

Resolute Bay  
Population: 166  
Cornwallis Island

A reflection of the history of Arctic exploration, Resolute Bay was named for H.M.S. Resolute, one of the ships that searched for the lost Franklin Expedition in the mid-1800's. Indeed many of the search vessels at the time passed Cornwallis Island in their vain attempts to find the Franklin crew, the 129 men lead by Sir John Franklin who disappeared in 1846. In 1947, the U.S. and Canadian governments constructed a joint weather station here and an airport to service it. The airport made Resolute one of the more accessible Arctic outposts, visited by numerous scientists over the years. It is the key staging area for trips to the North Pole and Arctic Islands. Currently, there is limited oil and gas exploration and mining at the Polaris Mine on Little Cornwallis Island.