

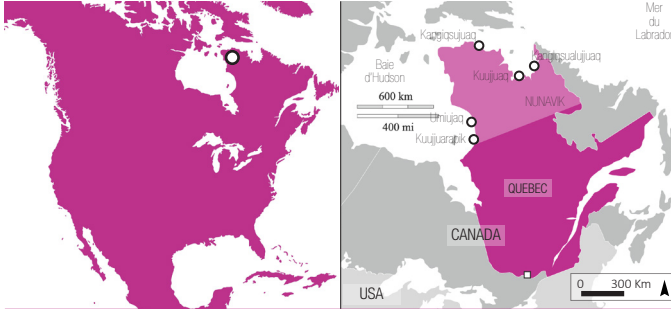


## International Human-Environment Observatory (OHMi)

# Nunavik

Quebec, Canada

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### CREATION

October 2012

### SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The climatic, ecological, economic, social and cultural context of the Arctic and the desire of resident communities to be in control of their development and to take charge of the management of their resources and their territory.

### DISRUPTING EVENT

The launch of 'Plan Nord', a major socio-economic development programme north of the 49th parallel implemented by the government of Quebec in the context of the cumulative impacts of global change (climatic, economic, social).

### KEY TOPICS

The research topics were co-constructed during the inaugural seminar in November 2013:

- Industrial development, sustainable development and renewable energy sources
- Food security and autonomy
- Inuit health and well-being and how these are connected to their environment
- Climate change, natural threats and the vulnerability of users of Nunavik parks, protected areas and cultural sites
- Traditional knowledge, heritage, intergenerational dialogue and Inuit perception of their territory



Kuujuaq greenhouses (a), for which an innovative storage system has been set up (b) to extend the growing season (c). Monitoring of the system's performance is possible thanks to specific instrumentation developed as part of the projects SIQINIQ (d)

### TERRITORY

OHMi Nunavik conducts research over a vast territory that covers the northern third of the province of Quebec in eastern Canada. The territory of Nunavik (443,685 km<sup>2</sup>) was created under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) in



1975. The climate ranges from subarctic (in the south) to arctic (in the north). Above the Arctic treeline on the 58th parallel, the territory is covered with tundra grasslands in zones of continuous permafrost. Farther south lies a transition zone between forest tundra and shrub tundra in zones of discontinuous permafrost.

The population of 13,188 is 89.5% Inuit, who live in 14 coastal villages ranging from 209 to 2754 inhabitants: 67% speak Inuktitut. In addition to these 14 Inuit villages, there is the Whapmagoostui Cree First Nation reservation, hunting and trapping lands exclusive to the Naskapi Innu First Nation, and part of Nitassinan, territory claimed by the Innu (not definitive). The villages can only be accessed by air for most of the year, and by sea freighter in summer.

### SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

In May 2011, the government of Quebec launched 'Plan Nord', the goal of which is the economic development of the far north in an approach of integrated and sustainable development. Numerous discussions were held between local communities, public authorities, government agencies and industries in order to converge on realistic, viable solutions that will meet the needs of the North and its communities. In 2015, the Société du Plan Nord was created, a government corporation whose purpose is to implement Plan Nord. It is hoped that the results of OHMi's research work in Nunavik will inform the strategies concerning the future of Inuit communities.

### PARTNERS

The OHMi's research projects are carried out in partnership with

- the Kativik Regional Administration (ARK) and the Makivik Corporation, among others: In Nunavik, Inuit organisations work collaboratively to coordinate economic and community development, planning for maritime infrastructure and parks, wildlife management (caribou), etc. In the same way, they collaborate with researchers from the Centre for Northern Studies, the Institut Nordique du Québec, various government departments and with French researchers from OHMi.
- the northern villages of Kuujuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Kangiqsulujuq, Kuujurapik, Umiujaq;
- the Tursujuq National Park;
- the Whapmagoostui Tribal Council;
- le Centre d'études nordiques;
- les Universités Laval, de Montréal, du Québec à Trois Rivières;
- l'École de technologie supérieure et l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique du Canada.



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