



Qausuittuq National Park

Update on the national park proposal on
Bathurst Island

November 2012

Parks Canada, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and the community of Resolute Bay are working together to create a new national park on Bathurst Island, Nunavut.

The purpose of the park is to protect an area within the Western High Arctic natural region of the national park system, to conserve wildlife and habitat, especially areas important to Peary caribou, and enable visitors to learn about the area and its importance to Inuit.

Qausuittuq National Park and neighbouring Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area will together ensure protection of most of the northern half of Bathurst Island as well as protection of a number of smaller nearby islands.

The park will be managed in co-operation with Inuit for the benefit, education and enjoyment of all Canadians. It is expected that the park's establishment will enhance and support local employment and business as well as help strengthen the local and regional economies.

Within the park, Inuit will continue to exercise their right to subsistence harvesting.



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Did you know?

After a local contest, the name of the proposed national park was selected as Qausuittuq National Park. Qausuittuq means “place where the sun doesn't rise” in Inuktitut, in reference to the fact that the sun stays below the horizon for several months in the winter at this latitude.

What's happening?

Parks Canada and Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) are working towards completion and ratification of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA).

Section 8 of the *Nunavut Land Claim Agreement* requires that an IIBA be negotiated prior to the establishment of any new national park in Nunavut. The IIBA deals with anything that could either impact or benefit Inuit including, among other things: cooperative management, continuation of Inuit harvesting rights, establishment of outpost camps, and Inuit employment and economic benefits.

Once the IIBA is completed and signed by the Government of Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada will then recommend to Parliament the permanent protection of Qausuittuq National Park under the *Canada National Parks Act*.





Did you know?

Qausuittuq National Park will be the fourth created within the Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin) region of Nunavut with the collaboration and support of Inuit. It will join such celebrated national parks as Quttinirpaaq, Sirmilik and Auyuittuq National Parks. A future national marine conservation area is also proposed for Lancaster Sound southeast of Bathurst Island.

Bathurst Island is home to the endangered Peary caribou

Qausuittuq National Park has been chosen to represent the Western High Arctic Natural Region. The proposed national park will help protect the area's natural and cultural heritage as well as provide protection for the endangered Peary caribou and other wildlife.

“It was early September 1953 when we were deposited at what is now the community of Resolute. It was cold and dark compared to our home in Hudson Bay. We had no idea how we would survive. We did not know what animals were there. Somehow we made it through our first winter living on seal and polar bear. We desperately missed caribou meat. In March of the second winter, 5 or 6 hunters managed to get the equipment to travel to Bathurst Island. Our escort family from Pond Inlet told us there might be caribou and how to get there. The hunters came back in about a week carrying 8 caribou! I was a child then, but remember how great it tasted and how excited the adults were. Ever since we called it “the place where you hunt caribou.” Those caribou saved our lives in more ways than one. Now it is our turn to protect them.”

Resolute Community Elder, 2010



