

# THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



The group is happy at the beginning.  
Photo: Ward Perrin, *The Vancouver Sun*

## Rowing the Northwest Passage

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Level 2

Four men are rowing a boat from Inuvik, Northwest Territories to Pond Inlet, Nunavut. The boat is 7.6 meters long. They left Inuvik in early July. They hope to arrive in Pond Inlet in early fall.

This route is called the Northwest Passage. It is a very dangerous route in the far north of Canada. The water is cold. The route is known for its bad weather and ice.



Map of the Northwest Passage route  
Map courtesy of MainStream Last First

Kevin Vallely is one of the adventurers. He describes the journey in his journal. Follow their adventures in words and pictures at:

[www.vancouversun.com/lastfirst](http://www.vancouversun.com/lastfirst).

Watch this video. The men explain their plans. The song is by Stan Rogers, a well-known Canadian musician.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Tackling+Northwest+Passage+rowboat+with+video/8544643/story.html?tab=PHOT>

Watch this video. The water is so shallow here that they have to push the boat along the shore to reach Tuktoyaktuk.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/finally+made+Tuktoyaktuk+with+video/8662651/story.html?tab=PHOT>

(Photo Gallery is on page 2)

## Photo gallery

The Arctic is beautiful, barren and wild.



Snowy owl

Photo: Last First Expedition, Kevin Vallely, submitted to *The Vancouver Sun*



Rocky barren Arctic shoreline

Photo: Last First Expedition, Kevin Vallely, submitted to *The Vancouver Sun*



Bearded seal

Photo: Last First Expedition, Kevin Vallely, submitted to *The Vancouver Sun*



Pulling the boat ashore

Photo: Last First Expedition, Kevin Vallely, submitted to *The Vancouver Sun*



Rocky barren Arctic shoreline

Photo: Last First Expedition, Kevin Vallely, submitted to *The Vancouver Sun*

(Exercise is on the next page.)

**Exercise:**

How do you pronounce these words? These words name places in the far north of Canada. Click on these links to hear these words.

Try typing in other words you want to hear.

Nunavut (say "noon'-uh-voot"):

<http://www.howsay.com/index.php?word=nunavut&submit=Submit>

[http://www.pronouncehow.com/english/nunavut\\_pronunciation](http://www.pronouncehow.com/english/nunavut_pronunciation)

Tuktoyaktuk (say "tuk-toy-ak'-tuk"):

[http://www.pronouncehow.com/english/tuktoyaktuk\\_pronunciation](http://www.pronouncehow.com/english/tuktoyaktuk_pronunciation)

Inuvik (say "in-oo'-vik"):

[http://www.pronouncehow.com/english/inuvik\\_pronunciation](http://www.pronouncehow.com/english/inuvik_pronunciation)