



May 27, 2020

Dear Researchers,

**Re: Extension of Closure of Parks Canada places in Nunavut**

The health and safety of Canadians, visitors, and Parks Canada team members is of the utmost importance to the Parks Canada Agency as we work to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Acting on the advice of public health authorities, on March 18, Parks Canada closed all Parks Canada places in Nunavut, including all national parks and the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site, under a Superintendent's Order, effective until further notice. Through this order, all visitors and researchers are prohibited from entering Parks Canada places in Nunavut; however, Inuit may continue to access these places while exercising their rights under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Parks Canada has decided to continue the closure of the Nunavut national parks and national historic site through this Superintendent's Order until at least August 31, 2020, as Canada and Nunavut continue to respond to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

Given the significance of this decision, it was important for Parks Canada to receive advice and guidance on this decision from Joint Inuit / Government Park Planning and Management Committees (JPMCs) and the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site's Franklin Interim Advisory Committee (FIAC). The advice from our JPMCs is in support of continuing the closure to at least August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Parks Canada recognizes that this will have significant impacts on field research you have planned for this season. Parks Canada believes this is the best action that can be taken to support public health guidance on physical distancing and to reduce exposure for high-risk individuals and communities to the virus.

Future steps exploring the re-opening of Nunavut national parks and national historic site are being assessed. Incremental, adaptive and safe re-opening will align with JPMC and FIAC advice, community interests and territorial and national government resumption strategies. We will advise you of the re-opening as soon as possible.

To discuss the specific impacts on your projects and programs, as well as the next steps for permit or amendment applications, please contact Maryse Mahy, Research Coordinator for the Nunavut Field Unit ([pc.rechercheparcsnunavut-nunavutparksresearch.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.rechercheparcsnunavut-nunavutparksresearch.pc@canada.ca)). While working remotely, where network connectivity may be problematic, Maryse continues to also use a Gmail account for work purposes ([maryse.mahyPCA@gmail.com](mailto:maryse.mahyPCA@gmail.com)).

Sincerely



Trent Peters  
Acting Field Unit Superintendent  
Parks Canada Agency, Nunavut Field Unit  
P.O. Box 278  
Iqaluit, Nunavut XoA oHo  
[trent.peters@canada.ca](mailto:trent.peters@canada.ca)