

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW NUNAVUT TERRITORIAL PARKS ACT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. WHY CHANGE THE ACT?

The current *Territorial Parks Act* was adopted from the Northwest Territories in 1999. It needs to be updated so that:

- Northwest Territories provisions found within the *Territorial Parks Act* which are inapplicable to Nunavut are removed;
- The *Territorial Parks Act* conforms with provisions of the Nunavut Agreement;
- The *Territorial Parks Act* conforms with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area;
- The *Territorial Parks Act* incorporates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit;
- The *Territorial Parks Act* conforms with national and international commitments;
- Legislative gaps are addressed so that the legislation meets best practices/state-of-the-art legislation in other jurisdictions;
- Provisions in the *Territorial Parks Act* which create problems of a legal nature are removed or otherwise addressed; and
- New territorial parks in Nunavut can be formally established so that the Department of Environment can more effectively exercise its management authority and enforcement obligations.

2. WHO SHOULD TAKE PART?

From residents, to outfitters, to visitors, it's important to have your say on the development of the new Act. The new Act will apply to all territorial parks in Nunavut.

3. WHAT CAN I COMMENT ON?

Any issue related to territorial parks that is important to you. Some of the issues are:

- For whom, or to what, should territorial parks be dedicated to?
- What activities should be allowed in a territorial park?
- What activities should be prohibited in a territorial park?
- Who should have the ability to enforce the *Territorial Parks Act*?
- What should the penalties be for violations in territorial parks?

4. WHAT WILL THE NEW *TERRITORIAL PARKS ACT* NOT DO?

- It will not restrict or prohibit the exercise of Inuit and Indigenous harvesting rights;
- It will not commit the Government of Nunavut to the creation of new territorial parks;
- It will not create a framework for the establishment of other types of conservation or protected areas;
- It will not establish harvesting quotas or establish levels for total allowable harvest.

5. WHAT IS A TERRITORIAL PARK?

Nunavut Parks are areas established under the *Territorial Parks Act* and are jointly planned and managed by Inuit and the Government of Nunavut, in cooperation with the affected communities.

Nunavut Parks represent our territory. These are our favourite places to go fishing and camping, berry picking, boating or to have tea. They are places with rivers and trails that have been traveled for thousands of years and sites where our ancestors camped centuries ago. They may be places with unique natural features, or places where plants grow and animals feed, den or travel. They also may be destinations we want to promote as tourist attractions.

6. CAN INUIT HUNT, FISH AND CAMP IN A TERRITORIAL PARK?

Yes! Inuit harvesting rights within a territorial park are protected by the Nunavut Agreement and Umbrella Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Nunavut Agreement and Umbrella Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area protect the rights of Inuit to continued land use for harvesting activities, outpost camps, cabins, carving stone, access, and other purposes.

Territorial parks do not impact existing Indigenous harvesting rights.



7. HOW IS A TERRITORIAL PARK ESTABLISHED?

Territorial parks in Nunavut are established in keeping with the Nunavut Agreement and the process described in the Umbrella Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Nunavut Agreement recognizes the desirability of establishing parks that represent the cultural and natural heritage of the territory, and protects Inuit rights to continue to use and enjoy the park and its resources.

The Umbrella Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area requires the development and approval of Master Plans and Management Plans specific to each park.
Kajjausarviit: Nunavut Parks Program describes the detailed establishment process and the guiding frameworks.

8. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TERRITORIAL, NATIONAL, AND MUNICIPAL PARK?

Territorial parks are established by the Government of Nunavut to protect landscapes and sites that are important to Inuit and Nunavummiut. Territorial parks are jointly planned and managed by the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Environment under the Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division, and a Community Joint Planning and Management Committee in the community associated with each park. A Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee gives territory-wide advice on planning and management for all territorial parks.

National parks are areas that are specially protected and managed by the Government of Canada. The federal government establishes national parks in every ecoregion so visitors can experience the wide range of landscapes in Canada. National parks in Nunavut are co-managed by Parks Canada and a Joint Park Management Committee for each park.

Municipal parks are developed and managed by municipalities through their respective municipal administration and Hamlet or City Council.

9. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A TERRITORIAL PARK?

• **Economic:** A territorial park promotes economic development in Nunavut through business opportunities and jobs in tourism and park management.

• **Cultural:** Nunavut Parks conserve and promote Inuit heritage and culture. These lands are important reminders of Inuit heritage that dates back thousands of years, and are places that continue to be used by Nunavummiut to fish, hunt, relax and camp. Traditional knowledge is shared through community events, as well as diverse educational programs.

• **Natural:** Nunavut Parks protect and manage wildlife habitats, scenic landscapes, and traditional use areas. Monitoring and research is facilitated to help park authorities understand and mitigate potential impacts from climate change and overuse to ensure our lands stay pristine.

• **Recreational:** The beauty of the landscape in every Nunavut Park captures the imagination of visitors and local people alike. Community members are encouraged to continue to use their territorial park for traditional activities while allowing visitors to experience camping, hiking and other recreational activities.

ACT NOW!

The *Territorial Parks Act* is being rewritten, and the Government of Nunavut wants to hear from you!

Don’t miss your opportunity to have input into the development of this important piece of legislation.

Visit our website:
www.nunavutparks.com/consultations

Email us at: parks@gov.nu.ca

Write to:
Nunavut Territorial Parks Act
 Department of Environment
 P.O. Box 1000, Station 1340
 Iqaluit Nunavut X0A 0H0

