Coming Home to Indigenous Place Names in Canada

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit place names express territorial rights and describe the shapes and sounds of sovereign lands. They mark the locations of the gathering places, the community spaces, the places of danger and of beauty, and the places where the treaties were signed.

Place names are instructive signage along land and water routes. They tell how to walk on the ice there, or which direction is wrong, or where the eggs and berries are. They connect to each other in stories. They are ancient and recent, both in and outside of time. They express and assert Indigenous authority across the Canadian landscape.

These are not all of the names, nor are all Indigenous Nations and communities represented here. Beyond these names are thousands, upon thousands, upon thousands more, an ever growing and expanding atlas of intimate geographical knowledge and experience. These are some of the names, generously shared for the purpose of this map. They are written as they were shared, with translated meanings or standing alone to affirm themselves in the language.

To be coming home to Indigenous place names is to find a place among these names from which to listen, reorient, and remember, and to imagine future possibilities.

***Coming home** is "a return to Indigenous memories and narratives [that] serve as a map for people to find their way through life."*

— Neal McLeod,
Cree Narrative Memory

Legend

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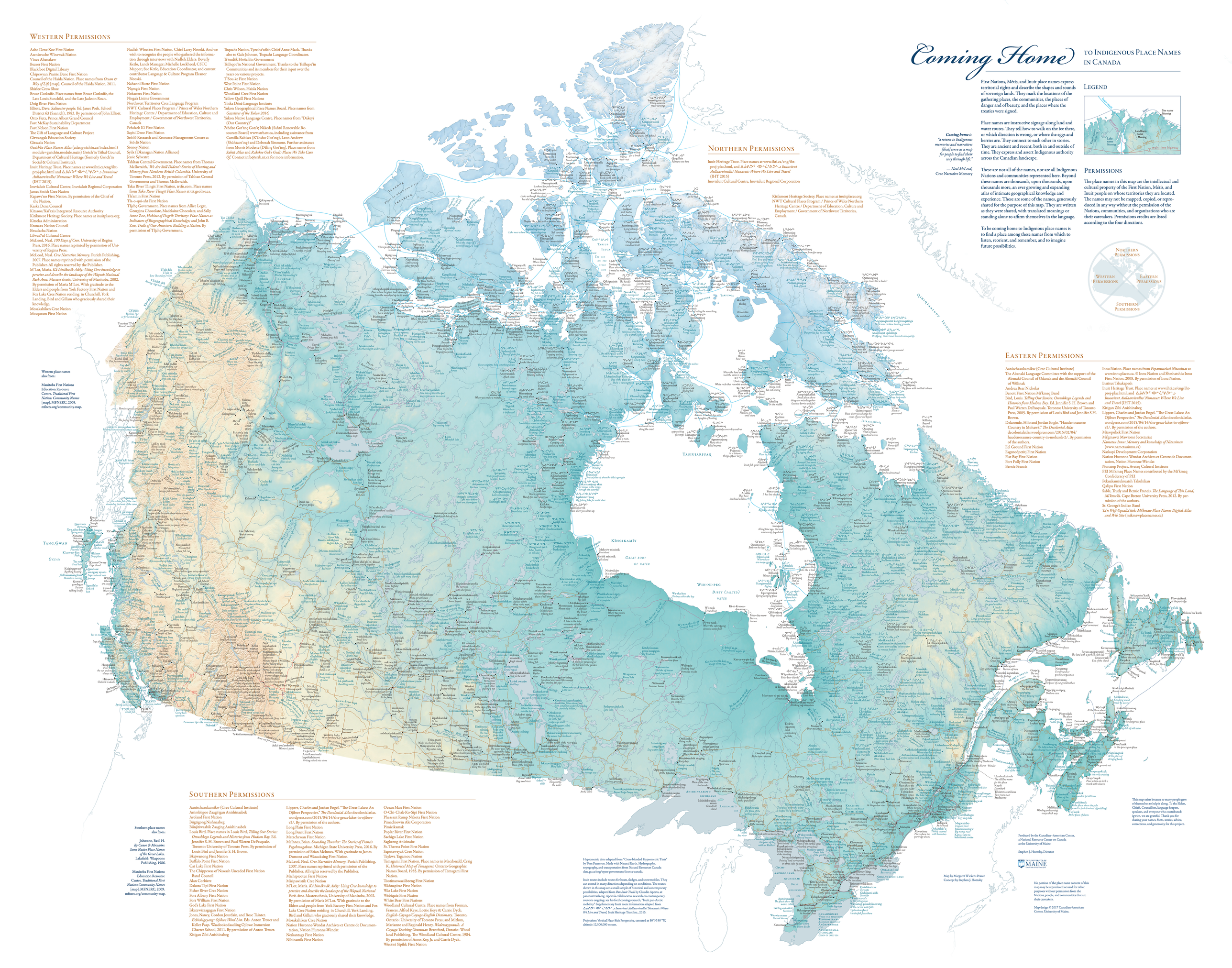

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Shirlee Crow Shoe
Bruce Cutknife. Place names from Bruce Cutknife, the Late Louis Sunchild, and the Late Jackson Roan.
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Elliott, Dave. *Saltwater people*. Ed. Janet Poth. School District 63 (Saanich), 1983. By permission of John Elliott.
Otto Fietz, Prince Albert Grand Council
Fort McKay Sustainability Department
Fort Nelson First Nation
The Gift of Language and Culture Project
Gitwangak Education Society
Gitxaala Nation
Gwich'in Place Names Atlas (atlas.gwichin.ca/index.html?module=gwichin.module.main) Gwich'in Tribal Council, Department of Cultural Heritage (formerly Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute).
Inuit Heritage Trust. Place names at www.ihti.ca/eng/ihtproj-plac.html and ᐃᓚᒃᑲᒥ ᐊᑐᕐᓗᒍ *Inuusiivut Aulaarviivullu/ Nunavut: Where We Live and Travel* (IHT 2015).
Inuvialuit Cultural Centre, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
James Smith Cree Nation
Kapawe'no First Nation. By permission of the Chief of the Nation.
Kaska Dena Council
Kitasoo/Xai'xais Integrated Resource Authority
Kitikmeot Heritage Society. Place names at inuitplaces.org
Kistelas Administration
Kitunaxa Nation Council
Kwadacha Nation
Lilwat7ul Cultural Centre
McLeod, Neal. *100 Days of Cree*. University of Regina Press, 2016. Place names reprinted by permission of University of Regina Press.
McLeod, Neal. *Cree Narrative Memory*. Purich Publishing, 2007. Place names reprinted with permission of the Publisher. All rights reserved by the Publisher.
M'Lot, Maria. *Ka Ioinikwuik Askiy: Using Cree knowledge to perceive and describe the landscape of the Waputik National Park Area*. Masters thesis, University of Manitoba, 2002. By permission of Maria M'Lot. With gratitude to the Elders and people from York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation residing in Churchill, York Landing, Bird and Gillam who graciously shared their knowledge.
Mosakahiken Cree Nation
Musqueam First Nation
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Chief Larry Nooski. And we wish to recognize the people who gathered the information through interviews with Nadleh Elders: Beverly Ketlo, Lands Manager; Michelle Lockhead, CSTC Mapper; Sue Ketlo, Education Coordinator, and current contributor Language & Culture Program Eleanor Nooski.
Nahanni Butte First Nation
Ntamqis First Nation
Nekaneet First Nation
Nisga'a Lisims Government
Northwest Territories Cree Language Program
NWT Cultural Places Program / Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre / Department of Education, Culture and Employment / Government of Northwest Territories, Canada
Pehdzeh Ki First Nation
Saysi Dene First Nation
Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre at Stó:lō Nation
Stoney Nation
Syilx (Okanagan Nation Alliance)
Jessie Sylvestre
Tāhltan Central Government. Place names from Thomas McIlwraith, *'We Are Still Dene': Stories of Hunting and History from Northern British Colombia*. University of Toronto Press, 2012. By permission of Tāhltan Central Government and Thomas McIlwraith.
Takō River Tlingit First Nation, trrfn.com. Place names from *Taku River Tlingit Place Names* at ttt.geolive.ca.
Tla'amin First Nation
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
Tłı̨chǫ Government. Place names from Allice Legat, Georgina Chocolate, Madelaine Chocolate, and Sally Anne Zoe, *Habitat of Dogrib Territory: Place Names as Indicators of Biographical Knowledge*; and John B. Zoe, *Trails of Our Ancestors: Building a Nation*. By permission of Tłı̨chǫ Government.
Toquaht Nation, Tyee ha'wilth Chief Anne Mack. Thanks also to Gale Johnsen, Toquaht Language Coordinator.
T'ono:dek Hwéch'in Government
Tsilhqot'in National Government. Thanks to the 'Tsilhqot'in Communities and its members for their input over the years on various projects.
T'Sou-ke First Nation
West Point First Nation
Chris Wilson, Haisla Nation
Woodland Cree First Nation
Yellow Quill First Nations
Yinka Dené Language Institute
Yukon Geographical Place Names Board. Place names from *Gazetteer of the Yukon 2016*.
Yukon Native Language Centre. Place names from "Dákeyi (Our Country)"
?ehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board) www.srrb.nt.ca, including assistance from Camilla Rabesca (K'áhsho Got'ıne), Leon Andrew (Shúhtaot'ıne) and Deborah Simmons. Further assistance from Morris Modeste (Déline Got'ıne). Place names from *Sahtú Atlas and Rakobee Gokè Gudè: Places We Take Care Of*. Contact info@srrb.nt.ca for more information.

Western place names also from:

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. *Traditional First Nations Community Names* [map]. MFNERC, 2009. mfnerc.org/community-map.

Northern Permissions

Inuit Heritage Trust. Place names at www.ihti.ca/eng/ihtproj-plac.html, and ᐃᓚᒃᑲᒥ ᐊᑐᕐᓗᒍ *Inuusiivut Aulaarviivullu/ Nunavut: Where We Live and Travel* (IHT 2015)
Inuvialuit Cultural Centre, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Kitikmeot Heritage Society. Place names at inuitplaces.org
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Eastern Permissions

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Bird, Louis. *Telling Our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Histories from Hudson Bay*. Ed. Jennifer S. H. Brown and Paul Warren DePasquale. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. By permission of Louis Bird and Jennifer S.H. Brown.
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Ed Ground First Nation
Esgenoôpetitj First Nation
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Innu Nation. Place names from *Pepamuetiatiti Nitassinat* at www.innuplaces.ca. © Innu Nation and Shoshashitu Innu First Nation, 2008. By permission of Innu Nation.
Institut Tshakapesh
Inuit Heritage Trust. Place names at www.ihti.ca/eng/ihtproj-plac.html, and ᐃᓚᒃᑲᒥ ᐊᑐᕐᓗᒍ *Inuusiivut Aulaarviivullu/ Nunavut: Where We Live and Travel* (IHT 2015).
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
Lippert, Charles and Jordan Engel. "The Great Lakes: An Ojibwe Perspective." *The Decolonial Atlas* decolonialatlas.wordpress.com/2015/04/14/the-great-lakes-in-ojibwe-v2/. By permission of the authors.
Miawpukek First Nation
Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat
Nametas Innu: Memory and knowledge of Nitassinan (www.nametasinnu.ca)
Naskapi Development Corporation
Nation Huronne-Wendat Archives et Centre de Documentation, Nation Huronne-Wendat
Nunatsiavut Project, Nunatsiavut Cultural Institute
PEI Mi'kmaq Place Names contributed by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI
Pekuakamiulnuatsh Takuhikan
Qalipu First Nation
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St. George's Indian Band
Ta'n Weji-Squalia'tink: Mi'kmaw Place Names Digital Atlas and Web Site (mikmawplacenames.ca)

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Animbiigoo Zaagi igan Anishinaabek
Aroland First Nation
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Biinjitiwabik Zaaging Anishinaabek
Louis Bird. Place names in Louis Bird, *Telling Our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Histories from Hudson Bay*. Ed. Jennifer S. H. Brown and Paul Warren DePasquale. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. By permission of Louis Bird and Jennifer S. H. Brown.
Bkejwanong First Nation
Buffalo Point First Nation
Car Lake First Nation
The Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation Band Council
Alan Corbiere
Dakota Tipi First Nation
Fisher River Cree Nation
Fort Albany First Nation
Fort William First Nation
God's Lake First Nation
Iskatewizaaggan First Nation
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Lippert, Charles and Jordan Engel. "The Great Lakes: An Ojibwe Perspective." *The Decolonial Atlas* decolonialatlas.wordpress.com/2015/04/14/the-great-lakes-in-ojibwe-v2/. By permission of the authors.
Long Plain First Nation
Long Point First Nation
Matachewan First Nation
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McLeod, Neal. *Cree Narrative Memory*. Purich Publishing, 2007. Place names reprinted with permission of the Publisher. All rights reserved by the Publisher.
Michipicoten First Nation
Misipawistik Cree Nation
M'Lot, Maria. *Ka Ioinikwuik Askiy: Using Cree knowledge to perceive and describe the landscape of the Waputik National Park Area*. Masters thesis, University of Manitoba, 2002. By permission of Maria M'Lot. With gratitude to the Elders and people from York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation residing in Churchill, York Landing, Bird and Gillam who graciously shared their knowledge.
Mosakahiken Cree Nation
Nation Huronne-Wendat Archives et Centre de Documentation, Nation Huronne-Wendat
Neskantaga First Nation
Nibinamik First Nation
Ocean Man First Nation
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Sagkeeng Anicinabe
St. Theresa Point First Nation
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation
Taykwa Tagamou Nation
Temagami First Nation. Place names in Macdonald, Craig K. *Historical Map of Temagami*. Ontario Geographic Names Board, 1985. By permission of Temagami First Nation.
Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation
Wahnapitae First Nation
War Lake First Nation
Webiquie First Nation
White Bear First Nations
Woodland Cultural Centre. Place names from Froman, Frances, Alfred Keye, Lottie Keye & Carrie Dyck. *English-Cayuga/Cayuga-English Dictionary*. Toronto, Ontario: University of Toronto Press; and Mithun, Marianne and Reginald Henry. *Wakenoyatanih. A Cayuga Teaching Grammar*. Brantford, Ontario: Wood land Publishing, The Woodland Cultural Centre, 1984. By permission of Amos Key, Jr. and Carrie Dyck.
Wiikwii Sipihk First Nation

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Johnston, Basil H. *By Canoe & Moccasin: Some Native Place Names of the Great Lakes*. Lakefield: Waapone Publishing, 1986.

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. *Traditional First Nations Community Names* [map]. MFNERC, 2009. mfnerc.org/community-map.

Hypsometric tints adapted from "Cross-blended Hypsometric Tints" by Tom Patterson. Made with Natural Earth. Hydrography, topography, and transportation from Natural Resources Canada data.gc.ca/eng/open-government-licence-canada.

Inuit routes include routes for boats, sledges, and snowmobiles. They can extend in many directions depending on conditions. The routes shown in this map are a small sample of historical and contemporary possibilities, adapted from *Pan Inuit Trails* by Claudio Aporta, at paninuittrails.org. Aporta's collaborative research on contemporary routes is ongoing; see his forthcoming research, "Inuit pan-Arctic mobility." Supplementary Inuit route information adapted from ᐃᓚᒃᑲᒥ ᐊᑐᕐᓗᒍ *Inuusiivut Aulaarviivullu/ Nunavut: Where We Live and Travel*, Inuit Heritage Trust Inc., 2015.

Projection: Vertical Near-Side Perspective, centered at 50° N 90° W, altitude 12,500,000 meters.

Produced by the Canadian–American Center, a National Resource Center on Canada at the University of Maine

Stephen J. Hornsby, Director

Map by Margaret Wickens Pearce
Concept by Stephen J. Hornsby

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