

## **WARC Phase 2 Plan to Conduct Field research and Maintain Regional Field Research Infrastructure.**

**Summer 2020**

### **Aurora College, Inuvik, WARC Facility**

#### **Context**

The Western Arctic Research Centre support a broad range of research and monitoring activities across the Beaufort Delta region. The staff at WARC play a critical role in conducting research and maintaining research infrastructure in the region both for research programs led by Aurora College staff. WARC will also support research partners from across Canada and international groups that work form the WARC, but will not be able to conduct their own field work this season. There are a number of active research sites in the region with installed research infrastructure and these research sites require annual maintenance and upkeep to ensure ongoing uninterrupted data collection. Most of these activities are simple such as changing batteries, tensioning cables on met towers, downloading data from data loggers etc but some include sample collection for long term monitoring programs such as collecting water samples.

The technical field staff at WARC are positioned to support these research programs safely. It is critical that they are able to return to work to maintain this valuable research infrastructure and prevent loss of data and damage to equipment. With the travel restrictions related to COVID, it is also an opportunity for northerners to demonstrate their ability to lead research programs.

#### **Type of Activity**

The WARC technicians are proposing to conduct two types of activities during Phase 2:

- 1) Maintenance of research field site and sample collections for partner institutions unable to enter the NWT, and
- 2) Conduct field research programs along the Dempster and Tuk-Inuvik Highways and within the Beaufort Delta collecting water samples, ground temperatures, permafrost active layer depths, physical and chemical parameters within the research areas.

WARC staff are proposing to travel from Inuvik to conduct these research activities in field locations in teams of 2 to 4 staff. Travel will be by truck, boat or aircraft but staff will not enter into any of the smaller communities in the Beaufort Delta.

Samples will need to be processed or packaged in the laboratories in Inuvik upon return from the field. Each technician will be assigned a separate laboratory to conduct these activities.

#### **Group Sizes**

Field work is always conducted with a minimum of two staff members for field and bear safety. Staff will travel in separate vehicles whenever possible to field locations and comply with ENR Ground Vehicle Safety Guidelines and checklists. Staff will also travel in separate boats whenever possible to field locations and boat travel will also comply with ARI Boat Safety Guidelines and checklists. Field research parties will range from 2 to maximum of four participants.

Field research methods will undergo a Field Level Risk Assessment with the WSCC hazard assessment form ahead of each research expedition to analyze each of the work tasks and the staff's ability to maintain physical distancing and CPHO compliance when conducting these activities.

### **Schedule**

Field work deployments will be scheduled based on logistics requests submitted by the researcher or team lead using the ARI Logistical Management System. All field work will be conducted as day trips from Inuvik. Every effort will be made to stagger daily deployment and return times to minimize team overlap at WARC. No overnight stays are included in the field plans at this time.

### **General Information at WARC**

- Separate entry and exit doors to the building will be used.
- Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and face masks will be available on-site (clients will be encouraged to bring their own non-medical face masks). Proper waste receptacles will be provided for PPE/tissue disposal.
- Sanitizer will be available at the entrance and exit. Sanitizer will also be placed by any shared equipment during times shared access is being allowed to a specific area or piece of equipment (i.e. during training sessions).
- Staff will need to be orientated and sign a new COVID-19 specific OH&S policy.
- Kitchen area will be closed.
- No food (unless medically required) will be allowed on site for clients.
- Staff will need to bring their own water / beverages and containers should they wish to have them. Staff can refill water bottles as long as proper hand hygiene is followed before and after tap use.

### **Physical Distancing Plan**

- All work stations are at least two meters apart.
- The facility has two external entry/exit points. One will be identified as an exit, the other as an entrance.
- All washrooms are single use at WARC.

### **Handwashing**

- A sink will be available with no doors between it and common areas for handwashing.
- Hand Sanitizer will be setup at both entrances.
- All clients/staff must wash or sanitize hands on arrival.
- Clients / staff must use sanitizer or wash hands after cough, sneeze, or putting on/removing PPE (i.e. non-medical face mask).
- Clients will wash / sanitize hands before and after touching any shared tools or equipment.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

- Non-medical mask use by all parties in all situations where physical distancing could be breached accidentally (OH&S tours, equipment demonstrations).

- All employees will be trained in proper on and off when masking.  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-safely-use-non-medical-mask-face-covering.html>

### **Cleaning**

- All frequent touch public surfaces such as door handles and railings will be cleaned and disinfected twice per day minimum (mid-day and end of day)
- Daily cleaning logs will be kept.

### **Travel for Fieldwork**

- The GNWT has developed exposure control measures specific to vehicle travel and aircraft travel which will be used by ARI staff when travelling to field research sites.
- ARI has developed a protocol for travel by boat.

### **Laboratory Use**

- All laboratory facilities are currently COVID-19 cleaned and compliant and locked.
- If in-house laboratory analysis of samples is required. Each staff member will be given one lab dedicated for their own use for sample analysis.
- Once analysis is complete the laboratory will be cleaned and secured.
- All lab use will be scheduled and coordinated by Using ARI logistical Support Request form.

**CMHO PLAN FOR THE WARC**  
**Plan to conduct field research and maintain regional research infrastructure near Inuvik.**

- The Western Arctic Research Centre support a broad range of research and monitoring activities across the Beaufort Delta region.
- The staff at WARC play a critical role in conducting research and maintaining research infrastructure in the region both for research programs led by Aurora College staff and research partners from across Canada and international groups that work form the WARC.
- There are a number of active research sites in the region with installed research infrastructure and these research sites require annual maintenance and upkeep to ensure ongoing uninterrupted data collection.
- There are currently 5 projects requiring research activities and the work will involve a maximum of 6 technical ARI staff

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	SIZE OF GROUP	PHYSICAL DISTANCING PLAN	SANITIZING PLAN
<p><b>Maintenance of research field site and sample collections for partner institutions unable to enter the NWT.</b></p> <p><b>Conduct Aurora College led field research programs along the Dempster and Tuk-Inuvik Highways and within the Beaufort Delta</b></p> <p>Field work is always conducted with a minimum of two staff members for field and bear safety. Staff will travel in separate vehicles whenever possible to field locations and comply with ENR Ground Vehicle Safety Guidelines and checklists.</p> <p>Field research parties will range from 2 to maximum of four participants.</p> <p>WARC staff are proposing to travel from Inuvik to conduct these research activities in field locations. Travel will be by truck, boat or aircraft but staff will not enter into any of the smaller communities in the Beaufort Delta.</p> <p>Field research methods will undergo hazard assessment ahead of each research expedition to analyze each of the work tasks and the staff's ability to maintain physical distancing when conducting these activities.</p>	<p align="center"><b>2-4 Adults at field research sites</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social Distancing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work stations are all at least two meters apart in WARC.</li> <li>• The facility has two external entry/exit points. One will be identified as an exit, the other as an entrance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. PPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-medical mask use by all parties in all situations where physical distancing could be breached accidentally.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Enhanced Hand-Washing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand Sanitizer will be setup at both entrances.</li> <li>• All clients/staff must wash or sanitize hands on arrival.</li> <li>• Staff must use sanitizer or wash hands after cough, sneeze, or putting on/removing PPE (i.e. non-medical face mask).</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Good Respiratory Hygiene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coughing, spitting and sneezing into Kleenex or flexed elbow.</li> <li>• Kleenex to be provided on site.</li> <li>• Proper waste receptacles are accessible for cleaning wipes/tissue will be located throughout the facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Respect for Vulnerable Populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable staff will be allowed to request exclusive access with no sharing of the space by other staff during their access time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Strong Infection Control Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental cleaning.</li> <li>• Frequent hand washing.</li> <li>• Sanitizer.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used equipment, vehicles, materials, and supplies would be sanitized at the end of each session using a bleach and water solution or other product recommended by CPHO by ACTMC staff.</li> <li>• Custodial staff clean building daily, focused on bathrooms and high traffic / touch surfaces, and sanitize once per month.</li> <li>• Daily logs and records kept of all cleaning activities. Full reporting made to appropriate officials as requested/required.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facial coverings/PPE.</li><li>• Teach proper on and off masking.</li><li>• No tolerance policy towards symptomatic / ill staff.</li><li>• Barriers installed between workspaces.</li></ul> <p>7. No Communal or Self-Serve Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kitchen area will closed.</li><li>• No food (unless medically required) will be allowed on site for clients.</li><li>• Staff will need to bring their own water / beverages and containers should they wish to have them.</li></ul> <p>8. Travel in vehicles aircraft and boats with require all staff to adhere to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GNWT COVID-19 protocols for ground vehicle safety guidelines and checklist,</li><li>• ENR aircraft COVID-19 Safety Guidelines and checklists, and</li><li>• ARI boat COVID-19 Safety Guidelines and checklists</li></ul>	
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