## NAVIGATING THE NEW ARCTIC

# Landscape Evolution and Adapting to Change in Ice-rich Permafrost Systems

LEARNING BY DOING: COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE WITH THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF POINT LAY AND REGIONAL PARTNERS Q

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Ice-Rich Permafrost Systems

#### FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

#### **REGIONAL ADVISORY GROUP**

Who: Leaders from the tribal and borough governments, school, village corporation, housing authority, regional Native nonprofit and UIC Science. Role: To guide the overall direction of the project to ensure it meets local and regional needs and to evaluate its success in producing useful information. Meets annually.

#### LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Who: Three to four members selected by the Tribal Council.
Role: To guide the project's interactions with the community,
including determining the best methods for engaging the
community in the research and recruiting local assistants. Meets
3-4 times per year. Members receive a per-meeting stipend.

#### VILLAGE LIAISON

Who: A community member selected by the Tribal Council.
Role: Main point of contact for project. The liaison helps
coordinate the team's communications with the community and
provides logistical assistance for the team's visits to Point Lay.
Meets as needed. Annual stipend paid to the Tribe.

#### **COLLABORATION AGREEMENT**

In Year 1, we worked with the village liasion to write a project agreement to encourage a realistic and ethical framework for collaboration. It outlines roles and expectations for collaboration and data sharing, as well as compensation rates for local assistants. This seemed especially important in working with a community that had not previously adopted guidelines for researchers working on their land.

Studying Permafrost in Point Lay

2-MINUTE VIDEO (BY MOLLY RETTIG, CCHRC)
Goal: To introduce the project to the community and manage expectations about the project's scope and limits.



FACEBOOK PAGE

Goal: To provide a venue for project news and two-way communication with community members.



Population 330 (2020 Census)

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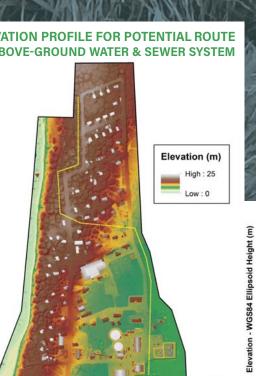


### RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

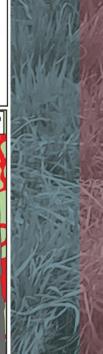
Clockwise from top left: Tribal office staff Kimberly Ferreira and Maryann Neakok assist the project with planning and communications; Fire Chief Kuoiqsik Curtis identified new threats to health and safety from permafrost thaw in a June 2022 interview; Barbara Tukrook and Gerilynn Stalker (along with Eugene Neakok, Jr., not pictured) joined our housing survey crew in April 2022; Steering Committee member Bill Tracey, Sr., advises us on logistics and provides invaluable data and insights.

# TA PRODUCTS

High-resolution drone data and imagery yield research products with direct applications for community planning.











PHOTOS: BEN JONES AND JANA PEIRCE





Left: During a June 2022 research trip, we hosted a community barbecue and open house to share what we learned. Right: In Utqiagvik, while en route to Point Lay, we consulted with the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (top) and officials from the North Slope Borough (bottom) Mayor's Office, Planning department, and (not pictured) Public Works, Capital Improvement Program Management, and UIC consulting engineers.









**PHOTOS: DIANNE SHIRRELL AND JOEL GRIFFIS** 



During COVID, we partnered with Kali School and teachers Joel Griffis (HS science) and Dianne Shirrell (Grades 1-2) on permafrostrelated lessons they could do with their classes. Left: Measuring snow depth and temperature. Right: Learning about good foundations for building houses on

permafrost.