PERMAFROST THAW
REDUCTION OF ICE COVERAGE



Rapid warming in the Arctic is causing permafrost to thaw and ice to thin: the active layer of soil (layer of soil that freezes and thaws every year) is also thickening, bringing changes for wildlife and vegetation.

It will be an average of 3 to 6 °C warmer by 2100 than during the 1991–2020 period.

Longer ice- and snow-free season

Over the years, permafrost could partially or completely disappear, remaining present only in certain areas of Nunavik.

Vulnerable Populations

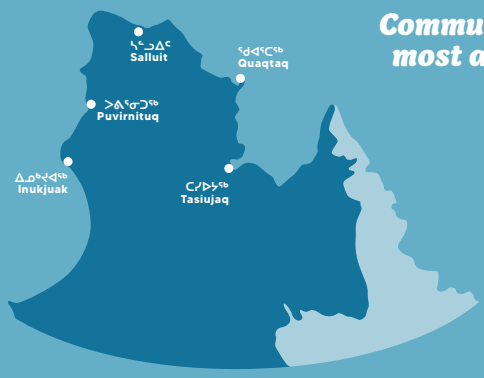
Some people are more at risk of developing health problems due to their exposure, adaptability or sensitivity.

32.8 % **of Nunavimmiut live in an overcrowded house.**

19.1 % **of people said their houses need major repairs.**

34.4 % **of families have low income.**

Communities most at risk



Puvirnituq
(since it is the community with the hospital, it bears an additional risk because it provides health care for all the Hudson communities.)

Health Impacts

Climate change impacts health and different health determinants (food, land, housing, traditional knowledge, community, family) as defined in the IQI model.

Permafrost thaw can affect infrastructures and some communities reported that houses and buildings are shifting.

It can increase anxiety related to economic costs of going on the land or losing equipment.

Ice thinning can increase the risk of snowmobile and quad accidents and unintentional traumas related to them.

Permafrost thaw is a risk to water quality but also water-delivery infrastructures. 77% of households preferred using alternative alternatives water sources for drinking purposes.

Climate change | NRBHSS

With financial support from:
Plan pour une économie verte
Québec
Services aux Autochtones Canada
Indigenous Services Canada