HOPEDALE

Apvitok

Community Profile

2025


Photo © Chris Sampson

NUNATSIAVUT
Ilinnianikmik amma kenaujaliugutaugunnatunik Pivalliatiksinikmik
Education and Economic Development

595
Total Population

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Inuit Community Government
709-933-3864

Nunatsiavut Government (Hopedale Office)
709-933-3777

Introduction

Originally known by its Inuktitut name "Apvitok," the community of Hopedale was established by the Moravian Missionaries in 1782.

Today, there remains an incredible legacy of structures and artifacts from the Moravians. In fact, some of the oldest wooden-framed buildings in Canada still stand in Hopedale. The community has always played an important role in the history of the Labrador Inuit.

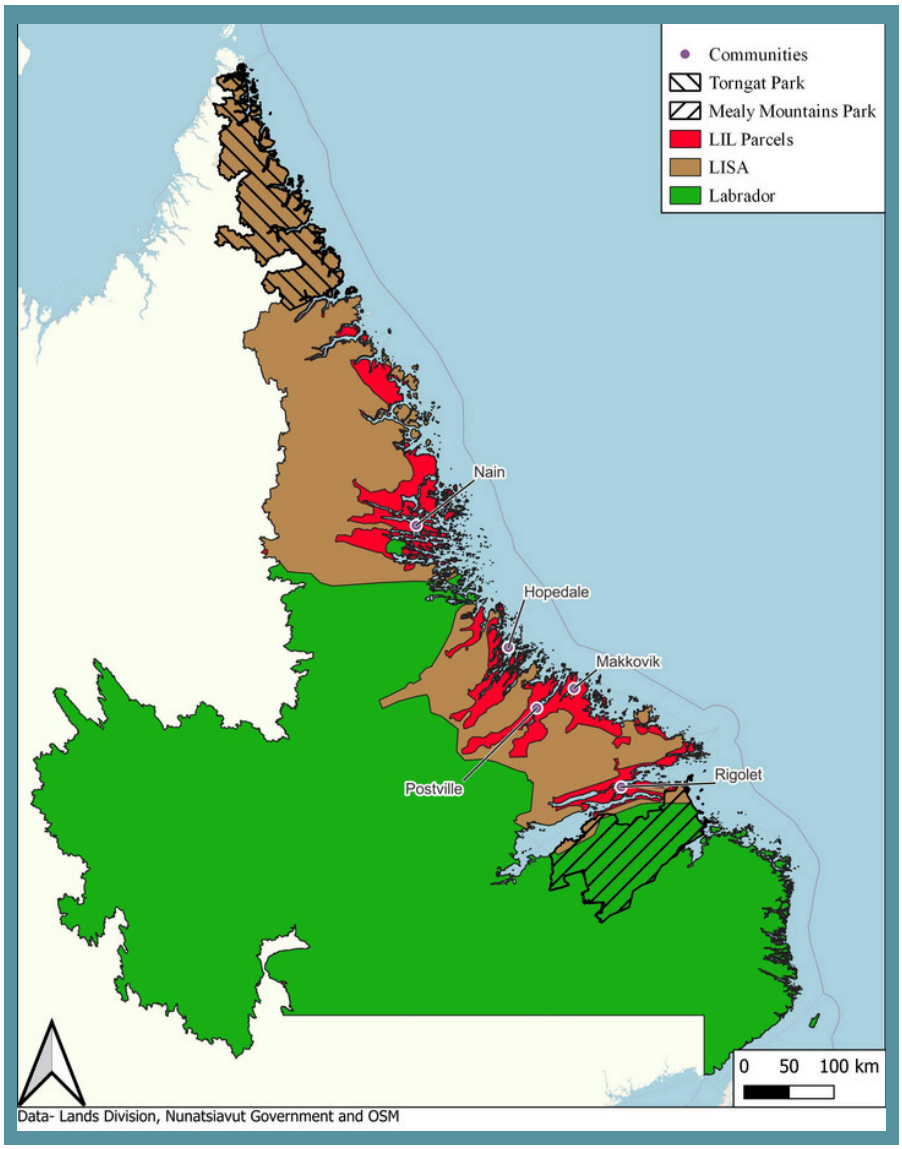
Located in the heart of Nunatsiavut, Hopedale is the legislative capital of the Nunatsiavut Government.

Inuktitut name

Apvitok

Translation

place of whales



Location

Total Land Area

2.18 km²

Coordinates

55°27'29.2"N
60°13'19.2"W

Climate

Hopedale has a subarctic climate characterized by cool summers and cold winters, largely due to its proximity to the Labrador Sea. Throughout the year, the temperature ranges from around -21°C to 12°C with winter bringing significant snowfall.

Local Business/Industry

Hopedale is home to a growing business community with retail operators, accommodations, and specialized service providers. This list provides an overview of the business/industry environment and may not be reflective of all business activities in the area.

For more information, view the Nunatsiavut Business Directory online: nunatsiavut.com/business-directory/

Retail/Food

Frank's General Store – Frank's carry a wide selection of goods including fresh produce, dry goods, home furnishings, appliances, apparel, hardware and commercial supplies

DJ's Convenience – DJ's Convenience provides a wide variety of grocery, convenience, electronics, lottery and gift items.

Accomodations

Amaguk Hotel – The Amaguk Hotel is a fully serviced 22 room hotel with restaurant on site

Specialized Services

Inotsiavik Language Culture Incorporated – Provides language and culture programming for Inuit in Nunatsiavut in person and online. This includes languages lessons, sewing circles and courses, elders gatherings, and land based activities and culture skills workshops such as animal skinning and cleaning and traditional tool making

Avani Adventures – Transportation and charter service, including boat charters. Catering to tourists, passengers and cargo

Local Opportunities and Attractions

National Parks

Torngat National Park

A 9,700 km² wilderness area, located 200 kms north of the community of Nain. The Park is an area that includes mountains, polar bears, small glaciers, and caribou and is where the Inuit hunt, fish, and travel. The park also includes the Torngat Base camp and research Station.

Mealy Mountain National Park

The largest National Park in eastern Canada, the Mealy Mountain Park is a 10,700 km² park area with a landscape of mountain tundra, marine coasts, boreal forests, islands and rivers that have been traditional hunting, trapping and fishing areas for Indigenous people of Labrador.

Community Attractions

- Moravian Mission Complex and Museum
- American Radar Station
- Assembly Building

Hopedale has many skilled artisans who provide a variety of crafts that are exclusive to the region.

Developing Cruise Ship Market

Nunatsiavut communities welcomed 1,741 cruise ship passengers during the 2022-2024 seasons.

In 2022, approximately 4% of NL residents travelling within the province visited Labrador. Residents tended to stay longer in Labrador (11 nights) than in other parts of the province (overall average of 3.4 nights). Labrador was the primary destination of approximately 7% non-residents visiting NL.

Sources: Newfoundland and Labrador Resident Travel Survey, December 2022; Survey of Non-resident Visitors to Newfoundland and Labrador (Peak Season May to October 2022), November 2022

Governance and Public Services

Governance

Municipal
Inuit Community Government

Regional
Nunatsiavut Government

Provincial
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Provincial Electoral District
Torngat Mountains

Federal Electoral District
Labrador

Public Services

Health Services
Hopedale Community Clinic

Fire Services
Hopedale Fire Department

Police Services
Hopedale RCMP Detachment

Postal Services
Canada Post

Government Services
Nunatsiavut Government Office
Provincial Government Office

Radio Station
Hopedale Radio Station

Community Centre
The Sukie Aggek Memorial Centre

Community Information

Annual Taxes & Fees

Residential

Water & Sewer Tax – $360.00
Poll Tax – $50.00
Land Plot – $1,000.00

Commercial

Water & Sewer Tax – $720.00
Business Tax Rate – 1/10 of 1%

Utility Tax Rate (Bell & NL Hydro) – 2.5%

For more information including garbage collection fees, rental equipment and other community information, please contact the Hopedale Inuit Community Government.

Children and Youth Programming

The Innuagualiut Centre in Hopedale offers an Inuktitut immersion program (Language Nest) for infants.

Aboriginal Head Start is available for preschool children and parents. There is a school readiness program and programs for parents that encompass teachings in traditions, health promotion, social support and nutrition.

Regulated child care is available at the Aiagutak Centre for ages 2-5.A variety of afterschool programming is also available for children and youth.

The Nanuk Centre in Hopedale is a gathering place for sporting and recreational programming and community events for all ages. There is a large gymnasium, fitness space, and youth centre.

Remoteness

Hopedale is a remote community. There is currently no road access to Hopedale so residents travel by air or marine transport to commute to neighboring communities or travel outside the region. Remoteness impacts many aspects of the community including food security, energy infrastructure, and telecommunications.

Energy Infrastructure

Most households rely on wood and oil for heat.

Solar panels are now among the available energy options.

Hopedale relies on a NL Hydro Fossil-Diesel plant for electricity generation. Fuel is transported by ship.

- Capacity: 2,629 kW
- Demand: 5,070 MWh/year

Internet Services

High-speed internet is available through two service providers.

Bell Aliant

Download speed: 1.5 mbps
Upload speed: 0.54 mbps

Starlink

Download speed: 133+ mbps
Upload speed: 133+ mbps

Food Security

According to a 2014 Household Survey, 83.1% of households in Hopedale were found to be food insecure—experiencing worry about or difficulty in accessing food on a regular basis.

61.1% of households in Nunatsiavut were found to be food insecure.

Source: Nunatsiavut Government

Remoteness (continued)

Transportation

Air Travel

Scheduled air services are available year-round through Air Borealis (operating out of Happy Valley-Goose Bay)

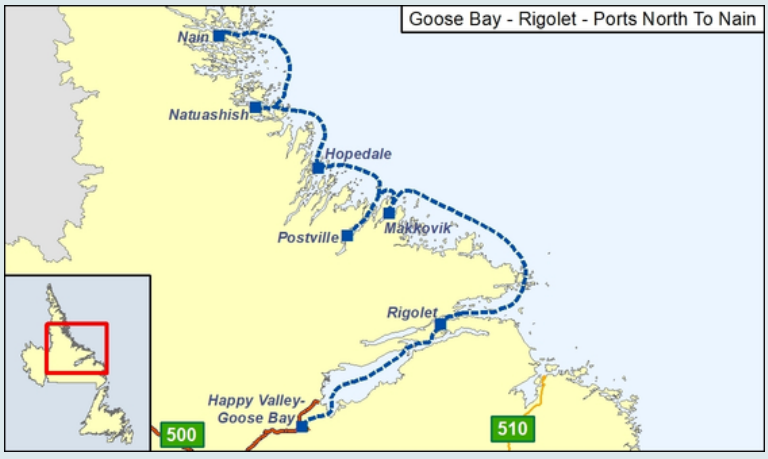
Infrastructure: 605m gravel airstrip

Destination	Air Travel Time	Rate (As of Sept 2025)
Nain	50 minutes*	$246.18
Makkovik	45 minutes*	$215.38
Postville	20 minutes	$215.38
Rigolet	85 minutes*	$278.31
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	60 minutes	$474.17

*Includes stop(s)

Ferry Travel

Labrador Marine – MV Kamutik W provides seasonal transportation between communities.



Crossing Times

Goose Bay to Rigolet (167 km): 6.5 hours
Rigolet to Makkovik (274 km): 11.5 hours
Makkovik to Postville (69 km): 3 hours
Postville to Hopedale (132 km): 5 hours
Hopedale to Natuashish (102 km): 4.5 hours
Natuashish to Nain (133 km): 5.5 hours

Passenger Rates (one way)

Destination	Rate (As of Sept 2025)
Nain	$25.50
Makkovik	$15.00
Postville	$19.50
Rigolet	$52.50
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	$78.00

Adult rates are shown above. Senior, student, and child rates are available. Cabins and vehicles are extra. Visit labradormarine.com for more detail.

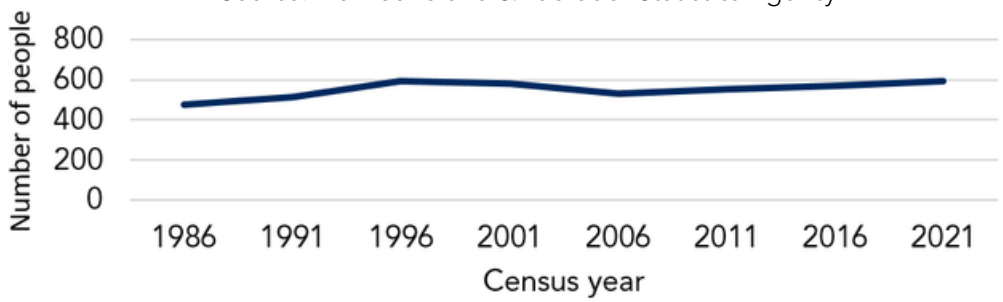
Population Overview

Source: Statistics Canada (unless otherwise noted)

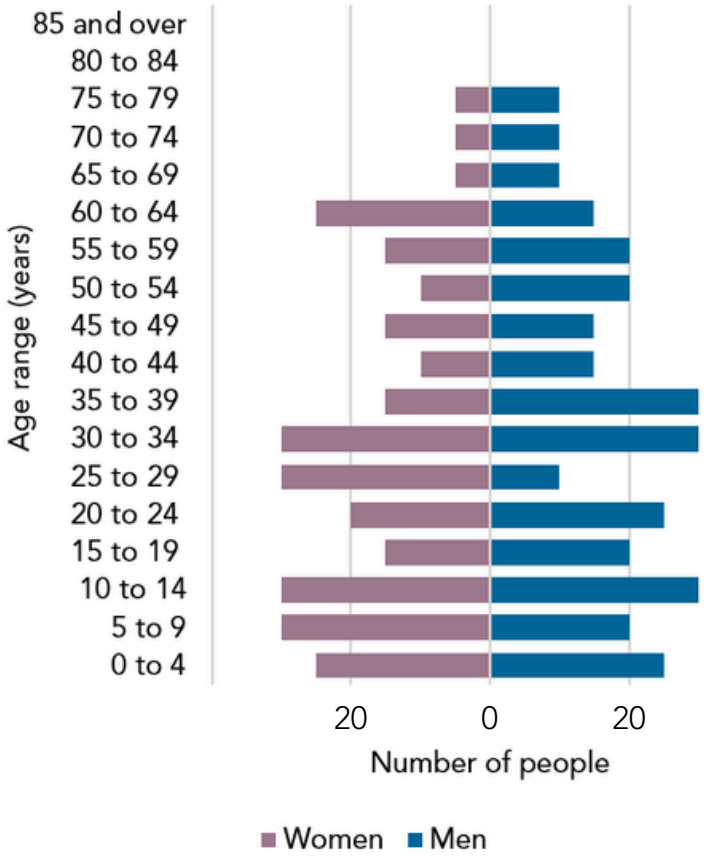
595
Total Population

208
Total Private Dwellings

Population of Hopedale (1986-2021)
Source: Newfoundland & Labrador Statistics Agency

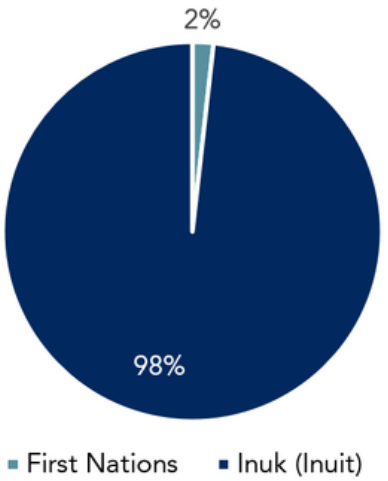


Age Structure (2021)



Indigenous Identity (2021)

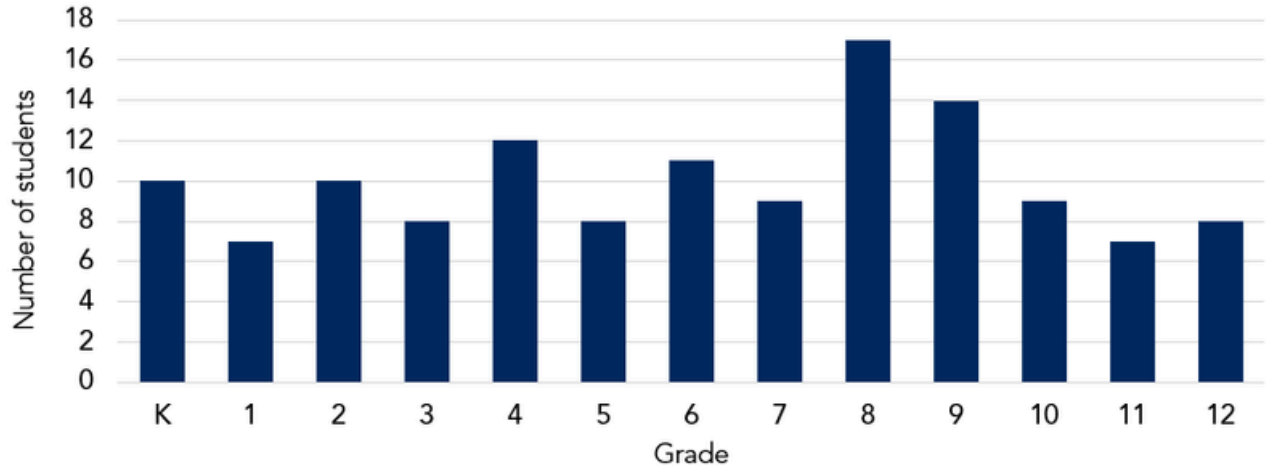
94% of Hopedale's population identifies as Indigenous.



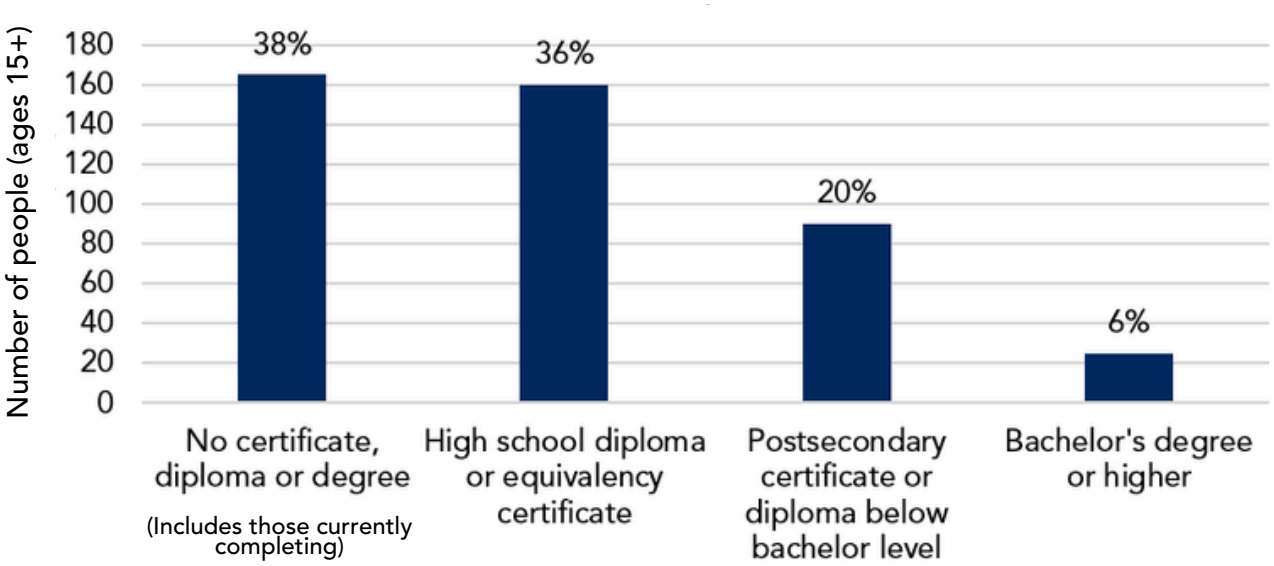
Education

Community School Enrollment (2024-2025)
Source: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Amos Comenius Memorial School is a K-12 Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) school located in Hopedale. Total enrollment is 132 students.



Highest Level of Education, Ages 15+ (2021)
Source: Statistics Canada



Employment, Income, and Labour Force

Source: Statistics Canada

Work Activity (2021)

In 2021, 59% of Hopedale's employed population were full-time, year-round. 41% of the employed population were part-time and/or part year (for example, seasonal employment).

Participation Rate

49% In 2021, 49% of Hopedale's population (aged 15+) participated in the labour force.

Women: 51% **Men: 49%**

The participation rate for the province in 2021 was 56%.

Unemployment Rate

21% In 2021, 21% of Hopedale's labour force were unemployed.

Women: 14% **Men: 27%**

The unemployment rate for the province in 2021 was 15%.

Participating in the labour force means a person is employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate indicates the proportion of individuals participating in the labour force that are currently unemployed and looking for work (often collecting Employment Insurance).

Occupations (2021)

All occupations of those living in Hopedale (aged 15+) have been categorized using the National Occupational Classification system.



Employment, Income, and Labour Force (continued)

Source: Statistics Canada

Median Income (2019)

In 2019, the median income in Hopedale was $28,400. Approximately half of the population received less and half of the population received more than this amount.

	Total	Men	Women
Hopedale	$28,400	$21,800	$32,000
Newfoundland and Labrador	$35,200	$42,400	$29,600

Employment Insurance (2019)

110 individuals (aged 15+) in Hopedale collected employment insurance benefits in 2019. Approximately 52% of recipients were men and 48% were women.

Note: The most recent data available for median income and employment insurance are from Statistic Canada's 2021 Census of Population for the year 2019.





This Hopedale Community Profile has been created to bring together important information and data on various aspects of the region for use in regional and community planning, business development, community promotion, and local decision making.

This project is a partnership with Nunatsiavut's Department of Education and Economic Development and Memorial University's Regional Analytics Lab (RAnLab). Information contained within this profile has been collected from the most current data sources and will be updated as needed. If you have any questions or concerns about the data presented in this profile, please contact Heather Sheppard, business development officer, at Nunatsiavut's Economic Development Division: heather.sheppard@nunatsiavut.com

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