



Gjoa Haven Trip Report (July 13 - August 29, 2012)

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Purpose of the trip:

- The goal of this visit was to work with Inuit Elders, hunters, and youth to learn about the connections between caribou, community, and well-being in Gjoa Haven.
- We planned to work in collaboration with community organizations, schools, and interpreters, to:
 - conduct interviews;
 - facilitate an Elder/youth land camp;
 - host pre- and post-camp workshops; and,
 - encourage Elder/youth knowledge exchange.
- For Rebecca (Becky) this trip was an opportunity to follow up, and build upon, the 4-day pilot land camp she helped to facilitate in August, 2011.
- For Sean this trip was a chance to meet everyone involved in the project, and to experience many aspects of northern life and travel for the first time.
- For Gita this trip was a chance to meet with project partners again, and to help facilitate the organization and logistics of the land camp (during the last week of July).

Activities during this trip:

Pre-camp workshops

- **planning workshop with Elders** - we discussed what Elders hoped to share with youth while at camp, and what they thought was important for youth to learn
- **planning workshop with youth** - we talked about what they hoped to learn at camp, how they could help out at the camp, and the basics of using digital cameras, audio, and video recorders to document their camp experiences

- **planning workshop with Elders, youth, and all support staff** - we shared the goals of Elders and youth in the earlier workshops (they each had a very similar focus on wanting to teach/learn about hunting techniques, ways of butchering and preparing meat/skins, and the use of Inuktitut for communication and learning about traditional terminology) - we also discussed the camp location (Tikiranajuq, just south of Gjoa Haven on the mainland, near Point Richardson), boat travel logistics, and completed relevant waiver and consent forms

Interviews

- Becky and Sean completed 30 interviews with Elders, hunters, youth, and other knowledge holders in the community
- interviews helped to learn about the importance of caribou to community members, and traditional approaches to teaching youth about caribou and Inuit culture

Elder/youth land camp

- we had great interest from Elders, youth, and support staff in participating in a 9-day land camp, August 4 - 12, 2012 (longer, larger, and a further destination than last year)
- in total we had 17 youth, 5 Elders, and 5 camp support staff, as well as two university researchers (Sean and Becky), one teacher (Adam Malcolm) attending the camp, and several other boat drivers & family members
- during the camp, youth learned through experience about hunting, carrying, skinning, butchering, cooking, drying, and eating caribou

- other activities at camp included: storytelling, traditional weather forecasting, scraping seal skins, preparing and lighting the qulliq (oil lamp), starting a fire, making a traditional drill and sling shot, picking heather, catching and drying fish, sewing purses of loon skin, and making toys of leather and caribou bones
- youth were very involved in documenting camp experiences with audio and video recorders, and digital cameras, and were given basic training on using these forms of media, including the importance of documenting recordings for research purposes

- Post-camp workshops

- **camp follow-up workshop with the Elders and support staff** - overall very positive feedback, but also identified ways to improve camp logistics and experience for the summer of 2013, including:
 - planning out lessons in advance
 - limiting participants to only those who attended planning meetings
 - working with smaller groups of students
- **camp follow-up workshop with the youth** - overall very positive feedback, developed long lists of things they liked about camp, and what they would like to see improved for next year
 - a few additional media workshops were held to select photos and video to display about the camp, and this process is ongoing
 - students are asked to confirm their image selections and email them to Sean (sean.robertson@ualberta.ca) for photo-processing by: December 15
- a community gathering was hosted by Becky and Sean to express thanks after the camp, it was a fun evening of sharing country food, games, singing, and drum dancing

- Collaboration meetings

- Gita, Sean, and Becky met with the Hamlet Senior Administrative Officer, the Hunters and Trappers Organization Manager, the High School Principal, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association Community Liaison Officer, and Elder's Group several times throughout the trip to provide updates on project progress, coordinate camp planning, and camp follow-up
- Sean also spent a few days in Cambridge Bay on his way home from Gjoa Haven (August 26 - 31), meeting with Julia Ogina (a project collaborator) and Sarah Jancke at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to provide project and camp updates (they were

involved in early planning activities, and will be involved in camp follow-up as well as potentially being part of the 2013 camp)

- Archival searches

- while in Cambridge Bay and Yellowknife on his return trip, Sean visited the Kitikmeot Heritage Society and the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre archives to search for relevant materials related to caribou on or around King William Island

Next steps:

- **Fall 2012** - digitize maps drawn during interviews about caribou herds, migrations, travel routes, and camps
- **Fall 2012** - transcribe audio recordings of interviews
- **December, 2012 and April, 2013** - present preliminary project results at national and international conferences
- **Winter 2013** - analyze transcripts of interviews
- **Winter/Spring 2013** - begin planning for spring/summer 2013 land camp in Gjoa Haven

We would like to thank the community of Gjoa Haven for the warm welcome that we received. Qujanaqutit to all the Elders, youth, and community knowledge holders who taught us about caribou and the Inuit way of life during interviews. We appreciate the time everyone took to be a part of this project, and to share their experiences. Many thanks to Simon Okpakok and Leonie Aaluk for their thorough and patient translation at interviews and meetings, and Simon's help with initial camp planning. Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik again provided amazing logistical support for the Elder/youth camp, thank you to Paul Cipriano, Adam Malcolm, Ron Klein, Sylvia Aglukkaq, and Trina Sallerina for your ongoing support. Quana also to Bob Konana who helped coordinate camp planning, and who generously allowed us the use of the Elder's Qaggivik throughout our trip. Without the school partnership, and all the community support, this project could not happen. Thank you to Kim Rowley for opening her home to Sean and Becky during their nearly 7 weeks in town. Qujannamiik to Mary Aqilriaq for welcoming Gita into her home during the week she was visiting. We are so grateful to all who shared their stories with us, and invited us into their homes to chat over tea and coffee or wonderful home-cooked meals. Thanks also to Walter Porter and Julia Ogina for the ongoing support from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and your help with camp planning and logistics. We have learned so much from each and every person we have worked with, and we look forward to starting the planning for the 2013 land camp, and sharing our results in the months and years to come.

Report Date: October 15, 2012



Questions? Comments?

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