

FROM IGLOO TO INTERNET

TOTAL CANADIAN POPULATION

38,000,000 people

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN CANADA

- FIRST NATIONS (INDIANS): 1,600,000
- MÉTIS PEOPLE: 600,000
- INUIT: 65,000

INUIT POPULATION IN THE WORLD

Total Inuit population: 155,000

Russia (near Bering Strait): 3,000

Alaska USA: 20,000

Canada: 65,000

Greenland (Denmark) 67,000

INUIT IN CANADA

Total population: 65,000

Inuit in 4 regions:

- Inuvialuit Region (Western Arctic): 5%
- Nunavut territory: 47%
- Nunavik region (Arctic Quebec): 18%
- Nunatsiavut (Labrador): 4%
- Outside Inuit territory (in South): 26%

NUNAVIK

Territory north of the 55th parallel in Québec (316,000 sq. miles)

Population: 12,000 people - 90% are Inuit – 60% less than 30 years old

In 14 coastal communities – no roads between the villages

Kuujuaq is the regional capital located in Ungava Bay – 3,000 people

Access by plane and sealift only (from the South)

Employment: para-public – transport – mines – tourism – services

High cost of living

TRADITIONAL LIFE OF THE INUIT

Nomadic life

Extended families

Priority: subsistence activities (hunting, fishing, food gathering)

Periods of starvation

Technology: kayak, igloo, clothing, harpoons, dog sleds, umiaq (boat)

Fur economy – first trading post in 1830 – Hudson's Bay Company

Access to new products: guns, tobacco, tea, flour

CHANGES IN NUNAVIK (1935-1975)

From nomadic way of life to permanent villages

Collapse of the fur economy (starvation)

Tuberculosis pandemic (1940-1960)

Militarization of the Arctic

Arrival of government after WW II in 1953

New governance system put in place

Access to basic health services

New school system (residential schools)

Relocation of Inuit to the High Arctic – sovereignty issue in 1953

Dogs slaughtering

MILITARIZATION OF THE ARCTIC

WW II (1939-1945) Canadian North and Inuit on the world scene

Military bases (US/Canada) in Inuit Territory

Crimson Route (1942) from US to Canadian Arctic-Greenland-England

Pearl Harbour (1942): troops to Alaska via Yukon.

After WW II the Cold War – 1950s threat from Russia

Construction of radar networks from Alaska to Greenland

Impact on Inuit: moved close to military bases for jobs

Impact on Canadian and International opinion:

- Great strategic interest for the North
- Inuit population without services
- Canadian sovereignty issue

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA - 1953

Department of Northern Affairs: administration of North and Inuit

Creation of permanent villages

Primary schools established – teaching in English

Residential schools

Access to health services

Economic development – cooperatives

JAMES BAY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT - 1970

Creation of 100,000 jobs

Issue of Inuit rights in the territory

Negotiations and signing of first modern treaty in 1975 – the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA)

IMPACT OF JBNQA

Extinction of all land rights over the territory

Disbursement of compensation funds (creation of Makivik Corporation)

New resource management and land regimes

New environmental evaluation regime

New governance system – municipalities and 3 major public institutions created:

- Regional School Board
- Regional Government (services to villages – environment – police - economic development - transport and communications – 70% of staff are Inuit
- Health Board and Social Services – 14 health centres and 2 hospitals

Project to establish a Nunavik Regional Government

SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES IN NUNAVIK

Successes in economic development (Makivik) and cooperatives

Management by Inuit

Nunavik Research Centre in Kuujjuaq

Identity crisis

Housing crisis (high birth rate)

Social problems (school dropout – suicide)

Erosion of Inuit language

Food security – community freezers

30% of Canadian Inuit now live in southern cities

NUNAVIK RESEARCH CENTRE

Created by Makivik Corporation in 1978

Located in Kuujjuaq

Monitor and collect land use & ecological data in Nunavik Region

Areas of Research:

- Toxicology & Contaminants
- Project: Mercury, Lead and Cadmium in fish
- Mercury in Ring Seals Relating to Climate Change
- Microplastics in Nunavik Coastal Waters
- Walrus Harvesting and Trichinella Diagnosis
- Monitoring of Arctic Charr
- Restoration and Protection of Fish Habitat affected by Mining Activity
- Wildlife Biology
- Biodiversity Monitoring (plants, insects, animals, etc.)
- Wildlife Health
- environmental Issues
- Cartographic Services

PICTURE No. 1	Inuit Circumpolar Region
PICTURE No. 2	Canada – Inuit Settlement Areas
PICTURE No. 3	Canadian Inuit Population – 2016
PICTURE No. 4	Nunavik Region (Province of Québec)
PICTURE No. 5	Village of George River (Kangiqsualujjuaq) - 1967
PICTURE No. 6	Village of George River – 1967
PICTURE No. 7	Inside of Tivi Etok House – Sarah, mother of Tivi Etok
PICTURE No. 8	Etok family
PICTURE No. 9	Tivi Etok, his wife and children on an island
PICTURE No. 10	George River – 2008
PICTURE No. 11	Creation of a Nunavik Regional Government
PICTURE No. 12	Nunavik Research Centre
PICTURE No. 13	Nunavik Research Centre

SELECTED REFERENCES

WWW.ABORIGINALCANADA.GC.CA Single Internet gateway to cover 7,500 links for and about Aboriginal peoples in Canada: information about business, employment, economic development, culture, communities, education, claims and treaties, health, housing. Connects to Aboriginal organizations, Government of Canada departments, provincial and territorial governments, university programs.

WWW.INUITCIRCUMPOLAR.COM. The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is the international organization representing the 155,000 Inuit living in Arctic regions of Russia, Alaska, Canada, Greenland. ICC is involved in Arctic Policy Development, Traditional Knowledge, Environmental Activities, Climate Change.

[WWW,NUNAVIK.CA](http://WWW.NUNAVIK.CA)

WWW.KRG.CA web site provides information on the mandate of the Kativik Regional Government and on the programs and services delivered to the residents of Nunavik; access to its annual report.

WWW.KATIVIK.QC.CA Information on the Kativik School Board, responsibility for schooling, Inuit teacher training, language, and culture.

WWW.RBHSS.GOUV.QC.CA Nunavik Regional Health Board and Social Services.

WWW.MAKIVIK.ORG Makivik Corporation was established pursuant to the signing in 1975 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Web site provides information on the mandate of Makivik, its projects and activities and annual report.

WWW.NUNAVIKGOVERNMENT.CA Information on the Nunavik Regional Government Project.

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