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Qikiqtani Inuit Association

SPRING 2017

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/Qikiqtani Inuit Assoc. /Qikiqtani_Inuit www.qia.ca /Qikiqtani_Inuit

President's message

So far, 2017 has been very eventful for QIA with numerous projects and happenings that have taken our team all over the region.

This spring, QIA staff, with the help of our Community Liaison Officers and board members, conducted consultations in all our 13 communities. These consultations gave us an opportunity to speak to community members about our existing programs and ask for input on future program needs. In the next few months, we will be compiling the information gathered at the community consultations to develop new QIA priority programs.



The consultations were a continuation of our work on the 2016 revenue policy. The policy created QIA's new Legacy and Benefits funds. As the Legacy Fund grows its revenues go to the Benefits Fund to increase program money for Inuit. With these funds in place, QIA will have an additional \$1 million for new programs across Qikiqtani in the next fiscal year.

While we work on new projects, we are also always working on improving our existing initiatives. In this newsletter you will find a list of the projects that recently got approved for funding from the Community Initiatives Program and Ilagiiktunut Fund. I am pleased that our Association supports so many

programs and initiatives that connect Inuit to our culture and land and give our youth opportunities for growth and learning.



In the past few months we have also continued our efforts on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission (QTC). The Saimaqatigiingniq Working Group, focused on the QTC recommendations, held its inaugural meeting in February and outlined an annual action plan including establishing an Inuit Heritage Month.

Our Major Projects team has had a busy few month as well; they organized financial literacy workshops in four North Baffin communities this March. These workshops provide Inuit with the tools needed to manage their money and balance their books.

In 2016 QIA initiated arbitration proceedings with Baffinland Iron Mines over their outstanding royalty payments. These arbitration hearings took place in April. The decision is expected in June.

In March, I took part in the Land Use Plan hearings to support hunters and trappers organizations and hamlets in Qikiqtani. QIA's main message was to stress the importance of community involvement.

I also had the pleasure of attending the unveiling of the new commemorative \$10 bill featuring the artwork of the late Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak this April alongside members of Ashevak's family.

Another development in the past few months has been the changes to our communications tools so we can stay better connected to Inuit. We have a new website, blog and Instagram account, and have revamped our Facebook and Twitter accounts. I am also proud of the work we are doing to encourage young people to use Inuktitut. We had a lively Inuktitut Language Month campaign in February, which included a song/poem contest, you can learn about the winners in this issue.

I attended the Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) board meeting in March as well. I am pleased to announce that NTI's popular Nunavut Harvesters Support Program (NHSP) has been relaunched. The new programs will help hunters purchase new equipment. Applications and information about this program is available on NTI's website, or from Hunters and Trappers Organizations and Community Liaison Officers. Another initiative that came out of the NTI meeting is the Inuit Marine Monitoring Program which is a program designed to help track shipping traffic in our waters.



As I write this note, I am getting ready for our Spring board meeting in Arctic Bay, I am sure that I'll have a great deal more to share with you following the meeting. To keep up to date with our news please follow QIA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and on our website.

- P.J. Akeeagok

Pond Inlet has a new Community Director!



David Curley defeated two other candidates at Pond Inlet's by-election this April to become the hamlet's new QIA Community Director.

Curley says he is eager to join QIA because of his passion for advocating on behalf of Elders and youth. He also looks forward to working on creating more jobs for Inuit in the region.

In the past Curley worked for both the Hamlet in Pond Inlet and Hall Beach and he has prior experience as a heavy equipment operator. His hobbies include playing bass with the local square dance band and working on small machines such as snowmobiles and ATVs. He often lends his mechanical expertise to help elders who need assistance.

Curley was born in Hall Beach and raised on the DEW line where his father worked as a heavy equipment operator. He and his wife Phepelie Ootook have four children and one foster child.

Check out our new QIA blog at qia.ca for the latest news about our programs and events.

qia.ca



QIA executive committee and portfolio updates

QIA Executive Committee

PJ Akeeagok, President
Olayuk Akesuk, Vice-President
Joe Attagutaluk, Secretary-Treasurer
Levi Barnabas, Member
Tommy Akavak, Member
Liza Ningiuk, Member

QIA Finance Committee

Peter Evvik, Member
Peter Kattuk, Member

QIA Executive Portfolios

Qikiqtaaluk Corporation

Olayuk Akesuk, Chairperson

Kakivak Association

Joe Attagutaluk, Chairperson

Joint Executive Committee - Mary River Project

Levi Barnabas, Co-Chairperson

Mary River Project Environmental Assessment

Levi Barnabas, Portfolio Lead

Community and Cultural Initiatives Committee

Liza Ningiuk, Chair-Person

Qikiqtani Truth Commission

Joe Attagutaluk, Chair-Person

Ilagiiktunut Committee

Tommy Akavak, Chair-Person

Lands and Resources Committee

Tommy Akavak, Chair-Person

Nunavut Social and Cultural Development Council

Liza Ningiuk, QIA Representative

Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Committee

Levi Barnabas, QIA Representative

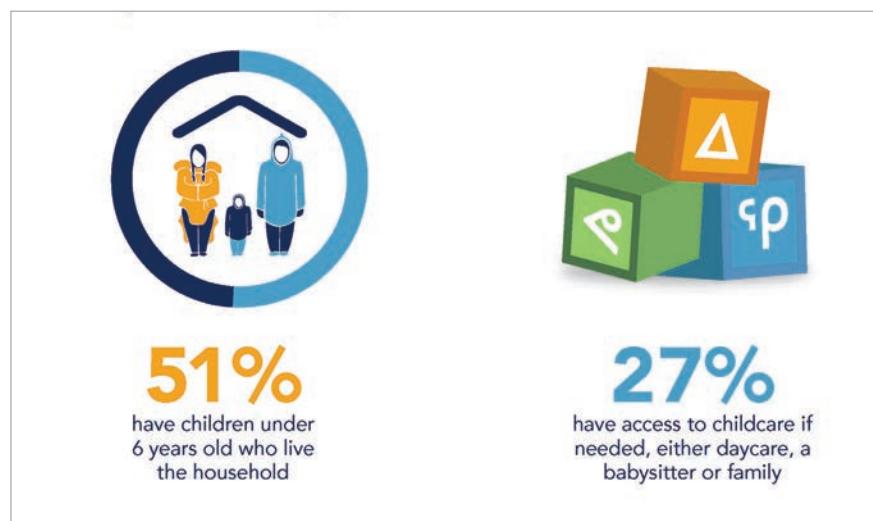
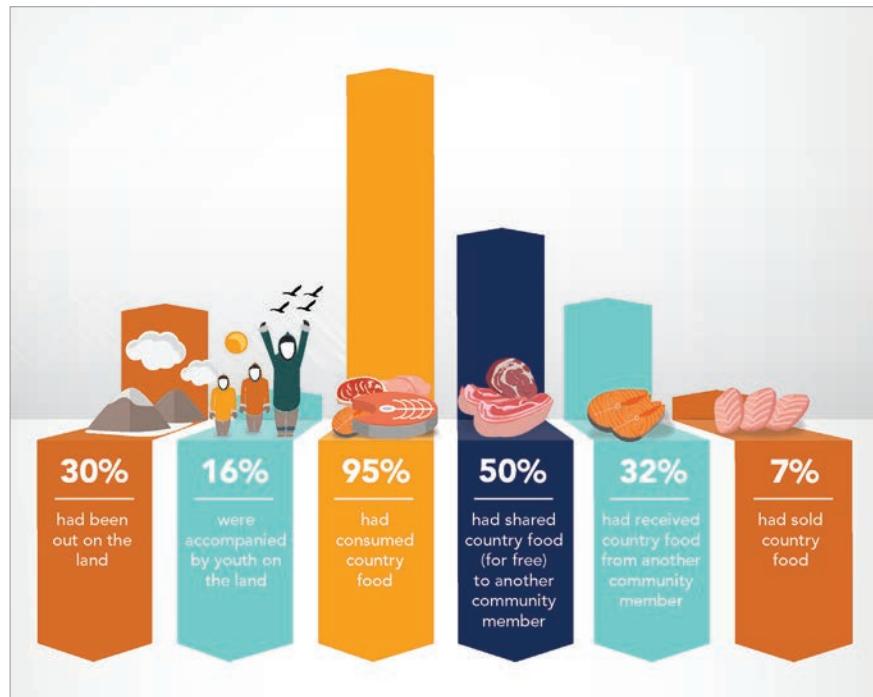
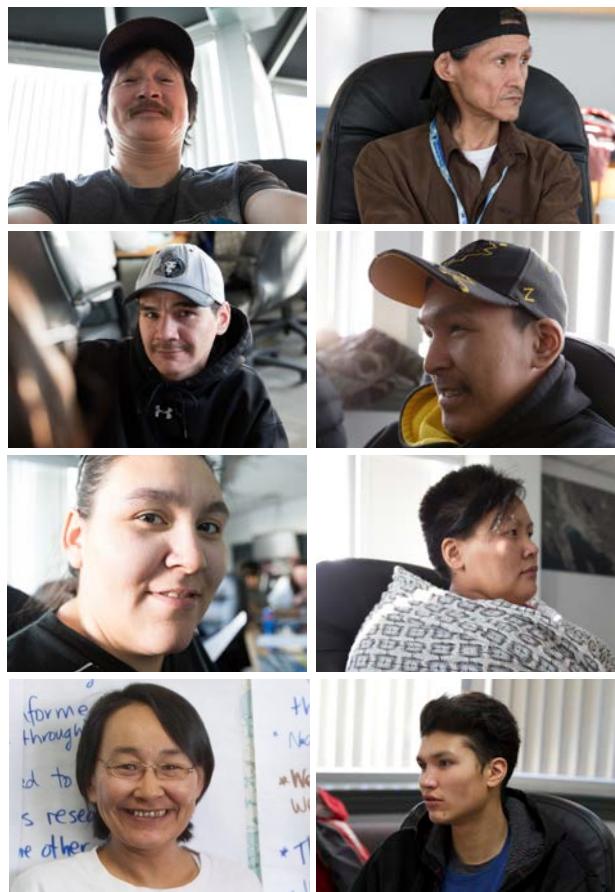
Highlights from our new survey

The InuuSiup Asijjiqpallianinganiq Ujjiqsurniq survey results are in!

In 2016 QIA supported a team of community researchers from Pond Inlet, Igloolik, and Cape Dorset to do a household survey about their hamlets.

Here is a peek at some of the findings from the survey.

Check out the full results on the QIA website.



Our Community consultations were a hit!

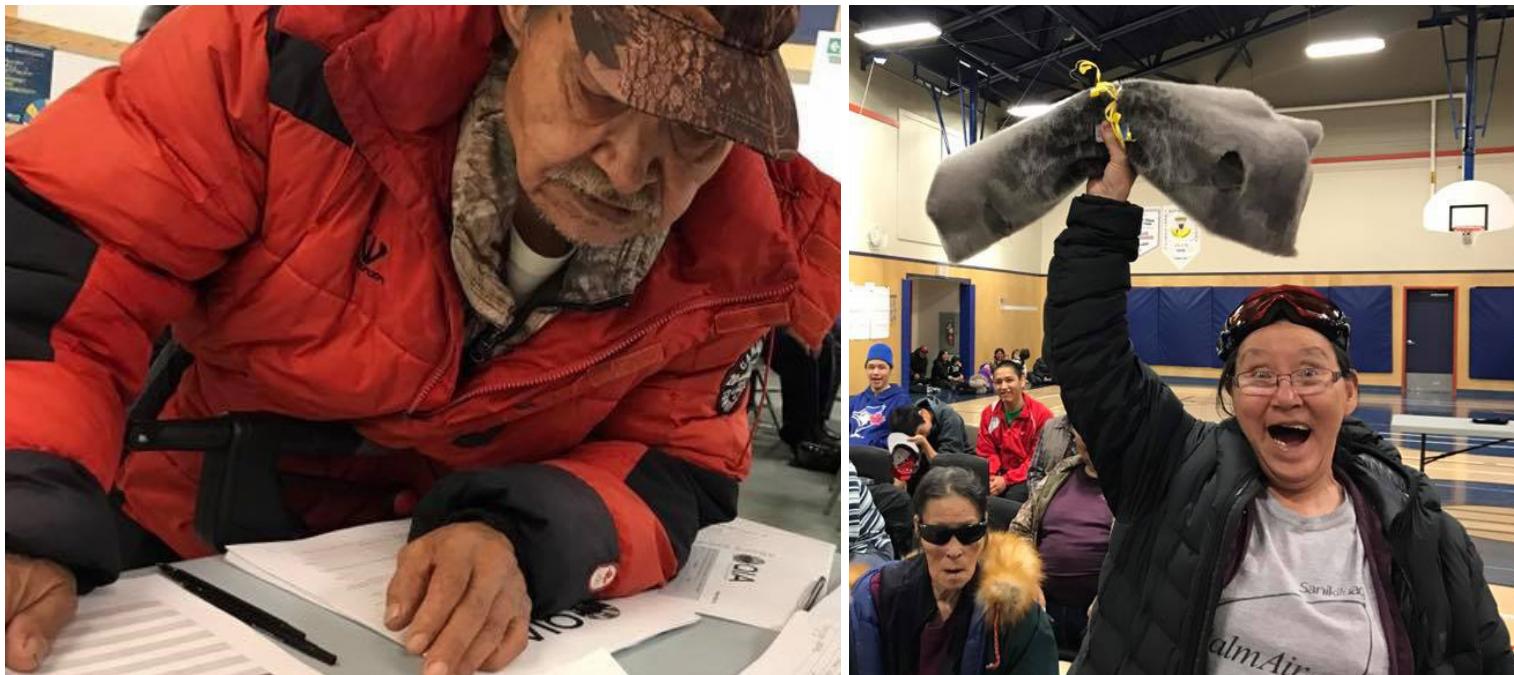


Throughout February, March and April QIA's communications and social policy teams joined our Community Directors and Community Liaison Officers to hold consultations in each of our 13 Qikiqtani communities.



We travelled from community to community meeting with Inuit of all ages. We had a chance to speak to kids, young people, teachers, community leaders, elders and many, many families. The consultations were an opportunity to ask Inuit to share their ideas on what kinds of programs they want QIA to develop.





We had a lot of fun travelling across our beautiful region and meeting with Inuit across Qikiqtani. We got stuck in a few blizzards and had to reschedule a few of our flights and meetings but overall we were humbled by the hospitality and generosity of the people we met and the magnificent Arctic landscape that our communities are housed in. These consultations have given us amazing insights on the programs, resources and services needed in each community. There were some key programs that many communities want to see developed in their hamlets like: daycares, art and music programs, hunting and on-the-land activities, and projects to teach cultural and traditional skills such as sewing. In the next few months we will be reviewing that information in order to develop new programs across the region.



The consultations are part of the work we have been doing with our revenue policy. The revenue policy created two new funds for QIA, the Legacy Fund and the Benefits Fund. As the Legacy Fund grows its revenues go to the Benefits Fund to increase programs for Inuit. In the next year, we expect to have an additional \$1 million for programs across Qikiqtani, thanks to these funds.



Winners of the QIA song/poem contest

This year QIA celebrated Inuktitut Language Month with a slew of campaigns and events including an Inuktitut song and poem contest.

Our selection committee was blown away by the amazing submissions we received from all over Qikiqtani. They were particularly impressed by the number of young people who sent us their work.

The winner of the contest who took home the \$400 cash prize was 18-year-old Leetia Kalluk from Arctic Bay who is currently in Ottawa studying at Nunavut Sivuniksavut. Leetia's sweet song about love and longing made a huge impression on our selection committee. You can listen to her submission on the QIA website.

The second prize winner of the \$300 cash prize was 21-year-old Jerry Laisa originally from Pangnirtung but currently living in Iqaluit. His song of heartbreak was an instant hit among our selection committee members who were also charmed by the homemade video he submitted on Facebook.

Our youngest winner of the \$200 third prize was 14-year-old Ben Qaqqaq also from Pangnirtung. Ben who is still in high school is an accomplished accordion and piano player who performed at last year's Alianait Arts Festival. Ben submitted a life affirming poem via Twitter. Our committee was impressed with the sophistication of this work, particularly given Ben's age.



Arctic Bay's Leetja Kalluk was the winner



Jerry Laisa accepting his \$300 prize



Qikiqtani Inuit Association

I am in a very dark place, but everything is fine,
As I listen to the waves, I feel like I am coming out of a
very dark place.

**My life is becoming brighter, I hear birds singing,
My body is starting to relax when I start to hear
peaceful sounds.
I feel that I can fly now that I am happy and I can even
feel my life becoming lighter.**

- Ben Qaggiq

Update from Land Use Plan hearings



In April QIA took part in the Land Use Plan hearings in Iqaluit to support the various hunters and trappers organizations and hamlets in the Qikiqtani region.

The plan created will have a significant impact on the use of land in Nunavut. QIA has been working hard in partnership with communities to advocate for a Land Use Plan that strikes the right balance between protecting the land in order to ensure access to wildlife, and fostering development that will provide employment for Inuit.

Creating an effective Land Use Plan takes time, patience, careful deliberation and dedication. QIA used the hearings to stress that the development of a Land Use Plan must be done with full community involvement and consultation because our communities have a wealth of information about their land.

QIA also used the hearings to once again call for a full and meaningful consultation process which allot communities a reasonable opportunity to provide full and comprehensive input.

QIA noted that it is clear in the Nunavut Agreement that the Nunavut Planning Commission has the responsibility to adequately inform communities about the full content of the Land Use Plan.

QIA stressed that this draft plan needs to be brought back to the communities for broader discussion before it is finalized.

Another issues identified by QIA, other Regional Inuit Organizations and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. throughout this process was caribou protection.

For QIA caribou protection is one of our key priorities when it comes to the development of the Land Use Plan. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association believes in full protection for caribou and supports the creation of protected areas for caribou. In October 2015, the QIA Board of Directors adopted a resolution endorsing protection of caribou calving in the Qikiqtani region.

In addition to caribou protection QIA flagged the issue of conservation efforts as supported by the communities as Qikiqtani has a significant number of established protected areas.

All of these protected areas have associated agreements with Inuit in the form of Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements. It is the right of Inuit to benefit from the impact of protecting the land.

QIA wanted the Nunavut Planning Commission to understand that silence from community participants should not be interpreted as acceptance or agreement with the proposed draft plan. The problematic proceedings leading to the creation of the draft plan including the lack of full and meaningful consultations, the requirement for participants to submit written questions and strict time limits imposed throughout the process have placed barriers before many Inuit to fully participate.

At the hearings QIA asked the Nunavut Planning Commission to consider returning to the communities to present this 2016 draft Land Use Plan.



Community Initiatives Program

The Community Initiatives Program [CIP] provides financial support for projects related to: community capacity building; promotion of Inuit culture; economic benefits; social development; health and wellbeing; the protection of the environment. The CIP budget comes from dividends received from QIA's subsidiary organizations: Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and Nunasi Corporation.

Here's a list of programs and events that received support from the fund recently:

Arctic Bay		
Fishing project & community feast	\$11,277.92	Spring 2017
Hall Beach		
Land survival skills hunting project	\$8,204.00	Spring 2017
Iqaluit		
Illiusittigut Makigiarniq counselling program	\$85,000.00	Spring 2018
Inuit Broadcasting Corporation: Educators guide to Takuginai TV show	\$13,552.00	Fall 2017

Anaana's Warmth seal skin project	\$8,579.45	Spring 2017
Anaana's Tent TV show	\$80,000.00	Winter 2018
Pangnirtung		
PangFest [music festival]	\$15,000.00	Fall 2017
Sealskin pants & kamiik making project	\$4,400.00	Spring 2017
Camping and hunting project for families	\$18,650.00	Summer 2017
Sinitariuqsaniq hunting project	\$6,000.00	Spring 2017
Sealskinning project	\$4,400.00	Fall 2017
Pond Inlet		
Fitness Centre project	\$5,000.00	Spring 2017
Qikiqtarjuaq		
Inuit Piqqusingit hunting project	\$7,763.80	Spring 2017
Sealskin pants & parka making project	\$3,890.00	Spring 2017
Cooking classes	\$7,000.00	Fall 2017
Resolute Bay		
Skate Resolute project	\$13,000.00	Spring 2017
National Hockey League Legends youth program	\$23,000.00	Spring 2017



Riit Mike on the set of QIA sponsored Anaana's Tent TV show.

Financial Literacy Workshops

This March, QIA's Major Projects team, spearheaded a number of financial literacy workshops in Arctic Bay, Igloolik, Hall Beach and Pond Inlet.

"I learned a lot about where and how to apply for grants. I also learned how to start saving."

- Participant from Igloolik

These workshops, funded through the Government of Nunavut's Mine Training Roundtable, were designed to bring basic financial literacy to Inuit working in mines or planning to work in mines in the four North Baffin communities.

The workshops included two sessions.

Workshop one focused on:

- Financial services in the community
- Reviewing bank statements
- Earning income
- Social benefits
- Taxation
- Credit bureau
- Managing finances

Workshop two focused on:

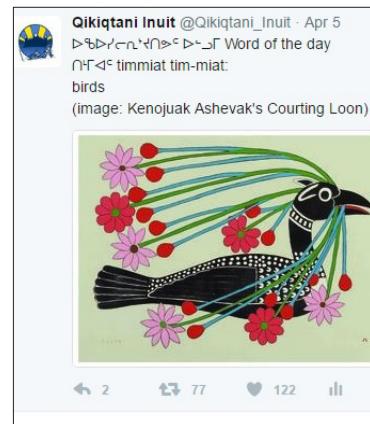
- Financial decision-making:
 - How to save
 - How to spend
 - How to invest and borrow



QIA's Word of the Day initiative

As part of Inuktitut Language Month QIA launched our new Instagram account @Qikiqtani_Inuit presenting our Word of the Day initiative.

This daily feature made possible through partnership between our translation and communication teams, helps teach young people new Inuktitut words and phrases as well as introduce them to Inuit artists. This popular initiative showcased on all our social media accounts has been heralded by many people as a fun way to help expand Inuktitut language skills. Follow us on our social media accounts and help share our posts to show your pride for our language and culture.



Ilagiiktunut Fund



Youth taking part in a camp organized by Recreation & Parks Association of Nunavut

The Ilagiiktunut Nunalinnullu Pivallajutisait Kiinajut was established through Article 12 of the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) between QIA and Baffinland. QIA set up the framework for the fund and administers it.



Funding is available for organizations, committees, associations, and individuals based in or working in partnership with Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik, and Pond Inlet. Projects selected will demonstrate positive impacts for Inuit in the North Baffin communities aiming towards resilient communities, strong families, and job readiness.

If you are interested in applying for the fund to run a program as an individual or group you can access the application package on our website, by contacting QIA's office in Iqaluit, or through your local QIA Community Liaison Officer.

Here's a list of programs and events that received support from the fund recently:

Hall Beach		
Hockey team jerseys and logo	\$2,940.00	Spring 2017
Igloolik, Arctic Bay, Hall Beach and Clyde River		
Recreation & Parks Association of Nunavut: Summer day camp leadership staff training	\$110,000.00	Summer 2017

Contact your community liaison officer

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