

## Stu McGorman GEOG 272 Term Project Proposal – Mapping/Planning a Canoe trip from the southern BC Border to the Arctic Ocean

For my term project I plan on researching and mapping a route for a canoe trip from the BC boarder with the United States north up to the Arctic Ocean. I first had this idea last June when my friend Mikey Friedland posted the first instalment of his video series documenting his own trip cycling from the southern BC boarder up to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean to raise money for mental health. I was inspired and spent some time tracing different waterways on google earth to came up with a feasible looking canoe route crossing the country in the same way. Since then, this idea has grown into something that I am somewhat committed to trying so I would like to use this course project as an opportunity to put some more in-depth planning and research into this route.

I will first plan out the route using general reference maps—which I have already mostly done on google earth—then I will research each part of the route in more detail. Where possible I will use canoeing resources such as guidebooks—I recently found a copy of the out of print 70's book "British Columbia Canoe Routes" which is apparently still the best guide on canoeing the upper Fraser River—although many parts of the route travel over routes which are not regularly paddled and have limited information about them available. In these areas I will use geographic data to find information about the route, for example I will create elevation profiles of rivers to estimate what kind of current they have.

Once the whole route has been thoroughly researched, I plan on producing several maps for various purposes. I will create combine all my research into one small scale map which gives and overview of the whole route and would be used for general planning purposes for the trip. I will also produce several large-scale maps of specific areas along the route where more detail may be required to navigate rapids, portages, etc., these maps would be most useful to bring along for use during the trip. Finally, I will produce one or several small-scale maps which are more geared towards expressing the trip to others than towards planning the trip. One idea I have in this respect is a flow map which shows the paths, flows and watersheds of the various rivers the route will pass through. These maps may be useful in attracting support if I where to look for sponsors for the trip or try to raise money for some cause. Finally, I plan on producing some form of written report about the trip including time estimates, food/resupply logistics, potential challenges, etc.

#### Work Cited

Canoe Sport British Columbia. (1974). *British Columbia Canoe Routes*. Nunaga Publishing Company LTD

Friedland, Mikey (2021, June 21). *Cycling From the Bottom to The Top of Canada: The Introduction* [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1q5FCm2gGzE>

McGorman, Stuart, (2022, Feb 3). [Google Earth kmz file showing proposed route], submitted to canvas with this assignment