

A recent notable example is the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement concluded in June 1993 by the federal and territorial governments and an organization representing the Inuit in what is now the territory known as Nunavut. This agreement set in motion the plans for the creation of a new territorial government that would afford the residents of Nunavut greater control over their future. The treaty rights of the Indigenous communities of Nunavut flowing from this agreement are recognized and affirmed in the Canadian Constitution. Following ratification — first through a Nunavut-wide referendum and then by the Parliament of Canada — the land claim agreement was enacted through federal legislation. Implementation of its boards and agencies, including co-management institutions, is ongoing.

*Sound resource management depends on improved scientific knowledge and the use of advanced technologies. The federal government is coordinating the development of a Science and Technology Strategy for its activities in the Canadian Arctic, which includes a commitment to work with Indigenous communities to ensure their knowledge, perceptions, and values form part of this strategy for knowledge-based decision making.*

The Government of Canada enacted the Nunavut Act in June 1993 as companion legislation to the agreement. The act established democratic territorial government institutions that became operational on April 1, 1999. The elected legislature and cabinet are located in the capital, Iqaluit. However, a decentralized approach has been taken to administrative operations, which are located in communities throughout the territory. The Nunavut government has responsibility for education, health, social services, administration of justice, and most other provincial-type responsibilities. Communications among these departments and agencies are facilitated by computer and telecommunications technology.

Capacity building through education, training, and on-the-job experience will be an ongoing priority for the Nunavut government for the coming years. The new government structure includes a Department of Sustainable Development. Government support services, shrimp fishing, tourism, construction, and mining are among the key economic activities anticipated for Nunavut. However, preservation of natural ecosystems and habitat continues to be a priority. Three new national parks are to be created within Nunavut, together with management plans for all parks and conservation areas.

*The community of Sanikiluaq in the Hudson Bay region of Nunavut has been recognized by the Friends of the United Nations for community initiatives supportive of UN goals. The community recorded Inuit Indigenous knowledge of the environment and sustainable living, a project supported by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. During the 50th anniversary year of the United Nations, Sanikiluaq was selected by the International Panel of Advisors to receive the "We the Peoples: 50 Communities Award".*

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Nunavut Act are elements of significant processes working to change the face of governance in Canada's North. While land claims negotiations involving Indigenous communities have been ongoing in the North since the 1970s, in August 1995, the Government of Canada released its policy guide entitled *Aboriginal Self-Government: The Government of Canada's Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government*.

This policy provides for negotiated self-government arrangements that may include jurisdiction over education, language, and culture; police services; health care and social services; housing; property rights; the