
**Landscape change and prehistoric settlement,
Porcupine Strand, Labrador**

SMITH, JENNIFER S., AND BELL, TREVOR
*Department of Geography, Memorial University,
St. John's, NL A1B 3X9*

Porcupine Strand, southeastern Labrador, is a 40-km-long sandy beach backed by eroding coastal cliffs. It is one of the longest unoccupied coastlines in eastern North America, but this has not always been the case. Recent identification of artifacts from archaeological sites within coastal sand dunes suggests that the Strand has been occupied by at least seven different cultural groups over the last 7000 years (Maritime Archaic Indian, Intermediate Indian, Recent Indian, Pre Dorset, Groswater Paleo Eskimo, Dorset Paleo Eskimo and Historic Inuit). Over time the landscape on which these prehistoric people lived has been modified in response to sea level change and shifting sand dunes. The ability of prehistoric cultures to adapt to these landscape changes is seen in the shifting location of their sites. An understanding of the relationship between settlement patterns and landscape adjustments is useful in developing strategies for site surveys and to assess how environmental change affected economic and social adaptations and interactions of prehistoric cultures along Porcupine Strand.
