

PRESS KIT

New Inuvialuit Led Conservation Area Established in the Yukon

PROJECT SUMMARY	1
ABOUT THE NAME	2
GOALS	3
FAQS	3
What is a Traditional Conservation Area?	3
What is Traditional Land Use?	3
Where is Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Located?	3
What is the purpose of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area?	3
What are some of the important species that live there?	4
PEOPLE ON THE LAND	4
CARIBOU HOMELAND	6
TIMELINE	7
Conservation on the North Slope	7
A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION	8
Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas	8
TAKING CARE OF THE LAND	8
PARTNERS	9
QUOTES	10
CONTACTS	12
IMAGES	2
MAP GRAPHIC	2
SUPPORT MATERIALS	2

PROJECT SUMMARY

Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area is an area rich in biodiversity and cultural connections for Inuvialuit people covering almost 850,000 hectares of the Yukon Territory's northeast coast. The 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement recognized the importance of this area and identified the entire northern portion of the Yukon as a place for conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use. It has taken 40 years, but Inuvialuit, territorial and federal parties have come to an agreement and developed a management plan for Aullaviat/Anguniarvik to ensure conservation and cultural activities.

This new conservation area completes a network of protected areas across the northern Yukon envisioned in land claim agreements - including Ivvavik and Vuntut National Parks, Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park, Old Crow Flats Special Management Area, and Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park. Together, these conservation areas support important wildlife populations such

as the Porcupine Caribou Herd, polar bears, fish and migratory birds that local First Nations and Inuvialuit have stewarded for generations.

As an Indigenous-led conservation area, the Government of Canada has contributed \$10 million toward a trust fund that will support the creation of a Stewardship and Guardians program, enhancement of Inuvialuit traditional use, support cultural revitalization, and capacity-building for the current and future generation of Inuvialuit conservation leaders. It also brings Canada closer to its goal of conserving 30% of our lands and oceans by the year 2030.

ABOUT THE NAME

Aullaviat/Anguniarvik represents “where wildlife and people travel, a place to hunt”.

The name is always spelled with a forward slash symbol (/), never hyphenated (-) or separated.

Phonetic pronunciation: Au-la-vat / Angu-niag-a-vik

[LISTEN / DOWNLOAD PRONUNCIATION HELP AUDIO FILES](#)

GOALS

The goals of the conservation area and its management plan include the following:

- Promote, support and maintain Inuvialuit traditional use in order to preserve Inuvialuit culture, identity and values;
- Protect and conserve the wildlife, habitat and biological productivity and contribute to the implementation of the goals of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan;
- Advance the biodiversity goals and objectives of Canada and Yukon and the Inuvialuit Parties and support Canada's biodiversity targets;
- Support Inuvialuit stewardship of the area's wildlife, habitats and environment in response to a rapidly changing climate;
- Provide resources to Inuvialuit to play a primary role in the management and monitoring of the area; and
- Contribute to reconciliation amongst the Parties.

FAQS

What is a Traditional Conservation Area?

Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area is an Indigenous-led conservation area, a new approach to conservation where:

- Indigenous peoples are the primary stewards and managers of the lands and waters;
- The intent is to provide healthy ecosystems and communities for future generations;
- Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination is centred, as is the role of Indigenous Peoples as stewards of their traditional territories

What is Traditional Land Use?

Traditional Inuvialuit land use means things like harvesting (trapping, hunting, fishing, berries), protecting and sharing knowledge systems, cultural and spiritual activities, and land gatherings.

Where is Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Located?

Aullaviat/Anguniarvik is located on the eastern part of the Yukon North Slope. The entire region was withdrawn from development in 1984 upon the signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) and a series of conservation areas have been created covering most of the area.

Aullaviat/Anguniarvik is one of the final areas to be established.

What is the purpose of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area?

- To promote, support and maintain the continuity of Inuvialuit traditional use of the Area in order to preserve Inuvialuit culture, identity and values.
- Protect and conserve the wildlife, habitat and biological productivity of the Area and contribute to the implementation of the goals of the IFA, the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

- Advance the biodiversity goals and objectives of Canada and Yukon and the Inuvialuit Parties by including the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area among the areas counted toward Canada's 30 by 30 international biodiversity targets.
- Establish, facilitate and support Inuvialuit access, programming, monitoring, research and stewardship of the Area's wildlife, habitats and environment in response to a rapidly changing climate.
- Provide financial resources to Inuvialuit and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and Aklavik Community Corporation to play a primary role in the conservation, use, management and monitoring of the Area including the development of infrastructure to support these activities
- Contribute to reconciliation amongst the Parties.
- Inuvialuit residing in Aklavik and Inuvik, Northwest Territories, are the main users of Aullaviat/Anguniarvik, but the area is located entirely in the Yukon Territory.

How will the Traditional Conservation Area be funded?

- The Government of Canada has contributed \$10 million toward a trust fund;
- Philanthropic Foundations (444S Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation, Wyss Foundation, Art into Acres) contributed \$3.5 million toward the trust fund, for a total trust of \$13.5 million.
- The Trust Fund will support the implementation of the Traditional Conservation Area and its management plan, including the creation of a Stewardship and Guardians Program.

What are some of the important species that live there?

- Aullaviat/Anguniarvik contains important habitat for the Porcupine Caribou Herd; the conservation of this herd and its habitat is the subject of the 1987 Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
- It is also an important area for muskox, moose, grizzly bears, polar bears, migratory birds and fish.

PEOPLE ON THE LAND

- Inuvialuit are descendants of Thule people who - over a thousand years ago - migrated east from what is now Alaska to the area now known as the Yukon North Slope.
- These people were known as Qikiqtaryungmiut (or sometimes Turyurmiat). They harvested whales, caribou, fish, and other species and created a network of travel routes, hunting and fishing camps, spiritual places, and other cultural sites.
- By the 1800s, Europeans began settling in the area - starting with whalers and then fur traders, missionaries and finally the RCMP. Colonial institutions arrived along with these industries, including police detachments, missions and residential schools on both Qiqiktaruk (Herschel Island) and Taqpaq (Shingle Point).

- The influx of outsiders brought changes to the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the Yukon North Slope, and exposed Inuvialuit to diseases, reducing the population from about 2,500 in 1850 to 250 in 1905.
- Inuvialuit continued to trap throughout the 1900s, although fur prices fluctuated.
- By the mid-1900s, civilian police were replaced by the Canadian military and the Distant Early Warning System (DEW Line) was built, followed by the North Warning System in the 1990s.
- Oil and gas exploration in the Mackenzie Delta during the 1970s and 1980s further impacted communities and the local economy, placing more emphasis on wage-based living and large scale extraction of hydrocarbons.
- In 1977, the Berger Report on the results of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry was released. The Report proposed a path toward balancing pipeline construction and the protection of the environment and Indigenous rights. The Report recommended a wilderness park be created spanning the entire northern Yukon. The Inuvialuit adopted this recommendation in 1978.
- The Berger Report cleared the way for the 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement, Canada's first comprehensive land claim agreement and the identification of the North Slope as an area for conservation and Inuvialuit traditional use.

CARIBOU HOMELAND

- The Porcupine Caribou herd is one of the largest caribou herds in the world and has always been an important part of the ecology of the northern Yukon.
- The latest estimate of the herd is that there are over 200,000 individuals. The herd's population since this time is the largest ever recorded for the herd.
- Each year, the herd ranges over 200,000 square kilometres of northern tundra between Alaska, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the traditional territories of the Gwich'in, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and the Inuvialuit and Iñupiat people.
- The ability of the herd to move across the landscape and access different parts of their range at different times of year is critical for finding food, avoiding predators, having and raising their calves, and avoiding insects.
- Aullaviat/Anguniarvik is an important summer and fall habitat for the herd because food availability is high, calves have stopped nursing, breezes off the ocean help reduce insect harassment, and the landscape is beneficial for avoiding predation. Late summer is when cows (female caribou) gain weight to support next year's pregnancy, and it's a critical time for all caribou to access enough quality food to survive the next winter.
- Inuvialuit have coexisted with Porcupine Caribou for many generations and are actively involved in the collaborative management of the herd, bringing together Indigenous knowledge and science.

TIMELINE

Conservation on the North Slope

The timeline below demonstrates the challenges and opportunities in managing transboundary wildlife populations and landscapes shared by Indigenous peoples across international, national, state and territorial borders, and protecting Indigenous rights to access, and lead in the management of, these species and landscapes. The establishment of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area is the latest step in this decades-long effort, establishing range protection for summer and fall Porcupine Caribou habitat, and securing the area for ongoing Inuvialuit use.

- 1960** National Arctic Wildlife Range established (renamed Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1980) to protect “unique wildlife, wilderness and recreation” values. However, this designation does not protect the entirety of the area from mineral leasing.
- 1967** Oil and gas reserves discovered at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.
- 1977** Berger Report on the *Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry* recommends the creation of a protected wilderness area across the entire Yukon North Slope from the Alaska border to the Northwest Territories.
- 1988** Inuvialuit adopt Berger Report recommendation for wilderness area across Yukon North Slope
- 1980** *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* passed, expanding the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.
- 1984** *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* establishes Ivvavik National Park and Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park.
- 1985** Porcupine Caribou Management Board established to cooperatively manage the herd and its habitat in Canada.
- 1987** International Porcupine Caribou Management board established to cooperatively manage the herd between Canada and Alaska.
- 1995** Signing of the *Vuntut Gwich'in Final Agreement* establishes Vuntut National Park.
- 2006** Establishment of Van Tat K'atr'anahtii (Old Crow Flats) Special Management Area.
- 2009** Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park created under North Yukon Land Use Plan.
- 2010** Creation of Tarium Nirytutait Marine Protected Area off the Yukon coast near Shingle Point.
- 2016** The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act opens up the coastal plain (1002 lands) of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. The coastal plain is the calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
- 2024** Signing of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area agreement completes the network of protected areas across the entire Yukon North Slope and covering the majority of the Canadian range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

In 2018, a report from Canada's Indigenous Circle of Experts provided advice to federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments on how to achieve increased recognition of Indigenous leadership and knowledge systems in the conservation of the land and water. Their recommendations led to Canada establishing a program to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas across the country.

The Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area is an Indigenous-led conservation area, a new approach to conservation where:

- Indigenous peoples are the primary stewards and managers of the lands and waters;
- The intent is to provide healthy ecosystems and communities for future generations;
- Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination is centred, as is the role of Indigenous Peoples as stewards of their traditional territories

Indigenous-led conservation areas fall within the umbrella of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's [conservation measures](#) that can be used to achieve the 30x30 biodiversity conservation target (30% of lands and waters protected by 2030).

TAKING CARE OF THE LAND

Research has found that biodiversity is highest on Indigenous stewarded lands. The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan is the management plan for the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area. The Plan was written and recommended by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), an organization established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), to provide advice and recommendations pertaining to wildlife, habitat, and traditional use of the Yukon North Slope. The Plan's goals, objectives, strategies and anticipated outcomes are intended as measures to further the needs of wildlife, habitat, and Inuvialuit users of the Yukon North Slope.

The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan will be implemented by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) and the Parties of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Agreement. The Plan emphasizes collaboration, partnerships, and bridging Inuvialuit knowledge and science to support healthy ecosystems, enhance Inuvialuit traditional use, and better adapt to climate change.

LEARN MORE: Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan
<https://wmacns.ca/what-we-do/conservation-plan/>

PARTNERS

Coordinator

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) facilitated negotiations for the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area with financial support from the Canada Nature Fund, Target One Challenge and technical support from Round River Conservation Studies.

Parties to the Agreement

Canada, Yukon, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Inuvialuit Game Council, Aklavik Community Corporation, Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Aklavik Elders Committee.

Funders

The Government of Canada, 444S Foundation, Art into Acres, Wilburforce Foundation, and Wyss Foundation.

Consulted Groups

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Environmental Impact Screening Committee, Environmental Impact Review Board, Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Inuvik Community Corporation, Porcupine Caribou Management Board, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee.

QUOTES

“Aullaviat/Anguniarvik means ‘where wildlife and people travel, a place to hunt’ and this place has been a vital part of the Inuvialuit homeland since time immemorial. The traditional use and management of this area is central to our Inuvialuit culture, identity and values. We are proud to finally establish an agreement with Canada and the Yukon that will allow us to continue to take care of the animals and sustain our culture.”

— William Storr, Representative, Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Working Group and President, Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

“The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation represents the rights and interests of Inuvialuit. We are pleased that after several years of work, Inuvialuit, governments and philanthropic organizations have been able to come together in furtherance of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement’s goals which recognize the special nature of Aullaviat/Anguniarvik and its link to Inuvialuit cultural, environmental and economic objectives. IRC will maintain the trust fund and work with all interested parties to ensure that the stewardship of Inuvialuit traditional lands continues for generations to come.”

– Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

“This milestone is an important and significant accomplishment for the parties involved, but most importantly for the Inuvialuit people. Aullaviat/Anguniarvik holds great value to our people and the wildlife we have harvested for subsistence since time immemorial. The Inuvialuit Game Council is proud to acknowledge this huge step forward in Inuvialuit-led conservation in our region and is looking forward to the benefits this agreement will have to our land, our wildlife and our communities.”

— Dean Arey, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council

“The Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Agreement represents the completion of the special conservation regime identified 40 years ago in the IFA. Our Council is proud to have supported this process through decades of collaboratively gathering science and Indigenous knowledge information toward securing a vibrant future for wildlife and Inuvialuit on the Yukon North Slope. I want to thank the tireless efforts of all Parties, and especially Aklavik Inuvialuit, in completing this historic agreement.”

— Jennifer Smith, Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

"Aullaviat/Anguniarvik is a very special place for Inuvialuit, where we have travelled, harvested, and lived for many generations. Aullaviat/Anguniarvik is home to caribou, moose, bears, fish, birds, and many other important animals. Harvesting in Aullaviat/Anguniarvik supports the cultural, spiritual, and economic health of Inuvialuit. We need to be out on the land to keep it healthy. We are proud to announce the establishment of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area and associated funding for Inuvialuit-led management of the area. This funding will allow Inuvialuit in Aklavik to get out on the land, share knowledge between generations, fill our freezers, and secure a healthy and vibrant future for our young people and for Aklavik."

— Jordan McLeod, President/Chair, Aklavik Community Corporation

"Many of today's Elders in Aklavik grew up on the land in and around Aullaviat/Anguniarvik. We learned from our Elders, and over the decades we have seen changes to the land and the wildlife firsthand. We now live in Aklavik, but our time in Aullaviat/Anguniarvik is precious. It allows us to harvest, connect with our ancestors, spend time with family and friends, and to pass on our knowledge to tomorrow's leaders. The Elders in Aklavik are pleased to see that with the establishment of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area, our vision for full wilderness protection across the Yukon North Slope is complete."

— Lorna Storr, Aklavik Elder Committee

"The 444S Foundation is honored to have supported the Inuvialuit's efforts to conserve Aullaviat/Anguniarvik on the Eastern Yukon North Slope for the past 8 years, first with funding to braid indigenous knowledge and western science into the North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, and now with funding for the Trust Fund supporting the Inuvialuit Stewardship and Guardians program. With the establishment of this Traditional Conservation Area almost all of the calving, post calving and summer range of the Porcupine Caribou herd's habitat is now protected in Canada. The last key piece of extremely important habitat to protect in the herd's range is the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska which is still threatened by oil and gas drilling."

— Fred Ackerman-Munson, Executive Director, 444S Foundation

"The final establishment of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area is a truly remarkable achievement. Successes like this are only possible when everyone comes together for a common cause. The Inuvialuit People have safeguarded these lands and the animals that depend on them for millennia, and it is because of their stewardship that Aullaviat/Anguniarvik remains unmarred and untrammled. And because of today's designation, resources are available to ensure it remains just the way it is in perpetuity."

— Haley Mellin, Art into Acres (Artist Dana Schutz)

"The Inuit-led formal establishment of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area has been decades in the making and is a historic step towards a sustainable future. The Wyss Foundation is proud to partner with Indigenous peoples, philanthropic organizations, and the Government of Canada to ensure that more than two million acres of land are protected for Inuvialuit traditional use, along with the conservation of wildlife and habitat, for future generations. We congratulate everyone who had a hand in making today's remarkable achievement possible."

— Molly McUsic, President, Wyss Foundation

CONTACTS

To coordinate interviews with the Inuvialuit Parties, contact:

Allison Thompson

Program Manager, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

athompson@wmacns.ca

604-910-6631

Contact information for individuals quoted above:

Jennifer Smith

Chair, WMAC NS

chair@wmacns.ca

867-332-8333

Jordan McLeod

Chair, Aklavik Community Corporation

jordan_m_09@hotmail.com

867-620-2027

William Storr

Representative, Aullaviat/Anguniarvik
Working Group and President, Aklavik
Hunters and Trappers Committee

billstorr@hotmail.com

867-678-0611

Johnnie Storr

Vice President, Aklavik Community
Corporation

jdstorr19@hotmail.com

867-688-2887

Lorna Storr

Aklavik Elder Committee

867-678-5036

IMAGES

[DOWNLOAD IMAGES](#)



Blow River, Aullaviat/Anguniarvik, Yukon Territory, Canada. Copyright Peter Mather.



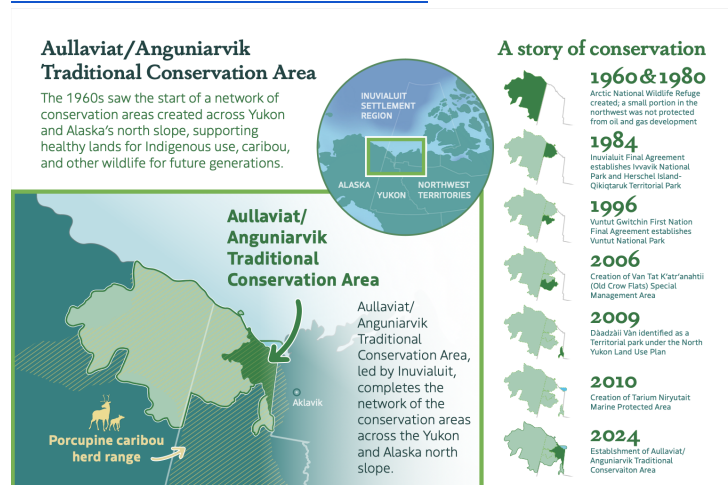
Porcupine Caribou at the Blow River, Aullaviat/Anguniarvik, Yukon Territory, Canada. Copyright Peter Mather.



Alice Husky and Nellie Arey working with muktuk, at Shingle Point in Aullaviat/Anguniarvik, Yukon Territory, Canada. Copyright Peter Mather

MAP GRAPHIC

[DOWNLOAD MAP AND TIMELINE](#)



SUPPORT MATERIALS

[ACCESS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:](#)

- [Audio file for help pronouncing Aklavik and Inuvialuit](#)
- [Map of Aullaviat/Anguniarvik](#)
- [Audio files for help pronouncing Aullaviat/Anguniarvik](#)
- [Press Photos](#)