

# Program guide Summer 2014



G. BANKIE

Visitors to **Torngat Mountains National Park** in Northern Labrador arrive with expectations: to explore a beautiful landscape of high mountains, deep valleys, and sparkling fjords, and to see polar bears, whales, caribou, and other wild animals in a remote northern habitat. This spectacular National Park does not disappoint, but all visitors leave having seen and experienced much more. The transformative nature of many visitor experiences in this special place can be attributed to something that few people expect to find here – personal connection.

The Torngat Mountains have been home to Inuit and their ancestors for thousands of years, and Parks Canada encourages visitors who come to the park to travel and spend time with Inuit who know and understand the land on a deeper, more personal level. Each summer, on the banks of a beach where a river meets a sea, a small community is established on the edge of the park. This is Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station, operated by the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, where Inuit elders and youth from Nunatsiavut and Nunavik stay together with visitors, researchers and Parks Canada staff. In addition to the daily excursions and programming offered at “base camp,” Parks Canada facilitates opportunities for shared experiences between Inuit elders and youth, visitors, and scientists, inspiring profound personal experiences that move far beyond taking pictures of beautiful scenery.

COVER IMAGE / FLOWERS: G. BANKIE

In collaboration with **Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station**, Parks Canada is proud to initiate cross-cultural opportunities and dialogues that will inspire Canadians to recognise the creative power of landscape and culture. Each season, Parks Canada invites special guests to the park to further enhance opportunities for visitors to connect with the landscape and its people. Selected to encourage reflection through cultural practice, Parks Canada’s 2014 Summer Program includes artists, writers and musicians. Working together with local Inuit Elders, youth and visitors, these individuals will strengthen opportunities for connection and transformation in Torngat Mountains National Park.

## JULY 19 - JULY 26 Discover the Birds of Torngat Mountains

With Darroch Whittaker and Brandon Holden

Birding in the park provides a unique opportunity to see many northern species in their remote breeding grounds – including Red-throated Loon, Harlequin Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Rock Ptarmigan, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Northern Wheatear. Join Parks Canada’s Darroch Whittaker in the development of a comprehensive bird survey of Torngat Mountains National Park and add to your own bird “life list.” Photographer Brandon Holden will join the group to provide guidance on how to capture your experiences with your camera.

## JULY 26 - AUGUST 2 Finding the Music of Torngat Mountains

With Ian Tamblyn

A full spectrum of musical interpretation of the landscape and people of Torngat Mountains is brought to the park by Canadian folk music singer-songwriter Ian Tamblyn, who will host song-writing sessions and musical workshops with visitors and youth. The muse of the mountains will inspire the creation of melodies and songs telling new and ancient stories that will echo through the land.



## AUGUST 2 - AUGUST 9 2nd Annual Torngat Mountains National Park Literary and Film Festival

With Shelagh Rogers and Mike Stevens, Kathleen Winter, Nelson Tagoona, Richard Wagamese

During her first visit to Torngat Mountains National Park in 2011, Canadian radio icon Shelagh Rogers recognised the potential of the landscape to inspire and facilitate the sharing of stories, and Parks Canada is delighted to welcome her again.

Shelagh will be joined in the park by:

**Mike Stevens**, a bluegrass harmonica virtuoso dedicated to exploring the potential of cooperative artistic expression who will share his powerful experiences of storytelling without words in Northern communities around the country.

**Kathleen Winter**, a short story writer and novelist who drew inspiration for her best-selling novel *Annabel* from her experiences in the North, believing that “the wilderness of Labrador engenders an open mind. You cannot help but learn from it. You cannot help but be expanded by the majesty of it.”

**Nelson Tagoona**, a multitalented musician from Baker Lake, Nunavut, who is credited with the development of throat-boxing, which melds the hip hop style of beat boxing with the familiar ululations of traditional Inuit throat singing.

**Richard Wagamese**, an award-winning author and journalist from the Ojibway Wabasseemoong First Nation who is committed to exploring life experiences through writing, living and reflection. Richard believes that “the search for identity is a lifelong process... We become different people through circumstance and we rediscover ourselves through circumstance too.”

I. LEMUS-LAUZON



## AUGUST 9-AUGUST 16 Creative Cultural Connections: Inuit Performance Art and Poetry

With David Serkoak, Evie Mark, Akinisie Sivuarapilk, Johnny Issaluk and Wendy Morton

With a life steeped in traditional practice, drum-dancer David Serkoak of Iqaluit will bring a new perspective to the landscapes of Torngat Mountains National Park, building musical and rhythmic connections between Inuit in Northern Canada. Drawing from the inspiration of the land and the history it holds, and joined by renowned throat singers Evie Mark and Akinisie Sivuarapilk, David will host several drum-dancing and throat-singing workshops open to everyone.

Inuit Games champion Johnny Issaluk will bring his love of Arctic sports to the park and share his traditional skills and knowledge. Recognized for his contributions to the health and well-being of young Inuit, Johnny is dedicated to keeping culture strong through practice.

Wendy Morton is a poet from British Columbia committed to building bridges between Inuit youth and elders through shared story-telling and poetry. Returning to Torngat Mountains National Park to continue last year’s intergenerational poetry project, Wendy will inspire youth and elders to capture each other’s stories together in prose.

## AUGUST 16-AUGUST 23 Walk the Land – A Multi-Day Excursion with Inuit Guides

With Andrew Andersen

Accompanied by an Inuit Bear Guard, visitors are invited to join Parks Canada’s Andrew Andersen on an overland adventure in the park. Travelling by foot and sleeping in tents, this small group will follow in the footsteps of Inuit who have travelled through this land for centuries.

*Expect the unexpected: Our 2014 Summer Program is subject to change!*

W. MORTON

