

# The Diocese of the Arctic

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



## Cathedral Parish Profile

### History and Demographics

Now a bustling capital city of approximately 8000 people, Iqaluit has been a traditional fishing location used by Inuit for thousands of years, hence the name Iqaluit, which means “place of many fish.” The first organized settlement in the area was Apex, now a satellite community of Iqaluit. The first Anglican communion in Canada was held in this area in 1578 by Rev. Robert Wofall, chaplain to the third Frobisher expedition. St. Simons church was built in Apex in the 1950s with a sign commemorating this event.

### Congregation

Our congregation began when St. Simons was built in Apex and continued as the church for all of Iqaluit until the Cathedral was built in 1972 by local volunteers. Unfortunately, the cathedral was destroyed by arson in 2005. The first church members were predominately Inuit and services were held in Inuktitut; however, over the years it became necessary to provide a second morning service in English. The Cathedral Parish is multicultural and includes people from all over the world. The predominate language is Inuktitut, therefore is important for the Rector to be willing to learn Inuktitut.

There are approximately 3,500 nominal Anglicans in Iqaluit and most of the community looks to the Cathedral for their pastoral needs. It is not uncommon to have 2-3 funerals per week. There are three Sunday services; one in English and two in Inuktitut.

### Community Outreach

As the capital of Nunavut, Iqaluit has many opportunities for outreach ministry such as: Arctic College and a residence for out-of-town students, Regional Hospital, a Hospital Boarding home for out-of-town patients, three correctional centres, a halfway house (for inmates), a spousal assault facility for women, elders centre, and two homeless shelters.

The Soup Kitchen operates in one of our buildings and is adjacent to the cathedral but is run by an independent board of Directors. An independent Society also runs the Piviinit second-hand thrift clothing store located in the same building. The Parish Hall is currently rented to the Tukisigiarvik Society to provide wellness programs.