

Tununiq-Does Not Face the Sun

“Tununiq” is the term used to describe the Pond Inlet area. Tununiq means that the community does not face the sun during the day. Bylot Island faces the sun and the temperature is much warmer than that of Pond Inlet. *“The land that faces away from the sun”* Nunavut Handbook.

People of Pond Inlet often call themselves “Tununirmiut” and they are referred to as such by surrounding communities. Mittimatalik (where Mittima is) is the Inuktitut term for Pond Inlet. A person from Pond Inlet may be called “Mittimatalingmiutaq” (place) or “Tununirmiutaq” (area). A “Tununirmiutaq” may live anywhere in the Tununiq area, not necessarily in Pond Inlet.

Arctic Bay is called ‘Tununirusiq’ in Inuktitut. Meaning “smaller” place that does not face the sun. Arctic Bay also faces away from the sun during the day. People living in and around Arctic Bay are also known as “ Tununirusirmiut”. The traditional name for Arctic Bay is “Ikpiarjuk” meaning pocket.

There are three regions in Nunavut Territory: Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin), Qitirmiut (Kitikmeot), and Kivalliq (Keewatin). Each region has its own named areas. Each of the area may contain one or more communities.

Here are other areas in Nunavut that I’m aware of (There are more):

Amitturmiut	Ahiarmiut	Qairnirmiut	Tariurmiut
Akunnirmiut	Uqqurmiut	Quttikturmiut	Tasiujarmiut
Paallirmiut	Akullirmiut	Aivilingmiut	
Nattilingmiut	Sikusiilarmiut	Aggurmiut	
Qikiqtamiut	Tununirmiut	Tasiujarjuarmiut	

I can easily say that I’m Mittimatalingmiutaq (from Pond Inlet), Tununiq region, Nunavut territory on the North tip of Baffin Island in Canada. To make it short, I’m a proud Canadian Inuk.

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June 2010