



Planning Context

3.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

3.1 Population Profile and Forecast for Inuit Communities

No one resides on a permanent basis in LISA outside of the five Inuit Communities. Aullâsimavet and cabins spread throughout the area are used on a seasonal basis. Inuit who reside outside of LISA in communities such as Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River or Mud Lake also utilize the resources and land within LISA.

To gain an understanding of Inuit who utilize LISA, a review of Statistics Canada data was undertaken. Inuit make up 91 percent of the people who reside within the five Inuit communities. Statistical data in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River does not make a distinction in aboriginal identity among Inuit, Innu, and Métis.

In September 2009 there were 7,027 Labrador Inuit beneficiaries living in communities as shown on Plate 5. This is an increase of 305 beneficiaries since June 2008 with an increase of 50 in the five Inuit communities within LISA.

Plate 5 - Inuit Beneficiaries

Community or Location	Number of Beneficiaries	Percentage
Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Mud Lake	2,020	28.7%
North West River	303	4.3%
Nain	1,180	16.8%
Hopedale	595	8.5%
Makkovik	336	4.8%
Postville	199	2.8%
Rigolet	299	4.3%
Residing elsewhere throughout Canada	2,095	29.8%
Total	7,027	100.0%

Source: Nunatsiavut Government, September 2009

The population within the five Inuit Communities, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River is shown in Plate 6 for 1991 to 2006 Census years. For comparative purposes, the population for the Province is also provided.

Although Plate 6 shows the population has declined in almost all communities over the past 15 years, there are indications that this has been reversed in some communities since 2006. When compared with the data in Plate 5, there are indications that Statistics Canada data may not be accurate.

Plate 6 - Population by Community and the Province – 1991 to 2006

	1991	1996	2001	2006	Change from 1991 to 2006 (percentage)
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	8,614	8,655	7,969	7,572	-12.1%
North West River	528	567	551	492	-6.8%
Nain	1,069	996	1,159	1,034	-3.3%
Hopedale	515	591	559	530	2.9%
Makkovik	370	367	384	362	-2.2%
Postville	231	223	215	219	-5.2%
Rigolet	334	259	317	269	-19.5%
Combined Total of the above Communities	13,652	13,654	13,155	12,484	-8.6%
Newfoundland and Labrador	568,474	551,792	512,930	505,469	-11.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 to 2006 Census Data

Although there has been a general decline in the population within the five Inuit Communities, the change has not been significant. The largest decline in absolute terms was in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and is primarily due to the reduced presence of the military at the Canadian Forces 5-Wing Goose Bay Air Base.

Employment opportunities have increased with jobs at Vale in Voisey's Bay and mineral exploration in northern Labrador.

The Labrador Inuit Development Corporation (LIDC) is involved in a number of businesses including the labradorite anorthosite quarry at Ten Mile Bay and the Igiak quarry both near Nain, a stone processing plant in Hopedale and the forestry and sawmill operations at Postville. It also owns and operates two marine tugs and two barges to move materials along the coast. There are a

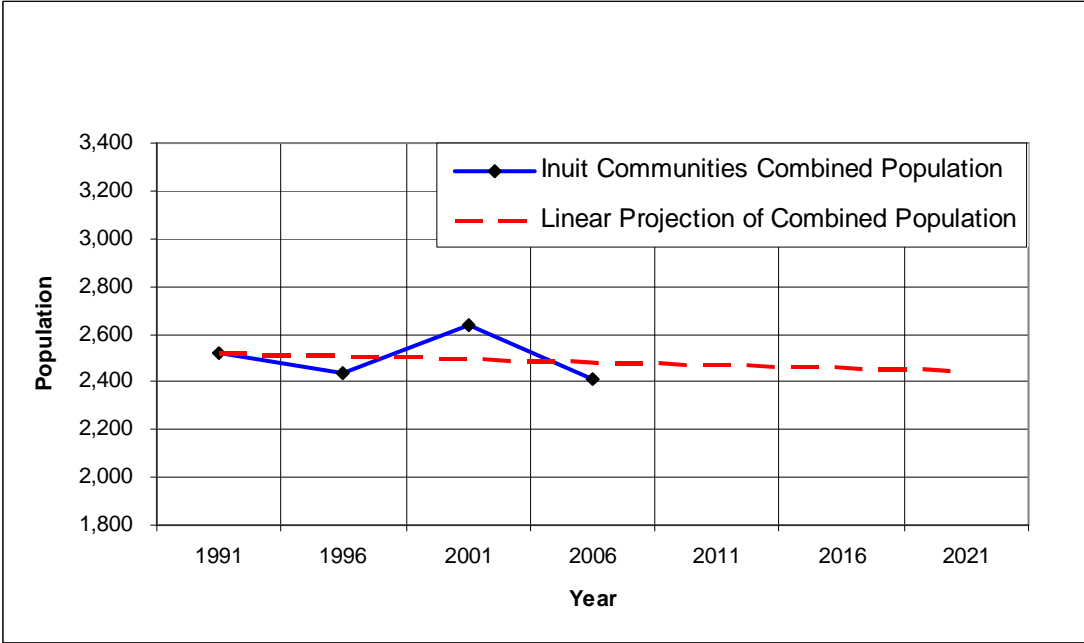
number of companies involved in environmental studies and providing support to mining and exploration companies.

In 2010 the LIDC began operating a base camp at kANGIDLUASUK, the Inuttitut name for St. John's Harbour in Saglek Bay. The base camp is located on LIL at the southern boundary of the Torngat Mountains National Park to service the tourism industry and to provide research facilities for the Nunatsiavut Government. There are also a number of other businesses taking advantage of opportunities for involvement in the tourism industry. Parks Canada will also be present at the base camp since it acts as a gateway into the Park and will provide accommodation and facilities for researchers doing work in the Park.

Plate 7 shows the combined population projection for the five communities within LISA. A linear projection shows a slight decline in population by 2021, to 2,450 people.

It is expected that changing economic factors in Inuit Communities will reverse the trend shown in Plate 7. Construction of administrative buildings for Nunatsiavut Government in the communities and the potential increased role of the communities in servicing mining and exploration companies should provide employment opportunities thus encouraging population growth. This will be elaborated on in section 3.5.

Plate 7 - Combined Population Projection for the Five Communities within LISA



Source: Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 1991 - 2006 Census
 Projection is computer generated based on Census data

3.2 Inuit Use of the Land

Inuit understanding and definition of land is all inclusive, including land, water, sea and air. Inuit have traditionally inhabited the land within LISA and used the land and coastal waters to hunt, gather and fish. The land and waters supplied everything Inuit needed to survive, including food, medicines, shelter, clothing, tools and weapons. Inuit have strong cultural and spiritual ties to the land.

With the arrival of Europeans and more specifically the Moravians, Inuit way of life was altered. Nomadic life was gradually given up for life in permanent communities. From these communities Inuit travelled along the coast and into the interior to hunt, fish and gather food. Today that tradition continues.

In the early days of Moravian settlements and Hudson’s Bay Company trading posts, living in communities expanded opportunities for Inuit to trade such things as pelts, fish, seal and whale oil for tools, non-traditional food, clothing and building materials. With the decline in demand for pelts and marine mammal oil, there came a need to acquire new skills or learn trades to work in non-traditional jobs in order to have money to purchase goods and services.

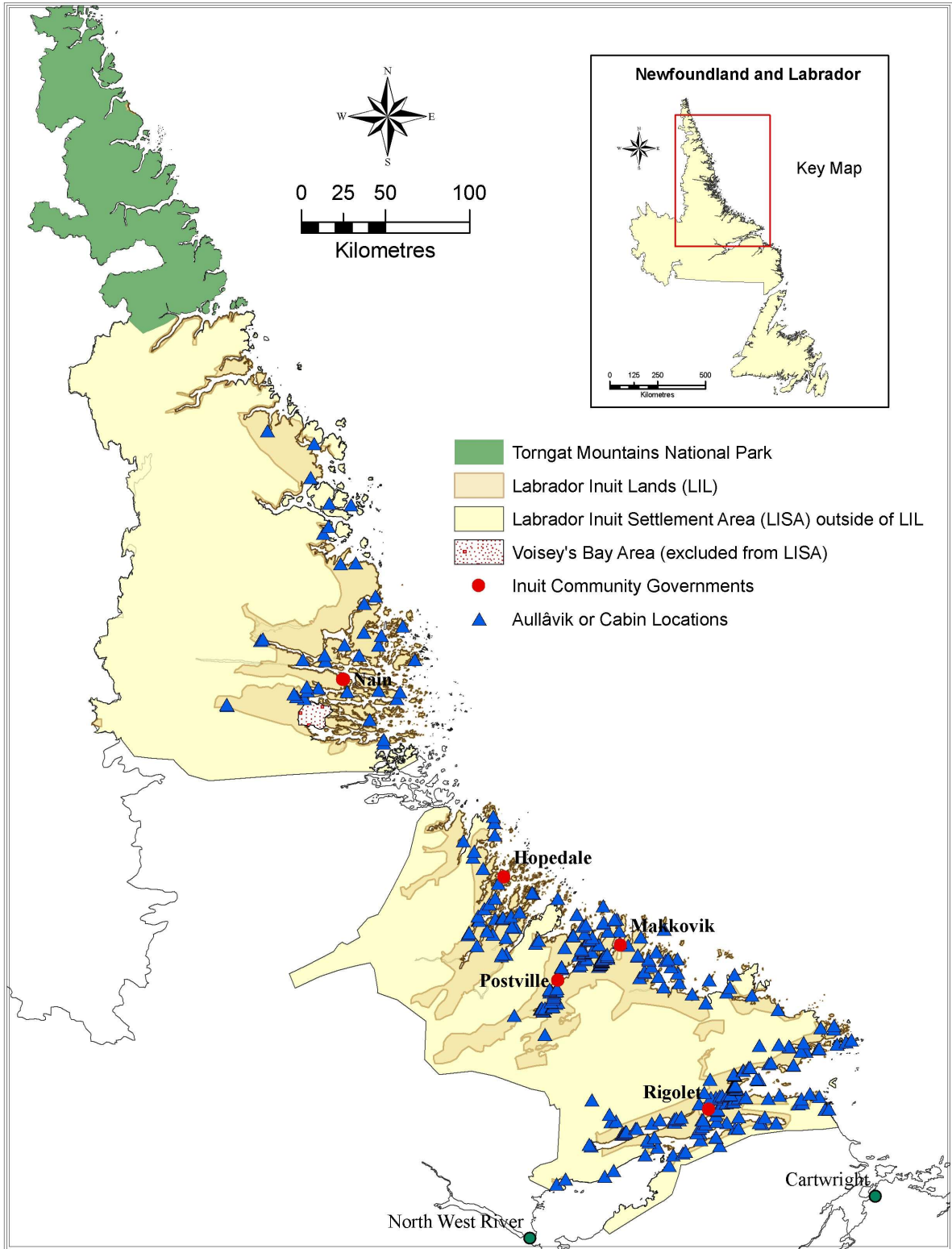
Inuit have a strong desire to retain Inuttitut, traditional knowledge, cultural, spiritual and historical ties to the land. Inuit continue to go onto the land to hunt, fish and gather food. To accomplish this, they require a sustainable supply of country food which in turn requires protection of land.

The traditional use of the land is based on Inuit hunting, fishing and gathering. There are three general areas within LISA where these take place. The first is found adjacent to and in coastal waters where ducks and geese are hunted, eggs are gathered, fishing takes place and seals are hunted on the sea ice. The second area is on the rivers, brooks and lakes where fishing occurs. The third is inland where caribou are hunted and wildlife trapped. Cabins and Aullâsimavet are often found in proximity to areas where hunting, fishing and gathering take place. To maintain this way of life these areas need to be protected so wildlife habitat will not be adversely affected by development thus providing a sustainable level of country food. Plate 8 shows the locations of Aullâsimavet, cabins and historic settlement areas throughout LISA.

Labrador Inuit often refer to themselves as “Sikumiut” meaning “people of the sea ice.” Sea ice is crucial for harvesting seals, birds and other animals. Because the sea ice is relatively flat and open it makes winter travel between communities or to cabins and harvesting areas much easier than travelling over rough land terrain. Although sea ice is beyond the jurisdiction of a land use plan, it is crucial to recognize the importance of sea ice to the traditional Inuit way of life. The potential for any development to disturb sea ice must be considered in making land use planning decisions.

Winter travel in some areas is made difficult by the adverse topography and the inability to travel along the coast over sea ice because it is unsafe or non-existent due to currents, tides and weather conditions. In a number of locations, traditional winter routes are used for travel within LISA and are often the only route between places. It is essential that any development not restrict access along these well established routes and that these rights of way be maintained. The actual trail locations may vary from year to year due to snow and ice conditions. This must also be taken into consideration.

Plate 8– Aullâsimavet and Cabins within LISA

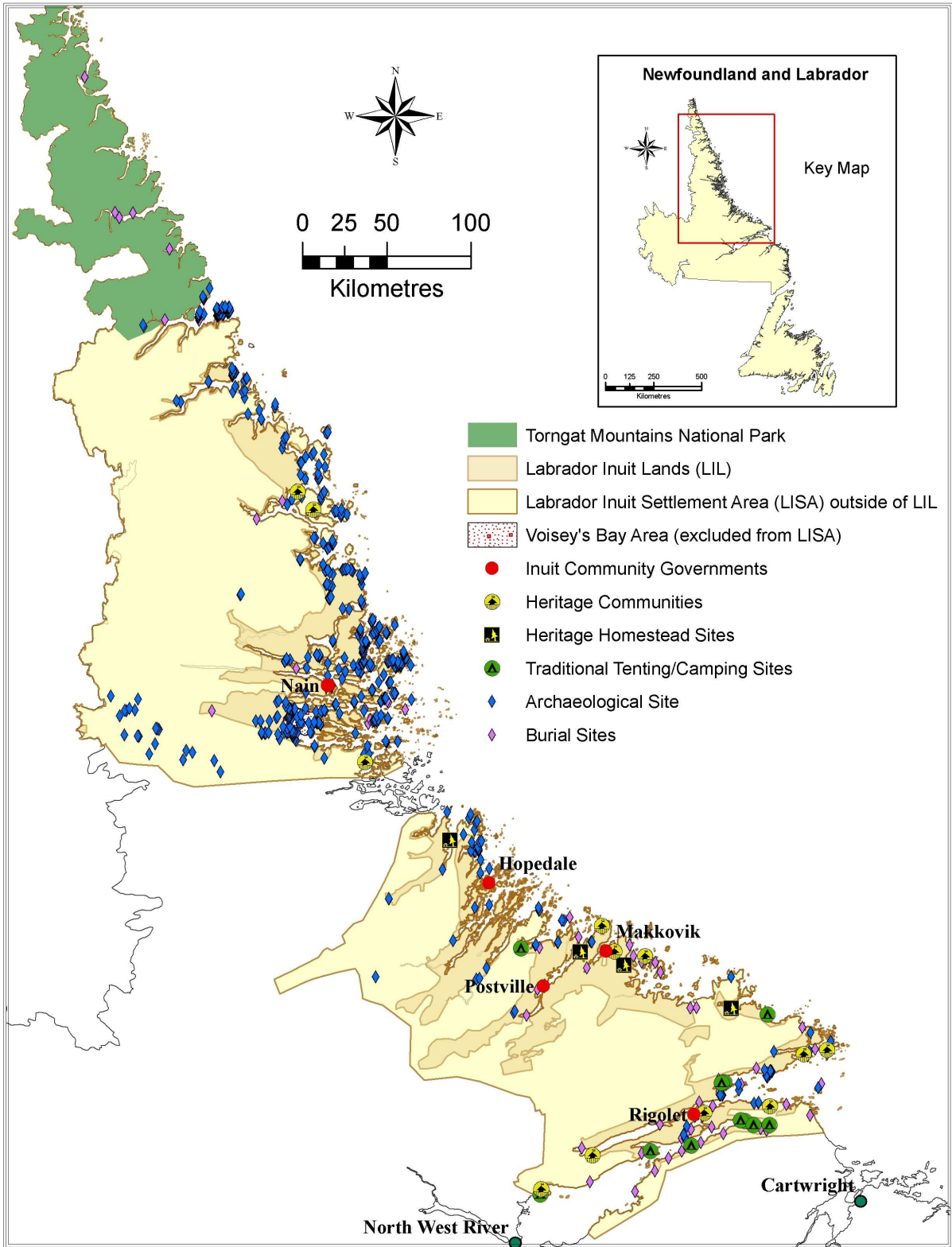




Draft Regional Land Use Plan For The Labrador Inuit Settlement Area

Inuit have lived here since time immemorial and there are numerous archaeological and burial sites found throughout LISA. There are also spiritual ties to the land which need to be protected. Plate 9 illustrates the historic occupation of the land including the known locations of burial sites, archaeological sites and historic settlements.

Plate 9– Burial and Archaeological Sites and Historic Settlements



There are numerous provisions within LILCA that ensure the Inuit way of life is maintained. LILCA provides a framework for negotiating Inuit Impacts and Benefits Agreements (IBA) to insure Inuit can benefit from new opportunities including employment and training, providing a source of income and protecting the environment.

Commercial fishing continues as a significant activity for Inuit. Fish plants operate in Nain and Makkovik.

Carving stone is gathered and quarried within LISA and is used by Inuit artisans for creating stone carvings.

Labradorite anorthosite is quarried within LISA and is used for jewellery, ornaments, decorative tiles and dimensional stone used as a building material. The quarry at Ten Mile Bay is the largest aboriginal owned and operated quarry in Canada and is known world wide for unique “Blue Eyes” anorthosite that is quarried there.

Forestry is important with a sawmill in Postville operated by the Labrador Inuit Development Corporation. Forestry is also important to Inuit as a source of wood for building materials and firewood.

Voisey’s Bay Area has been excluded from LISA in LILCA, but is surrounded by LIL. Vale operates a mine and concentrator on this land that processes nickel-cobalt-copper concentrate. It is the only operating mine in northern Labrador. Voisey’s Bay has an airstrip to allow workers to be flown in and out of the site where staff generally works a two-week rotation. It also has a port facility at Edward’s Cove in Anaktalak Bay for loading concentrate onto ships. Inuit Beneficiaries receive employment, training and revenue through Inuit Impacts and Benefits Agreements with Vale.

The creation of Torngat Mountains National Park serves to protect a significant part of the ecosystem within LISA, specifically the arctic alpine tundra.

The Federal and Provincial governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 5th, 2010 regarding the creation of a national park reserve in the Mealy Mountains. At 10,700 sq. km., it will be the largest national park in eastern Canada. A portion of the new park is within LISA on the southern



shore of Lake Melville as shown on Plate 10. Adjacent to the proposed national park is the proposed Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park.

Some land within LISA is also used by people other than Inuit. Parts of it are traditionally used by Innu from Natuashish and Sheshatshiu. In the New Dawn Agreement between the Province and Innu there are overlapping areas with LISA as set out in the LILCA. In addition to Inuit and Innu, there are people from the communities in the Lake Melville area who use the land for cabins, hunting and fishing. Sportspeople visit outfitters within LISA to hunt and fish.