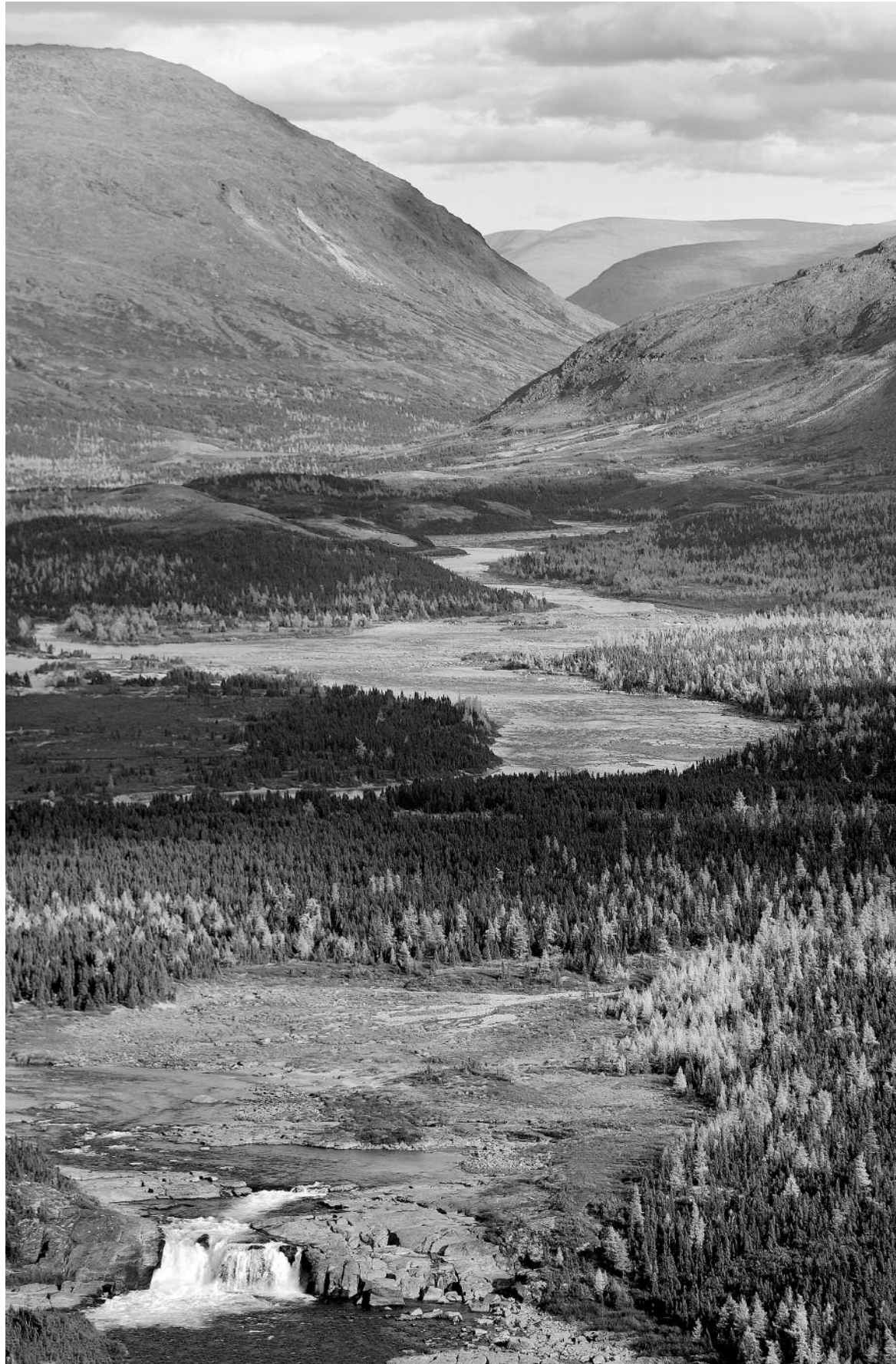


GLOSSARY



Glossary¹

Abbreviations

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| n.: noun; simple term | abbr.: abbreviation | Ger.: German |
| In.: Inuktitut | t.: complex term | pr.: proper |
| Ir.: Irish | Sw.: Swedish | adj.: adjective |

Ablation or disintegration moraine: t. [glaciation] A knob-and-basin type moraine comprising especially flowtill hillocks, ablation melt-out till, plates of glacial drift and lacustrine sediment on an often irregular glacial surface.

Active glacier: t. [glaciation] A thick glacier that receives large accumulations of snow, moves rapidly and has a large outflow.

Alluvium: n. [erosion – sedimentation, running water] Detritus (pebbles, sand, silt, clay) transported and deposited according to the competence of a watercourse.

Archean: pr. n. [geological period] The first phase of the Precambrian, lower part of the Precambrian, from the creation of the Earth (4500 Ma) to 2500 Ma.

Avalanche track: t. [gravity, mountain domain] The path followed by an avalanche characterized by a narrow valley with a steep incline between a funnel-shaped depletion area and a cone-shaped accumulation area that has been carved or scraped by ice-covered congelifraacts.

Biocoenosis: n. [ecology] An aggregate of living organisms, animals and plants, in a same biotope.

Biotope: n. [ecology] A well-defined geographic area, characterized by specific environmental conditions (soil, climate, etc.) that physically support the organisms which make up the biocoenosis.

Before present: An indication of time calculated from A.D. 1950. Abbr.: BP.

Bryophyte: n. [botany] A land or semi-aquatic plant that possesses neither vessels nor roots. Bryophytes include mosses and liverworts (hepatics).

Cirque: n. [glaciation, heritage] A snow catchment area that is bowl-shaped, has steep walls, and is located at a high elevation on the face of a mountain carved by glacial erosion and periglacial activity.

Cirque glacier: t. [glaciation] A small glacier in a bowl-shaped area with steep walls that is fed by avalanches and snowfall.

Colluvium: n. [slope, gravity] Various unconsolidated formations created by falling detritus; deposit on a slope that has been transported a short distance by gravity.

Congelifract: n. [periglacial] A jagged block fragment caused to detach from a slope by freeze-and-thaw action. A rock fragment created through freeze-and-thaw action (fragmentation of a rock through freeze-and-thaw action or extreme differences in temperature).

Continental ice sheet: n. [glaciation] A vast field of ice that may be a few kilometres thick at its centre and the edges of which form arms or ice barriers.

COSEWIC: abbr. [wildlife] Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Craton: n. [geology] Bedrock formed largely of granite blocks or plutons. Large, stable portion of the continent as opposed to reworked, unstable portions (orogen).

Crustaceous: adj. [botany] Which grows on rock, which adheres to rock.

Cryoturbation: n. [periglacial] A collective term to describe the stirring and churning of soil due to freeze-and-thaw action.

Dicotyledon: n. [botany] A plant that produces seeds with two cotyledons (that form the first leaves of the seedling).

Drumlin: Ir. n. [glaciation] An elongated hill formed by the remnants of a ground moraine of a former glacier.

Eco-system: n. [ecology] The structured aggregate made up of a biocoenosis and a biotope.

Endangered species: t. [wildlife] A species threatened with imminent extinction if protective measures are not put in place.

Endangered species in Canada: t. [wildlife] A species threatened with imminent extirpation throughout the Canadian portion of its range (COSEWIC, 2004b).

Esker: Sw. n. [glaciation] An elongated ridge that runs parallel to a valley or a retreating glacier, comprising detritus deposited by glacial melt waters and representing the former bed of a watercourse whose banks of ice no longer exist.

Felsenmeer: n. [periglacial] Sheet of pebbles and blocks created through freeze-and-thaw action action.
Plural form: felsenmeere.

Fluvio-glacial: adj. [glaciation] Describes a phenomenon or the detritus produced by melt waters from a glacier or a continental ice sheet.

Foliose: adj. [botany] Which has the texture or appearance of a leaf.

Freeze-and-thaw action: t. [periglacial] The fragmentation of bedrock or unconsolidated deposit (blocks, pebbles, fine gravel, etc.) affected by water as it freezes and thaws in stratification planes or in cracks.

Frontal moraine: t. [glaciation] A ridge-shaped moraine standing at the face of a glacial lobe that is melting; its lobe-side slope is steep, while its lee-side slope is gentle. Refer to morainal loop.

Fructitose: adj. [botany] Which has the appearance of a shrub.

Geliturbation: n. [periglacial] A term to describe soil movement caused by freeze-and-thaw action.

Giga annum: t. [general] A Latin term meaning one billion years. Abbr., Ga.

Glacial lake: t. [glaciation] A lake created next to or near a glacier and fed by glacier melt waters.

Glacial rill: t. [glaciation] An elongated depression created on the surface of a glacier by melt waters.

Glacier: n. [glaciation] An existing glacier, regardless of size, that is still active.

Gneiss: Ger. n. [geology] A metamorphic rock that possesses variously sized alternating veins of clear minerals (quartz and feldspath) and dark minerals (hornblende, biotite, pyroxene, etc.). Orthogneiss, magmatic gneiss; paragneiss, sedimentary gneiss. Adj., gneissic.

Grass: n. [botany] A large family of monocotyledonous herbaceous plants, with erect cylindrical stems, that produce farinose fruit.

Granulite: n. [geology] A fine-grained, clear metamorphic rock comprising primarily quartz, feldspath and garnet formed in high temperature and high pressure zones (catazone). This type of rock is found in Precambrian bedrock. Adj., granulitic.

GRH: abbr. [wildlife] George River caribou herd.

Ground moraine: t. [glaciation] A moraine comprising angular and triturated blocks and detritus, located between the surface of the bedrock and the overlying glacier or continental ice sheet.

Heath: n. [biogeography] A closed-plant formation dominated by sedge and a few woody species (trees).

Horn: n. [topography] A pyramid-shaped peak found at the intersection of two ridges, generally higher than other nearby sections of the ridges. Horns are often associated with glaciation, occurring mainly where the receding walls of cirques met on a same summit.

Interfluve: n. [topography] Elevated zone between two valleys; an interfluve comprises two slopes, which may or may not be separated by a flat area.

Intrusive: adj. [geology] Which has been injected into existing rocks, such as liquid magmatic material that penetrated into existing rock before cooling or crystallizing.

Invascular: adj. [botany] Describes plants that do not possess vessels, including mosses, liverworts (hepatics) and lichens.

Isohyet: n. [meteorology] A line on a map that connects areas of equal rainfall. Adj., isohyetal

Isostasy: n. [geology] A general equilibrium in the earth's crust that occurs at a point known as the depth of compensation. Adj., isostasic. Isostatic compensation: The collapse of a portion of the earth's crust causes the lifting of another portion.

Isotherm: n. [meteorology] A line on a map that connects points of the same temperature at a given moment or period of time. Adj., isothermal.

Kangiqsualujjuamiut: In. n. [Inuit culture] Residents of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

Kettle: n. [glaciation] A kettle-shaped cavity found in fluvio-glacial sediments that was formed by melt waters. Kettles are roughly ten metres in diameter.

Killinirmiut: In. n. [Inuit culture] Residents of Killiniq.

Kilo annum: t. [general] A Latin term meaning one thousand years. Abbr., ka.

Lateral moraine: t. [glaciation] A moraine created by detritus that has fallen onto the glacier or been torn by the glacier from the walls of a valley and deposited at the edge of a glacial lobe.

Lichen: n. [botany] An extremely resistant plant, formed through a symbiotic association of filamentous fungus and microscopic algae, that grows on the substratum and does not possess vessels.

LRH: abbr. [wildlife] Leaf River caribou herd.

Mega annum: t. [general] A Latin term meaning one million years. Abbr., Ma.

Metabasalt: n. [geology] A fine-grained, dark-green or black magmatic rock (basalt) that has undergone some type of metamorphism.

Metamorphism: n. [geology] Transformation of a rock from a solid state due to high temperature or under extreme pressure, with the crystallization of new minerals and the acquisition of new textures and structures. Metamorphic rock may be created through sedimentation, magmatism.

Misiraq: In. n. [Inuit culture] Oil collected from marine mammals that is used as a condiment with raw meat and fish.

Monocotyledon: n. [botany] A flowering plant that produces a seed with only one cotyledon (that forms the first leaf of the seedling). Adj., monocotyledonous.

Morainal arc: t. [glaciation] A moraine that is shaped like the rounded face of a glacial lobe.

Morainal loop: t. [glaciation] A ridge-shaped moraine standing at the face of a glacial lobe that is melting; its lobe-side slope is steep, while its lee-side slope is gentle (frontal or terminal moraine). With respect to its shape, elongated hills running parallel to the former face of a glacier. With respect to its creation, major morainic formation that indicates the halting or progression of the face of a glacial lobe.

Moraine: n. [glaciation] **1.** A landform comprising glacial sediment, especially till, that has been deposited by the ice of a glacier into any number of shapes. **2.** a) Singular, the term moraine refers to the heterometric detritus of pebbles, gravel, sand and clay that covers large sub-rounded unpolished blocks. b) Plural, the term moraines refers to the landforms created by this heterometric detritus and large blocks.

Moss: n. [botany] A chlorophyllous cryptogam cellular plant, with leafy stems but without roots and vessels, capable of sexual and sometimes vegetative reproduction, which attaches itself to the substratum using root hairs.

Neve: n. [glaciation] Snow that remains through the summer without entirely melting. Compact granular material that forms the surface part of a glacier.

Non-symmetrical valley: t. [geomorphology] A valley where the opposing slopes are very different due more to the arctic climate than to tectonics and lithology. The north slope is steeper than the south slope, which may be explained by the unequal number of freeze-and-thaw cycles.

Nunatak: In. n. [glaciation] A mountain peak situated in a perennial snow zone but that remains free of snow and ice due to the steepness of the terrain. According to the glacial minimum model, nunataks evolved beyond the reach of glaciers.

Orogen: n. [geology] A mountain range created along an unstable portion of the continental crust where major folding has occurred. A mountain range created by lighter rocks pushed to the surface during geosynclinal magmatic activity.

Orogeny: n. [geology] Any mountain-forming process.

Orographic: adj. [geology] Describes a phenomenon or action that occurs in a mountainous area.

Paleoproterozoic: pr. n. [geological period] The first stage of the Proterozoic. The Paleoproterozoic lasted from 2500 to 1600 Ma. The beginning of this stage is marked by the earliest known fossils of micro-organisms and its ending is marked by the appearance of bacteria that would have required air or oxygen.

Peat bog: n. [biogeography] An area that is somewhat acidic, characteristic of wetlands, comprising grass and typical plants, where the rate at which organic materials accumulate is greater than the rate at which they decompose.

Peneplaine: n. [geomorphology] Vast flat surface created through the erosion of the surrounding topography regardless of the types of rocks or their structure.

Perennial snow: t. [periglacial] Snow that is present throughout the year and the limits of which vary according to local weather conditions.

Periglacial: adj. [periglacial] Describes a field in the science of geomorphology concerned with the geographic distribution of freeze-and-thaw actions, as well as related phenomena.

Polynya: n. [glaciology] **1.** An opening of water surrounded by pack ice. **2.** A permanently open body of water.

Plants: n. [botany] The plant species present in a region, a biotope.

Precambrian: pr. n. [geological period] A period of time. Formerly known as an era, the Precambrian comprises two eons: the Archean from 4600 to 2500 Ma and the Proterozoic from 2500 to 590 Ma. Adj. Describes a phenomenon or action related to the Precambrian.

Proglacial delta: t. [glaciation] A fan-shaped formation comprising heterometric detritus deposited downstream from a glacier or a continental ice sheet.

Proterozoic: pr. n. [geological period] The second phase of the Precambrian. The Proterozoic followed the Archean and lasted from 2500 to 590 Ma. This stage is subdivided into three stages: the Paleoproterozoic, the Mesoproterozoic and the Neoproterozoic.

Quaternary: pr. n. [geological period, glaciation] The fourth and last period of the Phanerozoic; it is the current era which began in 1.8 Ma and is marked by the appearance of human beings as well as by the recent partial retreat of continental ice sheets.

Ridge: n. [topography] Crest line at the highest elevation in an area, created at the intersection of two steep slopes. An elongated mountain summit.

Rock glacier: t. [glaciation] A lobe of ice and unsorted rock fragments torn from the wall of a cirque. Dynamic mass of detritus held together by ice. The surface of rock glaciers generally possesses ripples oriented at a right angle to the direction in which the glacier is flowing and a slip face made up of a steep wall of talus.

Sedge: n. [botany] A family of monocotyledonous perennial vascular plants (*Cyperaceae*), with full knot-less triangular stems, that resembles grass.

Segregated ice: t. [periglacial] Ice formed by the capillary rise of moisture through soil made up of small particles; this moisture freezes in the form of lenses.

Spawn: n. [ichthyology] **1.** The breeding process among fish during which eggs are laid by the female and fertilized by the male. **2.** The fertilized eggs of fish or amphibians.

Spawning period: t. [ichthyology] The period during which the spawn takes place.

Species not at risk in Canada: t. [wildlife] A species which, following assessment, is judged not to be at risk (COSEWIC, 2004b).

Species of special concern in Canada: t. [wildlife] A species that is likely to become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats (COSEWIC, 2004b).

Taiga: n. [biogeography] A plant formation comprising especially conifers that forms an almost completely uninterrupted boundary between the arctic tundra and the boreal forest. The taiga represents a biome.

Taxon: n. [biology] Any unit (family, genus, species, etc.) of the zoological or botanical classification systems.

Threatened species in Canada: t. [wildlife] A species likely to become endangered throughout the Canadian portion of its range if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction (COSEWIC, 2004b).

Threatened species in Québec: t. [wildlife] A species likely to become endangered throughout the Québec portion of its range (MRNF, 2005).

Till or glacial till: n. [glaciation] The sedimentological and petrographic features of a glacial formation, comprising a loose mix of blocks, gravel, sand, silt and clay, deposited by the glacier, very heterometric and without stratification.

Tundra: n. [biogeography] A plant formation located in sub-arctic regions and sometimes in temperate zones, in alpine environments. Generally void of trees, the tundra comprises shrub, herbaceous and moss species. The tundra represents a biome.

Tundra ostiole: t. [periglacial] Metre-sized periglacial phenomenon, comprising liquefied mud of small particles, silt and sand that is easily disturbed. This feature has the shape of an unsorted circle.

TMH: abbr. [wildlife] Torngat Mountains caribou herd.

Umbilic: n. [glaciation] A lake basin created by a glacier and filled with fluvio-glacial detritus.

Vascular: adj. [botany] Describes plants that possess vessels (xylem and phloem) through which circulates sap.

Vulnerable species in Québec: t. [wildlife] A species whose survival is at risk even though it is not endangered in Québec (MRNF, 2005).

Ultra-mafic rock: n. [geology] A magmatic rock comprising SiO₂ (less than 45% of its weight; resulting in the absence of quartz crystals) but very rich in iron (Fe), magnesium (Mg) and calcium (Ca; 40% or more).

¹ Largely based on: Foucault and Raoult (1980), Genest (2000) and Parent (1990)