

Nirjutiqarviulaqtut (ᓄᐱᑎᓪᖃᐸᐅᐅᓂᐅ): Work Package 2 of TRACES (Tracking Long-Term Resilience in Arctic Sociocultural-Ecological Systems), Northern Foxe Basin, Nunavut

“Nirjutiqarviulauqtut” is part of the larger multidisciplinary project TRACES (Tracking Long-Term Resilience in Arctic Sociocultural-Ecological Systems), which has several work packages designed to study the long history of Iglulingmiut subsistence harvesting in northern Foxe Basin, as well as better centre Inuit knowledge and time-honoured best-practices in Nunavut’s harvest-regulation system. This is a goal that aligns firmly with local interests and priorities.

The main objective of Nirjutiqarviulauqtut is to build a more complete understanding of past harvesting activities in northern Foxe Basin. Over approx. five weeks in the summer of 2026, we hope to carry out archaeological work at several key locales in northern Foxe Basin where the knowledge of local hunting traditions can be expanded:

1. First, we will carry out high-resolution **drone mapping** of sod houses and animal-bone scatter at two well-corded archaeological sites: Iglulik Point (NiHe-2) and Pingiqqalik (NgHd-1; IOL HB-06); no archaeological/cultural material will be disturbed during this work.
2. Second, we will conduct a systematic **survey** of the mainland coastline immediately south of Igloolik Island and west of the Alarniq archaeological site complex (i.e., between approx. 69.207024, -81.400348 and 69.294068, -82.128748; IOL IG-13). (Time may not permit survey of this entire shoreline; the work may—with the permission of rights-holders and with all proper permits—be continued in the summer of 2027.). Archaeological knowledge of this area is limited, though it is today a very popular fishing destination. Again, no cultural material will be disturbed.
3. If time permits, we hope to visit the sod-house site (“Site A”) situated at approx. 69.734367, -78.393516—just north of Koch Island. In 2024, local knowledge-holders informed us of this site. Our objective would be to visit the site, **map** it using a drone, and **excavate** 1-2 small (1x1m) test units in the midden (food-waste) areas. The goal would be to obtain animal-bone material that could shed light on what local residents were eating, as well as when they might have lived at the site (via radiocarbon dating).

Travel will be carried out either by ATV (on land) and by boat. Local knowledge- and rights-holding individuals and institutions are, and will continue to be, consulted and updated **in person** on all TRACES activities at least once, and usually twice, per year. (For example, in early February 2026, TRACES PI Desjardins will travel to Igloolik to consult on Nirjutiqarviulauqtut with the Board of the Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Association.)