[Template:Distinguish2](/wiki/Template:Distinguish2" \o "Template:Distinguish2) [Template:For](/wiki/Template:For) [Template:Use Canadian English](/wiki/Template:Use_Canadian_English) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox province or territory of Canada](/wiki/Template:Infobox_province_or_territory_of_Canada) [Template:Contains Canadian text](/wiki/Template:Contains_Canadian_text)

**Nunavut** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); from [Inuktitut](/wiki/Inuktitut): ᓄᓇᕗᑦ [Template:IPA-iu](/wiki/Template:IPA-iu)) is the newest, largest, northernmost, and least populous [territory](/wiki/Provinces_and_territories_of_Canada) of [Canada](/wiki/Canada). It was separated officially from the [Northwest Territories](/wiki/Northwest_Territories) on April 1, 1999, via the Nunavut Act<ref name=act>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and the [Nunavut Land Claims Agreement](/wiki/Nunavut_Land_Claims_Agreement) Act,<ref name=claims>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> though the boundaries had been contemplatively drawn in 1993. The creation of Nunavut resulted in the [first major change to Canada's political map](/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_Canada) since the incorporation of the new province of [Newfoundland and Labrador](/wiki/Newfoundland_and_Labrador) in 1949.

Nunavut comprises a major portion of [Northern Canada](/wiki/Northern_Canada), and most of the [Canadian Arctic Archipelago](/wiki/Canadian_Arctic_Archipelago). Its vast territory makes it the [fifth-largest country subdivision in the world](/wiki/List_of_the_largest_country_subdivisions_by_area), as well as the second-largest in North America (after [Greenland](/wiki/Greenland)). The capital [Iqaluit](/wiki/Iqaluit) (formerly "Frobisher Bay") on [Baffin Island](/wiki/Baffin_Island) in the east, was chosen by the [1995 capital plebiscite](/wiki/Nunavut_capital_plebiscite,_1995). Other major communities include the regional centres of [Rankin Inlet](/wiki/Rankin_Inlet) and [Cambridge Bay](/wiki/Cambridge_Bay). Nunavut also includes [Ellesmere Island](/wiki/Ellesmere_Island) to the far north, as well as the eastern and southern portions of [Victoria Island](/wiki/Victoria_Island_(Canada)) in the west and [Akimiski Island](/wiki/Akimiski_Island) in [James Bay](/wiki/James_Bay) far to the southeast of the rest of the territory. It is the only geo-political region of Canada that is not connected to the rest of North America by highway.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Nunavut is both the least populous and the largest in area of the provinces and territories of Canada. One of the most remote, sparsely settled regions in the world, it has a population of 31,906,[[2]](#cite_note-2) mostly [Inuit](/wiki/Inuit), spread over a land area of just over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), [the size of Western Europe](/wiki/List_of_political_and_geographic_subdivisions_by_total_area_in_excess_of_1,000,000_km²). Nunavut is also home to the [northernmost](/wiki/Northernmost_settlements) permanently inhabited place in the world, [Alert](/wiki/Alert,_Nunavut).[[3]](#cite_note-3) A weather station farther down Ellesmere Island, [Eureka](/wiki/Eureka,_Nunavut), has the lowest average annual temperature of any weather station in Canada.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[thumb|*Niungvaliruluit* ("pointer like a window")](/wiki/File:Niungvaliruluit_Foxe-PI_2002-07-26.jpg) [inuksuk](/wiki/Inuksuk), Foxe peninsula, [Baffin Island](/wiki/Baffin_Island)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Nunavut means "our land" in [Inuktitut](/wiki/Inuktitut).

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Nunavut covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)[[2]](#cite_note-2) of land and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)[[5]](#cite_note-5) of water in Northern Canada. The territory includes part of the mainland, most of the Arctic Archipelago, and all of the islands in [Hudson Bay](/wiki/Hudson_Bay), [James Bay](/wiki/James_Bay), and [Ungava Bay](/wiki/Ungava_Bay) (including the [Belcher Islands](/wiki/Belcher_Islands)), which belonged to the Northwest Territories. This makes it the fifth largest subnational entity (or [administrative division](/wiki/Administrative_division)) in the world. If Nunavut were a country, it would rank 15th in area.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Nunavut has land borders with the Northwest Territories on several islands as well as the mainland, [Manitoba](/wiki/Manitoba) to the south of the Nunavut mainland, [Saskatchewan](/wiki/Saskatchewan) to the southwest (at a single four-corner point), and a small land border with Newfoundland and Labrador on [Killiniq Island](/wiki/Killiniq_Island) and with [Ontario](/wiki/Ontario) in two small locations in [James Bay](/wiki/James_Bay): the larger located west of [Akimiski Island](/wiki/Akimiski_Island) and the smaller around the [Albany River](/wiki/Albany_River) near Fafard Island. It also shares maritime borders with Greenland and the provinces of [Quebec](/wiki/Quebec), Ontario, and Manitoba.

Nunavut's highest point is [Barbeau Peak](/wiki/Barbeau_Peak) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) on Ellesmere Island. The population density is 0.015 persons/km2 (0.006 persons/sq mi), one of the lowest in the world. By comparison, [Greenland](/wiki/Greenland) has approximately the same area and nearly twice the population.[[7]](#cite_note-7)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Nunavut experiences a [polar climate](/wiki/Polar_climate) in most regions, owing to its high latitude and lower continental summertime influence than areas to the west. In more southerly continental areas very cold [subarctic climates](/wiki/Subarctic_climate) can be found, due to July being slightly milder than the required [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for selected locations in Nunavut**[[8]](#cite_note-8) | | | | |
| **City** | **July (°C)** | **July (°F)** | **January (°C)** | **January (°F)** |
| [Alert](/wiki/Alert,_Nunavut) | 6/1 | 43/33 | −29/−36 | −20/−33 |
| [Baker Lake](/wiki/Baker_Lake,_Nunavut) | 17/6 | 63/43 | −28/−35 | −18/−31 |
| [Cambridge Bay](/wiki/Cambridge_Bay) | 13/5 | 55/41 | −29/−35 | −19/−32 |
| [Eureka](/wiki/Eureka,_Nunavut) | 9/3 | 49/37 | −33/−40 | −27/−40 |
| [Iqaluit](/wiki/Iqaluit) | 12/4 | 54/39 | −23/−31 | −9/−24 |
| [Kugluktuk](/wiki/Kugluktuk) | 16/6 | 60/43 | −23/−31 | −10/−25 |
| [Rankin Inlet](/wiki/Rankin_Inlet) | 15/6 | 59/43 | −27/−34 | −17/−30 |

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Inuit women at](/wiki/File:Eskimo_Women_at_Ashe_Inlet.jpg) [Ashe Inlet](/wiki/Ashe_Inlet), 1884. The region now known as Nunavut has supported a continuous [indigenous](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas) population for approximately 4,000 years. Most [historians](/wiki/Historians) identify the coast of Baffin Island with the [*Helluland*](/wiki/Helluland) described in Norse [sagas](/wiki/Saga), so it is possible that the inhabitants of the region had occasional contact with [Norse](/wiki/Norsemen) sailors.

### Archaeological findings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

In September 2008, researchers reported on the evaluation of existing and newly excavated [archaeological](/wiki/Archaeological) remains, including [yarn](/wiki/Yarn) spun from a [hare](/wiki/Hare), rats, [tally sticks](/wiki/Tally_stick), a carved wooden face [mask](/wiki/Mask) that depicts [Caucasian](/wiki/Caucasian_race) features, and possible architectural material. The materials were collected in five seasons of [excavation](/wiki/Excavation_(archaeology)) at [Cape Tanfield](/wiki/Cape_Tanfield). Scholars determined that these provide evidence of European traders and possibly settlers on [Baffin Island](/wiki/Baffin_Island), not later than 1000 CE (and thus older than or contemporaneous with [L'Anse aux Meadows](/wiki/L'Anse_aux_Meadows)). They seem to indicate prolonged contact, possibly up to 1450. The origin of the [Old World](/wiki/Old_World) contact is unclear; the article states: "Dating of some yarn and other artifacts, presumed to be left by [Vikings](/wiki/Vikings) on Baffin Island, have produced an age that predates the Vikings by several hundred years. So [...] you have to consider the possibility that as remote as it may seem, these finds may represent evidence of contact with Europeans prior to the Vikings' arrival in Greenland."[[9]](#cite_note-9) [thumb|Inuit village near](/wiki/File:Igloos.jpg) [Frobisher Bay](/wiki/Frobisher_Bay), 1865

### First written historical accounts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

The written historical accounts of Nunavut begin in 1576, with an account by an English [explorer](/wiki/Explorer) [Martin Frobisher](/wiki/Martin_Frobisher), while leading an expedition to find the [Northwest Passage](/wiki/Northwest_Passage), thought he had discovered gold ore around the body of water now known as [Frobisher Bay](/wiki/Frobisher_Bay) on the coast of [Baffin Island](/wiki/Baffin_Island).[[10]](#cite_note-10) The ore turned out to be worthless, but Frobisher made the first recorded European contact with the [Inuit](/wiki/Inuit). Other explorers in search of the elusive Northwest Passage followed in the 17th century, including [Henry Hudson](/wiki/Henry_Hudson), [William Baffin](/wiki/William_Baffin) and [Robert Bylot](/wiki/Robert_Bylot).

### Cold War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Cornwallis](/wiki/Cornwallis_Island_(Nunavut)) and [Ellesmere Islands](/wiki/Ellesmere_Island) featured in the history of the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War) in the 1950s. Concerned about the area's strategic geopolitical position, the federal government [relocated](/wiki/High_Arctic_relocation) Inuit from [Nunavik](/wiki/Nunavik) (northern [Quebec](/wiki/Quebec)) to [Resolute](/wiki/Resolute,_Nunavut) and [Grise Fiord](/wiki/Grise_Fiord,_Nunavut). In the unfamiliar and hostile conditions, they faced starvation[[11]](#cite_note-11) but were forced to stay.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Forty years later, the [Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples](/wiki/Royal_Commission_on_Aboriginal_Peoples) issued a report titled *The High Arctic Relocation: A Report on the 1953–55 Relocation*.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The government paid compensation to those affected and their descendants, but it did not apologize.[[14]](#cite_note-14) [thumb|Glacially polished banded coloured](/wiki/File:The_Inuit_call_it_Beautiful_Rock.jpg) [marble](/wiki/Marble) on [Baffin Island](/wiki/Baffin_Island). Local Inuit call it Beautiful Rock. Ilkoo Anguikjuak of [Clyde River](/wiki/Clyde_River,_Nunavut) in the distance. His early childhood was spent at his family's camp nearby.

### Recent history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

In 1976, as part of the land claims negotiations between the [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](/wiki/Inuit_Tapiriit_Kanatami) (then called the "Inuit Tapirisat of Canada") and the [federal government](/wiki/Government_of_Canada), the parties discussed division of the Northwest Territories to provide a separate territory for the Inuit. On April 14, 1982, a [plebiscite on division](/wiki/Northwest_Territories_division_plebiscite,_1982) was held throughout the Northwest Territories. A majority of the residents voted in favour and the federal government gave a conditional agreement seven months later.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The land claims agreement was completed in September 1992 and ratified by nearly 85% of the voters in Nunavut in a [referendum](/wiki/Nunavut_creation_referendum,_1992). On July 9, 1993, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act[[16]](#cite_note-16) and the Nunavut Act[[17]](#cite_note-17) were passed by the [Canadian Parliament](/wiki/Parliament_of_Canada). The transition to establish Nunavut Territory was completed on April 1, 1999.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The creation of Nunavut has been followed by growth in the capital, Iqaluit—a modest increase from 5,200 in 2001 to 6,600 in 2011.

## Demography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|text-top|Coast of the](/wiki/File:Baffin_Island_Northeast_Coast_1997-08-07.jpg) [Remote Peninsula](/wiki/Remote_Peninsula) in [Sam Ford Fjord](/wiki/Sam_Ford_Fjord), northeast [Baffin Island](/wiki/Baffin_Island)

As of the [2011 Census](/wiki/Canada_2011_Census), the population of Nunavut was 31,906, an 8.3% increase from 2006.[[2]](#cite_note-2) In 2006, 24,640 people identified themselves as Inuit (83.6% of the total population), 100 as [First Nations](/wiki/First_Nations) (0.34%), 130 [Métis](/wiki/Métis_people_(Canada)) (0.44%) and 4,410 as non-aboriginal (14.96%).[[19]](#cite_note-19)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ten largest communities | | | |
| **Municipality** | **2011** | **2006** | **growth** |
| [Iqaluit](/wiki/Iqaluit) | 6,699 | 6,184 | 8.3% |
| [Rankin Inlet](/wiki/Rankin_Inlet) | 2,577<ref name=2011censuscorrection>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> | 2,358 | 9.3% |
| [Arviat](/wiki/Arviat) | 2,318 | 2,060 | 12.5% |
| [Baker Lake](/wiki/Baker_Lake,_Nunavut) | 1,872 | 1,728 | 8.3% |
| [Cambridge Bay](/wiki/Cambridge_Bay) | 1,608 | 1,477 | 8.9% |
| [Pond Inlet](/wiki/Pond_Inlet) | 1,549 | 1,315 | 17.8% |
| [Igloolik](/wiki/Igloolik) | 1,454 | 1,538 | −5.5% |
| [Kugluktuk](/wiki/Kugluktuk) | 1,450 | 1,302 | 11.4% |
| [Pangnirtung](/wiki/Pangnirtung) | 1,425 | 1,325 | 7.5% |
| [Cape Dorset](/wiki/Cape_Dorset) | 1,363 | 1,236 | 10.3% |

The population growth rate of Nunavut has been well above the Canadian average for several decades, mostly due to birth rates significantly higher than the Canadian average—a trend that continues. Between April and July 2010, Nunavut had the highest population growth rate of any Canadian province or territory, at a rate of 1.01%.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The second highest was Yukon, with a growth rate of 0.90%. However, Nunavut has a large net loss from migration, due to many native Inuit leaving the territory for better economic opportunity elsewhere.

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Along with the [Inuit language](/wiki/Inuit_language) (Inuktitut and [Inuinnaqtun](/wiki/Inuinnaqtun)), English and French are also official languages.[[21]](#cite_note-21) In his 2000 commissioned report (*Aajiiqatigiingniq Language of Instruction Research Paper*) to the Nunavut Department of Education, Ian Martin of [York University](/wiki/York_University) states that a "long-term threat to [Inuit language](/wiki/Inuit_language) from English is found everywhere, and current school language policies and practices on language are contributing to that threat" if Nunavut schools follow the Northwest Territories model. He provides a 20-year language plan to create a "fully functional bilingual society, in Inuktitut and English" by 2020. The plan provides different models, including:

* "Qulliq Model", for most Nunavut communities, with Inuktitut as the main language of instruction.
* "Inuinnaqtun Immersion Model", for language reclamation and immersion to revitalize Inuinnaqtun as a living language.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Kugluktuk_NT.jpg)[Kugluktuk](/wiki/Kugluktuk)

* "Mixed Population Model", mainly for Iqaluit (possibly for Rankin Inlet), as the 40% [*Qallunaat*](/wiki/Wiktionary:Qallunaat), or non-Inuit, population may have different requirements.[[22]](#cite_note-22)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Looking_down_on_Pangnirtung,_Nunavut_-f.jpg)[Pangnirtung](/wiki/Pangnirtung)

Of the 29,025 responses to the census question concerning 'mother tongue', the most commonly reported languages were:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | [Inuktitut](/wiki/Inuktitut) | 20,185 | 69.54% |
| 2. | **English** | 7,765 | 26.75% |
| 3. | **French** | 370 | 1.27% |
| 4. | [Inuinnaqtun](/wiki/Inuinnaqtun) | 295 | 1.02% |

Only English and French were counted as official languages in the census. Nunavut's official languages are shown in bold. Figures shown are for the number of single-language responses and the percentage of total single-language responses.[[23]](#cite_note-23) In the 2006 census it was reported that 2,305 people (7.86%) living in Nunavut had no knowledge of either official language of Canada (English or French).[[24]](#cite_note-24)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

The largest denominations by number of adherents according to the 2001 census were the [Anglican Church of Canada](/wiki/Anglican_Church_of_Canada) with 15,440 (58%); the Roman Catholic Church ([Roman Catholic Diocese of Churchill-Baie d'Hudson](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Churchill-Baie_d'Hudson)) with 6,205 (23%); and [Pentecostal](/wiki/Pentecostal) with 1,175 (4%).[[25]](#cite_note-25) In total, 93.2% of the population were Christian.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The economy of Nunavut is Inuit and Territorial Government, mining, oil gas mineral exploration, arts crafts, hunting, fishing, whaling, tourism, transportation, education - [Nunavut Arctic College](/wiki/Nunavut_Arctic_College), housing, military and research – new Canadian High Arctic Research Station CHARS in planning for Cambridge Bay and high north Alert Bay Station. Iqaluit hosts the annual Nunavut Mining Symposium every April, this is a tradeshow that showcases many economic activities on going in Nunavut.

### Mining and exploration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

There are currently two major mines in operation in Nunavut. Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd – Meadowbank Division. Meadowbank is an open pit [gold](/wiki/Gold) [mine](/wiki/Gold_mining) with an estimated mine life 2010–2018 and employs 678 persons. Cost to produce an ounce of gold is $913.00[[26]](#cite_note-26) The north holds vast reserves of coal, oil, and gas and, increasingly, these areas are being looked at to move into production.

The other mine in production is the Mary River Iron Ore mine operated by Baffinland Iron Mines. It is located close to Pond Inlet on North Baffin Island. They produce a high grade direct ship iron ore.

### Advancing mining projects[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Company** | **In the region of** | **Material** |
| Meliadine Gold | Agnico-Eagle | [Rankin Inlet](/wiki/Rankin_Inlet) | Gold |
| Back River Project | Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. | [Bathurst Inlet](/wiki/Bathurst_Inlet) | Gold |
| Izok Corridor Project | MMG Resources Inc. | [Kugluktuk](/wiki/Kugluktuk) | Gold, Copper, Silver, Zinc |
| Hackett River | Glencore | [Kugluktuk](/wiki/Kugluktuk) | Copper, Lead, Silver, Zinc |
| Chidliak | Peregrine Diamonds Ltd. | [Iqaluit](/wiki/Iqaluit) / [Pangnirtung](/wiki/Pangnirtung) | Diamonds |
| Committee Bay, Three Bluffs Gold Project | Auryn Resources Inc | [Naujaat](/wiki/Naujaat) | Gold |
| Kiggavik | Areva Resources | [Baker Lake](/wiki/Baker_Lake,_Nunavut) | Uranium |
| Hope Bay Doris North Mine | TMAC Resources Inc | [Cambridge Bay](/wiki/Cambridge_Bay) | Gold |
| Roche Bay | Advanced Exploration | [Hall Beach](/wiki/Hall_Beach) | Iron Ore |
| Ulu and Lupin | Elgin Mining Ltd. | [Contwoyto Lake](/wiki/Contwoyto_Lake) - connected to [Yellowknife](/wiki/Yellowknife) with an ice road | Gold |
| Storm Copper Property | Aston Bay Holdings | [Taloyoak](/wiki/Taloyoak) | Copper |

### Historic mines[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

* [Lupin Mine](/wiki/Lupin_Mine) 1982–2005, gold, current owner Elgin Mining Ltd located near the Northwest Territories boundary near [Contwoyto Lake](/wiki/Contwoyto_Lake))[[27]](#cite_note-27)\* [Polaris Mine](/wiki/Polaris_Mine) 1982–2002, lead and [zinc](/wiki/Zinc) (located on [Little Cornwallis Island](/wiki/Little_Cornwallis_Island), not far from Resolute)
* [Nanisivik Mine](/wiki/Nanisivik_Mine) 1976–2002, lead and zinc, prior owner Breakwater Resources Ltd (near [Arctic Bay](/wiki/Arctic_Bay,_Nunavut)) at [Nanisivik](/wiki/Nanisivik,_Nunavut)
* [Rankin](/wiki/Rankin_Inlet) Nickel Mine 1957–1962, nickel, copper and platinum group metals
* [Jericho Diamond Mine](/wiki/Jericho_Diamond_Mine) 2006–2008, diamond (located 400 km, 250 mi, northeast of [Yellowknife](/wiki/Yellowknife)) 2012 produced diamonds from existing stockpile. No new mining; closed.
* Doris North Gold Mine [Newmont Mining](/wiki/Newmont_Mining) approx [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) underground drifting/mining, none milled or processed. Newmont closed the mine and sold it to TMAC Resources in 2013. TMAC is now advancing this project.

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

* [Northern Transportation Company Limited](/wiki/Northern_Transportation_Company_Limited), owned by Norterra, a [holding company](/wiki/Holding_company) that was, until April 1, 2014, jointly owned by the [Inuvialuit](/wiki/Inuvialuit) of the Northwest Territories and the Inuit of Nunavut.<ref name=norterra>[The NorTerra Group of Companies](http://www.norterra.com/oc_1.html), corporate website</ref>[[28]](#cite_note-28)[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30)

### Renewable power[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|right|Open ocean absorbs more sunshine, while sea ice, shown here in Nunavut,](/wiki/File:Aerial_view_of_the_edge_of_the_ice_in_Nunavut_2.jpg) [reflects](/wiki/Albedo) more, accelerating freezing. Currently the people of Nunavut rely primarily on [diesel fuel](/wiki/Diesel_fuel)[[31]](#cite_note-31) to run generators and heat homes, with [fossil fuel](/wiki/Fossil_fuel) shipments coming from southern Canada by plane or boat because there are few to no roads or rail links to the region.[[32]](#cite_note-32) There is a government effort to use more [renewable energy](/wiki/Renewable_energy) sources,[[33]](#cite_note-33) which is generally supported by the community.[[34]](#cite_note-34) This support comes from Nunavut feeling the [effects of global warming](/wiki/Effects_of_global_warming).[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) Former Nunavut Premier [Eva Aariak](/wiki/Eva_Aariak) said in 2011, "[Climate change](/wiki/Climate_change) is very much upon us. It is affecting our hunters, the animals, the thinning of the ice is a big concern, as well as erosion from [permafrost](/wiki/Permafrost) melting."[[32]](#cite_note-32) The region is [warming](/wiki/Global_warming) about twice as fast as the global average, according to the UN's [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](/wiki/Intergovernmental_Panel_on_Climate_Change).

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor) [thumb|left|Legislative assembly building in](/wiki/File:Leg_Building_Iqaluit_2000-08-27.jpg) [Iqaluit](/wiki/Iqaluit)

Nunavut has [a Commissioner](/wiki/Commissioner#Canadian_territories) appointed by the federal [Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs](/wiki/Minister_of_Indigenous_and_Northern_Affairs). As in the other territories, the commissioner's role is symbolic and is analogous to that of a [Lieutenant-Governor](/wiki/Lieutenant-Governor_(Canada)). While [the Commissioner](/wiki/Commissioners_of_Nunavut) is not formally a representative of [Canada's head of state](/wiki/Monarchy_of_Canada), a role roughly analogous to representing [The Crown](/wiki/The_Crown) has accrued to the position.

Nunavut elects a single member of the [Canadian House of Commons](/wiki/Canadian_House_of_Commons). This makes Nunavut the largest parliamentary riding in the world by area.

The members of the [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameralism) [Legislative Assembly of Nunavut](/wiki/Legislative_Assembly_of_Nunavut) are elected individually; there are [no parties](/wiki/Non-partisan_democracy) and the legislature is [consensus-based](/wiki/Consensus_government).[[37]](#cite_note-37) The head of government, the [premier of Nunavut](/wiki/Premier_of_Nunavut), is elected by, and from the members of the legislative assembly. As of January 21, 2014, the Premier is [Peter Taptuna](/wiki/Peter_Taptuna).

Faced by criticism of his policies, former [Premier](/wiki/Premier_(Canada)) [Paul Okalik](/wiki/Paul_Okalik) set up an advisory council of eleven elders, whose function it is to help incorporate *"*[*Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*](/wiki/Inuit_Qaujimajatuqangit)*"* (Inuit culture and traditional knowledge, often referred to in English as "IQ") into the territory's political and governmental decisions.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|left|Ceremony on the occasion of the foundation of Nunavut, April 1, 1999](/wiki/File:Nunavut-Feierlichkeit_(01-04-99).jpg) [thumb|Regions of Nunavut](/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Nunavut_regions.png) Owing to Nunavut's vast size, the stated goal of the territorial government has been to decentralize governance beyond the region's capital. Three [regions](/wiki/List_of_regions_of_Nunavut)—[Kitikmeot](/wiki/Kitikmeot_Region,_Nunavut), [Kivalliq](/wiki/Kivalliq_Region) and [Qikiqtaaluk/Baffin](/wiki/Qikiqtaaluk_Region)—are the basis for more localized administration, although they lack autonomous governments of their own.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The territory has an annual budget of [C$](/wiki/Canadian_dollar)700 million, provided almost entirely by the federal government. Former Prime Minister [Paul Martin](/wiki/Paul_Martin) designated support for Northern Canada as one of his priorities for 2004, with an extra $500 million to be divided among the three territories.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In 2001, the government of New Brunswick[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) collaborated with the federal government and the technology firm [SSI Micro](/wiki/SSI_Micro) to launch [Qiniq](/wiki/Qiniq), a unique network that uses [satellite](/wiki/Satellite) delivery to provide [broadband Internet access](/wiki/Broadband_Internet_access) to 24 communities in Nunavut. As a result, the territory was named one of the world's "Smart 25 Communities" in 2006 by the [Intelligent Community Forum](/wiki/Intelligent_Community_Forum), a worldwide organization that honours innovation in broadband technologies. The [Nunavut Public Library Services](/wiki/Nunavut_Public_Library_Services), the public library system serving the territory, also provides various information services to the territory.

In September 2012, Premier Aariak welcomed [Prince Edward](/wiki/Prince_Edward,_Earl_of_Wessex) and [Sophie, Countess of Wessex](/wiki/Sophie,_Countess_of_Wessex), to Nunavut as part of the events marking the [Diamond Jubilee](/wiki/Diamond_Jubilee) of [Queen Elizabeth II](/wiki/Queen_Elizabeth_II).[[38]](#cite_note-38)

### Licence plates[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

The [Nunavut licence plate](/wiki/Vehicle_registration_plates_of_Nunavut) was originally created for the Northwest Territories in the 1970s. The plate has long been famous worldwide for its unique design in the shape of a [polar bear](/wiki/Polar_bear). Nunavut was licensed by the NWT to use the same [licence plate](/wiki/Vehicle_registration_plate) design in 1999 when it became a separate territory,<ref name=Rogers>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> but adopted its own plate design in March 2012 for launch in August 2012—a rectangle that prominently features the northern lights, a polar bear and an [inuksuk](/wiki/Inuksuk).<ref name=Rogers/>[[39]](#cite_note-39)

### Flag and coat of arms[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

The flag and the coat of arms of Nunavut were designed by Andrew Karpik from [Pangnirtung](/wiki/Pangnirtung).[[40]](#cite_note-40)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[thumb|upright|Inuit drum dancing,](/wiki/File:Drumdance.jpg) [Gjoa Haven](/wiki/Gjoa_Haven), Nunavut [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The indigenous [music of Nunavut](/wiki/Music_of_Nunavut) includes [Inuit throat singing](/wiki/Inuit_throat_singing) and drum-led dancing, along with [country music](/wiki/Country_music), [bluegrass](/wiki/Bluegrass_music), [square dancing](/wiki/Square_dancing), the [button accordion](/wiki/Button_accordion) and the [fiddle](/wiki/Fiddle), an infusion of European influence.

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

The [Inuit Broadcasting Corporation](/wiki/Inuit_Broadcasting_Corporation) is based in Nunavut. The [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation](/wiki/Canadian_Broadcasting_Corporation) (CBC) serves Nunavut through a radio and television production centre in Iqaluit, and a bureau in Rankin Inlet. The territory is also served by two regional weekly newspapers [*Nunatsiaq News*](/wiki/Nunatsiaq_News) published by Nortext and [*Nunavut News/North*](/wiki/News/North), published by [Northern News Services](/wiki/Northern_News_Services), who also publish the regional *Kivalliq News*.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Broadband internet is provided by [Qiniq](/wiki/Qiniq) and [Northwestel](/wiki/Northwestel) through Netkaster.[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43)

### Film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

The film production company [Isuma](/wiki/Isuma) is based in Igloolik. Co-founded by [Zacharias Kunuk](/wiki/Zacharias_Kunuk) and [Norman Cohn](/wiki/Norman_Cohn_(film_producer)) in 1990, the company produced the 1999 feature [*Atanarjuat*](/wiki/Atanarjuat), winner of the [Caméra d'Or](/wiki/Caméra_d'Or) for Best First Feature Film at the 2001 [Cannes Film Festival](/wiki/Cannes_Film_Festival). It was the first feature film written, directed, and acted entirely in [Inuktitut](/wiki/Inuktitut).

In November 2006, the [National Film Board of Canada](/wiki/National_Film_Board_of_Canada) (NFB) and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation announced the start of the Nunavut Animation Lab, offering animation training to Nunavut artists at workshops in Iqaluit, Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung.<ref name=George>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Films from the Nunavut Animation Lab include [Alethea Arnaquq-Baril's](/wiki/Alethea_Arnaquq-Baril) 2010 digital animation short *Lumaajuuq*, winner of the Best Aboriginal Award at the [Golden Sheaf Awards](/wiki/Golden_Sheaf_Awards) and named Best Canadian Short Drama at the [imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival](/wiki/ImagineNATIVE_Film_+_Media_Arts_Festival).[[44]](#cite_note-44) In November 2011, the government of Nunavut and the NFB jointly announced the launch of a DVD and online collection entitled [*Unikkausivut*](/wiki/Unikkausivut) (Inuktitut: *Sharing Our Stories*), which will make over 100 NFB films by and about [Inuit](/wiki/Inuit) available in Inuktitut, [Inuinnaqtun](/wiki/Inuinnaqtun) and other Inuit languages, as well as English and French. The Government of Nunavut is distributing *Unikkausivut* to every school in the territory.<ref name=Unikkausivut>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref><ref name=Nunatsiaq>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

### Performing arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Artcirq](/wiki/Artcirq) is a collective of [Inuit](/wiki/Inuit) [circus](/wiki/Circus) performers based in Igloolik.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The group has performed around the world, including at the [2010 Olympic Winter Games](/wiki/2010_Olympic_Winter_Games) in Vancouver, British Columbia.

### Nunavummiut (notable people)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Susan Aglukark](/wiki/Susan_Aglukark) is an Inuit singer and songwriter. She has released six albums and has won several [Juno Awards](/wiki/Juno_Awards). She blends the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary pop music arrangements to tell the stories of her people, the Inuit of Arctic.

On May 3, 2008, the [Kronos Quartet](/wiki/Kronos_Quartet) premiered a collaborative piece with [Inuit throat singer](/wiki/Inuit_throat_singing) [Tanya Tagaq](/wiki/Tanya_Tagaq), entitled *Nunavut*, based on an Inuit folk story. Tagaq is also known internationally for her collaborations with [Icelandic](/wiki/Iceland) pop star [Björk](/wiki/Björk).

[Jordin John Kudluk Tootoo](/wiki/Jordin_Tootoo) (Inuktitut syllabics: ᔪᐊᑕᓐ ᑐᑐ; born February 2, 1983 in [Churchill, Manitoba](/wiki/Churchill,_Manitoba), Canada) is a professional ice hockey player with the [New Jersey Devils](/wiki/New_Jersey_Devils) of the [National Hockey League](/wiki/National_Hockey_League) (NHL). Although born in Manitoba, Tootoo grew up in Rankin Inlet, where he was taught to skate and play hockey by his father, Barney.

### Alcohol[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Due to prohibition laws influenced by local and traditional beliefs, the territory of Nunavut has a highly regulated alcohol market. It is the last outpost of prohibition in Canada, and it is often easier to obtain firearms than it is to obtain alcohol.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Every community in Nunavut has slightly differing regulations regarding alcohol, but as a whole it is still very restrictive. In total, 7 communities have bans against alcohol and another 14 have orders being restricted by local committees. Because of these laws, a very lucrative bootlegging market has appeared where people mark up the prices of bottles by extraordinary amounts.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Despite the bans and restrictions, alcohol has found its way into the hands of many people and leading to widespread alcohol related crime. One lawyer estimated that some 95% of police calls are alcohol related.[[48]](#cite_note-48) The RCMP estimate that the bootleg liquor market in Nunavut rakes in some $10 million a year.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Alcohol is also believed to be a contributing factor to the high rates of violence, suicide and homicide in the territory. A special task force was created in 2010 to study and deal with the increasing problems related to alcohol in Nunavut, and when reconvened, recommended the government to ease up on alcohol restrictions. With prohibition shown to be highly ineffective historically, it is believed these laws are the ones contributing to the widespread social ills that the territory has experienced. However, many residents are still skeptical about the effectiveness of liquor sale liberalization and wish to ban it completely. In 2014, the government of Nunavut decided to move towards more legalization. A liquor store will be opened in Iqaluit, the capital, for the first time in 38 years.[[46]](#cite_note-46)

### Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

Nunavut competed at the [Arctic Winter Games](/wiki/Arctic_Winter_Games) and co-hosted the 2002 edition.

[Hockey Nunavut](/wiki/Hockey_Nunavut) was founded in 1999 and competes in the [Maritime-Hockey North Junior C Championship](/wiki/Maritime-Hockey_North_Junior_C_Championship).

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books) [Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Chemetco](/wiki/Chemetco#Air-borne_dioxin_production), U.S. company that produced air-borne dioxin inferred to be the source of contamination in Nunavut
* [Archaeology in Nunavut](/wiki/Archaeology_in_Nunavut)
* [Scouting and Guiding in Nunavut](/wiki/Scouting_and_Guiding_in_Nunavut)
* [Symbols of Nunavut](/wiki/Symbols_of_Nunavut)
* [Arctic policy of Canada](/wiki/Arctic_policy_of_Canada)

## Footnotes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Note](/wiki/Template:Note) Effective November 12, 2008.

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* Alia, Valerie. (2007) [*Names and Nunavut Culture and Identity in Arctic Canada*](https://books.google.com/books?id=rVoNxuS4n1gC&lpg=PP1&dq=Names%20and%20Nunavut%20Culture%20and%20Identity%20in%20Arctic%20Canada%20Names%20and%20Nunavut%20Culture%20and%20Identity%20in%20Arctic%20Canada&pg=PP1). New York: Berghahn Books. ISBN 1-84545-165-1
* Henderson, Ailsa. (2007) [*Nunavut: Rethinking Political Culture*](https://books.google.com/books?id=027TdMIVNkcC&lpg=PP1&dq=Nunavut%3A%20Rethinking%20Political%20Culture&pg=PP1). Vancouver: [University of British Columbia Press](/wiki/University_of_British_Columbia_Press). ISBN 0-7748-1423-3
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
* Kulchyski, Peter Keith. (2005) [*Like the Sound of a Drum: Aboriginal Cultural Politics in Denendeh and Nunavut*](https://books.google.com/books?id=wexIGjitk4gC&lpg=PP1&dq=Like%20the%20Sound%20of%20a%20Drum%3A%20Aboriginal%20Cultural%20Politics%20in%20Denendeh%20and%20Nunavut&pg=PP1). Winnipeg: [University of Manitoba Press](/wiki/University_of_Manitoba_Press). ISBN 0-88755-178-5
* Sanna, Ellyn, and William Hunter. (2008) *Canada's Modern-Day Aboriginal Peoples Nunavut & Evolving Relationships*. Markham, Ont: Scholastic Canada. ISBN 978-0-7791-7322-8

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category) [Template:Wiktionary](/wiki/Template:Wiktionary)

* [Nunavut Kavamat / Government of Nunavut](http://www.gov.nu.ca/): Official site
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Map showing regions of Nunavut](http://www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng/images/Nunavutmap.gif) (from Nunavut Government website)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)
* [Legislative Assembly of Nunavut](http://www.assembly.nu.ca/)
* [Nunavut Planning Commission](http://www.nunavut.ca/)
* [Annual Nunavut Mining Symposium held in April each year](http://www.nunavutminingsymposium.ca/)
* [Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.](http://www.tunngavik.com/): Nunavut Land Claims website
* [The Nunavut Act of 1993 at Canadian Legal Information Institute](http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.6/whole.html)
* [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback): Martin, Ian. *Aajiiqatigiingniq Language of Instruction Research Paper*. Nunavut: Dept. of Education, 2000.[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)

**Tourism**

* [Explore Nunavut: Travel information and community guides](http://www.explorenunavut.com/)
* [Nunavut Parks](http://www.nunavutparks.com/)
* [Nunavut Tourism](http://www.nunavuttourism.com/)

**Journalism**

* [CBC North Radio](http://www.cbc.ca/north/): hear Inuktitut and English radio from Nunavut
* [Territorial newspaper reporting in Inuktitut and English](http://www.nunatsiaq.com), [Nunatsiaq News](/wiki/Nunatsiaq_News)
* [Nunavut News](http://www.nnsl.com/nunavutnews/nunavut.html) from [News/North](/wiki/News/North)

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