



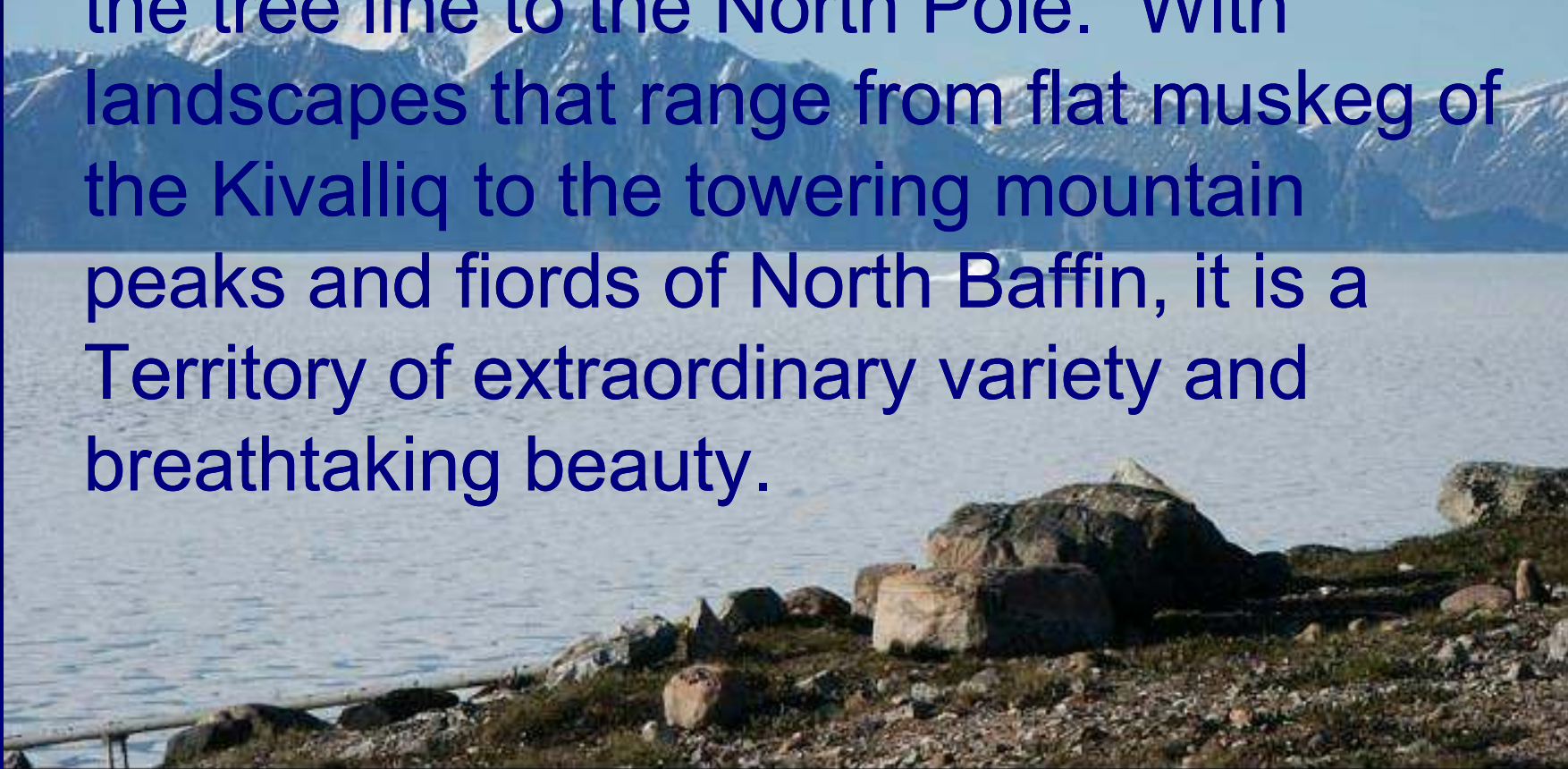
NUNAVUT

Nunavut (the Inuktitut word for “our land”) officially became a territory on April 1st, 1999. Nunavut today is a growing society that blends the strength of its deep Inuit roots and traditions with a new spirit of diversity.





It is a territory that spans two million square kilometers of Canada extending north and west of Hudson's Bay, above the tree line to the North Pole. With landscapes that range from flat muskeg of the Kivalliq to the towering mountain peaks and fiords of North Baffin, it is a Territory of extraordinary variety and breathtaking beauty.





Population

Inuit represent about 85% of the 30,000 residents, and form the foundation of the Territory's culture. Day to day life is shaped by traditional knowledge, values and wisdom.

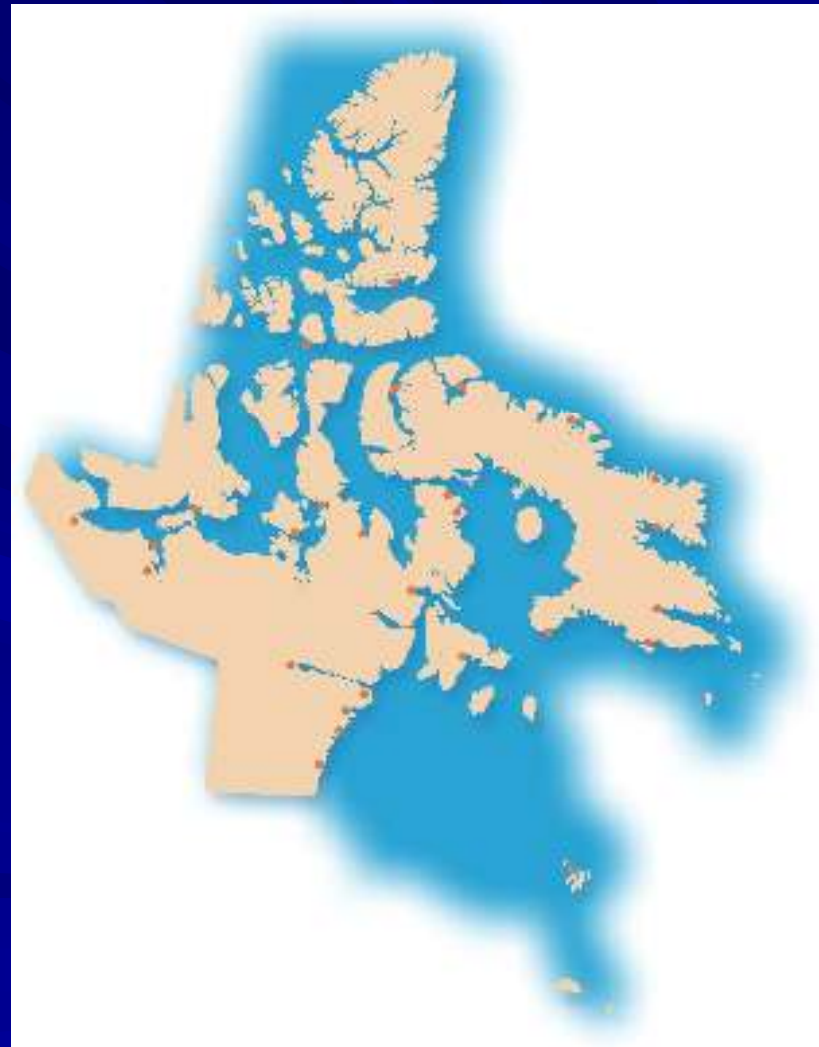




2006/08/09

Communities

Our 26 communities range in size from tiny Bathurst Inlet (population 25) to Iqaluit, the capital (population 6,000). Grise Fiord, the northernmost settlement, lies at 78 degrees North. The Hamlet of Sanikiluaq in the Belcher Islands is actually further south than Ontario's northern border.






Communities



None are accessible by road or rail; everything, from people to fuel to food, arrives by plane and sealift. This physical isolation accounts for the highest cost of living in Canada, reflected in prices throughout the Territory.



**SEARCH
AND
RESCUE**



12/08/2005

Nunavut SAR

- ❖ Current SAR operations are initiated at the community level. Once an incident moves from a private search to a public search, the RCMP and Nunavut Emergency Management (NEM) become involved.





Nunavut SAR



- ❖ Duty officers located in the regions receive a call for assistance from a community SAR organization. Head Quarters staff are then notified and a tasking number issued. Tasking numbers cover fuel and other supplies for the search effort.
- ❖ At the community level a SAR response is organized and initiated.

Nunavut SAR

- ❖ RCMP may involve aircraft, if available and warranted, and they may also request assistance from Joint Rescue Coordination Center. (JRCC)
- ❖ JRCC is a branch of the Canadian Forces, who's mandate is to conduct aeronautical and marine SAR. They also give assistance to ships in distress.
- ❖ While not a JRCC primary mandate, in almost every Nunavut GSAR case where assistance was requested, they have responded with search aircraft and personnel.



Nunavut SAR

- ❖ Some communities utilize an elders council to advise on traditional knowledge of areas and conditions. They will also give recommendations on whether a search should be continued or suspended.



CULTURAL ISSUES



Cultural Issues

- ❖ The culture promotes self-sufficiency and a continuing connection with the land. The percentage of the population that is involved in land based activities is much higher than in the south.





Cultural Issues



- ❖ Changing weather patterns alters seasonal timelines (Fall freeze up and Spring thaw), stranding many travelers and leading to an increase in SAR responses and fatalities.

Cultural Issues

- ❖ The use of all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and motorized boats has resulted in extended search areas.
- ❖ Length of searches may be considerably longer than in the south. Depending on the individual's land skills, survival for longer periods in harsh conditions is more likely.



Cultural Issues

- ❖ Many of the searches involve subsistence hunters. Lack of personal financial resources often results in these individuals not being able to afford certain safety equipment. i.e. Personal Locator Beacons, GPS units, or communication devices.
- ❖ The perception of risk must be viewed within the cultural context of the Arctic –Inuit hunters are comfortable living off the land.
- ❖ Our challenge is to develop prevention programs within that context.





CHALLENGES





Challenges

Command and Control.

- ❖ Some reluctance at the community level to accept police involvement. New RCMP members may have little local land knowledge; different experience and cultural background may result in differing priorities and approaches.
- ❖ Lack of SAR Management training for community SAR coordinators may lead to increased risk and liability through inadequate management of response efforts.
- ❖ Community and political expectations often exceed mandate and policy guidelines, resulting in added potential liabilities and a strain on funding which is needed for other operational and prevention program areas.



Challenges

SAR Equipment.

- ❖ Lengthy transit times dictates a need for dedicated SAR aircraft, both fixed and rotary wing, to be stationed in the north.
- ❖ Requirement for enhanced community based equipment, such as snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, and specialty vehicles, for response in difficult and varying terrain conditions.





Challenges

- ❖ The need for development of expanded communication systems i.e. radio repeater systems, giving wider two way radio coverage. Current reliability concerns with existing satellite phones and other communication equipment.
- ❖ Inadequate capacity and funding for development and delivery of a comprehensive prevention program that is culturally relevant and meets the language requirements.





