

Nunavut

(pronounced: Noo-na-voot, meaning, “our land” in Inuit, [images](#))

- [Government](#) and territory was established 1 April 1999, after many years of negotiation (1976 Inuit Tapirisat of Canada presented to the Canadian government a proposal to establish a special territory).
 - besides self-determination, one reason the Canadian government allowed its formation was that they had “failed” to effectively deal with the issues of poverty and economic development, high suicide rate, and inability to transform the economy.
- it is a territory of 1.9 million sq. kilometers (with actual surface title to 355,000 sq. kilometers and sub-surface title to only 35,000 sq. kilometers), representing about 20% of all Canada and 2/3 of the Canadian sea coast, which makes it larger than Western Europe.
- it is made up of 85% Inuit, for an entire population of some 30,000, residing in some 28 communities.
- the region is entirely of permafrost and ice covering, all above forest line.
- Nunavut was granted some internal control over its territory, while the Canadian government retains international controls (which differs from Greenland, where Danes control all international and Inuit control all internal affairs.)
 - Inuit create a non-partisan (non-party) unicameral (one house) system with 19 representatives directly elected to office.
 - it is rule by consensus and not by majority rule.
 - but all other governance structures are dictated by the Canadian govt.
- the mission of the Nunavut Territorial Government:
 - collective recognition as distinct peoples, including the protection of traditional cultures and lifestyles, and aboriginal rights.
 - political rights to self-governing institutions of various kinds within the Canadian state.
 - secure economic rights to the lands, resources, and their benefits, as a base for self-sufficiency and development of native communities including protection of existing economic resources.
- some initial challenges:
 - convert all geographic and institutional names to the Inuktitut language (see a wonderful site: <http://www.nunavut.com/>)
 - create one time zone, as there are currently four, thus effecting better communication and economic coordination
- the term “Eskimo” is the Cree word for, “eaters of raw flesh,” and is often considered derogatory; the term “Inua” means “soul,” with “Inuit” meaning “people,” i.e., the plural of Inua

[Atanarjuat: Fast Runner](#) (172 min, 2001 awarding winning film). Atanarjuat is Canada's first feature-length fiction film written, produced, directed, and acted by Inuit. An exciting action thriller set in ancient Igloolik, the film unfolds as a life-threatening struggle between powerful natural and supernatural characters. And to ***The Living Stone*** (32 min., this 1958 National Film Board of Canada classic illustrates key Indigenous cultural values, told in story format.) See [Oral Traditions](#) page.