

Investigation 2



The Effects of Global Warming on the Far North

To: **Elliott Evans**
From: **Ethan Everett**

Hi Elliott,

Our first night was difficult, because of the cold. Luckily, a group of Inuit came to our rescue in the wee hours of the morning. They laughed when we told them we had been very cold, since they find it warmer than usual this year.

But when it gets right down to it, global warming is no laughing matter for the Inuit. Average winter temperatures have risen by 3°C over the last 50 years, and their lifestyle is changing as a result. With the cold season growing shorter, the ice cover is forming later on and it's not as thick.

The Inuit travel over the ice pack to fish and hunt for seal. But they are more and more afraid of going out early in the season, because the ice is too thin and they can break through. Some experts say the ice cover could disappear for good within the next 40 years! How will the people here find food?

Bobby, a young Inuk, told us that polar bears are thinner than before and having difficulty feeding their young. They too find it risky to venture out onto the ice now.

Even in Bobby's village, the ground is starting to thaw. Over the last few years, homes and roads have been damaged as a result.

We were very lucky that our rescuers found us here. They had left by snowmobile on a hunting expedition but were forced to turn back by strong winds, which can be very dangerous. They say the weather here is becoming more and more unpredictable.

In fact, a big snowstorm seems to be heading our way, so we can't get back just yet. Our friends have begun building a shelter. I'll check back in with you as soon as I can.

Talk to you soon!

Ethan