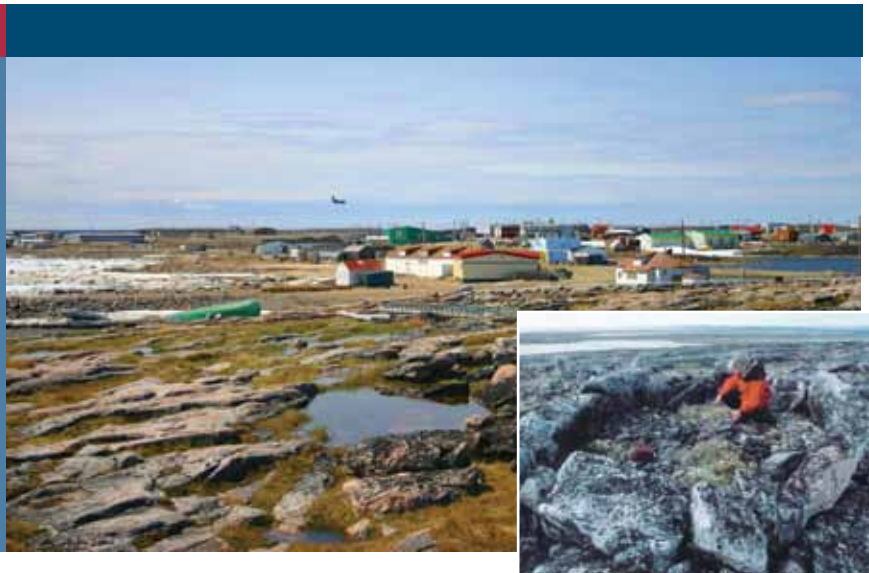




# Chesterfield Inlet Igluligarjuk

In Inuktitut,  
'Place with a few Thule houses'



*Chesterfield Inlet is one of the oldest and longest settled Arctic communities. The Hamlet dates back to the early 20th century when the Hudson's Bay Company and the Roman Catholic Mission were established here. This is also a traditional or archeological site, once used on a seasonal basis by the Thule people, ancestors of today's Inuit.*

## HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

The Inuit of the Chesterfield Inlet area belonged to two sub-groups. The northern group were the Qaermermiut that lived and hunted in the Baker Lake (Qamani'tuaq) area. The southern group, in the Chesterfield Inlet (Igluligarjuk) area, were the Tariurmiut. Inuit used the suffix "miut" meaning "the people of" to identify themselves and to refer to other groups.

Sir Thomas Button probably visited this area in 1612-13 when he explored Hudson Bay in his small ship *Discovery*. Over the next 150 years, other British ships visited Chesterfield Inlet, searching for the elusive Northwest Passage. Later, American whalers hunted in Hudson Bay and overwintered at points along the coast.

Father (later Bishop) Turquetil visited the area in 1901, and planned a mission. Some 10 years later materials landed on the shore for the first Roman Catholic Mission. The same year, the Hudson's Bay Company opened its first Post here at Chesterfield Inlet. In the early 1900s Chesterfield Inlet became the supply and trans-shipment point for smaller trading posts and missions nearby. It was also a meeting place for Inuit families who began to visit the tiny community several times a year.

By 1914, the Northwest Mounted Police (later the RCMP) moved their base from Cape Fullerton north of the Inlet to the growing community.

In 1922, the Danish members of the Fifth Thule Expedition (Knud Rasmussen, Kaj Birket-Smith,

Helge Bangsted, Jacob Olsen, Therkel Mathiassen, Peder Pedersen, and Peter Freuchen) visited Chesterfield Inlet, from the 23rd of April to the 3rd of May.

The first school opened in 1951, and a few years later the RC mission opened a large hostel. Inuit children from the Kivalliq region were sent to Chesterfield Inlet for 10 or 11 months to attend school. They lived at Turquetil Hall, once the largest building in the Kivalliq before it was demolished in the early 1980s.

The Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet was established April 1st, 1980.

## HISTORIC TOUR OF CHESTERFIELD INLET

Chesterfield Inlet celebrated its 100th year in 2011, and is the oldest continuously settled community in Nunavut.

Several of the original buildings constructed in 1911-12 are still standing. Many of the Mission buildings have weathered the long years of Arctic climate, and some are still in use.

A historical walking tour starts at the Northern Store (formerly the Hudson's Bay Company), the oldest building in the community. Part of the store was one of the original buildings put up in 1911.



*St. Theresa's Hospital, 1944.*

This is possibly one of the few buildings from the early days of the Bay in the north still in use today (presently by the Northern Store for storage), and upgraded through the years by the North West Company.

From the Bay, the walking tour takes you past the Mission complex and the original mission building completed by Bishop Turquetil.

Copies of the walking tour guidebook can be picked up at the hamlet office. Some of the buildings have markers on them, with historic photos of the early days of Chesterfield Inlet.

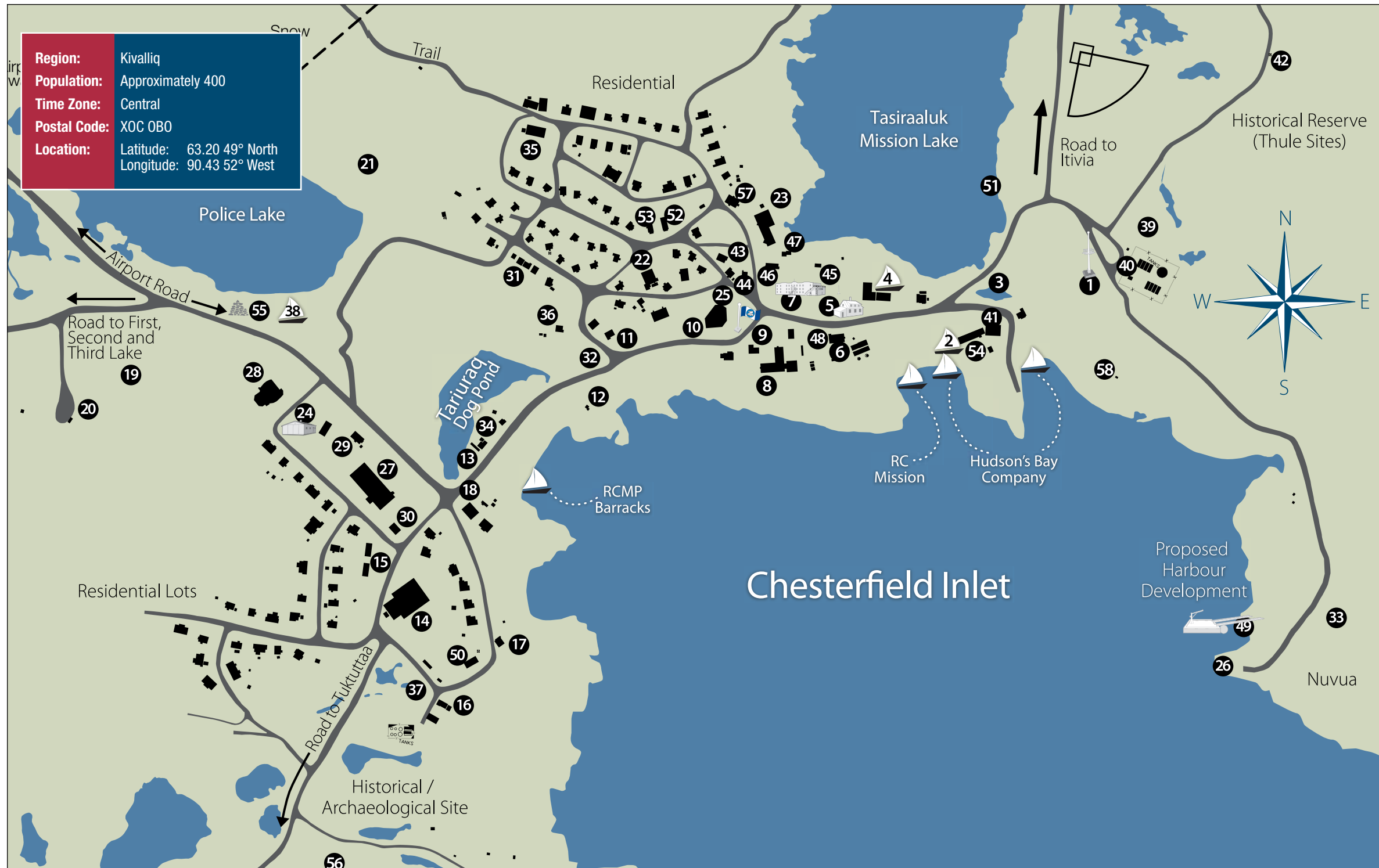
South of Chesterfield Inlet, about five km is Fox Trap Island where you can see stone traps. These were used by the Inuit to trap fox for their furs, using fish bait or meat scraps inside the slanted stones.

## THULE SITES

Just outside the hamlet, about two km north, and also north of the airport runway, there are significant Thule era sites, where Inuit lived hundreds of years ago. Guided tours are available.

Ancestors of modern Inuit, the Thule people probably arrived here some 500 years ago and replaced an earlier group known as the Dorset culture. The Thule were extremely resourceful and introduced new technology, including dog teams to pull sleds, and ingenious boats made of hides and pieces of wood or animal bone. They settled in large groups along the shore of the Bay and hunted whales from their boats called *umiat* in Inuktitut.

The Thule site is believed to be about 300 years old. The remains of several dwellings are clearly visible, and help to illustrate the size of the community. There are fox traps, food caches, kayak cradles (*in Inuktitut qajakuvit*) and boat or *umia* stands, made from stone. The site is a protected archeological treasure and artifacts must not be disturbed.



# CHESTERFIELD INLET

## Points of Interest

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Ship's Mast   | 30. Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation                                      |
| 2. Hudson's Bay Company Complex (now store warehouse)  | 31. Kingnguvaag Ltd.  |
| 3. Pig House Site  | 32. Elders Home Care  |
| 4. Current R.C. Mission  | 33. Community Freezer   |
| 5. Original R.C. Mission   | 34. Dog Pound Site (fence)  |
| 6. Mission Buildings   | 35. Housing Association   |
| 7. Ste. Theresa's Hospital and Mission outbuildings  | 36. Rec. Hall Site  |
| 8. Sir Joseph-Bernier Federal Day School (first school; now hotel) and Pitsiulak Co-op Store | 37. DOT Garage Building Site  |
| 9. Nunavut Arctic College – Learning Centre  | 38. RCMP Barracks Site  |
| 10. Turquetil Hall Site  | 39. Whaling Boats   |
| 11. First doctor's House   | 40. Hudson's Bay Company Fox Fur Drying Shed Site                                   |
| 12. Waterfront Area  | 41. Northern Store  |
| 13. Iqalukpik Fish Plant   | 42. Beacon Tower  |
| 14. Victor Sammurtok School  | 43. Daycare Centre  |
| 15. DOT Buildings  | 44. Former RC Mission Residence   |
| 16. Power Plant  | 45. Greenhouse  |
| 17. First Radio Station  | 46. Mission Chicken Shed  |
| 18. RCMP Detachment  | 47. Mission Shed, Freezer   |
| 19. Grave Site of RCMP Officer's Wife  | 48. Mission Power House   |
| 20. Water Reservoir  | 49. Floating Dock   |
| 21. Community Cemetery   | 50. Former DOT Weather/Research Station   |
| 22. Pitsiulak Co-op Warehouse  | 51. Float Plane Dock Site   |
| 23. Health Centre  | 52. Housing Workshop Site   |
| 24. Former RCMP Compound   | 53. Chesterfield Inlet Settlement Office Site                                       |
| 25. Community Complex  | 54. Hudson's Bay Company Coal Storage Site  |
| 26. Community Dock   | 55. Inuksuk   |
| 27. Noel Nuvak Arena   | 56. Former Continental (Alliance) Mission Residence (In Inuktitut, Ajuqiqtujiirlak) |
| 28. Naja Isabelle Home   | 57. Former Health Centre  |
| 29. Conservation Office  | 58. HBC Shed Site   |



## CAPE FULLERTON

The RCMP (originally the Northwest Mounted Police) first moved to the Canadian Arctic in 1901. They set up a post at Cape Fullerton (in Inuktitut, *Qatiktalik*), on the north shore of the Inlet as a customs post to check on the activities of the American whalers, to establish Canadian sovereignty, and to administer whaling licenses, collect customs, control liquor and maintain order. The Fullerton Harbour was a popular wintering station for American and Scottish whaling ships and a trading point between the Inuit and the Euro-American whalers.

The post was moved to Chesterfield Inlet in 1914, when whaling declined. Fullerton Post was used part-time for many years as a stop on patrols to Inuit camps along the coast and inland.

Today the remains of this original post are still intact and are maintained by the RCMP each year. Weather permitting, a local outfitter/guide can provide a tour to visit historic Cape Fullerton. The boat trip can take four to six hours (depending on weather conditions), and visitors often prefer to camp there overnight before returning to Chesterfield.



Shorebirds visit each summer.

## WILDLIFE

Chesterfield Inlet is one of Nunavut's great wildlife refuges. One of the longest inlets in the world, at its mouth on Hudson Bay wildlife is abundant. Beluga whales feed here, seals patrol the shallows and polar bears can be spotted. Migratory birds nest on the islands. Far inland, at the head of the inlet is the community of Baker Lake, just a few years younger than Chesterfield. A local outfitter can arrange a boat trip up the inlet. In August, the white whales (belugas) often enter the inlet and can be seen in front of the commu-

nity harbor. Harp seals can often be seen in small or large groups along the inlet/coast in August, primarily feeding on fish or other marine life.

Barren ground caribou can frequently be sighted on land or frozen-ice near the community or along the coast during summer by kayak/canoe or ATV.

## TOURISM FACILITIES

Chesterfield Inlet is a short hop (15 minutes) by air from Rankin Inlet, the main transportation centre of the Nunavut's Kivalliq region. Calm Air and First Air provide scheduled flights.

There is a small commercial fishery established in 1979 and in season visitors can meet the fishermen arriving in with their char catch; visitors can make arrangements to purchase a fresh caught Arctic char from the local Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization that operates the Iqalukpiq fish plant. Guided tours can be arranged with several outfitters or guides by boat along the coast. Fishing trips can also be arranged by ATV, to inland lakes for Lake trout or along the seashore for Arctic char. Try your luck to catch an Arctic char along the shoreline or community dock.

## SERVICES

### ACCOMMODATION AND DINING

Tangmavik Hotel  
or Inns North: ..... 898-9190  
(Direct Reservations): ..... 898-9975  
(Toll-Free Reservations): .. 1-888-866-6784

### RETAIL STORES

Pitsiulak Co-operative Ltd. .... 898-9975  
Northern Store: ..... 898-9920  
Kingnguvaq Ltd. .... 898-9103  
Chesterfield Inlet  
Holding Corporation: ..... 898-9292

### TAXI SERVICE

Kingnguvaq Ltd. .... 898-9103

### AULAJUQ LTD.

Heavy-Equipment rental: ..... 898-9175

### TAGJA FREIGHTING

Commercial/Tourism in  
Freighting/Passengers: ..... 898-9158

### BANK SERVICES

Northern Store: ..... 898-9920  
Pitsiulak Co-operative Ltd. .... 898-9975  
(Visa, MasterCard/debit card and  
automated teller machine)

### NUNAVUT ARCTIC COLLEGE LEARNING CENTRE

Community Learning Centre: ..... 898-9048

### Victor Sammurtoq School

Kindergarten to Grade 12: ..... 898-9913  
District Education Authority ..... 898-9007

### HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Public housing and  
Government units: ..... 898-9942

### DAYCARE CENTRE

Daycare services: ..... 898-9712

### HEALTH CENTRE

Nursing Station: ..... 898-9968

### RCMP

Detachment: ..... 898-0123

### IQUALUKPIK FISH PLANT

Aqigiq HTO: ..... 898-9063  
(Arctic char - commercial fishing)

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

Conservation Officer: ..... 898-9130  
(Licence application for sport fishing or hunting)

### GUIDES, TOURISM OUTFITTERS OR TOUR OPERATORS

Aqigiq Hunters and  
Trappers Organization: ..... 898-9063\*  
\* Outfitting and guiding services dependent upon  
annual license renewal.

For more information about Guides, tourism  
outfitters/tour operators in caribou sport hunts  
or guiding services in Chesterfield Inlet please  
contact the Community Economic Develop-  
ment Officer at the Hamlet Office:

Tel: ..... 1-867-898-9206  
or Fax: ..... 1-867-898-9108  
or visit website: [www.chesterfieldinlet.net](http://www.chesterfieldinlet.net)

### AIRLINE CONNECTIONS TO CHESTERFIELD INLET:

From Winnipeg or Rankin Inlet

### CALM AIR INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Toll-Free: ..... 1-800-839-2256  
or ..... 898-9103

### FIRST AIR

Toll-Free: ..... 1-800-267-1247  
or ..... 898-9400

### JET CONNECTIONS TO CHESTERFIELD INLET:

#### CANADIAN NORTH

Toll-Free: ..... 1-800-661-1505

#### FIRST AIR

Toll-Free: ..... 1-800-267-1247  
or ..... 898-9400

- Winnipeg to Rankin Inlet  
to Chesterfield Inlet
- Edmonton/Calgary to Yellowknife  
to Rankin Inlet to Chesterfield Inlet
- Ottawa/Montreal to Iqaluit to  
Rankin Inlet to Chesterfield Inlet

(Jet service direct to Rankin Inlet via Canadian North  
or First Air; connecting to Chesterfield Inlet via Calm  
Air International Ltd. or First Air)



For more information about local businesses,  
guides, tourism outfitters or tour operators in  
Chesterfield Inlet contact:

### CHESTERFIELD INLET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet  
P.O. Box 10  
Chesterfield Inlet,  
Nunavut, Canada XOC OBO  
Tel: 1-867-898-9951  
or 1-867-898-9206  
Fax: 1-867-898-9108

Or

### NUNAVUT TOURISM

Tel: 1-867-645-3838  
Fax: 1-867-645-3904  
Toll-Free: 1-866-686-2888

[www.chesterfieldinlet.net](http://www.chesterfieldinlet.net)