

Coppermine
Population: 956
Nunavut Mainland
(Formerly Northwest Territories)

Coppermine is located on the southwest corner of Coronation Gulf at the mouth of the Coppermine River. In 1771, Hudson Bay trader Samuel Hearne came to the area searching for the source of native copper brought to Fort Prince of Wales near Churchill, Manitoba. Led by a party of Chipewyan Dene Indians, traditional enemy of the Inuit, the trip ended in tragedy when the Dene massacred a band of local Inuit. Bloody Fall's is a landmark on the Coppermine River, named by Hearne in memory of this attack. Today, the Coppermine River offers a 640-kilometer canoe route and has excellent fishing for arctic char.