

## Ship wrecked in development?

Qaqortoq is a small town in the southernmost part of Greenland. The city is the centre of the new large municipality Kujalleq. Despite its small size, the town has always had ambitions to become a growth centre, and the town is also designated as one of Greenland's four growth towns.

The population of Qaqortoq includes everything from people in the most modern businesses in the service sector, the construction companies and the public sector. It's all tied together by relatively few highly trained staff and self-taught employers.

But beside this the traditional business continues: A catch and fishing industries, where Qaqortoq is home to the only tannery in Greenland. The tannery primarily works up sealskin. The surrounding smaller settlements are surrounded by small farms with sheep farming, reindeers and growing potatoes and vegetables. In the port of Qaqortoq we find the hunters small boats alongside major industrial trawlers.

The future of the town is unclear. Currently, the focus is primarily on the possibility of

establishing mines in the local area. In South Greenland has a gold mine already produced in several years, but the activities of the mine is now again stopped. Currently, more potential of mines are being assessed by the mining industry and their financiers.

I still acquire a better personal knowledge of the town, but Qaqortoq seems to continue to changing character. We term it the ravages of time, and it is understandable that many feel uneasiness to the rapid development of the town.

It is not only the physical content of the town which is changing. It is changes that go so deep that it changes our mental state. The changes interfere with everything in our existence, and the present situation will never return.

The statistics tell us that many people suffer ship wreck in this dramatic development. We cannot stop the development, but we need to improve the protection of our fellow townsmen who get into a jam in one way or another.



*Qaqortoq, February 2014*

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