

A photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in a dark sky, with vibrant green and yellow-green curtains of light. Below the lights, the dark silhouettes of trees and a body of water are visible, with the lights reflecting on the water's surface.

# Hunting Trapping Fishing

Traditional resource  
harvesting in the  
Canadian Arctic

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# Historical context

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Indigenous peoples have survived and flourished in the harsh Arctic landscape for thousands of years

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With the arrival of the Hudson Bay Company in the late 1700s, selling furs for manufactured goods became the main economic activity

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The downturn in the fur trade in the late 1900s saw people move off the land to access the wage economy, schooling and medical care

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Traditional harvesting practices rooted in a strong connection to the land remain an important part of traditional lives today







Trek the valleys and  
you'll meet hunters on  
the trail of game



Follow a skidoo trail  
and you'll meet trappers  
checking traplines



Paddle the big rivers  
and you'll meet families  
at their fish camps

# Rich heritage and traditions





# Hunting

- Groundhog
- Porcupine
- Hare
- Marmots
- Squirrels – Northern Flying, Ground, Red
- Squirrels
- Ptarmigan, Grouse
- Woodchucks
- Licences are issued to residents, non-residents, and Indigenous people
- Tags are issued for each species of large game
- Black bear
- Grizzly bear
- Polar bear
- Wolf
- Wolverine
- Caribou – 5 herds
- Dall's Sheep
- Moose
- Mountain goat
- Muskox
- Deer – white tailed & mule
- Wood bison

# Trapping

- Beaver
  - Fox
  - Mink
  - Cyote
  - Lynx
  - Muskrat
  - Ermine
  - Marten
  - Otter
- Only Indigenous people are allowed to trap (with exceptions)
  - Specific to the Northwest Territories, the Genuine MacKenzie Valley Fur program provides trappers with access to the international fur auction market
  - All wild furs in the program are harvested as part of an ongoing tradition using the most humane trapping techniques in the fur industry today







- Arctic char
- Arctic grayling
- Lake trout
- Burbot
- Inconnu (coney)
- Northern pike
- Walleye
- Lake whitefish

- A recreational fishing licence is required for sport fishing
- Great Slave Lake supplies some of the most pristine freshwater fish products in the world
- Commercial fishing has been a mainstay of the economy since the 1950s when a fishery was developed to supply export markets

# Fishing





# Migratory Birds

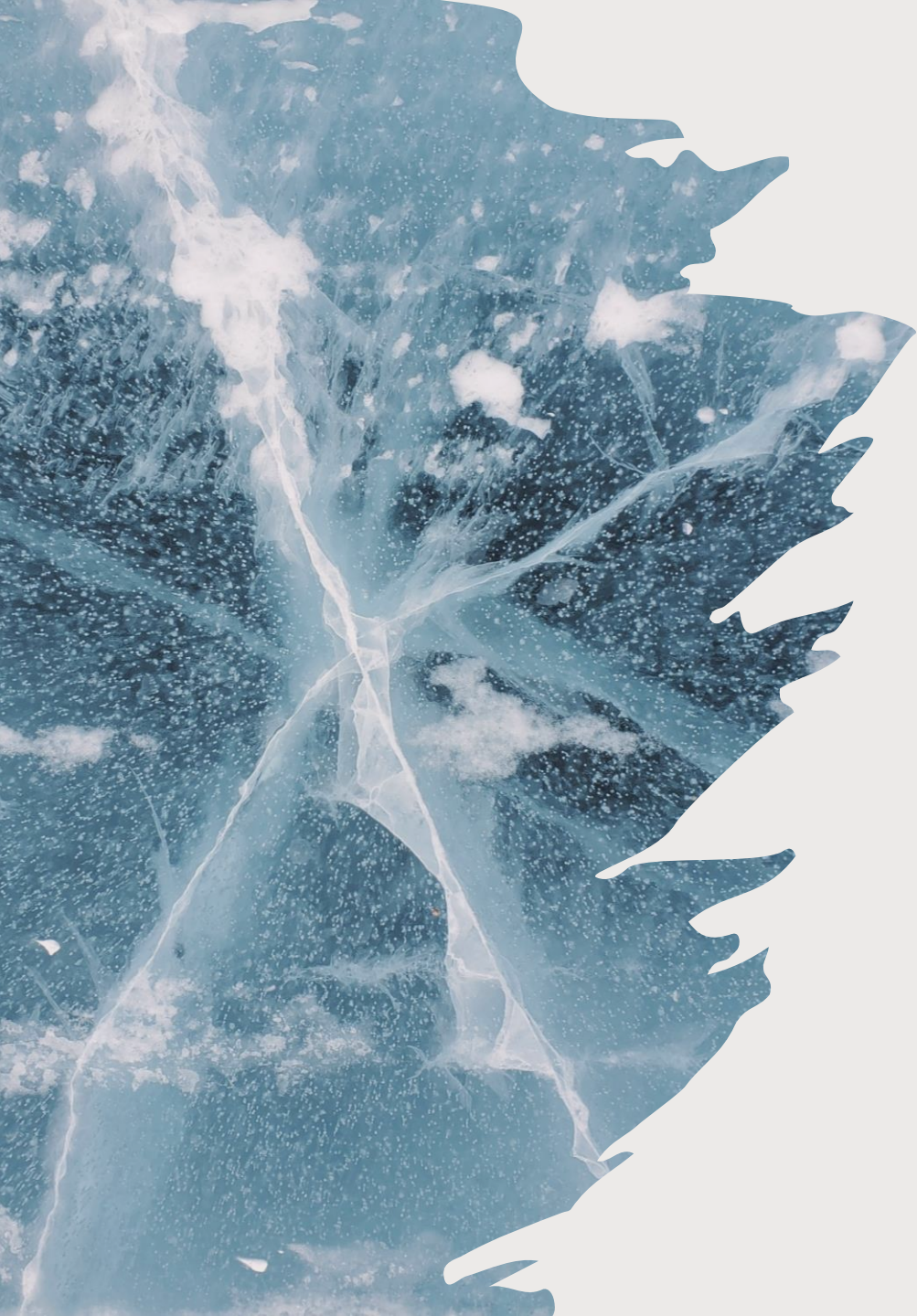
- The Canadian federal government regulates migratory bird hunting via the *Migratory Birds Regulations* under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- The rules specify
  - Type of licence (additional rules are set by the provinces and territories)
  - Open seasons, districts, bag limits, possession limits, sunrise/sunset restrictions
  - Hunting methods and equipment, including baiting and lures
  - Retrieval methods, including using / training dogs
  - Overabundance of species, birds causing damage and danger
  - Introduction of foreign species

# Marine Mammals

- Beluga
  - Bowhead whale
  - Narwhal
  - Narwhal
  - Seal – personal, commercial
  - Walrus
- The Canadian federal government regulates seal and whale hunting via the *Marine Mammal Regulations* under the *Fisheries Act*
  - Indigenous people have the right to harvest marine mammals in line with conservation needs
  - Sealing holds significant cultural and traditional value to Inuit and northern communities
  - Whales are hunted by Inuit in the north for food, social and ceremonial purposes







# Harvest with respect

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**Respect traditional practices:** learn from Elders and pass knowledge on to youth

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**Respect the animals:** only take what you need, don't wound, don't waste

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**Respect your neighbours:** traditional territories, traditional customs, share what you have

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**Respect the land and water:** leave the land and water as you found it

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**Respect the law:** to help protect and conserve the wildlife for future generations



Mársi

Kinanāskomitin

Quana

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Quyanainni

Thank you

Merci

Máhsı

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