

Glacies Incognita

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Abstract

This is the view from the Naujaat Health Centre, on the northern edge of Hudson Bay. Even in early May, the Bay here is still frozen solid, and one is confronted with ice that goes to the horizon and beyond. Taken during Rural Week 2016.

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What do a stethoscope and a sled perched on the ice of Hudson Bay have in common?

Both allow us, ever so gingerly, to explore the surface of something, the depths of which we don't fully comprehend.

The ice seems placid viewed from above, but just beneath it is motion and chaos.

The ice sometimes pushes up into towers, or splits along fissures, giving clues to the forces contending beneath it.

Finally, the unwary traveller on the ice may cross an unseen boundary and suddenly find himself in over his head and sinking fast.

So too the unwary physician.

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