysis. A campsite will be set up on the shore near Uvauk Bay. We will be hiring a local Nunavut resident as a wildlife monitor during the project and will be hiring a local resident of Baker Lake to boat us to and from the campsite at the start and end of the project. The campsite will include up to seven tents for kitchen, bathroom and sleeping use. Water for the camp will be collected from a nearby stream/river and a small generator will be used for power. Field methods will include daily hiking excursions and possible use of the small local boat along the coast. Geologists will hike across the land and collect field observations in the form of notes, photographs, and rock samples by hammer. All camp waste will be incinerated and/or stored in bear safe containers for removal and disposal upon project completion. Team members will give a wide berth of at least 100 m to large mammals and we will have safety protocols in place for predatory wildlife.

The data will be stored in the Geological Survey of Canada's database. The data generated will be used for a graduate student thesis, published in scientific articles and presented at geologic conferences. Any possible archeological findings will be photographed and coordinates noted; this data will be sent to the Inuit Heritage Trust for their management.

We travelled to Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake in February 2024 to present this proposed project to the communities and we plan on travelling to these communities next year to present the results of our proposed project.