

## Pre-contract to 19th century European colonization

- territory shared between Inuit and Dene peoples
- 1789 during an expedition to discover the Pacific, Sir Alexander Mackenzie settled on current site of Inuvik, down the river that now bears his name.
- 1800s-early 1900s massive reductions in population of Inuit and Dene due to introduced diseases (Arnold, 1986)

## Establishment of the town

- 1953 Inuvik conceived by the Canadian government
- 1954 site of Inuvik chosen in November (to replace flood prone Aklavik) and referred to as East Three
- 1955 Construction began and expected to be completed in 1961 or 1962.
- 1957 PM John Diefenbaker proclaimed a new “Northern Vision” for Inuvik
- 1958 Town of Inuvik established
- 1959 Sir Alexander Mackenzie School opened: referred to as “SAMS” by locals
- 1960 Hospital, office buildings, and staff housing construction continued
- 1961 Prime Minister John Diefenbaker placement of a plaque to commemorate establishment of Inuvik as the first community north of the Arctic
- 1964 Research Center (*currently known as Western Arctic Research Center*) established to provide logistical support form of laboratory facilities, office space, storage, accommodation and equipment rentals for visiting researchers and promotes science in northern schools. (INTERACT, n.d.)
- 1967 Inuvik incorporated as Village of Inuvik, first incorporated municipality North of the Arctic Circle.
- 1970 Oil discovered in the Mackenzie Delta.
- 1971 Natural gas discovered in the Mackenzie Delta and research laboratory established
- 1977 Berger Report, 10-year moratorium, to deal with critical issues, such as settling Aboriginal land claims and setting aside key conservation areas, before attempting to build the proposed pipeline.
- 1979 completion of Dempster Highway opened Inuvik and Western Arctic to the world.
- 1980 The downturn was halted and by 1980 with the renewed interest in oil offshore the town started to grow again.
- 1984 *Science Institute of the Northwest Territories* created by Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in 1984. (Wikipedia, 2019)
- 1985 Canadian Forces base closed in Inuvik; renewed growth was short-lived
- 1986 Price of oil collapsed; shifting attention to natural gas. Shell and Gulf export natural gas from the Mackenzie Delta to the United States

Sources: Detlor, T. (n.d.); *History of Inuvik*. (n.d.); CBC News. (2014); Mahoney, J. (2004); Wikipedia (2019); INTERACT (n.d.)