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## *Indigenous Partners and McMaster* *University Research Agreement*

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*Title*

*(Date)*

The purpose of this research agreement is to clearly define the research project, partners, partner roles and responsibilities, funding, privacy rights, participation rights, data ownership, data sharing, and results sharing parameters. This is a research agreement between the following research partners to ensure all parties understand, and are comfortable with, their roles in the research project and the project design. The project was proposed formally to representatives of the Partners on DATE, and support for the project was received at that time. There are no identified negative consequences for partners who withdraw from this project.

### **Research Partners:**

On Behalf of

On Behalf of

On Behalf of McMaster University

For further information, or if you have any questions about the project, please feel free to contact Supervisor or Student.

## **Research Goals:**

This project was requested by the Partners and designed so that Student's Master's research can contribute to Partner priorities.

The aim of this research project is to contribute meaningfully to an Inuit-led and managed conservation initiative by supporting existing community priorities. The Project is the result of

extensive work by the community of \_\_\_\_\_ and their partners to add levels of protection to the entire Project terrestrial and marine region. The significance of this project includes:

- The future protection of an ecologically and culturally significant archipelago;
- Support for the establishment and capacity-building of a conservation economy in \_\_\_\_\_; and,
- Assist the planning and implementation of the Project by helping summarize and present content for a baseline Project data.

The goal of this project is to assess the capacity of Project data to support Inuit-led protected area design, implementation and management. This is an important part of understanding the influence of Partner knowledge on shaping protected area design and implementation. This project will also investigate how Partner monitoring data can be used to meet the Project priorities.

## **Project Overview:**

Conservation programs have often excluded Indigenous knowledge, management, and priorities. However, the importance of Indigenous protected areas and the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in management strategies is being increasingly recognized. This research project will contribute to efforts to improve collaborative and Inuit-driven approaches to developing protected areas by:

- Examining the potential for new technology to support Indigenous governance and conservation initiatives;
- Exploring methods of weaving Inuit and scientific knowledge together in conservation planning following Inuit methodologies; and,
- Supporting Inuit self-determination in conservation projects.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is comprised of culturally, ecologically, and biologically important islands. The Project is a conservation program that aims to protect the \_\_\_\_\_ and build capacity for conservation economies in the community of \_\_\_\_\_.

This research project will involve mapping, analysing and presenting data from the Project in support of Partner priorities. The primary goal is to

provide the knowledge collected by the Project to the Partners in an accessible and comprehensive manner. This data will be used by the Partners towards the planning and implementation of the Project and associated baseline resource inventory for feasibility studies and management planning. To contribute to this inventory, maps and graphs showing the distribution, abundance, and seasonality of harvesting in the \_\_\_\_\_ will be produced using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and statistical software. An analysis of trips, including catch per unit effort and travel type, may also be explored. This research is important to learn about the advantages and challenges of using community monitoring data to produce conservation management strategies. The results of this analysis will help to create a process for using Project data to support the establishment and ongoing management of future Inuit-led conservation initiatives and economies.

## **Research Objectives:**

Work under the guidance of Partners to:

1. Contribute to the Project resource inventory by mapping distribution, abundance, and richness of key species and areas according to hunter and environmental monitor data;
2. Compare how the resource inventory data aligns with, and can support, Project management priorities;
3. Compare the resource inventory data to other sources such as the Nunavut Coastal Resources Inventory participatory mapping project; and,
4. Assess the capacity of Project as a tool to contribute to a community approach to Inuit-led protected area development and ongoing management.

## **Roles of the Research Partners:**

The analysis will be conducted by Student, a graduate student at McMaster University, supervised by Supervisor. The Partners will oversee Student's research, and all results will be provided to the committee. Results will also be included in Student's Master of Arts thesis, related publications and presentations with appropriate co-authorship and acknowledgement for Partner members and project contributors. The research team will work with the Partners on any training needed to support staff in ongoing use of GIS for mapping or analyzing data.

Name	Role
	Primary contact at the <u>Partners</u> - will aid in project design and implementation, coordinate meeting times and participants, facilitate meetings, contribute feedback and advice on research project through frequent discussions and regular check-ins with <u>Supervisor and Student</u> , and aid in data interpretation.
	Take part in meetings, aid in data interpretation, contribute feedback and advice on research project
Supervisor	Supervise Master of Arts academic requirements for Master's student, facilitate relationship building between Master's student and collaborators, take part in meetings, guide research methodology, contribute feedback and advice on research project
Student	Build relationships with key community partners, facilitate meetings, co-produce research question with <u>Partners</u> , co-produce research methodology, complete literature review, facilitate GIS training, complete analysis, complete dissertation
Individuals To Be Confirmed	Additional <u>Partner</u> members may also take part in meetings and provide feedback over the course of the project
Translator To Be Confirmed	Facilitate meetings, translate materials, guide community engagement

## Funding:

This project will not request any funds from the Partners. Project costs will be covered by external funding sought by Student and Supervisor.

## **Data Range:**

Project posts from between Dates will be used in this research project.

## **Project Timeline:**

The project will analyze the Project data between Dates.

## **Compensation:**

Partner members will receive compensation from the Partners for their time spent in research project meetings, providing project advice, feedback, and doing data interpretation as per established Partner policies and rates. A translator may be used when appropriate — as determined by the Partners — to facilitate meetings in-person or virtually, and to translate written materials from English into \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Withdrawal from the Study:**

The research collaborators listed above can withdraw from this study at any point during the research project, with no negative consequences. Any contributions to the research project up until that point, including advice, feedback, data interpretation, photographs, audio recordings, and video recordings will remain with the project. Partners may request a meeting regarding changing the terms of this agreement at any time during the project. All partners will be willing to discuss and resolve any associated concerns with this project.

## Possible Benefits:

NAME	BENEFIT
<u>Partners</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribution to a baseline <u>Project</u> resource inventory</li><li>• Creation of a methodology for future <u>Project</u> data analysis</li><li>• Identification of gaps within <u>Project</u> to be addressed in the future</li><li>• Increased capacity for future Inuit-led research projects using <u>Project</u></li><li>• Support of an Inuit self-governance initiative</li><li>• Support of Inuit knowledge transfer</li></ul>
Community Of _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for the establishment of <u>Project</u></li><li>• Increased capacity for a conservation economy</li></ul>
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribution to the body of work regarding Inuit-led conservation initiatives and Inuit knowledge transmission using technology</li></ul>
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research results may inform conservation policy and support Indigenous-led conservation initiatives</li></ul>
Non-Government Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of an initial process for Inuit-led conservation initiatives using _____</li></ul>
<u>Student</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master of Arts degree</li><li>• Opportunity to support an Inuit-led conservation initiative</li></ul>

## Possible Risks:

This project does not specifically involve the discussion of sensitive topics. However, the analysis of maps and related discussion of hunting and harvesting stories may be emotionally distressing. The following support resources are available for any of the research partners.

Health Centre

Phone:

Help Line

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Phone:

Hope for Wellness Help Line

Call 1-855-242-3310

## **Confidentiality and Anonymity:**

This project will not use or disclose any personal information relating to the Project posts. Names will be removed from Project posts prior to analysis. Post photographs will be examined to verify species information. Photos from the Project platform that contain identifiable persons will not be shared outside of the research team, nor publicised without explicit permission from the post contributor on a case-by-case basis.

## **Recording of Meetings:**

Meetings between research partners to gather feedback on the project methodology, analysis, and results may be photographed and used for reporting and presentation purposes. Audio and video recording may also be used during meetings to ensure feedback is effectively captured. These photographs and recordings are for internal use purposes and will not be shared publicly without the permission of the Partners. Video recording of Partner discussions may also be used by Partners to showcase unique approaches and progress in Project establishment.

## **Use, Access, Ownership, and Storage of Data:**

Project contributors remain the owners of their Project data, and the Partner remains the steward of the Project data. The Partners retain the rights and ownership of the knowledge and data in this project. Permission to access the Project data for use in this project will be given to Student and Supervisor by the Project, the steward of the data.



Copies of this research agreement will be stored on the password-protected personal computers of the research team, and copies will be provided to research partners via email. A hard copy of this research agreement will be provided to the Community Organizations upon request.

Digital data (including Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, Microsoft Word documents, PDFs, GIS files, maps, R files, graphs, charts, photographs, audio recordings, video recordings, and any other formats or derivations) connected to this project will be stored on the personal password-protected computers of Student and Supervisor, the password-protected external hard-drive of Student, as well as a McMaster University Microsoft Teams account and secure McMaster University School of \_\_\_\_\_ server accessible to only Supervisor and Student. Digital project data and information will be shared between partners via email or a McMaster University Microsoft Teams account accessible to Partners, Supervisor and Student.

Hard copies of some project maps, graphs, charts, and meeting photos, as well as all project posters, summary reports, and Student's dissertation will be shared with the Partners and other community locations identified by the Partners. This data will be shared in-person during meetings within \_\_\_\_\_, and via mail to Partners.

The Partners will give Student permission to access the Project data in the program, posted between Dates, and the data can be shared with the McMaster University research team. Project data will be downloaded directly from the Project to the password-protected personal computer of Student to reduce security concerns. Project data can be used by the research team under the guidance of the Partners, and for the specific purposes outlined here, until Date.

The research team can use the Project data to:

1. Address the priorities of the Partners; and
2. Fulfill the academic requirements for a Master of Arts graduate student, including a dissertation, potential publications, and conference presentations.

The research team will not contact Partner contributors directly regarding their data, and no personal information will be used in the analysis. Partner contributors can view their data at any time on \_\_\_\_\_, which is produced and managed by the Partners.

This project will produce digital data in the form of a database of Project data, GIS files developed through ESRI ArcGIS Pro 2.7.0, statistical products developed through PBC RStudio 1.4.1106, graphs, data visualizations, tables, other data products, meeting photographs, audio and video recordings of meetings, and reports. A hard copy and digital copy of all project data, analysis, results, photographs, and reports will be provided to the Partners.

## Reporting and Sharing:

The Partners will determine the most culturally appropriate method of sharing project progress and results to different audiences. No research project data will be shared outside of the research team.

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Short video (digital storytelling)

Radio announcement or interview

School presentation

Poster (highlighting a local artist)

Presentation (in-person or remotely over video conferencing)

Social media updates (Facebook, Twitter)

Website updates

Summary report

Dissertation

All analyses, data products, and results will be approved by, and provided to the Partners for their ongoing use and stewardship. The research partners will oversee Student's analysis, and will have the opportunity to discuss, review, and approve all results before they are publicly shared. Each research partner can decide the appropriate credit of their contributions that will be used in results. Those who are interested will be involved as co-authors in any publications for academic journals, and as co-presenters in conference presentations that result from this research.

This research project will contribute to a Master of Arts thesis by Student. All research partners will have access to the final dissertation, which will be shared with the Partners.

## **Ethics and Licencing:**

This project has been reviewed by the McMaster Research Ethics Board and meets the requirements of McMaster University ethics policy. The McMaster Research Ethics reference number for this project is \_\_\_\_\_. For any questions or concerns regarding the ethics process of this project, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Board  
Phone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142  
Email: [ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca)

This project has been added to the Student's existing research license with the Nunavut Research Institute, license \_\_\_\_\_, as this work directly contributes to the Partner priorities.

Nunavut Research Institute  
Phone: (867) 979-7280

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## *Indigenous Partners and McMaster University Research Partners Signatures*

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*Title*

*(Date)*

Your signature on this document does not remove your legal rights or release researchers from their professional responsibilities. At any time during the research project, you are welcome to ask Supervisor and Student questions regarding the project. A copy of this research agreement will be provided for your records once all signatures have been received.

### **Your Signature Below Confirms:**

1. You have read the research agreement, and have had time to consider, discuss, ask questions and have your questions answered.
2. You understand what the project is about and your role as a research partner.
3. You understand the risks and benefits, and that your participation is voluntary. You may end your participation without having to give a reason, and that doing so will not affect you now or in the future.
4. You agree to taking part in meetings that may be audio recorded, video recorded, and photographed.
5. You have the right to decide if and how your name is used in publicly shared research project results.