

N U N A V U T



Map by E. Waters

Base Map Source: Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa
 Data Sources: <http://www.inac.gc.ca/nunavut/Backgrounder/facts.html>;
<http://www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/information/info100.html>;
<http://npc.nunavut.ca/eng/nunavut/general.html>

Nunavut came into being on April 1, 1999, as a new Canadian Territory. It is about 80% Inuit, the correct name for “Eskimos,” and settles a long-standing land claim between the Nunavut Inuit and the Government of Canada. Nunavut covers most of the Inuit ancestral lands that they have continuously inhabited for thousands of years. In fact, “Nunavut” means “Our Land” in Inuktitut, the Inuit language. Although it will have a public government, the high percentage of Inuit will give them the power of majority representation.

- Population: 25,000
- Population density: 1 person in 100 sq. km, 0.4 in 100 sq. mi.
- Population density of Canada: 29 persons in 100 sq. km
- Population percentage under 25 years of age: 56%
- Area: 2 million sq. km (77,2200 sq. mi.), about 1/5 of Canada's land area
- Climate: January -30°C (-22°F), June 15°C (59° F), nine-month winter, and nearly continuous snow coverage.
- Cost of living: 1.6 to 2 times that of southern Canadians

- Capital city: Iqaluit, population 4,500
- Number of communities: 28 (Iqaluit is the largest)
- Most northern community: Grise Fiord, population 130, which has 24 hour daylight in June and 24 hour darkness in December
- Land: rocky tundra with stunted vegetation above the tree line, snow-covered most of the year, 7 of Canada’s 12 largest islands and 2/3 of its coastline
- Economic activities: mining, tourism, shrimp and scallop fishing, hunting and trapping, arts and crafts production
- Average household income: \$31,471 (\$45,251 for Canada as a whole)
- Cost of living: 1.6 to 2 times that of southern Canadians
- Food: milk \$7.00 for 2L (1.3 gal), bread \$3.00 for a loaf
- Number of hospitals: one in Iqaluit, 26 health centers with nursing care
- Policing: Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

