New Insights into the Ancient Throwing Dart Technology of Yukon, Canada.

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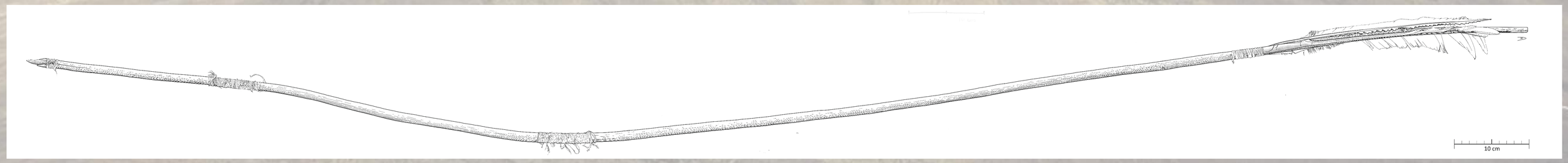
- The seasonal activities and traditions of Northern Dene people were part of a cycle known as Shakat.
- The tradition of mountain sheep and caribou hunting occurred only in the late summer or fall.
- This hunting spear was lost in the late summer snow 6,000 years ago. Is it best understood as a product of its time or a symbol of an exceptionally long lived seasonal hunting tradition?

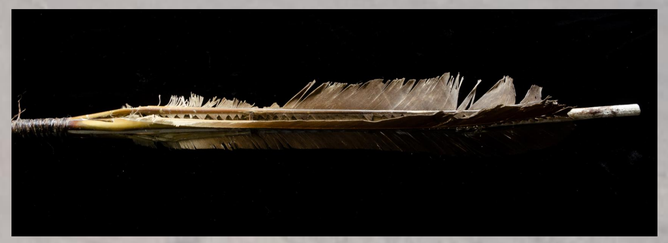
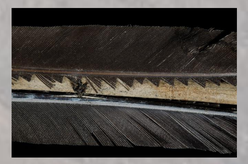
UOC-8493, wood, 5300±27 ^{14}C yr BP, 0.5169±0.0017 F^{14}C, **6182–6137(22.3%) 6131–5995(73.1%) cal BP**



- A chipped stone (chert) point bound in a u-shape haft using animal sinew thread as well as spruce resin glue.

- A variety of materials were used for projectile points including: chert, chalcedony, obsidian, basalt, sandstone, mudstone and quartz crystal. Bone and antler were also used as foreshafts for these weapons in some instances.

- The source of the sinew has yet be identified but it likely comes from caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou)* or moose (*Alces alces*).
- The sinew lashings on this piece are used to bind all components together including three separate birch (*betula*) shaft segments connected at joints called "scarfs".
- On this piece, all lashings have been treated with "Castoreum" which is a waxy secretion from beavers (*Castor Canadensis*). The beaver uses this substance to mark its territory and waterproof its fur.



- The fletching is made from clipped eagle feathers (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* that are tied-on obliquely around the circumference of the shaft.
- It is believed this arrangement would give this dart a counterclockwise spin during flight.