



Notice to researchers from the Nunatsiavut Government Research Advisory Committee (NGRAC)

March 31, 2020

Re: Research in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) during COVID-19 pandemic

The NGRAC wishes to advise all researchers of the following guidelines to help ensure the health and wellbeing of residents of Nunatsiavut during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The NGRAC supports the requests of the Inuit Community Governments that non-essential travelers do not travel to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area during the pandemic. The [Nunatsiavut Government](#) and the [Government of Newfoundland & Labrador](#) have issued statements related to travelers self-isolating for 14 days prior to traveling to Nunatsiavut communities. The NGRAC requests that researchers do not travel to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area at this time. The NGRAC will issue a notice and notify researchers when travel is permitted.
- To support public health recommendations and requirements:
 - The NGRAC is currently suspending all existing research Approvals for fieldwork in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.
 - The NGRAC will not be approving new research proposals involving fieldwork at this time. New proposals that do not involve fieldwork or only involve virtual fieldwork (internet or telephone) will be reviewed according to usual schedules and processes.
- Researchers who currently have a research Approval which includes fieldwork may:
 - Continue to work on other aspects of the research and delay their fieldwork until NGRAC Approves fieldwork;
 - Adjust their methods to carry out their research using virtual methods. To do so, researchers must submit an amendment outlining these changes for approval by the NGRAC.
- For research using virtual methods or being adapted to virtual methods while fieldwork is not possible:
 - Please be aware that regional participants and partners may be limited in their ability to participate in online research. Research timelines and methods may need to be adjusted and adapted to work within current technological capacities and time availabilities.
 - Health research projects have particular considerations related to providing supports to participants. Researchers will need to ensure that participants have the ability to use and are comfortable with online resources as these systems change within the current situation.

- The NGRAC requests that researchers commit to the principles of respectful research, in particular by adhering to the following guidelines:
 - Please recognize that at this time, many regional staff, partners, and advisors have refocused their time and energy to contribute to various COVID-19 responses. Therefore, regional capacity to work with you on your research may be limited and timelines may be delayed.
 - Please reach out to regional partners and advisors for project specific advice. The NGRAC requests that all health researchers contact Michele Wood (michele.wood@nunatsiavut.com), Researcher/Evaluator with the Department of Health and Social Development. Archaeology researchers should contact Lena Onalik (lena.onalik@nunatsiavut.com), Acting Archaeologist with the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. Environment researchers should contact Paul McCarney (paul.mccarney@nunatsiavut.com), Research Manager with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

As always, the NGRAC is available to support researchers and offer guidance. Please reach out to us at research@nunatsiavut.com with any questions or for guidance about your specific research.

The NGRAC sincerely appreciates the understanding and support of all researchers at this time and looks forward to continuing to work with our valued partners, collaborators, and researchers.

Sincerely,
Paul McCarney & Carla Pamak
NGRAC Co-Chairs