In the Inuit language of Inuktitut, Nunavut means “Our Land”. It is the name given to the ancestral home of the Inuit of the central and eastern Arctic, and to the soon-to-be created Territory of Nunavut in Canada’s Eastern Arctic.

Though the creation of the Territory of Nunavut is a new chapter in Canada’s confederation, the story of Nunavut and the Inuit who make their lives there is an ancient one, going back over thousands of years of continuous habitation.

The creation of the Territory of Nunavut and the finalization of the historic land claim settlement, between the Nunavut Inuit and the Government of Canada, adds a new dimension to the evolving history of both Nunavut and Canada. It is the purpose of this book to tell the story of this historic achievement.

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**Cover Illustration**

Renowned Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak created the cover illustration, “NUNAVUT”, to mark the achieving of a homeland within Canada for Inuit of the central and eastern Arctic.
With the passage of two bills in the House of Commons in June of 1993, the Inuit of Northern Canada took a large step in their work to regain control of their lives and their ancestral homeland.

One bill was to ratify the Final Land Claims Agreement between the Inuit of Nunavut and the Government of Canada, which had taken almost 20 years to negotiate. The other bill was to create the new territory of Nunavut by April 1, 1999.

The passage of these two bills means that our work now enters a new stage—that of implementing our modern treaty with Canada. Instead of merely talking about political and economic development, we can actually make things happen. Instead of relying on other governments to protect our environment and wildlife, we can take measures ourselves.

Things will not change overnight, but we have taken the first steps towards a new regime in Arctic Canada.

Nunavut residents and the executive of Nunavut Tunngavik are joined by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Leader of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs for the official signing of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in Iqaluit, N.W.T. on May 25, 1993.
NUNAVUT TERRITORY IN CANADA

Area of Canada 9,970,610 sq km
Area of Nunavut 1,900,000 sq km

A Few Comparisons
Greenland 2,175,600 sq km
Germany 357,046 sq km
China 9,596,961 sq km
Sweden 449,964 sq km

Standard Latitudinal Parallels
Arctic Circle 67°
Grise Fiord 77°
Coppermine 68°
Iqaluit 64°
Rankin Inlet 63°

A Few Comparisons
Ottawa 45°
Stockholm 59°
Moscow 56°
Berlin 52.5°
Rome 42°
Beijing 40°
Total Population Nunavut:
- Approximately 22,000

Total Inuit Population Nunavut:
- Approximately 17,500

Total Population Canada: 27,296,860

Total Inuit Population Canada: 25,000

Largest Community: Iqaluit
- Population: 3,552
- Distance from Ottawa: approximately 2,000 km
- Mean temperature in January: −29.7°C
- Mean temperature in July: 11.4°C
- Hours of daylight in June: 16
- Hours of daylight in December: 0.5

Most Northern Community: Grise Fiord
- Population: 130
- Distance from Ottawa: approximately 2,700 km
- Mean temperature in January: −35°C
- Mean temperature in July: 10°C
- Hours of daylight in June: 24
- Hours of daylight in December: 0.5

Population per square kilometre in the Nunavut area: 0.01

Population per square kilometre in Canada: 2.9,
Ontario: 11.0, Germany: 220.0, China: 120.4

Population in major centres:
- Grise Fiord: 130
- Coppermine: 1,200
- Rankin Inlet: 1,800
- Resolute: 166

Kilometres of highway: 20
Cost of two litres of milk: $6.97
Cost of a loaf of bread: $2.75
Average household income in the Nunavut area: $31,471
Average household income in Canada: $45,251

Languages spoken: Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English
Inuit Owned Lands

Scale 1:12,000,000

Legend

Nunavut Settlement Area
See Article 3 and Schedule 3.1 of the Agreement for full description

High Arctic Area Exempt from Inuit Land Ownership
See Section 19.2.6 and Schedule 19-1 of the Agreement for full description

Inuit Owned Lands
(Total sq. km. 355,842)

Surface only excluding minerals
(Total sq. km. 317,972)

Surface and Subsurface including minerals
Sub-section 19.2.1(a)
(Total sq. km. 37,870)

Crown (Public) Lands
All other lands are Crown lands. Inuit have the right to hunt, trap, fish and participate in the management of all these lands. Please see the Agreement for more details.

Prepared by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and JLC Repros Graphic Inc.
The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, ratified by the Inuit in November of 1992, signed by the Prime Minister of Canada on May 25, 1993 and passed through the Canadian Parliament in June of the same year, is the largest native land claim settlement in Canadian history. In providing title to the Nunavut Inuit of 350,000 square kilometres of land in the eastern Arctic, the agreement establishes clear rules of ownership and control over land and resources in the new Territory of Nunavut, an area of land one-fifth the size of Canada.

**Features of the Agreement**

The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement is one of the most innovative of the "modern day treaties" concluded in Canada. Some of the more outstanding of its 41 articles include the following:

- title to approximately 350,000 square kilometres (136,000 square miles) of land, of which 35,257 square kilometres (14,000 square miles) include mineral rights;
- equal representation of Inuit with government on a new set of wildlife management, resource management and environmental boards;
- the right to harvest wildlife on lands and waters throughout the Nunavut settlement area;

The future for these elementary school children in Iqaluit, and children throughout the Nunavut region, looks much brighter following the settlement of the Nunavut Land Claim.
• capital transfer payments of $1.148 billion, payable to the Inuit over 14 years;
• a $13 million Training Trust Fund;
• a share of federal government royalties for Nunavut Inuit from oil, gas and mineral development on Crown lands;
• where Inuit own surface title to the land, the right to negotiate with industry for economic and social benefits from non-renewable resource development;
• the right of first refusal on sport and commercial development of renewable resources in the Nunavut Settlement Area;
• the creation of three new federally funded national parks;
• the inclusion of a political accord, that provides for the establishment of the new Territory of Nunavut and through this a form of self-government for the Nunavut Inuit.

Summer in Nunavut, with its long days of bright sun, produces a spectacular array of flowers and foliage.
The establishment of Nunavut as a distinct territory under its own government fulfils a long-held aspiration of the eastern and central Arctic Inuit to control their own destiny. The form of self-government the Inuit have chosen will be unique to Nunavut. The Inuit are a majority of the population of the Nunavut area and will therefore have a preponderant influence in a public government to be elected by all residents of Nunavut, Inuit and non-Inuit.

**Government Institutions**
The new government will administer an area that covers approximately 20% of Canada, with powers equivalent to those of existing territorial governments. An elected Legislative Assembly, a Cabinet and a territorial court will be the primary institutions of public government.

**Timetable for Implementation**
The government of Nunavut will be established in evolutionary stages over sixteen years, from 1993 to 2009.

**The Nunavut Implementation Commission (NIC), 1993-1999**
The Nunavut Implementation Commission has nine members named by the Government of Canada, six of whom must be residents of Nunavut. The Commission advises all parties on the funding and design of training plans, the timetable for transferring services, and the process for holding the first election for the Government of Nunavut. The initial transition...
phase will end with the election of the first Government of Nunavut.

**POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT, 1999**

Beginning in 1999, the Government of Nunavut will gradually assume responsibilities now exercised by the Government of the Northwest Territories, with the transfer of administration for programs in areas such as culture, public housing and health care, to be complete by 2009.

**NUNAVUT: A TERRITORY OF REGIONS AND COMMUNITIES**

The Territory of Nunavut is made up of three distinct regions—Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, Kitikmeot—and 28 communities. Accordingly, the Nunavut Government will be decentralized, with government departments and agencies set up in communities throughout the territory, thereby sharing the economic benefits and responding to the particular needs of each region.

The lighting of the Qulliq oil lamp, traditionally used for cooking and heating, is an essential part of all Inuit ceremonies and important gatherings.
Economic Development in Nunavut

The settlement of the Nunavut Land Claim and the creation of the Territory of Nunavut provide a solid and stable environment for future economic development in this picturesque and resource-rich region. The clear delineation of land ownership and the establishment of the territorial government will bring about the following:

- growth of the native development corporations, such as Nunasi and Qikiqtaluk Corporation, representing concerns as varied as shrimp fishing, trucking, and the hotel industry;
- investment of the annual Land Claim capital transfer payments, totalling $1.15 billion, over the next 14 years;
- development of 5-year economic development programs for each region;
- creation of government agencies and the training and development of a professional bureaucracy;
- further development of mineral deposits which show a potential for copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc and diamonds; and
- creation of 3 federally funded national parks.
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©Photography by Hans Bohn
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Printed in Canada
This wall hanging, measuring 8" wide, was made by students of Ataguttaaak High School. It is another example of the highly developed craft skills of the Inuit of Nunavut.

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