



Everyone Wins (Except President Trump)

The goal is to empower the Inuit of both Greenland and Canada by reversing some of the effects of colonialism. A further goal is to preserve NATO. Necessarily, it is merely a starting point for consideration by all parties. The Inuit, of course, must have the final word.

"Inuit Nunangat" means "the place where Inuit live." It is comprised of Greenland and four political regions in Canada: Nunavut, Nunavik (northern Quebec) and Nunatsiavut (northern Labrador) and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (northern Northwest Territories). The included map may not be accepted by all parties in every detail, but it is close enough for discussion purposes.

Geographically, Inuit Nunangat includes about half of Canada's coastline and one-third of its land mass. There are approximately 50,000 Inuit in Greenland, 17,000 in Denmark and 70,000 in Canada. The Canadian Inuit live in 53 communities, with one-quarter living outside of Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The Inuit co-govern these four political units with Canada and several provincial or territorial governments. The Inuit relationship with Canada is established by constitutionally recognized agreements.

The suggestion has three elements:

1. Greenland, Denmark and Canada transfer their current rights and responsibilities from Greenland and Denmark to Greenland and Canada. Nothing changes at this stage, except the substitution of the word Canada for Denmark in all agreements.

2. Canada negotiates with all five of the political units of Nunangat/Greenland to unite them into one political unit, with such subsidiary political units as may be desirable. The relevant Canadian provinces and territories transfer their rights and responsibilities to either the new entity or Canada, as appropriate in each circumstance.

3. Existing agreements between the USA and Greenland become agreements between the USA and Canada, except as otherwise agreed by the parties to those agreements. All contracts will be respected.

This is the barest skeleton of an agreement, but it provides Denmark and Canada with an opportunity to unify an indigenous people who were divided by colonialism. Most importantly, it allows the Inuit people to negotiate, from a position of strength, for a preferred future. NATO and the EU will be able to relax, at least a bit.

The author is a retired judge, living in balmy Southern California. This proposal is just an idea that may be worth considering, the author has no interest in the outcome. He writes essays on governance that can be read and downloaded, free of charge, at blairessays4free.com.

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