



POLAR HORIZONS POLAIRES

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To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to provide a letter of support for Sigbjørn Rønbeck's project *Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society*.

As the author of the book "*In the Footsteps of Abraham Ulrikab*," which retraces the travels and the death, in Europe in 1880–1881, of eight Labrador Inuit recruited by Johan Adrian Jacobsen on behalf of Carl Hagenbeck, as and the editor of "*Voyage with the Labrador Eskimos, 1880–1881*," the English translation of Jacobsen's diary during his travels with the Inuit, I have seen first hand how important the writings of Johan Adrian Jacobsen are for today's Labrador Inuit.

It took more than 130 years for the Labrador Inuit's community of origin to finally learn the truth about what had happened to their ancestors, and Jacobsen's journal contained the answer to so many of their questions. Jacobsen's life, his archives, his legacy not having been studied extensively yet, his writings still hold tons of secrets that could make a world of difference to families of the individuals he hired.

As the president of *Polar Horizons Inc.*, a Canadian enterprise that is dedicated to making the Arctic, its nature, people and history better known, it will be our pleasure and responsibility to contribute to the *Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society* by sharing material and research about the two groups of Inuit recruited by Jacobsen: the 1877 Greenland Inuit, and the 1880 Labrador Inuit. More specifically, we can help bring to light information that has been hiding in French-language archives.

We see the various projects that will be initiated by the *Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society* not only as opportunities to increase our knowledge of the past, but also as potential ways to start dialogues between Inuit and non-Inuit, or more globally between Indigenous and non-Indigenous. Having witnessed a most inspiring exchange between Johan Adrian's grandson and great-granddaughter with a representative of the descendants of the 1880 Labrador Inuit, we feel that the *Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society* can contribute to the healing and reconciliation process.

Sincerely,

France Rivet