

February 29, 2012

Mr. Ammie Kipsigak
Mayor
Hamlet of Hall Beach
P.O. Box 3
Hall Beach, NU X0A 0K0
Phone: 867-928-8945
Fax: 867-928-8871

Dear Mr. Kipsigak,

I am writing to introduce myself formally to you and your community. My name is Sean Desjardins, and I am a researcher at McGill University in Montreal. My area of study is early Inuit history and traditional knowledge, particularly knowledge of walrus and seal hunting. Let me first say that having worked in the areas around Hall Beach as a field assistant on CLEY-supported projects, I am familiar with the community, and have had many positive experiences there. Last summer, I travelled to Igloolik to conduct archaeological research on the early Inuit history of caching walrus meat for *igunaq*. I worked closely and productively with members of the Igloolik HTO. It was a very positive experience! This summer, I hope to travel to the region again to study Inuit traditional knowledge about walrus hunting and its archaeology around Foxe Basin. I would like to make clear that I am an archaeologist, interested in Inuit traditional knowledge. **I am in no way interested in the number of walrus in northern Foxe Basin, and I fully support Inuit hunting rights and the authority of communities and hunters and trappers associations to make the best decisions for Inuit hunters.**

The project I hope to conduct this summer (from July to August) would involve careful archaeological excavation by a crew of no more than 5 individuals from Montreal at Pingiqqalik, the large sod house camp site on the mainland coast between Igloolik and Hall Beach. Last summer, I visited the camp with Mr. Solomon Allurut, Mr. Herve Paniaq and Mr. Itani Paniaq, all residents of Igloolik. My examination of the site, in addition to the expert analysis of my guides, convinced me that careful archaeological examination and mapping at Pingiqqalik may, with the invaluable addition of traditional knowledge, help our understanding of early Inuit sea-mammal hunting in the area. Local involvement in the project is very important to me, and I will employ (at a competitive salary) a guide and bear monitor to be on-site at all times during excavations. Additionally, I hope to employ (again, at a competitive salary) a local field assistant. Each will be from a different community, to ensure that both Hall Beach and Igloolik are represented on the field crew. All relevant permits from Nunavut (CLEY and IHT/NRI) will be obtained prior to any work beginning at Pingiqqalik.

Though the work will be conducted out of Igloolik, Pingiqqalik is equally close to Hall Beach as it is to Igloolik; both your office and the hamlet office of Igloolik have been contacted about this work. Both communities will be regularly updated on the progress of the project, and full reports on findings will be presented. I would very much appreciate your feedback on this proposed work. If you have any questions or require additional information about this work, please feel free to contact me at any time. I very much look forward to working closely with the community on this project. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean P. A. Desjardins

Department of Anthropology
McGill University
855 Sherbrooke Street West
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February 12, 2012

Mr. Mr. Lucassie Ivalu
Mayor
Municipality of Igloolik
P.O. Box 30
Igloolik, NU X0A 0L0
Phone: 867-934-8830
Fax: 867-934-8757

Dear Mr. Ivalu,

As you may know, I am currently a researcher at McGill University in Montreal. My area of study is early Inuit history and traditional knowledge, particularly knowledge of walrus and seal hunting. Last summer, I travelled to Igloolik to conduct research on the early Inuit history of caching walrus meat for *igunaq*. I worked closely and productively with Solomon Allurut, and other members of the HTO. It was a very positive experience! This summer, I hope to travel to Igloolik again to study Inuit traditional knowledge about walrus hunting around Foxe Basin. Once again, I would like to make clear that I am an archaeologist, interested in Inuit traditional knowledge. **I am in no way interested in the number of walrus in northern Foxe Basin, and I fully support Inuit hunting rights and the authority of communities and hunters and trappers associations to make the best decisions for Inuit hunters.**

The project I hope to conduct this summer (from July to August) would involve archaeological excavation by a crew of no more than 5 individuals from Montreal at Pingiqqalik, the large sod house camp site on the mainland coast between Igloolik and Sanirajak. Last summer, I visited the camp with Mr. Allurut, Herve Paniaq and his son Itani. My examination of the site, in addition to the expert analysis of my guides, convinced me that careful archaeological work at Pingiqqalik may, with the invaluable addition of traditional knowledge, help our understanding of early Inuit sea-mammal hunting in the area. Local involvement in the project is very important to me, and I will employ (at a competitive salary) a guide and bear monitor to be on-site at all times during excavations. All relevant permits from Nunavut will be obtained prior to any work beginning at Pingiqqalik.

I have attached a report of my early research results from last year in both Inuktitut and English. Your feedback is very important to me. I will keep the hamlet office and the Igloolik HTO updated on the progress of this research at every stage, and I will forward you the full CLEY report when it is submitted. I would very much appreciate your feedback on this proposed work. If you have any questions or concerns about this work, please feel free to contact me at any time. I very much look forward to working closely with the community on this project, and I plan to hold a presentation for all interested community members at the close of the project in August. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean P. A. Desjardins

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