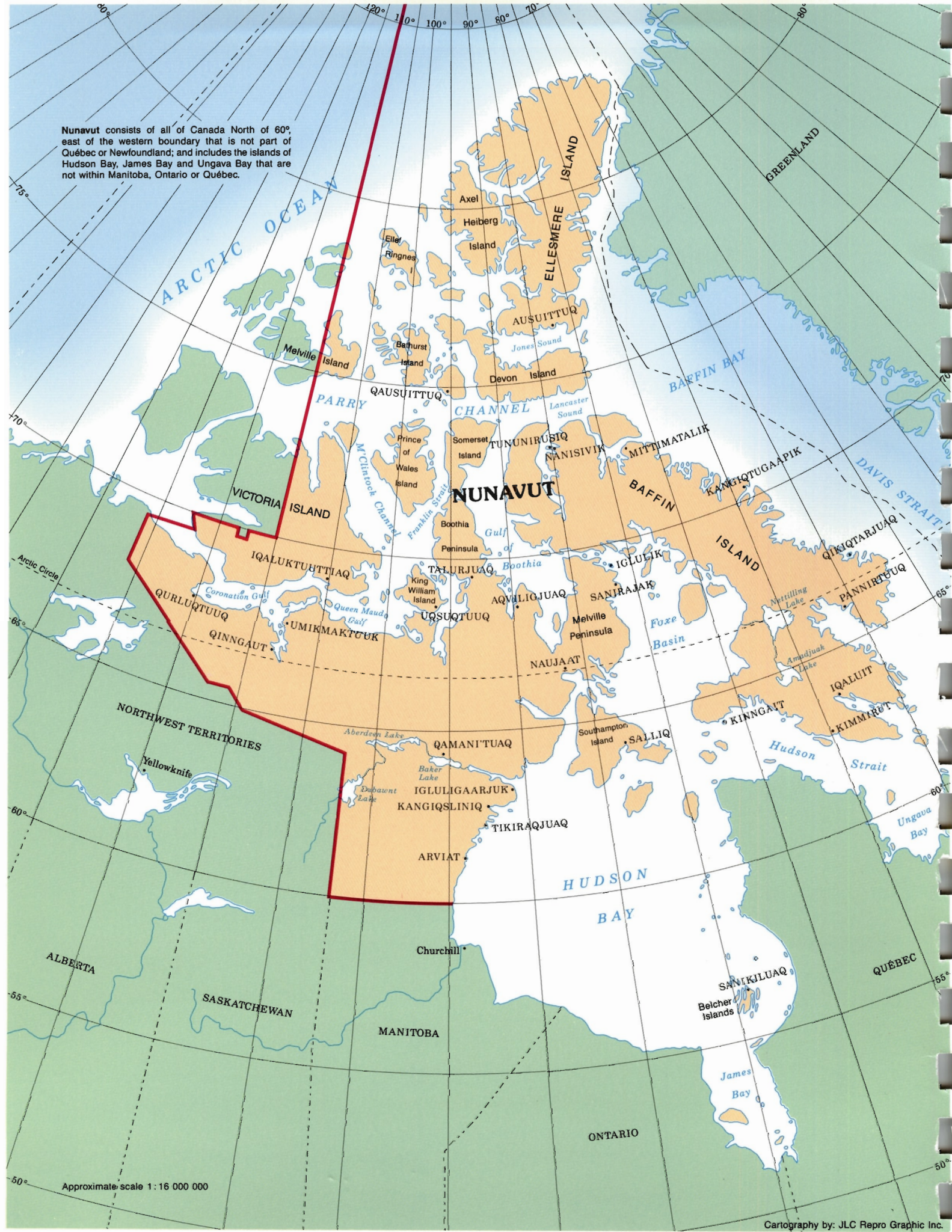




Nunavut Implementation Commission

Nunavut consists of all of Canada North of 60° east of the western boundary that is not part of Québec or Newfoundland; and includes the islands of Hudson Bay, James Bay and Ungava Bay that are not within Manitoba, Ontario or Québec.



Approximate scale 1:16 000 000

Cartography by: JLC Repro Graphic Inc.

Nunavut



Terry Pearce

What is Nunavut ?

Nunavut is both a territory and a government. Nunavut means **Our Land** in Inuktitut, the language of the Inuit of the Eastern and Central Arctic. Division of the Northwest Territories and the creation of a Nunavut Territory and Government have been the dream of Inuit and a crucial aspect of the Inuit land claim since the mid 1970s. For reasons of cultural distinctiveness, linguistic homogeneity and geographical remoteness from the seat of government in Yellowknife, Inuit and other residents of Nunavut believe that they will be better served through the creation of a Nunavut Territory and Government in the Eastern and Central Arctic.

Nunavut is Public Government

Although a Nunavut Territory and Government are being created alongside the settlement of the Inuit land claim, the Nunavut Government will be a public government - one that respects and reflects Canada's political traditions and institutions, and one that remains firmly entrenched within the bonds of Confederation. The public form of government will recognize and protect the political equality of residents, regardless of culture, heritage or background.

- *The Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the northern regions of Ontario and Quebec, and the Yukon Territory were all carved out of the Northwest Territories.*

Road to Nunavut

Alongside the process of land claim negotiations, beginning in the late 1970s and extending into the early 1990s, Inuit persuaded the Government of Canada of the wisdom and need for dividing the Northwest Territories. But the road to Nunavut was not without its obstacles. Two territorial wide plebiscites, one in 1982 on support for division, and a second in 1992 on agreement on the location of a boundary, were required, along with the 1992 Inuit ratification vote on the land claim before Nunavut could become a reality. These challenges were successfully met through persistence and the determination of the Inuit and other residents of Nunavut. Consistent with the will of the people, the Parliament of Canada passed two pieces of legislation in 1993, one ratifying the Inuit land claim and the other dividing the Northwest Territories and creating Nunavut. As a result, a Nunavut Territory and Government will be created on April 1, 1999.

Nunavut Implementation Commission

The Nunavut Implementation Commission is a statutory body created through the *Nunavut Act*. It is made up of nine Commissioners and a Chief Commissioner named by the three signatories to the *Nunavut Political Accord*: the Government of Canada; the Government of the Northwest Territories; and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut - now called the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The Commission is to provide advice on matters pertaining to the setting up of the Nunavut Government.

The establishment of the Commission provides a unique opportunity to ensure that the creation of a Nunavut Territory and the establishment of a Nunavut Government are undertaken in a manner that reflects the needs and preferences of its residents.

- Since 1870 there have been six seats of Government of the Northwest Territories: 1870-74 - Fort Garry, NWT (Winnipeg); 1875-77 - Fort Livingstone, Swan River, NWT (Kamasack, Saskatchewan); 1877-82 - Battleford, NWT (Saskatchewan); 1882-1905 - Regina, NWT (Saskatchewan); 1905-1967 - Ottawa, Ontario; 1967-1999 Yellowknife, NWT.

- Inuit population of Nunavut is approximately 17,500 or 80% of the total population.

Work of the Nunavut Implementation Commission

The *Nunavut Act* requires the Commission to advise on the following matters:

- the development of principles and criteria for the division of territorial assets and liabilities;
- a timetable for the assumption of the delivery of services by a Nunavut Government;
- training and funding requirements;
- the administrative design of the Nunavut Government, including personnel requirements;
- a process for the identification of a Capital;
- identification of the Capital's infrastructure requirements; and
- a process for the election of the first Legislative Assembly and the determination of electoral districts.



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Standing Committees of the Nunavut Implementation Commission

To assist the Commission in carrying out its work the Commission has established five Standing Committees:

- a Capital Committee to advise on the location of a Capital, taking into account community size, existing and projected services and infra-structural requirements;
- a Government Operations Committee to identify principles and objectives necessary to guide decisions on the institutional design, infra-structural requirements and financing needs of the government;
- a Human Resources Committee to determine the educational and training requirements of the government;
- a Communications Committee to solicit the views of the people and to keep them informed about Nunavut and the work of the Commission; and
- an Internal Management Committee to oversee the internal management and administration of the Commission and staff.



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- *Total population of Nunavut is approximately 22,000.*
- *The total land area of Nunavut is approximately 818,962 sq. mi. (2,121,102 km²).*
- *As part of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement Inuit hold title to 137,450 sq. mi. (355,981 km²) of land of which 14,650 sq. mi. (37,942 km²) include the subsurface. This represents approximately 16.8% of the land area of Nunavut.*
- *Nunavut is composed of three regions; Qiqitaaluk (Baffin), Kivallik (Keewatin), Kitikmeot (Central).*
- *Square mileage of Nunavut Regions: Qiqitaaluk (Baffin) 305,066 sq. mi. (790,090 km²); Kivallik (Keewatin) 204,943 sq. mi. (530,781 km²); Kitikmeot (Central) 231,548 sq. mi. (599,686 km²).*
- *Regional populations (approximate): Qiqitaaluk (11,500); Kivallik (6,000); Kitikmeot (4,500).*
- *Largest community in Nunavut: Iqaluit - pop. 3,600; smallest community in Nunavut: Umingmaktok (Bay Chimo) - pop. 60.*
- *Languages in Nunavut: Inuktitut (Qiqitaaluk, Kivallik, Kitikmeot East); Inuinnaqtun (Kitikmeot West); English and French.*

Commissioners' Views and Biographical Information



My role is to ensure that the people's views are heard by the Commission and incorporated into the planning of the new government. We need the people to team up with us.

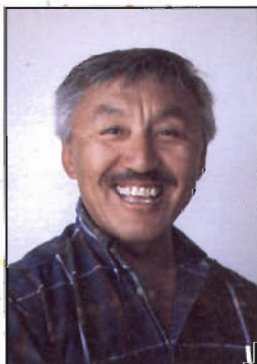
David Alagalak, Commissioner-Arviat

David Alagalak is a businessman from the Keewatin. He has been an Economic Development Officer for the Government of the Northwest Territories, and is a board member for several business and political institutions:

I know we are forming a public government, but at the same time I feel that we have to govern Nunavut in a different way. Otherwise we will be just repeating what we have been doing for the last 30 years with the federal and territorial governments.

Guy Alikut, Commissioner-Arviat

Guy Alikut is a former Mayor of Arviat. He is currently a director of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Businesses and he has been a wildlife officer, co-op manager and welfare officer, and has sat on the boards of several local and regional organizations.



Nunavut is like a promised homeland for Inuit, but as a public government, every Canadian will have a chance to shape its destiny. We should all be proud of our participation in building Nunavut.

Peter Ernerk, Commissioner-Rankin Inlet

Peter Ernerk is from Rankin Inlet. Amongst other elected and appointed positions he has held, he has been an MLA and has served as an Executive Member for the Ministries of Health and Social Services, Economic Development, Natural and Cultural Affairs and Renewable Resources.



Terry Pearce

The challenge we face is to advise on the creation of a new government which will be closer to the people, and to protect and enhance the quality of life we have achieved, in a period of declining financial resources.

Kenn Harper, Commissioner-Iqaluit

Kenn Harper has made his home in Nunavut for many years. He came North as a teacher and is currently a private businessman, writer, historian and linguist. Many people know him by his Inuktitut name, Ilisaijikutaaq.

The NIC's mandate will be accomplished by maintaining good working relationships through open communications with individuals and communities.

Meeka Kilabuk, Commissioner-Iqaluit

Meeka Kilabuk is from the Baffin Region. She was a founding member of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and was instrumental in the formation of the Inuit Cultural Institute, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, Inuit Women's Association, Maliganik Tukisiniakviq, as well as several other Inuit organizations.



NIC



Terry Pearce

In Nunavut we have through the work of the Commission a unique opportunity to provide input into the design of the government before it is established.

Bill Lyall, Commissioner/Vice-Chair-Cambridge Bay

Bill Lyall is a businessman from the Central Arctic. He is President of the Arctic Cooperatives Ltd., President of the NWT Cooperative Business Development Fund, and is a member of several other boards and committees.

I believe the Commission has been given a great task of forming the Government for Nunavut 1999 and I want to work with the people to make sure the Nunavut Government meets the needs of the people.

Joe Ovilok Ohokannoak, Commissioner-Cambridge Bay

Joe Ovilok Ohokannoak is a former Mayor of Cambridge Bay. He worked in the area of economic development for the Government of the Northwest Territories for almost twenty years and is currently the Regional Tourism Officer in Cambridge Bay.



Terry Pearce



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Our ancestors left this land for us to manage. We, the leaders today, are borrowing it from our children. We should prepare it well for our future. Nunavut is our future.

George Quviq Qulaut, Commissioner-Igloolik

George Quviq Qulaut is full time hunter and fisherman from Igloolik. He has served in local government and is active in community service work. He has studied computer science and photography and has been the manager of the Igloolik Research Centre.

We have always said our land is our strength and, through Nunavut, the Inuit and the rest of Canada will become stronger and our dreams will be realized.

Mary Simon, Commissioner-Ottawa

Mary Simon is from Northern Quebec. She has held a number of national and international positions including the presidencies of the Makivik Corporation and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. She has been the recipient of several national and international awards.



Jack Hicks

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Ferry Pearce

- *Inuit writing systems in Nunavut: Inuktitut - syllabic; Inuinnaqtun - Roman orthography.*
- *Most northerly community: Grise Fiord, (Ellesmere Island), pop. 130. Most southernly community: Sanikiluaq, (Belcher Islands), pop. 500.*
- *Air miles between regional centres; Iqaluit to Rankin Inlet 730 mi. (1175 km); Rankin Inlet to Cambridge Bay 560 mi. (900 km); Cambridge Bay to Iqaluit 1040 mi. (1675 km).*
- *Total number of Nunavut communities: 27.*
- *Total number of Nunavut communities above the Arctic Circle (66°33'): 16.*
- *Number of operating mines: 2.*
- *Number of producing oil fields: 1.*
- *Number of parks, sanctuaries and reserves: approx. 25.*

At a time when others are attempting to dismantle Canada, the people of Nunavut are attempting to complete it. The people of Nunavut believe in Canada and recognize that the successful growth and development of Nunavut depends upon a strong and united Canada. The people of Nunavut believe that their new government and territory will make a valuable and enduring contribution to Canada. Sharing and cooperation are Nunavut traditions and the people of Nunavut welcome all those who wish to participate in the development of Canada's newest territory and share in the opportunities that it has to offer.