

*Seeking one PhD student to join our team!*

## Understanding the impacts of climate change on Arctic nesting geese

### A key towards Inuit food sovereignty in Arviat, Nunavut

**This is a great opportunity to work with and learn from researchers at the Aqqiumavik Society, McMaster University and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).** Our team of northern and southern researchers is working together to monitor goose populations to restore Inuit food sovereignty and enhance Inuit self-determination in research. The PhD student will work with Inuit research leaders, as well as with local, territorial, and federal organizations involved in goose research and co-management.

The Inuit diet is based on harvesting from a range of plant and animal species throughout the year, enabling Inuit to thrive even in seasonal scarcity. Today food insecurity in Nunavut is the highest in Canada at four times the national average. The [Aqqiumavik Society](#) in Arviat, Nunavut, addresses community food insecurity by encouraging local harvesting and consumption of abundant, nutrient-rich wild foods.



Photo: Frank Baldwin

Arviat is a seasonal nesting ground to an overly large population of light geese, an important food resource that is currently underutilized. Arviarmiut (people of Arviat) want to know if their goose population is safe to consume, and to understand what level of increased community harvest of geese and eggs is sustainable. To address these questions, [our project](#) will monitor light goose population, distribution, and health according to community-relevant metrics. Arviat youth involved in the [Young Hunters Program](#) will be trained to lead the monitoring, supporting Inuit self-determination in research and addressing continuity challenges in federal monitoring programs. We will also investigate community goose consumption preferences and nutritional implications. Our community-led monitoring initiative will provide the foundation to assess the impacts of climate change on Arctic nesting geese and their habitat over time.

**We have funding for a PhD student to join our team!**

**Start date:** Fall 2023

The PhD student would be part of the **School of Earth, Environment and Society** at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON.

Student would be **co-supervised** by **Gita Ljubicic** (McMaster) and **Dominique Henri** (ECCC).

**Place of residence** during the program is flexible and can be discussed.

**Research and travel funding** for work in Arviat, NU.

We strongly encourage applications from **Nunavummiut students**. Applications are also welcome from **other students with relevant interests and experiences** in northern research.



Photo: Kukik Baker



Environment and Climate Change Canada  
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The **Aqqiumavvik Society** has brought together a diverse and dedicated team of community, academic, and government researchers with expertise in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ; Inuit knowledge and values), community health, epidemiology, Inuit food systems, goose biology, population dynamics, and ecotoxicology. We will investigate the interplay between human and goose population health, climatic change, migratory bird policy, and food security using the [Aajiqatigiingniq Research Methodology](#) to build consensus and seek solutions.

**Ultimately, our project aims to promote renewed community harvests and consumption of light geese that can contribute to restoring Inuit food sovereignty.**

## PhD Project Description

We are looking for a PhD student to support Arviat Young Hunters in community engagement and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit elements of our project, specifically in relation to:

- documenting historical and current goose harvesting and consumption patterns/preferences;
- identifying community-relevant indicators of goose habitat and health to monitor;
- gaining Arviarmiut perspectives on an increased community goose harvest; and
- learning about Arviarmiut conceptions of food sovereignty.

**Student will have demonstrated experience with, and commitment to, community-engaged research** (ideally in an Inuit or other Indigenous research context). All research activities will be guided by a local Research Advisory Committee. A Project Manager in Arviat will coordinate local research activities. Arviat Young Hunters will be mentored and trained to undertake research and monitoring independently. Our **emphasis on Arviat research leadership** contributes to community goals of building youth skills and capacity, supporting a positive sense of cultural identity, raising climate change awareness, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. Following Aqqiumavvik's leadership and enhancing community research capacity are essential in Inuit self-determination in research.

Photo: Nppadol Paothong, courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation

**If you are interested in learning more about the project, student funding, and the application process, please contact:**

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