

QIKIQTANI

INUIT ASSOCIATION

QIA'S RESPONSE TO "STRONGER TOGETHER: AN ARCTIC AND NORTHERN POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CANADA."

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The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is a not-for-profit society which represents approximately 14,000 Inuit in the Qikiqtani (Baffin) Region of Nunavut, including 13 communities from Grise Fiord in the High Arctic to Sanikiluaq (Belcher Islands) in the southeast of Hudson Bay.



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QIA'S VISION FOR A RENEWED ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) envisions an Arctic Policy Framework informed by Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Inuit Traditional Knowledge), that addresses healing and reconciliation for past injustices while looking to the future by building a sustainable economy. This approach lays the foundation for social and economic wellbeing of Inuit in the Qikiqtani Region for generations to come.

QIA's vision is contingent on a new policy framework that acknowledges the long-standing inequalities between Inuit and non-Indigenous Canadians. Such a framework, executed within a whole-of-government approach, will provide a long-term mechanism for sustainable development.

In addition to a policy framework, long-term, adequate, and stable funding is essential for economic and social development in the Qikiqtani Region. Inuit want to move away from funding models that are risk-averse to stable permanent funding sources that support strategic planning. Historically ad hoc, emergency, short-term or grant-based funding has proven ineffective.

"I think it is important at this point to remind ourselves of the long history of vision, action plans, strategies and initiatives being devised 'for the North' and not 'with the North'"

Mary Simon, 2017

For too long Ottawa has made decisions about the Arctic in departmental silos without adequate consultation and input from Inuit organizations in the North. QIA believes that in order to be effective and strategic, future policies and action for the Arctic must be advanced in partnership with Inuit within a whole-of-government framework. This means renewed policy and funding models to build the infrastructure and skilled workforce needed for a conservation economy.

BACKGROUND ON THE ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

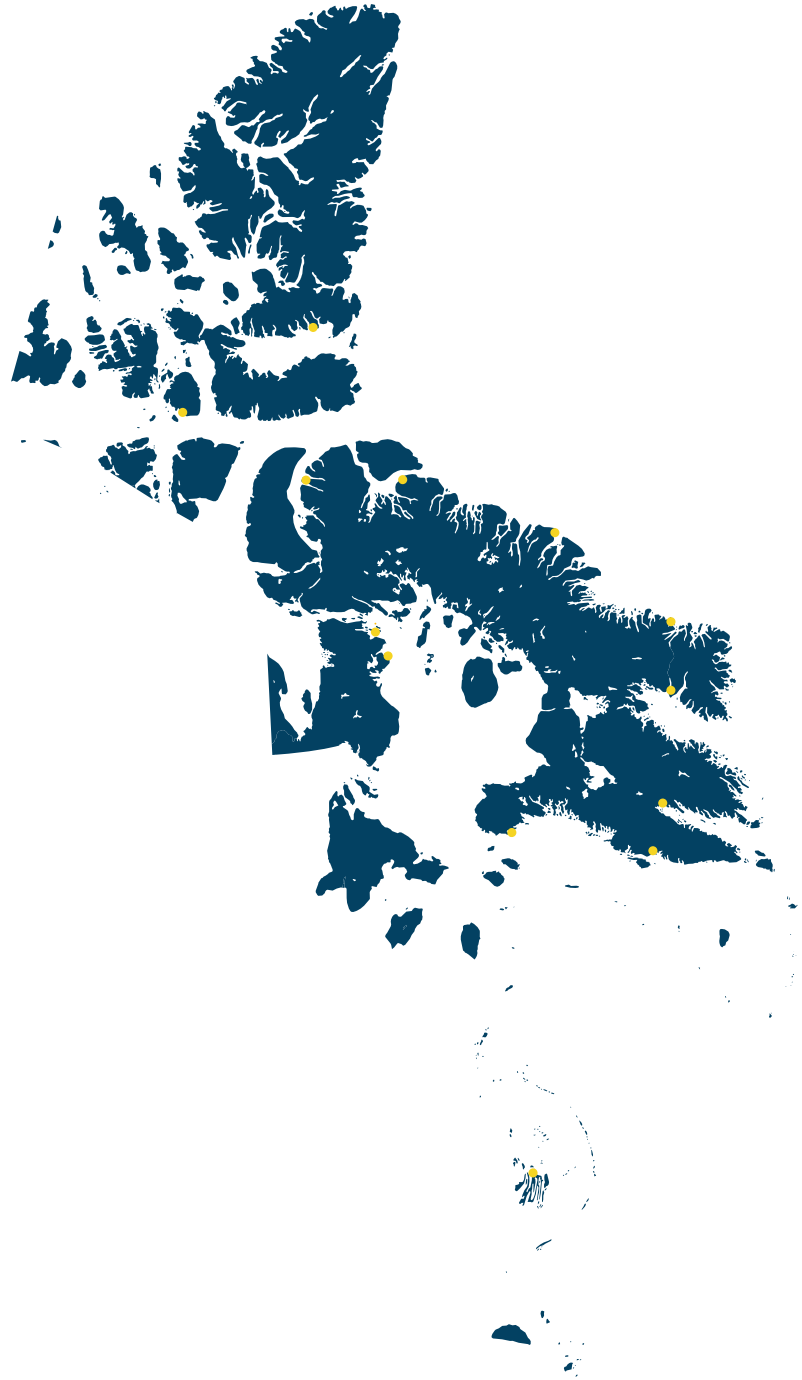
Following the last federal election, the Government of Canada led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, has worked to reinvigorate Inuit-state relations. We recognize this foundational work is critical to establishing a pathway for improving the livelihoods of Inuit, a process which requires on-going and open dialogue founded on challenging governance and policy assumptions. As part of this work a renewed Arctic Policy Framework informed by the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation has been drafted.

The renewed Arctic Policy Framework coupled with a whole-of-government approach has provided Inuit the opportunity to speak directly with Cabinet about matters of priority.

On February 9th 2017, the Government of Canada signed the Inuit Nunangat Declaration on Inuit-Crown Partnership, which recognized that:

"...full and fair implementation of the obligations and objectives of Inuit land claims agreements as foundational for creating prosperity among Inuit which benefits all Canadians"

QIA believes that the Arctic Policy Framework governance model should build on the successes Inuit and the Government of Canada have achieved to date through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee.



HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS AND INVESTMENTS ON THE ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

1

Action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission

For QIA, a renewed Arctic Policy Framework that embraces reconciliation requires action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission. This means the Government of Canada:

- Issues a formal acknowledgement of the findings of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission
- Recognizes the intergenerational trauma caused by historical wrongs
- Issues a formal apology to Qikiqtani Inuit for the Government's actions from 1950 to 1975
- Implements the recommendations set out in the Qikiqtani Truth Commission Report

2

Renewed policy frameworks and funding models

QIA believes that in order to be effective and strategic, future policies and action for the Arctic must be advanced in partnership with Inuit within a whole-of-government framework.

- **Renewed policy frameworks**
 - Taking a whole-of-government approach with adequate consultation and input from Inuit organizations
- **Renewed funding models**
 - Long-term, adequate, and stable funding

3

Investments in major economic infrastructure

QIA believes that it is critical to address the infrastructure inequalities between Nunavut and the rest of Canada and provide the building blocks for the development and growth of sustainable industries.

- **Major infrastructure**
 - Deep-sea ports, airport facilities, telecommunications, hydro plants

4

Investments in a conservation economy

QIA sees the need for funding and infrastructure that supports a conservation economy and food sovereignty.

- **Conservation economy infrastructure**
 - Small craft harbours, processing plants, multi-use facilities, training centre
- **Skilled workforce**
 - Investment in training, education and jobs

5

Social and cultural infrastructure that supports reconciliation

In addition to infrastructure that supports the conservation economy, Inuit need an investment in social and cultural infrastructure that meets obligations under the Nunavut Agreement, strengthens, and empowers Inuit communities and respects Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

ACTION ON THE QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION

For QIA a renewed Arctic Policy Framework that embraces reconciliation would entail implementing the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's 25 recommendations for action. The Qikiqtani Truth Commission's Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatiqningniq, chronicles the Government of Canada's colonial practices subjected on Qikiqtani Inuit from 1950 to 1975. This report published in 2010 distills three years of interviews, testimony, and archival research about the experiences of Qikiqtani Inuit with modern-day colonialism.

Inuit shared personal accounts of coerced relocation, mass removal of children from families, residential school experiences, slaughter of qimmiit (Inuit sled dogs), separation of families due to a lack of healthcare infrastructure, and the separation of Inuit from their culture, language and the land.

The report also recognizes that Inuit still suffer from the impacts of past colonial policies and programs and that the legacy of colonialism still lingers within present-day Government frameworks.

Inuit want to move forward by implementing the 25 recommendations for action in the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's Final Report. These recommendations can be grouped in four themes:

- Acknowledging and healing of past wrongs
- Strengthening Inuit governance
- Strengthening Inuit culture
- Creating healthy communities

To date, the Government of Canada has not officially responded to the Qikiqtani Truth Commission and its findings. QIA believes that it is critical to begin a formal dialogue on the findings of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

QIA is requesting that the Government of Canada formally acknowledge the findings of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission including recognition of the intergenerational trauma caused by historical wrongs. QIA is also seeking a formal apology and a commitment to support the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Qikiqtani Truth Commission Report.

RENEWED POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND FUNDING MODELS

Renewed policy frameworks and funding models are required to build a conservation economy in Nunavut. QIA is seeking a new collaborative approach to government policy and funding that respects the Nunavut Agreement and gives Inuit the tools needed to manage and guide our social and economic futures. These new frameworks must not only acknowledge the inequalities between Inuit communities and other jurisdictions in Canada but also facilitate long-term strategic growth.

Principles for developing renewed policy frameworks and funding models:

- Inuit Involvement in all decisions relating to our homeland
- A whole-of-government approach that allows for long-term strategic investments
- Long-term stable funding that supports strategic planning
- A commitment to address inequalities and a strategic investment in the North as part of Canada's nation-building efforts



MAJOR ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

To build the foundation for economic prosperity in the Arctic, Canada needs to invest in infrastructure that connects Nunavut to the rest of Canada and the world, and supports local sustainable economies.

Nation-building infrastructure is needed for transportation, economic development and growth. There are no interconnected roads or rails among Nunavut communities. Without ports, adequate air transport facilities, and telecommunication infrastructure, Nunavut has no access to national and international opportunities.

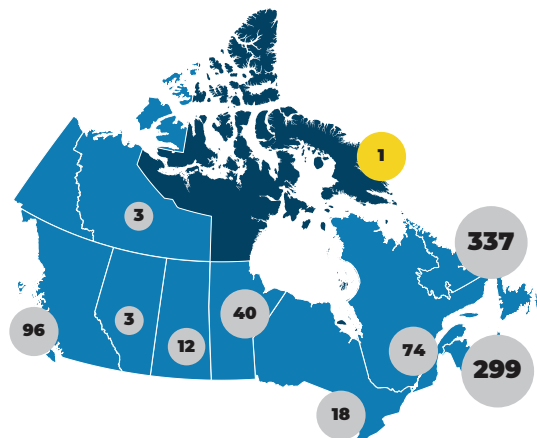
The current scarcity of marine infrastructure not only limits opportunities for economic growth but also leaves Nunavut vulnerable to transport incidents, security issues and environmental damages accelerated by climate change.

Nunavut's offshore fishery is growing from subsistence harvesting to a profitable sustainable industry. However, the lack of marine infrastructure limits the ability of the Territory to fully benefit from its adjacent fish stocks and related industries.

An estimated \$8 million per annum is lost to Greenland for vessel offloading, resupply and vessel servicing. A deep-sea port in a strategic location such as Qikiqtarjuaq would not only allow Nunavut to retain this \$8 million, it would also generate an estimated 50 seasonal direct jobs and 60 indirect jobs.

Air transport infrastructure in Nunavut is similarly underdeveloped. All but two airports in the territory have short, gravel runways that can only support older-style aircraft. This limits travel and business opportunities and drives up the cost of goods and services.

There is an extreme digital divide between Nunavut Inuit and other Canadians. Access to telecommunication services is essential for Nunavummiut to build their skills, receive essential services and participate in the global economy.



There are over 1,000 harbours overseen by Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Only one is in Nunavut.

CONSERVATION ECONOMY INFRASTRUCTURE

QIA's vision for a conservation economy for Inuit means economic wealth derived from local natural resources in a way that respects and preserves Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, meets local needs and restores rather than depletes natural resources and social capital.

Supporting a conservation economy translates to support for conservation areas, renewable energy, sustainable industries and capacity building.

Infrastructure is needed to support local harvesters and allow Inuit to meaningfully participate in the management and stewardship of conservation areas.

An investment in the conservation economy would provide the infrastructure needed for food sovereignty in Nunavut by giving harvesters the tools necessary to feed Inuit communities, reinvigorating cultural practices and stimulating local economies.

QIA defines Inuit conservation economy as one that:

- Respects and preserves Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
- Protects the land, water and wildlife as guided by the Nunavut Agreement
- Supports Inuit environmental stewardship and building resilience to climate change
- Creates sustainable economies and local jobs that preserve and foster Inuit culture
- Supports food sovereignty through locally-harvested country food

SKILLED WORKFORCE THAT SUPPORTS A CONSERVATION ECONOMY

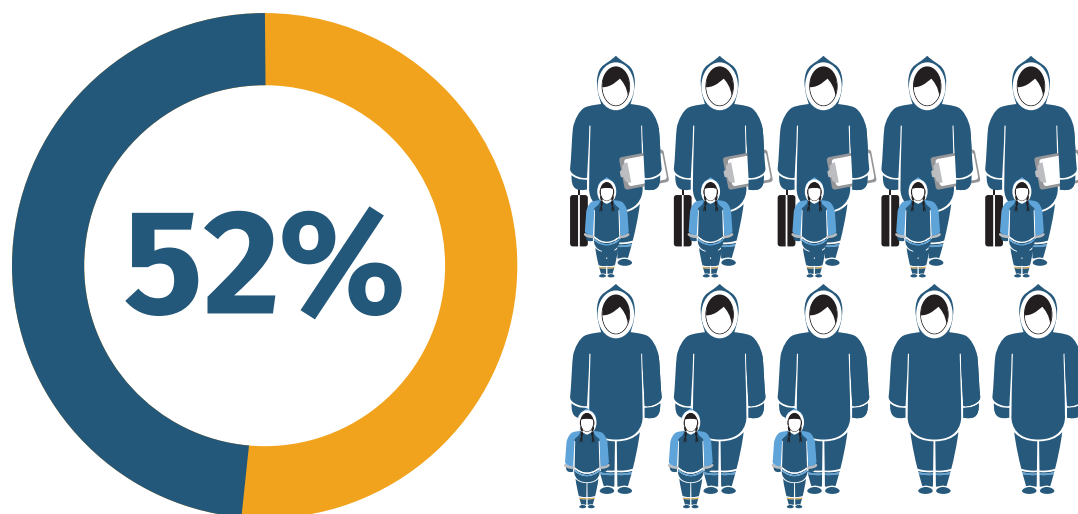
As Nunavut grows so does the need for a skilled workforce necessary to develop and foster a conservation economy. Current and emerging sectors connected to the conservation economy include environmental stewardship and parks management, fisheries, food harvesting, processing and distribution, research, education and training as well as many offshoot industries. Skilled workers are the fuel for these industries.

We need to create jobs that build on work that Inuit have always done. Jobs such as environmental stewards, harvesters, and youth mentors. These jobs safeguard our land and waters, preserve our culture, traditions and language, and feed our communities while stimulating local economies.

Investments must be made to train and educate Inuit to build a skilled, stable, and resilient workforce. Training and education must be culturally and linguistically relevant and informed by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Inuit must have the opportunity to learn about our culture and history and be immersed in Inuktitut from daycare to university and into the workforce. Inuit should also be able to access the training and education needed to participate in the conservation economy without leaving Nunavut.

Nunavut has a young population with the highest birthrate in Canada. Therefore, any approach to training and retention of workers must be accompanied by provisions for childcare, especially when prioritizing the integration of women and youth into the workforce.

Nunavummiut Employment Rate



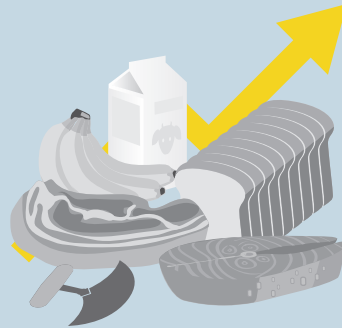
The low employment rate coupled with the high number of dependents among Nunavummiut means that many families in Nunavut live in poverty.

SUPPORTING HARVESTERS FEEDS NUNAVUT



NUNAVUT'S POPULATION IS GROWING

THIS MEANS



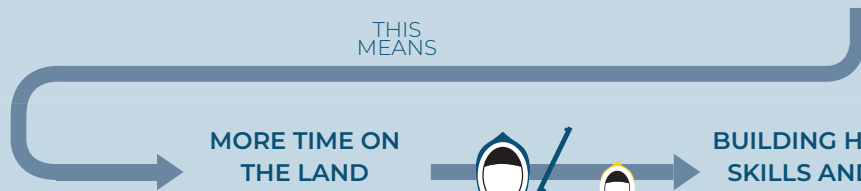
MORE FOOD IS NEEDED WHICH COSTS MORE MONEY

THIS MEANS



IF WE INVEST IN TRAINING AND WAGES FOR HARVESTING JOBS AND FUND HARVESTERS FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

THIS MEANS



MORE TIME ON THE LAND

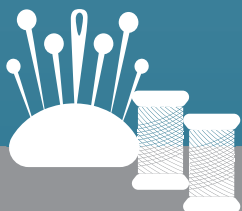


BUILDING HARVESTING SKILLS AND PASSING DOWN TRADITIONS

THIS MEANS



SUCCESSFUL HARVESTS AND MORE COUNTRY FOOD TO SHARE



INUIT USE EVERY PART OF HARVESTED ANIMALS. WHAT IS NOT EATEN IS USED TO MAKE CLOTHING, TOOLS, ART AND CRAFTS.

LIST OF INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS IN THE QIKIQTANI REGION

MAJOR ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

DEEP-SEA PORTS

- **Improve offshore fisheries and related industries**
 - Refuelling, maintenance, crew changes and accommodations
- **Facilitate transportation of goods and services**
 - Offloading, storage, and reshipping of products and sealift within Nunavut
- **Provide a port of call in Nunavut for Canada's Navy and Coast Guard fleets**
 - Improve incident response rates north of 60
 - Improved Arctic security and sovereignty
- **Establish an Arctic marine research hub**
 - Vessel monitoring and piloting

MODERNIZATION OF AIRPORTS AND RUNWAYS

- Facilitate transportation of goods and services
- Expand and create new travel routes inside and outside of Nunavut
- Increase opportunities for business development

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Enable economic development by connecting to the global market
- Enhance access to training and education
- Increase opportunities for employment
- Increase access to government programs and services

RENEWABLE ENERGY – HYDRO PLANT

- Reduce reliance on diesel
 - Promote energy security
 - Foster the development of conservation economies and green jobs
- 

CONSERVATION ECONOMY INFRASTRUCTURE

SMALL CRAFT HARBOURS

- Provide safe access to the land and sea in the context of rapid environmental change
- Enable local sustainable businesses, such as fisheries and tourism
- Increase access to country food and support food sovereignty
- Provide additional ports of call and safe refuge
- Improve efficiency for the transport of goods

FOOD PROCESSING INFRASTRUCTURE

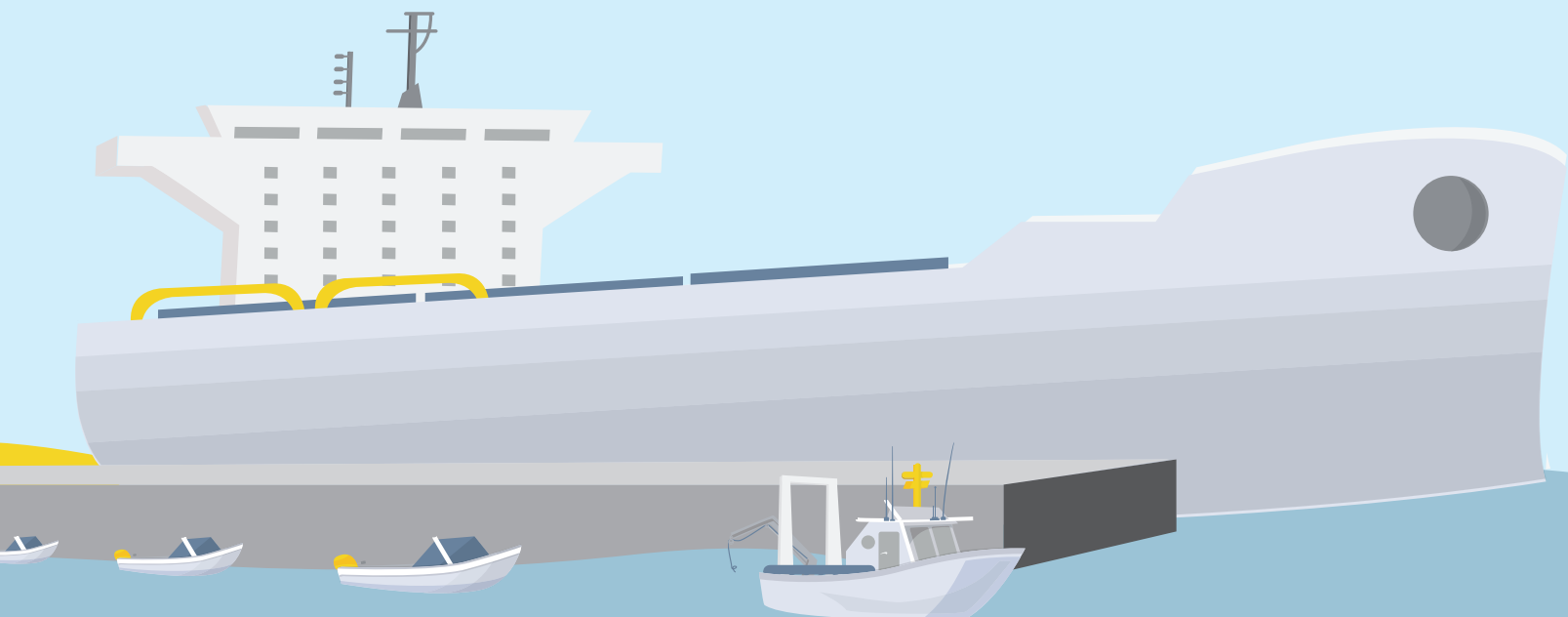
- Facilitate local country food processing
- Increase access to country foods by extending shelf-life
- Enable value-added business opportunities by increasing access to hides, furs, skins, bones, antlers, and tusks

MULTI-USE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Provide equipment warehouses, work spaces and other multi-use facilities essential for the management of conservation areas, harvesting and program delivery

TRAINING CENTRE

- Provide space for training in stewardship, harvesting, conservation and parks management



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In addition to infrastructure that supports the conservation economy, Inuit need an investment in social and cultural infrastructure that meets obligations under the Nunavut Agreement, empowers Inuit communities and respects Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. QIA has committed resources to advancing three critical social and cultural infrastructure projects:

- Nunavut heritage centre
- Elders' care facility
- Men's transitional home

Nunavut continues to be the only jurisdiction in Canada without a designated heritage space to house and present its history. The Nunavut Agreement recognizes the need to establish facilities in the Nunavut Settlement Area for the conservation and management of its archaeological record. QIA has pledged \$5 million towards the creation of a Heritage Center which Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. has matched.

Inuit Elders in need of palliative care must travel to the south to access facilities. In the south Elders face linguistic and cultural challenges. QIA recognizes the importance of Elders accessing services in their language by people who practice Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Staying in Nunavut also allows Elders to continue to share their traditional skills and knowledge with their community. QIA has designated a portion of Inuit Owned Lands in Iqaluit for an Elders' care facility.

Homelessness continues to be a crisis in Nunavut. The Uquutaq Society provides emergency overnight shelter for men in Nunavut's capital, many of whom come from communities across the Qikiqtani Region. The Society is seeking funding to provide longer-term transitional housing and to deliver programming, such as mental health services, skills development programs, and employment coaching. QIA has made a conditional \$100,000 pledge for the Uquutaq Men's Transitional Housing project in Iqaluit but more investment is needed to make this project a reality.