

Introduction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On December 1, 2005, Labrador Inuit celebrated the beginning of the Nunatsiavut Government when the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement came into effect. As a regional ethnic government in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Nunatsiavut Government has many of the responsibilities and rights of other governments, such as planning for sustainable economic development, protecting and preserving Inuit culture and implementing social programs on behalf of Inuit beneficiaries.

In Inuttitut, Nunatsiavut means “our beautiful land.”

The Labrador Inuit Settlement Area was established by the Land Claims Agreement between Inuit of Labrador, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada. The Agreement was signed on January 22, 2005.

The Agreement provided for the establishment of a Regional Planning Authority to prepare a Land Use Plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA).

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (hereafter referred to as “Province”) and the Nunatsiavut Government jointly appointed the Regional Planning Authority for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) in April 2007. Under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (hereafter referred to as LILCA), its role is to direct the preparation of a Regional Land Use Plan for LISA for the consideration of both governments.

The Agreement covers an area of 72,520 sq. km. which is approximately a quarter of the area of Labrador or 65 percent of the area of the island of Newfoundland. It is comparable in size to the total area of the province of New Brunswick.

The Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement established various categories of land and water. These are shown geographically on Plate 1.

Plate 1 - Map of Labrador Inuit Lands Claims Agreement Area

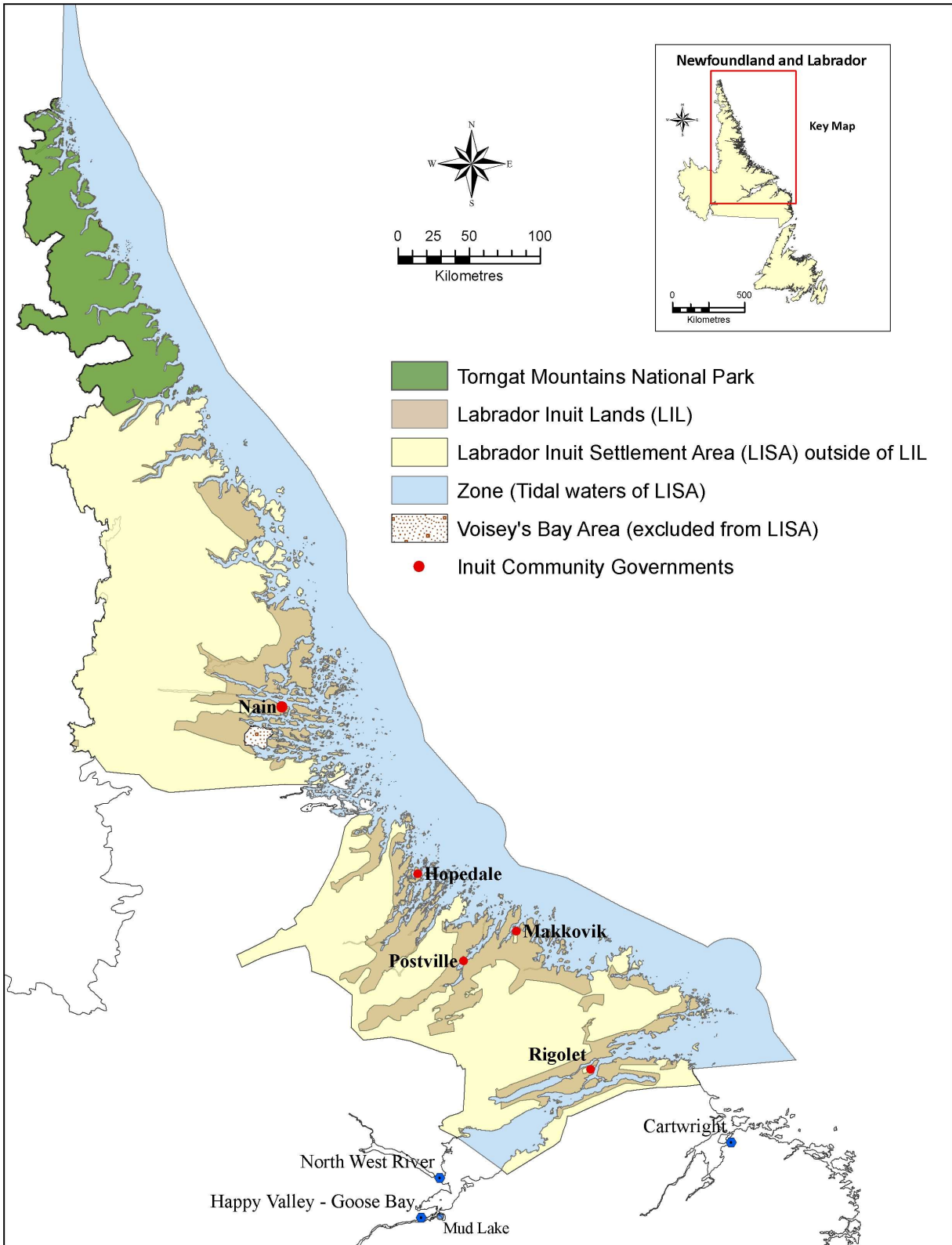


Plate 2 shows the area, in square kilometres, of the land and coastal waters in each category.

Plate 2 - LISA Land and Water Categories by Area

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL) | 15,799 sq.km. |
| Torngat Mountains National Park | 9,700 sq.km. |
| Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) outside of the above | 47,021 sq.km. |
| Total Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) | 72,520 sq.km. |
| Zone (Tidal waters of LISA) | 48,690 sq.km. |

All Specified Material Lands (SML) are within LIL. SML cover 3,950 sq.km. and represent 25 percent of the land area within LIL. SML are shown on Plate 3. Specified Material Lands are lands within Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL) where the Nunatsiavut Government has the authority to regulate and issue permits to quarry specified materials. Specified Material means stone including stone suitable for dimension stone, labradorite, chert, sand, gravel, clay, topsoil, soil, shale, marl, peat and peat moss when these substances are used for construction or agricultural purposes only. Some SML are relatively small and therefore not visible on this Plate.

In the preparation of the Land Use Plan, background material was assembled. A summary of this information is provided in Section 2 of this Plan.

This Land Use Plan has taken into consideration the following Provincial documents:

- Provincial Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador. This is a five-year plan to improve the health and well-being of all Labradorians by improving infrastructure, advancing social programming and fostering economic prosperity
- “Creative Newfoundland and Labrador: the Blueprint for Development and Investment in Culture”
- “Uncommon Potential – A Vision for Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism”

This Land Use Plan also reflects the recommendations from the Strategic Plan for Tourism Nunatsiavut.

Plate 3 - Specified Material Lands within LISA

