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Nunavut’s Federal Election 2025 Priorities

İᒡᓗ 2025
March 2025

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OVERVIEW

As the federal government allocates funding to address trade impacts across Canada, Nunavut seeks to strategically direct investments toward infrastructure projects that advance both territorial and national priorities. Nunavut is promoting seven key projects that will strengthen economic resilience, enhance Arctic sovereignty, and improve national connectivity, delivering long-term benefits for both Nunavut and Canada: the Qikiqtarjuaq Deep Sea Port, Arctic Security Corridor, Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link, Bandwidth Accessibility, Nunavut 3000 Housing Initiative, Nunavut Airport Runways, and Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project.

These projects align with Canada's broader objectives of economic security, environmental stewardship, and global competitiveness. They will reinforce the nation's leadership in the Arctic, bolster its standing as a responsible resource producer, support its leadership in clean energy, and contribute to the robustness of global supply chains.

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QIKIQTARJUAQ DEEP SEA PORT

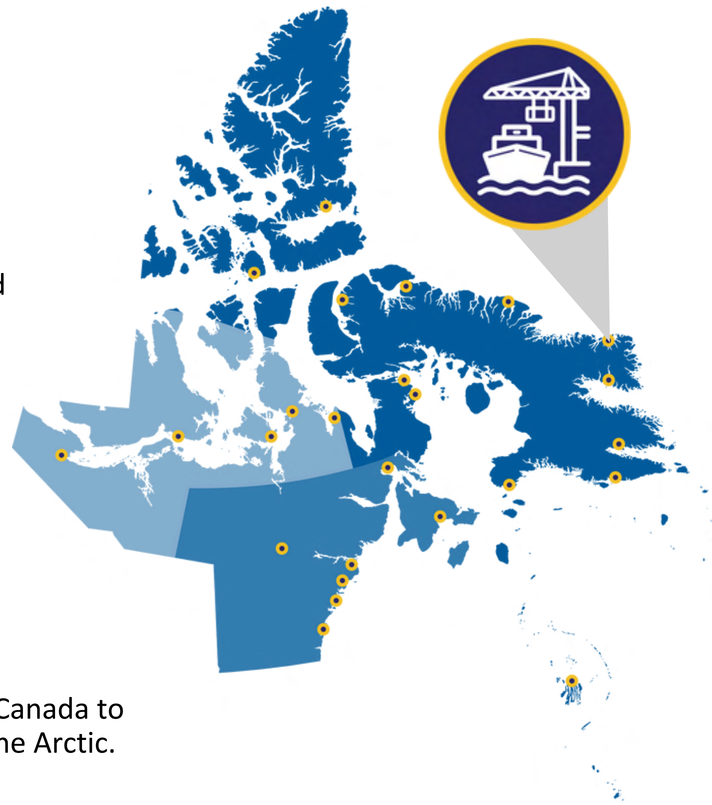
Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut

Deep-water port

Enhances Canada's ability to monitor and control its Arctic waters, particularly along the increasingly accessible Northwest Passage.

Creates a vital maritime hub that supports local industries, including fisheries and resource shipping.

Strengthens trade routes and resource development opportunities, positioning Canada to capitalize on the economic potential of the Arctic.



Objective: Establish a deep-sea port in the Qikiqtani Region of Nunavut to improve marine infrastructure, reduce supply chain vulnerabilities, and support offshore fisheries.

National Interest Alignment

- Economic Growth: Unlocks $300 million in offshore fisheries revenue by enabling Nunavut vessels to offload catch locally instead of in Newfoundland.
- Sovereignty & Security: Provides critical Arctic infrastructure to support national security, search-and-rescue (SAR) operations, and maritime defence.
- Supply Chain Resilience: Reduces dependency on foreign ports for Nunavut’s essential goods and strengthens Canada’s Arctic marine logistics.
- Food Security: Enhances Canada's seafood supply chain, ensuring access to sustainably harvested Arctic fisheries.

Project Overview

The Qikiqtarjuaq Deep Sea Port is a transformative infrastructure project critical to advancing Nunavut's economy, enhancing Arctic sovereignty, and supporting Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework. This port will enable Nunavut to retain economic benefits from its offshore fisheries, address infrastructure gaps, and establish a strategic presence in the Arctic to bolster national security.

The project aims to:

- Support economic resilience by reducing economic leakage from Nunavut's offshore fisheries.
- Enhance Arctic sovereignty through improved marine infrastructure, advancing Canada's ability to respond to security and geopolitical challenges
- Create opportunities for Nunavummiut, including visible career paths in marine industries and community development.

Strategic Importance

- Economic Impact: The port will enable local processing of eco-certified offshore fishery products, retain revenue, and reduce operational costs for the fishing industry.
- National Security: Establishing the port aligns with Canada's Arctic security strategy, providing critical infrastructure to support fisheries, research, and national defense operations.
- Community Development: Collaborative development with Inuit organizations ensures alignment with reconciliation and community-driven growth.

Project Scope

Phase I Infrastructure:

- Fixed dock with 10m depth at low tide and 15,000m² laydown area.
- Access road improvements (3km).
- Offloading crane (23-tonne capacity), site power, and terminal building.
- Vessel refueling, wastewater treatment, and secure storage facilities.

Phase II and Secondary Infrastructure:

- Search and rescue operations office and resources.
- Maintenance garage, additional warehousing, and harbor improvements.
- Crew accommodations and enhanced communications infrastructure.

Partnerships and Opportunities:
Call to Action: Collaboration with federal departments, Inuit organizations, and private stakeholders is essential.

Potential Partners:

- Federal Departments (Transport Canada, CIRNAC, CanNor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Defense).
- Inuit organizations (Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated).
- Private Sector (Arctic Cooperatives Limited, Royal Arctic Line).

Proposed Partnership Model: A P3+ arrangement, leveraging public, private, and Indigenous expertise to deliver and sustain the project.

Impact for Canada and Nunavut

- Economic Resilience: Retains and expands benefits from Nunavut's fisheries.
- Arctic Security: Enhances Canada's capacity to respond to Arctic challenges.
- Community Benefits: Provides jobs, visibility of marine industries, and infrastructure improvements.

Project Timeline

- Design Phase Completion: October 2025.
- Operational Target: Seasonal operations from July to October annually.

Next Steps

To move this project forward, the Government of Nunavut requests:

- Federal investment to close the funding gap and realize the full project scope.
- Collaborative discussions to finalize partnership structures and responsibilities.

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ARCTIC SECURITY CORRIDOR

Grays Bay, Nunavut

Deep water port and 230 km all season road connecting the Grays Bay port and the northern terminus of the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Lake Winter Road at Jericho Station in Nunavut.

Provides critical infrastructure in Nunavut that enhances Canada's presence and operational capability in the Arctic.

Facilitates economic and resource development through job creation and providing a reliable transport network for mineral extraction, including critical minerals, in resource rich areas.

Creates a strategic transportation and shipping corridor linking the Northwest Passage to the Canadian highway system.

Objective: Develop a 230km all-weather road and port linking Nunavut to the Northwest Territories, unlocking access to mineral-rich regions.

National Interest Alignment:

- Critical Minerals Access: Supports Canada's growing need for responsibly sourced rare earth elements and battery metals, which are essential for clean energy and defence applications.
- Northern Transportation Corridor: Strengthens Arctic logistics, reduces reliance on southern transit routes, and enhances supply chain security.
- Economic Development: Opens pathways for investment in mining and trade, particularly in strategic minerals required for Canada's energy transition and national security.
- Global Competitiveness: Positions Canada as a leader in supplying critical minerals needed for the global clean energy economy.

Project Overview

The Arctic Security Corridor/Grays Bay Road and Port will create and deep water port and 230 km all-season road connecting the Grays Bay port and to the Northwest Territories to the southern provinces of Canada. This project provides critical infrastructure in Nunavut that enhances Canada's presence and operational capability in the Arctic.

Strategic Importance

- Facilitates economic and resource development through job creation and providing a reliable transport network for mineral extraction, including critical minerals, in resource-rich areas.
- Creates a strategic transportation and shipping corridor linking the Northwest Passage to the Canadian highway system.
- Critical Minerals Access: Supports Canada's growing need for responsibly sourced rare earth elements and battery metals, which are essential for clean energy and defence applications.
- Northern Transportation Corridor: Strengthens Arctic logistics, reduces reliance on southern transit routes, and enhances supply chain security.
- Economic Development: Opens pathways for investment in mining and trade, particularly in strategic minerals required for Canada's energy transition and national security.
- Global Competitiveness: Positions Canada as a leader in supplying critical minerals needed for the global clean energy economy.
- Nation-building infrastructure: The only all-season road access to a deep water port on the Northwest Passage. It is a multi-user, multi-purpose asset that will reinforce Arctic sovereignty and security in defence of the northern border of North America.

Project Scope

Objective: Develop a 230 km all-weather road and port linking Nunavut to the Northwest Territories, unlocking access to mineral-rich regions.
A vital infrastructure corridor between southern Canada, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

- Port of Grays Bay
  - Located on the Coronation Gulf in western Nunavut
  - Capable of docking large naval vessels – up to 50' (15m) draft and 800' (240m) length, June to November
  - Includes all-season facilities: airstrip, storage, crew accommodations, and designed to resupply Canadian Coast Guard's Polar Icebreakers

- Road Infrastructure
  - A 900 km all-season road within a utilities corridor to connect to the North American highway network
  - Passes through the mineral-rich Slave Geological Province (copper, zinc, lithium)
  - Connects to Lac de Gras diamond mines, supporting NWT's largest industry and use of Diavik as a support hub

Impact for Canada and Nunavut

- Enhances Canada's Arctic sovereignty and operational presence
- Unlocks economic potential in Nunavut and NWT through access to critical minerals
- Provides Inuit-led development opportunities (WKR as proponent)
- Creates jobs and long-term infrastructure for remote communities
- Construction will require skilled workers, resources, goods, and services from across Canada
- Strengthens Canada's role in global clean energy supply chains

Project Timeline

Standard Schedule (through Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)):

- 2025: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted to Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
- 2026: Review of Draft EIS, submission of Final EIS
- 2027: NIRB recommendation, ministerial approval, issuance of Project Certificate
- 2028: Licensing and preparation for construction
- 2029: Mobilization and start of early works construction

Accelerated Schedule (for national security purposes):

- 2025: Interim Project Certificate issued, Draft EIS filed
- 2026: Licensing, construction preparation, Draft EIS review
- 2027: Early works construction begins, NIRB recommendation on revised Project Certificate

Next Steps

- Government of Canada to determine if national security requires acceleration of the project
- Ensure funding certainty through start of construction
- Consider use of legislative tools (NuPPAA Section 151) for schedule acceleration
- Support from Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc expressed in March 4, 2025 joint press release

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KIVALLIQ HYDO-FIBRE LINK

Kivalliq Region, Nunavut

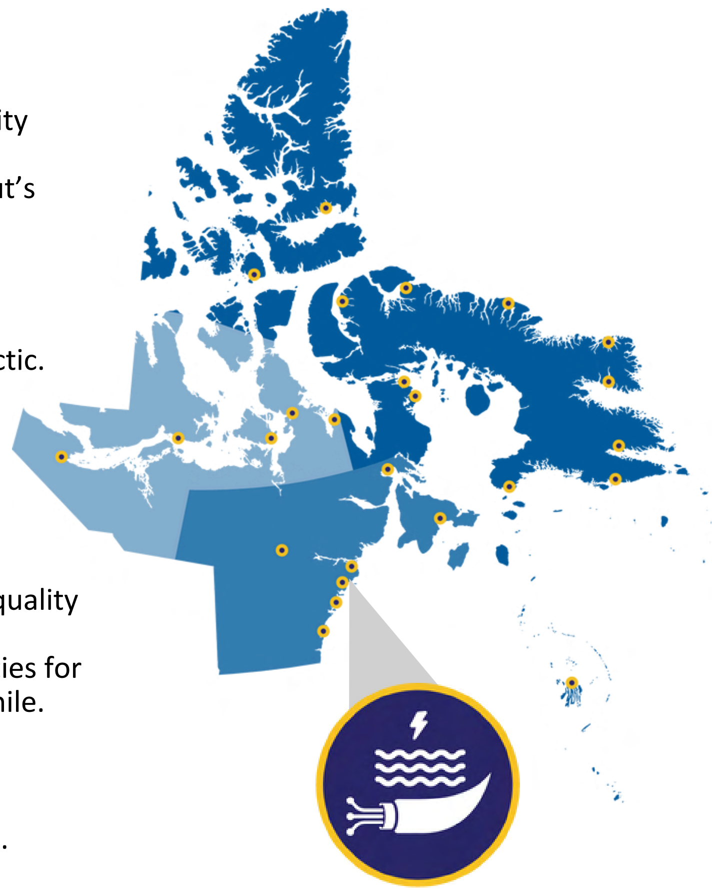
A 1,200 km link from Manitoba's electricity grid and communications network to 5 Nunavut communities, or 23% of Nunavut's population, and 2 mines.

Establishes critical energy and communications infrastructure that strengthens Canada's presence in the Arctic.

Provides the potential to reduce all diesel consumption for both heat and electricity generation for 23% of Nunavut's population.

Reduces energy costs and improves the quality of life for communities, enabling more sustainable development and opportunities for industries such as mining and tourism while.

Creates a strategic transportation and shipping corridor linking the Northwest Passage to the Canadian highway system.



Objective: Construct a 1,200km high-voltage transmission line connecting Manitoba's hydroelectric grid and high-speed internet to five Kivalliq communities: Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake. The project will include over 370km of medium-voltage 'feeder' lines and will be Nunavut's first infrastructure link to southern Canada. The system will provide 150 megawatts (MW) of capacity and at least 1,200 gigabits per second (Gbps) of fibre-optic bandwidth, ensuring sustainable power and broadband access for generations to come.

National Interest Alignment:

- Clean Energy Transition: Reduces Nunavut's reliance on diesel, cutting carbon emissions by 380,000 metric tonnes annually—a major contribution to Canada's Net-Zero 2050 goals.
- Digital Connectivity: Reduces the reliance on satellite connectivity and provides reliable broadband access to remote communities, improving education, healthcare, and economic participation.
- Economic Growth: Supports local industries, enhances business investment, and reduces the cost of living in Arctic communities.
- Energy Security: Strengthens Canada's national energy grid, reducing reliance on foreign fossil fuels.

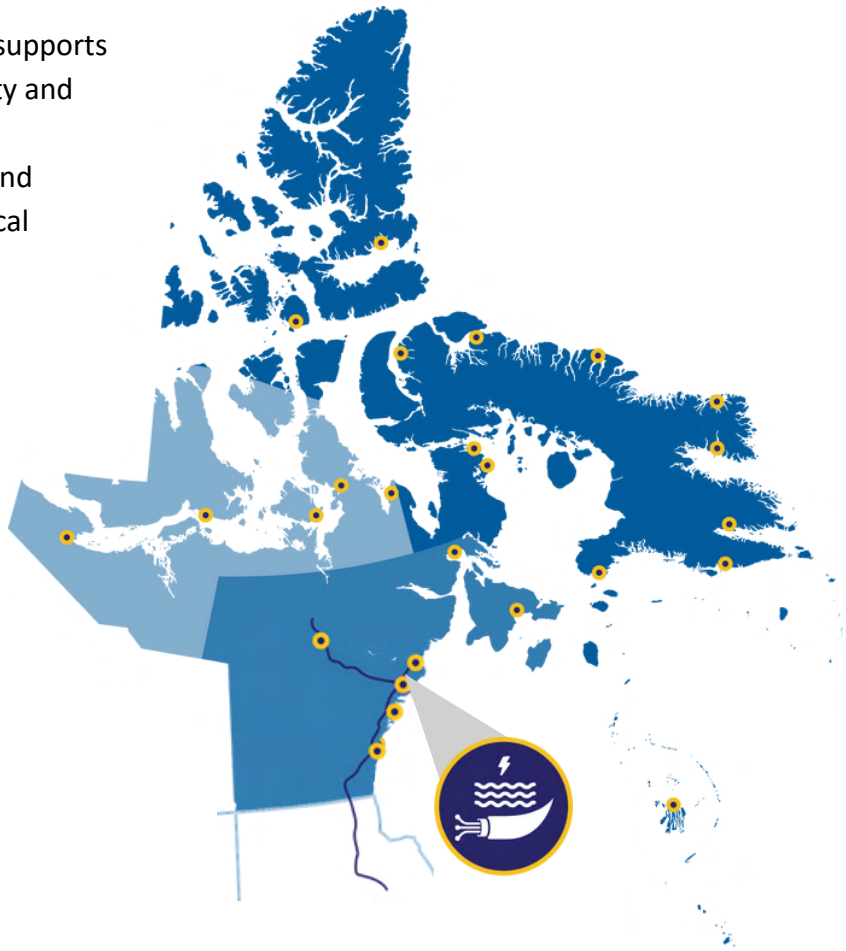
Project Overview

Strategic Importance

- Establishes critical energy and communications infrastructure, strengthening Canada's Arctic presence.
- Reduces all diesel consumption for electricity and heat for 23% of Nunavut's population.
- Strengthens Arctic sovereignty and security by building essential infrastructure links between North and South.
- Supports Canada's Net-Zero 2050 goals by significantly cutting greenhouse gas emissions.
- Positions Canada to catch up with other Arctic nations in developing northern infrastructure and energy security.
- Reinforces national energy security by reducing reliance on foreign fossil fuels.

Project Scope

- Objective: Construct a 1,200 km high-voltage transmission line connecting Manitoba's hydroelectric grid to five Kivalliq communities: Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake.
- Includes over 370 km of medium-voltage feeder lines, creating Nunavut's first infrastructure link to southern Canada.
- Delivers 150 MW of clean energy capacity and at least 1,200 Gbps of fibre-optic bandwidth.
- Led by Nukik, a 100% Inuit-owned and Inuit-led company advancing energy security in the Kivalliq.
- Multi-purpose infrastructure: supports cost-effective, secure electricity and digital connectivity.
- Will serve both communities and industrial users, including critical mineral mining and tourism.



Impact for Canada and Nunavut

Stronger Communities:

- Inuit-led development creates local training, employment, and business opportunities.
- Enhances healthcare and education through improved internet access.
- Stabilizes electricity costs and reduces cost of living.

Economic Growth:

- Reliable energy and broadband make businesses more competitive.
- Unlocks opportunities in critical minerals, mining, and clean energy.
- Supports local entrepreneurship and diversified economic development.

Environmental Protection:

- Eliminates the need for millions of litres of diesel annually.
- Prevents spills and cuts diesel-related pollution and emissions by 380,000 metric tonnes per year.

Next Steps

- Advance development through detailed project design and regulatory approvals.
- Secure full funding commitments through PPP arrangements.
- Coordinate with federal and territorial partners on implementation, permitting, and community engagement.

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BROADBAND ACCESSIBILITY

All 25 Nunavut communities

Enhance internet redundancy in Nunavut by investing in a fibre link and multiple satellite communications providers.

Establishes communications infrastructure that strengthens Canada's communications resilience and presence in the Arctic.

Supports education, healthcare, and service delivery in Nunavut's remote communities. Enables businesses and governments to better participate in the digital economy.

Objective: Establish a high-capacity fibre optic transport link connecting Nunavut to the national network, reducing reliance on satellite services while ensuring long-term broadband affordability, reliability, and security. At the same time, enhance satellite broadband capabilities to provide resilient, redundant connectivity across all 25 Nunavut communities.

National Interest Alignment:

- Telecommunications Resilience: Strengthens Canada's Arctic telecom network and reduces reliance on foreign providers for essential connectivity services.
- Economic Development: Creates jobs, fosters digital business growth, and enhances opportunities for local Inuit-led IT enterprises.
- Public Service Efficiency: Improves government service delivery in health, education, emergency response, and remote governance.
- Innovation & Competitiveness: Positions Nunavut as a leader in Arctic digital infrastructure and connectivity solutions.

Project Overview

Nunavut's growing digital economy and government services require fast, affordable, and reliable broadband. Currently, the territory relies on a mix of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite technologies for connectivity. However, the increasing demand for high-speed internet, estimated to reach 75 Gbps by 2025 and 400 Gbps by 2035, necessitates long-term investment in fibre optic infrastructure. The Government of Nunavut is prioritizing a hybrid connectivity model, combining fibre and satellite services to close the broadband gap and reduce reliance on foreign-owned providers.

Strategic Importance

- Enhanced Connectivity for Nunavummiut: Reliable broadband will support education, healthcare (E-Health), and cloud-based government applications, improving quality of life and service delivery.
- National Security & Sovereignty: Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada without fibre access. Establishing a domestic fibre link will reduce dependency on foreign satellite providers and strengthen national telecom resilience.
- Economic Growth & Digital Innovation: Broadband expansion will enable businesses, remote work opportunities, and innovation in key industries, including mining and tourism.
- Redundancy & Reliability: A multi-provider LEO model, combined with fibre, ensures resilient network connectivity even in cases of equipment failure or geopolitical disruptions.

Project Scope

Objective: Develop a fibre optic transport link connecting Nunavut to southern Canada while expanding satellite broadband capabilities.

Fibre Optic Infrastructure:

- Establish direct fibre connectivity from Nunavut to the national network, reducing long-term operational costs and bandwidth limitations.
- Increase redundancy for high-capacity services, reducing the load on satellite infrastructure.

Satellite & Wireless Enhancements:

- Expand LEO coverage through multiple providers (Starlink, Telesat Lightspeed, OneWeb) to enhance bandwidth and service reliability.
- Continue the GN's 5G pilot project in Iqaluit, evaluating its potential for broader community implementation.

Impact for Nunavut and Canada

- Reliable & Secure Internet: High-speed broadband access for all 25 Nunavut communities, ensuring consistent connectivity.
- Lower Long-Term Costs: Reducing dependency on subsidized satellite services by investing in cost-effective fibre infrastructure.
- Support for Key Services: Enables advanced applications such as telemedicine, distance learning, and cloud-based government services.
- Greater Digital Inclusion: Ensures all Nunavummiut can participate in the digital economy, reducing the digital divide.

Project Timeline

- 2025: Initial feasibility studies and environmental assessments for fibre optic link.
- 2026: Federal and territorial funding secured; implementation of expanded LEO services continues.
- 2027: Telesat Lightspeed rollout and first fibre construction phases begin.
- 2028-2030: Completion of initial fibre network; integration with satellite services for redundancy.

Next Steps

- Secure federal and territorial funding commitments for fibre optic development.
- Finalize feasibility studies and regulatory approvals.
- Expand 5G pilot in Iqaluit to assess broader deployment across Nunavut.
- Strengthen partnerships with LEO providers to ensure long-term service affordability and reliability.

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NUNAVUT 3000 HOUSING INITIATIVE

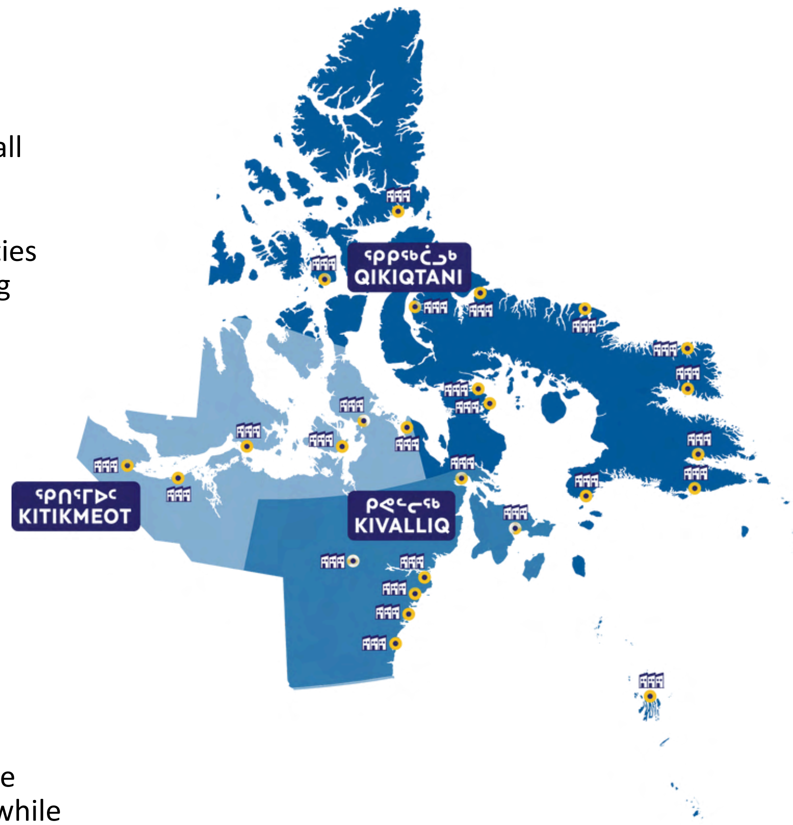
All 25 Nunavut communities

Adequate, affordable housing for all Nunavummiut

Ensures stable, resilient communities – essential for maintaining a strong presence in the Arctic. Nunavut's growing young population needs adequate housing to ensure permanent residency in our communities.

Increased access to quality housing improves productivity and well-being by addressing overcrowding and reducing health and social inequities experienced in Nunavut.

Enables communities to participate more fully in economic activities, while fostering local job creation in construction and maintenance.



Objective: Build 3,000 housing units by 2030 to address Nunavut's severe housing crisis.

National Interest Alignment:

- Social Infrastructure: Supports Arctic sovereignty by ensuring sustainable, livable communities for Nunavummiut.
- Workforce Stability: Supports economic growth by reducing overcrowding and ensuring the viability of a skilled workforce in remote Arctic regions.
- Reconciliation Commitment: Aligns with Canada's commitment to Inuit self-determination and Indigenous-led housing solutions.
- National Economic Growth: Increases labour force participation and economic productivity in Canada's northern economy.

Project Overview

Igluliuqatigiingniq, Nunavut 3000, is a nation-building initiative to deliver 3,000 new housing units across all 25 Nunavut communities by 2030, ensuring adequate, affordable housing for all Nunavummiut. Led by the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC), this initiative addresses the housing crisis through community collaboration, strategic investment, and long-term capacity building.

Strategic Importance

- Arctic Sovereignty: Stable, resilient communities are essential for maintaining a strong, enduring presence in the Arctic.
- Youth Population Growth: Nunavut's young, growing population needs adequate housing to sustain permanent residency in remote communities.
- Social Infrastructure: Housing is a human right and critical for addressing health and social inequities caused by overcrowding and inadequate housing stock.
- Reconciliation: Supports Inuit self-determination and Indigenous-led housing solutions, aligning with national reconciliation commitments.
- National Economic Growth: Enables increased labour force participation and productivity in Canada's North.

Project Scope

- Objective: Build 3,000 housing units by 2030 across the housing continuum (transitional, public, affordable, market housing).
- Strategic Project Delivery:
  - Mixed procurement models: design-build, design-bid-build, and negotiated contracts.
  - Development of affordable housing co-investment programs (inspired by CMHC models).
  - Support for co-op housing, condo corporations, and redesigned homeownership programs.
  - Industry engagement through Requests for Expressions of Interest to encourage innovation and partnerships.
- Focus on lowering construction costs, building long-term housing capacity, and supporting Nunavummiut in accessing suitable housing.

Impact for Canada and Nunavut

- Community Well-being: Reduces overcrowding, improves health outcomes, and supports social equity.
- Workforce Development: Creates construction and maintenance jobs, enables local training, and supports people entering the trades.
- Economic Participation: With stable housing, communities can engage in economic activities, and individuals can seek and maintain employment.
- Systemic Change: Long-term housing investments stabilize Nunavut's housing market and foster sustainable growth.

Project Timeline

- October 2022: NHC announced Nunavut 3000 housing plan.
- 2023–2030: Implementation period — rolling development across communities, scaling up supply, and building capacity.
    - Ongoing partnership development, procurement, and construction phases to be executed in alignment with community needs.

Next Steps

- Expand and formalize partnerships with industry, government, and Inuit organizations.
- Secure federal funding allocation and leverage territorial resources.
- Issue Requests For Expression Of Interests to explore innovative housing solutions.
- Continue community engagement to align housing developments with local needs and priorities.

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NUNAVUT AIRPORT RUNWAYS

All 25 Nunavut communities

Strategic investment in Nunavut’s airport infrastructure to enhance Arctic security, economic development, and community connectivity.

Allows increased security and ensures Canada maintains control over its Arctic airspace. Promotes resilient, sustainable and self-sufficient communities. Allows airports to serve as critical hubs for quick responses to emergencies.

Supports economic development by improving transportation of goods, critical mineral resource exploration, and trade.

Objective: Secure federal investment to upgrade, maintain, and expand Nunavut’s airport infrastructure, ensuring long-term operational reliability and alignment with Arctic sovereignty priorities.

National Interest Alignment:

- Arctic Security and Sovereignty: Strengthens Canada’s Arctic presence by ensuring reliable air access for emergency response, military operations, and supply chain resilience.
- Economic Growth: Supports resource development, tourism, and transportation networks, creating long-term economic opportunities for Nunavut.
- Community Connectivity & Safety: Enhances critical infrastructure for essential services, medical evacuations, and travel between remote communities.
- Infrastructure Resilience: Addresses rising construction costs and ensures sustainable maintenance of Arctic airport infrastructure.

Project Overview

Nunavut's airports serve as lifelines for the territory's 25 remote communities, supporting economic activity, emergency response, and Arctic sovereignty. However, runway conditions are deteriorating due to increasing maintenance costs and limited federal funding under the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP). A long-term investment plan is necessary to ensure safe, functional, and resilient airport infrastructure across Nunavut.

The project aims to:

- Improve airport safety and reliability through resurfacing, assessments, and long-term maintenance.
- Support Arctic security objectives by ensuring year-round operational capabilities for key airports.
- Provide economic and logistical benefits through modernized infrastructure that supports industry growth and supply chain stability.

Strategic Importance

- National Security: Reliable airport infrastructure is critical for Arctic sovereignty, military operations, and emergency response.
- Economic Development: Improved runways facilitate growth in fisheries, mining, tourism, and transportation sectors.
- Community Well-being: Enhances emergency medical evacuation capabilities and access to essential goods and services.
- Cost Efficiency: Proactive investment reduces long-term infrastructure costs by preventing emergency repairs and operational disruptions.

Project Scope

Phase I: Strategic Runways

- Rankin Inlet repaving and Cambridge Bay paving

Phase II: Runway Assessments & Resurfacing

- Assessments for three gravel runways and resurfacing five gravel runways

Phase III: Long-Term Infrastructure Investment

- Gravel stockpiles for 22 airports, ongoing maintenance for resurfaced and remaining gravel runways, minor upgrades (lighting, drainage, safety enhancements) for all 25 airports

Current Status

- Runway Assessments: Underway in Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq.
- Gravel Runway Resurfacing:
  - Whale Cove: Underway with $3M in GN funding.
  - Pangnirtung and Kugluktuk: Projects begin summer 2025 (ACAP-funded).

Impact for Canada and Nunavut

- Arctic Security: Strengthens Canada's northern presence with reliable aviation infrastructure.
- Economic Growth: Supports industries reliant on air transportation, fostering long-term prosperity.
- Community Safety: Ensures stable and safe access to medical services, supplies, and travel.
- Sustainable Infrastructure: Provides long-term resilience against rising costs and environmental challenges.

Project Timeline

- 2025: Finalize federal-territorial agreement; begin Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay paving.
- 2026-2027: Conduct additional assessments and begin resurfacing gravel runways.
- 2028-2029: Implement long-term infrastructure improvements and ongoing maintenance.

Next Steps

- Engage Federal Stakeholders: Advocate for funding commitment during upcoming discussions.
- Develop Arctic Airport Strategy: Establish a long-term agreement for sustained investment.
- Prioritize Key Paving Projects: Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay as Arctic security priorities.
- Secure Funding for Assessments & Resurfacing: Advance additional runway improvements.

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IQALUIT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Iqaluit, Nunavut

Hydropower dam system

Provides a reliable, sustainable energy source, strengthening the resilience of Nunavut's capital and supporting essential infrastructure that is critical for maintaining sovereignty in the region.

Potential to reduce diesel consumption for electricity generation in Iqaluit by 100%; this would reduce Nunavut’s diesel reliance for electricity generation by 19%.

Model for renewable energy solutions in northern and remote regions.

Showcases Canada's commitment to sustainable development in the Arctic.

Objective: Develop a hydroelectric facility near Iqaluit to transition the city to renewable energy.

National Interest Alignment:

- Energy Security: Replaces imported diesel with locally generated hydroelectric power, reducing Nunavut’s dependence on costly, emissions-heavy energy imports.
- Cost Reduction: Lowers energy expenses for residents and businesses while reducing long-term federal diesel subsidies.
- Climate Action: Advances Canada’s Net-Zero 2050 commitments and ensures clean, sustainable power for the Arctic capital.
- Resilience Against Global Energy Disruptions: Reduces Canada’s dependence on foreign energy sources and mitigates risks from global fuel price fluctuations.

Project Overview

The Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project is an Inuit-led renewable energy project to replace diesel power in Iqaluit with 15–30 MW of clean hydroelectric power by 2033. Located ~60km northeast of Iqaluit at Kuugaluk (McKeand River South), this project is spearheaded by Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation (NNC), Nunavut's first 100% Inuit-owned renewable energy developer, and a subsidiary of Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, owned by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Strategic Importance

- Energy Sovereignty: Replaces diesel dependence with secure, clean, and locally controlled energy, enabling Iqalungmiut to lead their own energy future.
- Economic Reconciliation: Exemplifies Inuit-led economic development and aligns with Canada's reconciliation commitments.
- Arctic Security: Supports growth in Nunavut's capital, ensuring critical infrastructure and energy stability for Canada's North.
- Environmental Benefits: Eliminates over 15 million litres of diesel use annually, reducing emissions and environmental harm.
- Cost Relief for Nunavummiut: Potential to lower electricity rates across Nunavut, addressing affordability and supporting territory-wide economic resilience.

Project Scope

- Capacity: 15–30 MW waterpower facility, scalable to meet 100% of Iqaluit's current and future electricity needs, with potential to offset thermal heating loads.
- Project Site: Kuugaluk, selected via community-led process prioritizing social, environmental, and technical criteria — supported by ~75% consensus through ranked ballot voting.
- Timeline:
  - Current Phase: Front-End Engineering & Design (FEED) (2024–2027)
  - Next Phase: Detailed Engineering & Permitting
  - Construction Readiness: By 2030, with full operation by 2033
- Core Activities:
  - Field Data Collection (geotechnical, environmental, archaeological)
  - Engineering Design (via Tetra Tech)
  - Access Road Planning (in collaboration with Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Association)
  - Ongoing Public and Rightsholder Engagement (centered on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent)
  - Utility Engagement with Qulliq Energy Corporation — MOU anticipated by June 2025

Impact for Canada and Nunavut

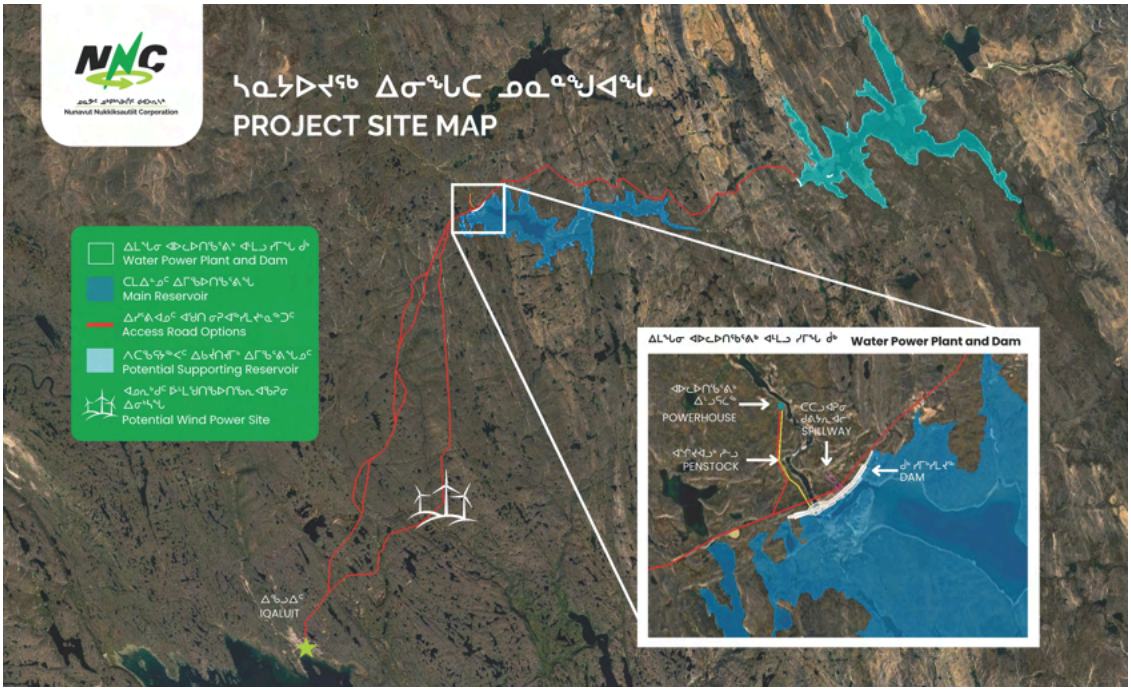
- Lower Costs: Reduced reliance on subsidized diesel lowers fiscal burdens on the Government of Nunavut and federal government.
- Economic Growth: Enables critical infrastructure expansion and industrial development in Iqaluit.
- Energy Stability: Provides reliable, sustainable power for generations, supporting population growth and Arctic security.
- National Priorities: Aligns with climate action, clean energy goals, and northern development strategies.

Project Timeline

- 2022–2024: Site selection and early engagement.
- 2024–2025: Start of FEED phase; hydrometric stations installed, key engineering and archaeology contracts awarded.
- 2025–2029: Detailed engineering, permitting, and financing activities.
- 2030: Construction readiness.
- 2033: Project completion and commissioning.

Next Steps

- Finalize federal funding support to bridge outstanding development financing.
- Complete MOU with Qulliq Energy Corporation by June 2025 to define commercial framework.
- Continue public engagement (next session - Spring 2025), ensuring Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is embedded throughout project decisions.
- Issue outstanding Requests For Proposals for LiDAR, environmental assessments, geophysical data collection, and camp services.
- Grow partnerships with Canada Infrastructure Bank and federal departments for long-term investment and delivery.



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CONCLUSION

These projects represent a significant opportunity for the Government of Canada to invest in essential Arctic infrastructure, in alignment with the nation's economic, environmental, and security priorities. They directly contribute to Canada's national resilience, supporting the country's continued leadership in energy, resource development, and the assertion of Arctic sovereignty. The Government of Nunavut is committed to fostering collaborative partnerships with federal stakeholders to advance these projects and optimize long-term benefits for the nation.

Next Steps:

- Secure federal commitment to bridge funding gaps for high-impact projects.
- Finalize partnership models (public-private, Indigenous, and federal collaborations).
- Develop phased investment strategies to ensure efficient project delivery.

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Government of Nunavut

Nunavut Kavamanga

Gouvernement du Nunavut