Nunavut

Following decades of hard work and advocacy by Inuit leaders, the territory of Nunavut was created in 1999. Nunavut, which means our land in Inuktitut, is a vast and beautiful place and though it makes up 20 per cent of Canada’s area, the territory has just over 30,000 residents. About 85 per cent of Nunavut’s population is Inuit. Inuktitut, one of the strongest aboriginal languages in Canada, is the first language to most. Medical interpreters are available to support family doctors in Nunavut; and it is quite possible and very worthwhile to learn some Inuktitut while doing residency training in the north.

Nunavut Family Medicine Education Program (NunaFam)

Contact Information:

Lisa Grant
lisa.grant@med.mun.ca
Project Manager
Discipline of Family Medicine
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John’s, NL
A1B 3V6

Madeleine Cole
mcole@gov.nu.ca
Director of Medical Education for Nunavut
Qikiqtani General Hospital
P.O. Box 1000, Station 1036
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

NunaFam is a collaborative educational partnership of the Government of Nunavut and the Discipline of Family Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland, and is funded by Health Canada.
Incredible and challenging rural and remote healthcare experiences are available for family medicine residents in the Territory of Nunavut. Residents are based in Iqaluit, at Qikiqtani General Hospital, and have opportunities to work in some of the smaller communities throughout Nunavut.

First year residents can participate in a two month Maternal Health rotation. This is an exceptional opportunity to learn comprehensive obstetrical and pediatric skills in a unique setting where family doctors attend over 400 births annually.

Second-year residents can spend four months of their PGY2 year in Nunavut. The remainder of the residency training rotations are spent in Newfoundland and Labrador, or in New Brunswick.

In Nunavut, residents will learn all aspects of practicing full scope family medicine in remote, isolated environments and will develop cultural competence skills to help them work more effectively with aboriginal communities.

Residents develop excellent skills in the clinic, inpatient, emergency, air transport and obstetrical care settings. In addition to clinical skills, within NunaFam, there is an emphasis on health advocacy, public health and preventative medicine.

“We are grateful to the physician preceptors, clinical staff and other community members in Nunavut and in Newfoundland, who contribute to the successes of our Family Medicine Residents.”
—Dr. Madeleine Cole

Dr. Sandy MacDonald – Director of Medical Affairs

Dr. Madeleine Cole – Director of Medical Education