



Northern Impacts

Climate change is faster and more severe in the Arctic than in most of the world. In fact, the Arctic is warming at a rate of almost twice the global average. This is why the United Nations Environment Programme has named the Circumpolar Arctic as the world's "climate change barometer"¹.

For centuries, Inuit have maintained a close relationship with ice (siku), land (nuna), sky (qilak), and wildlife (uumajut) Inuit Nunangat, north of the treeline². Travel is conducted across land and ice, not on paved roads. Many depend on hunting and fishing. The changing climate impacts Inuit lives and futures.

Arctic indigenous peoples have worked with scientists to observe and document impacts of climate change: melting permafrost, increased snowfalls, longer seasons without sea ice, and changes in animal biodiversity³.

**AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES
OF KUGLUKTUK, NUNAVUT, TORONTO, VANCOUVER AND HALIFAX**

CITY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
KUGLUKTUK	-28	-27	-25	-17	-5	5	11	9	3	-7	-20	-26
TORONTO	-3	-3	1	7	14	16	21	21	18	11	5	-1
VANCOUVER	4	5	7	9	13	15	17	18	15	10	6	4
HALIFAX	-6	-6	-2	4	10	15	19	19	14	9	4	-3

The shoulder seasons (in teal) indicates the time of year when water is no longer frozen. If temperatures are near zero, it means that increases of only a few degrees would significantly impact the quality of ice in the region. Thin ice cannot be used by polar bears to hunt, or by people for travel.

The culture of Inuit and other Arctic indigenous peoples is based on a relationship with the land, environment and animals⁴. As the Arctic environment changes, this culture may also be at risk.

“Whatever the future holds, Inuit and all Arctic indigenous peoples will press the global community to reduce emission of greenhouse gases that are the main cause of the impact of climate change we are experiencing throughout the circumpolar Arctic and foreseen areas.”

Duane Smith
President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference Canada
Vice-President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

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