



A Northern Resource: Inuit sculpture has a significant place in Inuit culture and the economy of Nunavut as well as being an iconic Canadian art form. Traditional soft stone quarry sites from Inuvik to Resolute have been identified and mapped. Between 2010 and 2014, as part of the Nunavut Carving Stone Deposit Evaluation Program, teams of geologists and geologists visited more than one hundred sites in the vicinity of twenty-three communities, documenting information about known quarries and gathering sites and evaluating the potential of new deposits. Community consultations and fieldwork were performed by Government of Nunavut's Department of Economic Development and Transportation with assistance from the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office.

Are these soapstone quarries? Soft stone of any colour or variety that can be shaped by an axe is "soapstone" to an Inuit carver. Since talcose soapstone cannot hold the level of desired detail, carvers select slightly harder stone, artesian serpentine (dark-coloured, serpentine and magnetite-bearing volcanic rocks) and artesian marble (pale-coloured sedimentary rocks made of carbonate minerals). Both are formed where natural processes have softened the original rock formation. Therefore, talcose soapstone with Mohs Scale hardness of 1 that can be scratched by fingernail is not gathered by Nunavut's carvers. Most carvers prefer excellent-quality soft stone with a hardness of 2 that can be shaped by carboide file. Much of Nunavut's carving stone is medium in hardness (2.5) which requires the use of carboide power tools for shaping and polishing. Stone with a hardness of 3 or more, including marble, is considered to be hard and requires the use of diamond power tools.

Quarry locations: The map shows the locations of 125 carving stone quarries across Nunavut. The locations are marked with numbers 1 to 125. The map also shows the locations of 100 known and 25 potential carving stone quarries. The map is a map of Nunavut, Canada, showing the locations of 125 carving stone quarries. The map is a map of Nunavut, Canada, showing the locations of 125 carving stone quarries.

What is good quality carving stone? Most rocks are harder than a carboide steel file which, in turn, is harder than steel. Stone soft enough to carve is rare. Experienced Inuit carvers find stone hard-fine to soft stone to determine the grade of artesian serpentine. Quality criteria include: (a) when required the use of carboide power tools for shaping and polishing. Stone with a hardness of 3 or more, including marble, is considered to be hard and requires the use of diamond power tools.

Who can gather carving stone? An Inuk has the right to gather up to 50 cubic yards (about 100 tonnes) of carving stone per year without a quarry permit from Crown Land and Inuit Owned Lands (IOL). With proper approvals, marble is also gathered from Crown Land. Regional Inuit Associations own and manage IOL surface rights, including carving stone. In the Kitikmeot Region (western mainland), Kivalliq Region (eastern mainland) and Qikiqtani Region (Arctic Islands), Section 19.1 in the 1993 Nunavut Land Claim Agreement speaks to the site reporting, individual gathering limits and the quarry licensing managed by the Regional Inuit Associations. Government shall notify the designating Regional Inuit Association of the discovery of any deposits on Crown Land. The Regional Inuit Associations also have the right to obtain exclusive quarry leases or to assume title to Crown Land containing significant deposits of carving stone in exchange for Inuit Owned Lands. This map serves as illustration that the majority of carving stone sites are on Inuit Owned Lands (IOL).

How is carving stone mined? All carving stone must be hand-mined and without the use of explosives. Carvers will test and select their blocks of stone before transporting them home. One or more sites can be transported by snowmobile and boat, but not all sites are close to watersheds. Occasionally, a family, community crew or small business operator with a larger boat will transport up to 25 tonnes. From the 1970s to the present day, carvers throughout Nunavut have been engaged in the gathering and transporting of up to 150 tonnes of carving stone per year.

How much carving stone is available? Seventeen out of twenty five of Nunavut's communities have access to adequate local carving stone resources. A small site may have only 5 tonnes of stone. A site with up to 100 tonnes is a lifetime supply of carving stone for a carver. A quarry with 500 tonnes can supply a community and a deposit with 10,000 tonnes or more is sufficient to supply a region. Cape Dorset's Koroik Inuit quarry has supplied 16,000 tonnes of artesian serpentine to south Baffin communities since the 1970s. Nunavut's second-largest quarry near Nauyasuk in the Belcher Islands has provided 20,000 tonnes of artesian marble since the 1970s and has a reserve of 30,000 tonnes.

For more information, please visit the Government of Nunavut website - Ukusaaqarukit. Carving Stone Action Plan www.gov.nu.ca/ukusaaqarukit

Carving stone strategy.pdf Any new soft stone site found by prospectors or the public should be reported to the nearest federal and to Regional Inuit Association Divisions offices in Inuk, Kugluktuk and Rankin Inlet or to any office of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Corrections and discrepancies for this map and table should be reported to the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Division office at the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut.

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