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# A look at present and future SAR response capacity in Nunavut's National Parks

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# Overview

- Four National Parks in Nunavut
- Offices in Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pond Inlet, and Repulse Bay.
- Total area of all 4 parks is more than 100,000 Km<sup>2</sup>



# Human Resources

- 66 staff in field unit, >25% with direct responsibility for SAR response
- Staff trained in a wide range of SAR skills including advanced first aid, search management, ICS, specialized travel skills, etc.
- Access to national resources in Banff and Jasper specializing in mountain, glacier, and avalanche rescue.



# Physical Resources/Equipment

- Auyuittuq
  - Most incidents involve visitors.
  - Rescue rooms in Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq.
  - Boats and snowmobiles to access park.
  - Access to helicopters spring through late summer – PCSP.
  - Emergency shelters, caches, and staff cabins in the park.



# Physical Resources/Equipment

- Sirmilik
  - Most incidents involve local residents.
  - Rescue room in Pond Inlet.
  - Boats and snowmobiles to access park.
  - Stationed helicopter May through August – PCSP.
  - No in-park resources.



# Physical Resources/Equipment

- Ukkusiksallik
  - Rescue room in Repulse Bay.
  - Boats and snowmobiles to access park.
  - Access to helicopters spring through late summer.



# Physical Resources/Equipment

- Quttinirpaaq
  - Rescue rooms in Tanquary Fiord and Lake Hazen
  - Access to helicopters and fixed wing May through August from PCSP and military
  - Emergency caches throughout park.
  - Extremely remote location
  - Multi-agency responses



# Current Focus

- Providing safety education to visitors, preventing incidents, and cooperating with partners.
- All park sites have staff trained in assessing trip plans, providing guidance, and leading rescues in non-technical terrain.
- Changes in organizational structure will have dedicated visitor safety coordinator and shared responsibility for SAR amongst more staff.



# Ongoing Challenges

- Access to helicopters is sporadic for most parks sites and non-existent in winter.
- Vehicle/Vessel maintenance is often a challenge in small communities.
- High staff turnover and significant training requirements for new staff due to remoteness and complexity of terrain.
- Lack of typical infrastructure, equipment, and aid available in local communities.



# Future Capacity

- Resources likely to remain static, despite potential increases in needs.
- Limited resources mean that formal partnerships will be even more important.
- Focus will continue on education and mandatory orientations.



# Future Needs

- Increased focus on marine activities may require more CCG and Navy assistance.
- Reliable access to aircraft, ideally year-round.
- Partnering on regional education programs.
- Partnering on staff training and resource maintenance.

