

## Saving Morin Point Thule Site: Climate Change Risk Assessment and Archaeological Testing

### Project Summary

The Morin Point archaeological site in Dundas Harbour (Devon Island) contains houses with architectural features that suggest that its occupants could among the first Thule (ancestral Inuit) pioneers in the Eastern Arctic. However, the site is not stable. Four houses have been nearly completely destroyed and the midden deposits associated with these houses are eroding. The entrance tunnel and associated midden of a fifth house have been washed away.

I will undertake fieldwork with a crew of six, including a bear monitor and myself, for four weeks this summer (approximately August 1 - 31) to survey and map the site; conduct a surface metal detector survey; test excavate some of the structures and initiate emergency salvage excavation of the features which are at immediate risk of loss. We will measure the impact of coastal erosion on the site's survival from a baseline that I established along the actively eroding bluff face in 2019 to monitor the rate of erosion.