

Jesse Tungilik

Jesse grew up in several communities in Nunavut and the NWT but finished high school in British Columbia. He is a lifelong traveler and a lover of the outdoors. The son of a Wildlife Conservation Officer and a senior government bureaucrat, he was exposed to wildlife management issues and northern governance at a young age and remains passionate about both issues to this day.

His very first job was at the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut where he was a page for the inauguration and first session. Jesse loves trying new things and in between his travels, he has worked with Canadian Wildlife Service scientists in the lab and in the field, tracked the magnetic north pole, serviced and maintained medical equipment for the Baffin Regional Hospital, volunteered with the Canadian Coast Guard, served as registrar of historic sites for the Government of Nunavut and represented Canadian Inuit youth through Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the National Inuit Youth Council.

Jesse has been working for Students on Ice Expeditions for close to two years and is an alumnus of the Students on Ice program. In 2001, he became the first Canadian Inuk to reach the Antarctic continent. His passion for preserving Inuit culture and desire to immerse himself in the most remote and wild places in the world has led to his involvement with the Arctic Council and has drawn him to such wonders as Easter Island in the South Pacific to the vast steppes of northern Mongolia. He also loves Kayaking and wants to learn how to build traditional Greenlandic and Baffin Island style Kayaks.