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President's message

Spring 2019 has been a whirlwind of activity for the QIA team. In the short time since our March Board meeting we have taken part in a historic federal apology for the tuberculosis crises, a global nature summit to champion Tallurutiup Imanga, and released years of findings following our work on the Strategic Environmental Assessment for oil and gas development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

I have been honoured to see the dedication of our team to promote important initiatives that benefit children, youth and families such as our inaugural daycare conference and annual youth gathering.

2019 is the United Nation's International Year of Indigenous Languages. For Inuit this has meant new opportunities to promote the importance of Inuktitut. To this end, the QIA staff and Board members took part in the Inuugatta Inuktuuqta Conference to share strategies on strengthening our language in Nunavut.

Our team has also been busy working on new ways to communicate the benefits guaranteed to Inuit in the Mary River Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement and to promote the Tuttarvik and Q-STEP programs which connect Inuit to training and jobs.

For me, a highlight this spring was attending the 20th anniversary of the Nunavut Quest in Arctic Bay and seeing the pride and joy that cultural revitalization brings to Inuit communities.

As we race towards the summer, I look forward to taking part in many more community-driven gatherings and events including celebrating Nunavut Day.

Qujannamiik,

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QIA working to eliminate Tuberculosis

QIA is committed to eliminating tuberculosis in our homeland, and across Inuit Nunangat. Tuberculosis is entirely preventable and curable. Yet, tuberculosis thrives on inequity. We know that eliminating tuberculosis in our communities requires a strong public commitment to equity in housing, food sovereignty, Inuit employment, and access to Inuit-centered and culturally safe tuberculosis care.


Today, Qikiqtani Inuit still face incidence rates of tuberculosis disease more than 300 times higher than those experienced by the Canadian-born non-Indigenous population. QIA continues to call for urgent investments in our Region to improve Inuit lives and close the equity gap between Qikiqtanimit and other Canadians.

QIA is working closely with our communities, the Government of Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to create Nunavut's Regional Tuberculosis Elimination Action Plan. We share with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Government of Canada a common commitment: to reduce the rate of tuberculosis across Inuit Nunangat by 50 per cent by 2025, and to eliminate tuberculosis in our homelands by 2030.

Successfully eliminating tuberculosis in the Qikiqtani Region requires urgent investments to close the equity gap. To date, public action has been encouraging, yet insufficient. QIA calls on the Governments of Canada and Nunavut to reaffirm their commitments to addressing the Inuit housing crisis, and to strengthen support for Inuit food sovereignty and Inuit employment. With this commitment to action, QIA is optimistic that together we can eliminate tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat.

NANILAVUT

LET US FIND THEM



Bringing closure and healing to Inuit families searching for lost loved ones from the TB epidemic of the 1940s-1960s

The Nanilavut initiative helps find grave locations of Inuit who passed away after travelling South for tuberculosis treatment during the 1940s-1960s. Nanilavut aids in the search for lost family members, provides direction for further research, and access to a database of findings

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Nanilavut (Let's Find Them) is an initiative to find the grave locations of Inuit who passed away after travelling South for treatment during the TB epidemic of the 1940s-1960s. By the 1950s, at least one in three Inuit was infected with tuberculosis (TB). Due to the lack of medical care in the North, Inuit were sent to southern hospitals and sanatoria. Most patients were treated and returned home. However, many died of the illness and were buried in cemeteries near the treatment facilities. Some patients were never heard of again after leaving the North. The loss of loved ones to the TB epidemic was a significant trauma for Inuit communities and families that is still felt today. Nanilavut's aim is to meet the needs of families searching for lost family members, provide direction for further research, and access to a database of findings.

Nanilavut Apology

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, issued a formal apology on behalf of the Government of Canada to Inuit for its actions during the tuberculosis epidemic from the 1940s to the 1960s. This apology was delivered in Iqaluit on March 8 before a large gathering of impacted Inuit from across Inuit Nunangat.

During the tuberculosis epidemic, thousands of Inuit were sent away from their communities for treatment in southern Canada, where they were cut off from their language, culture, and families. In many cases, Inuit who died during treatment were buried far from home. Often families were not notified of the fate of their loved ones or where they lay to rest.

The Prime Minister also announced the launch of the Nanilavut (let us find them) Initiative, developed in partnership with Inuit. The Nanilavut Initiative will help families find information on loved ones sent away during the epidemic. It will also provide other support identified as important by Inuit, including mental health assistance and commemoration activities.

The apology and the Nanilavut Initiative are the result of a collaborative effort between the Government of Canada, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.



Uqausirisimajavut: what we have said



In March, the QIA released 'Uqausirisimajavut: what we have said. The Inuit view of how oil and gas development could impact our lives.' This summary document synthesizes the findings from the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) study on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on oil and gas activities in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

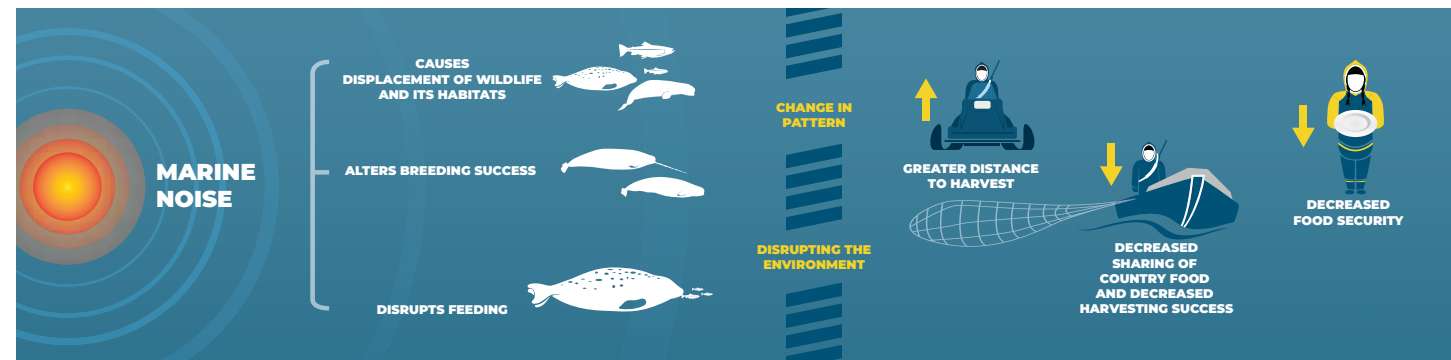
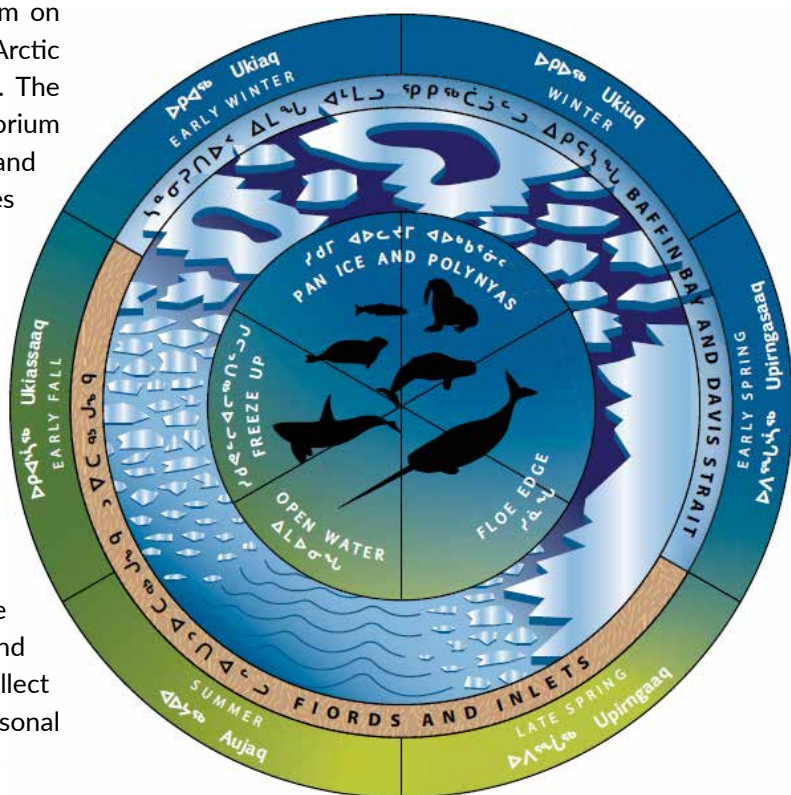
Through these committees, and through independent research over the last two years, QIA has gathered information related to the effects of oil and gas in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

QIA submitted 80 recommendations to NIRB. QIA's research and recommendations were guided by the IQ advisors and the Nunavut Agreement. The QIA recommendations will inform the NIRB Strategic Environmental Assessment report that will be submitted to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

In 2016, the Federal Government placed a moratorium on new oil and gas activities in all offshore Canadian Arctic waters. This decision will be reviewed again in 2021. The NIRB initiated the SEA study in response to the moratorium and to understand the associated risks, benefits, and management strategies of offshore oil and gas activities in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. The SEA report and associated recommendations will inform the Federal Government's decision in 2021.

Since 2017, QIA has been a part of the working group for the SEA study. Our primary focus has been working with Inuit to collect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (traditional knowledge), which will inform the final recommendations of the SEA.

As part of this work QIA formed six IQ committees in Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Pangnirtung. QIA worked with the committees to collect local knowledge of surrounding areas and develop seasonal calendars of wildlife activity in the marine environment.



Winners of the third annual QIA song/poem contest

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) hosted a song/poem contest during Inuktitut Language month in February.

The winners were:

First Prize, \$400 winner – Miali Coley-Sudlovenick a teacher at Joamie School in Iqaluit, who submitted a podcast recording of a poem titled "Uvva Aijaijaaliuqtuq" (Making of an Aijajaa) which describes traveling by dogsled and taking-in the sights and sounds of the land – an experience that connects the poet to her ancestors.

Second prize, \$300 winner – Jesse Tuluraqjuk from Igloolik, a graduate from Nunavut Sivuniksavut who now works as a substitute teacher at Ataguttaaluk High School. Jesse submitted a song via email titled "Majurainnari" (Keep Climbing) about following your dreams, being positive and achieving your goals.

Third prize, \$200 winner – Becky Han originally from Arctic Bay, a musician with a huge online following. Becky was the winner of the 2018 QIA song/poem contest and the 2016 winner of the Government of Nunavut's Qilaut children's song contest. She submitted a video of a love song titled "Kiligalaaksimajut" (Small Cuts) via Facebook.



The Qikiqtani Daycare Managers' Conference

This year we held our first Qikiqtani Daycare Managers' Conference from March 5 to March 7 in Iqaluit. This event brought together 45 daycare managers and staff from across the Qikiqtani Region.

The conference included a presentation from the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre on the Inunnguiniq Parenting Program. This culturally relevant parenting support is based on the child rearing advice of the Elders Advisory Committee.

The Nunavut Literacy Council also joined the group to demonstrate a free app called Uqalimaarluk that provides an interactive Inuktitut reading center for young learners. Lichen Consulting gave a brief overview of daycare governance and operations.

New resources developed specifically for daycares were unveiled by QIA at the conference, such as puppets, puzzles, books, and a pre-phonics program.

Participants also attended a session on Inuit history presented by Becky Kilabuk, QIA's Youth Programs Coordinator. The week ended with a screening of Taqqut Production's new show, Ananna's Tent.

In recent consultations, Qikiqtani Inuit said they wanted early learning and childcare to be a major priority for QIA. The daycare conference is one approach towards achieving this – as it provides support for daycare managers in running their centers.

The Daycare Manager's Conference is a part of QIA's Ipitiki program, which focuses on projects that support Early Learning and Childcare in the Qikiqtani Region. Ipitiki is made possible through funding from the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.



Winner of the 2018-2019 John Amagoalik Scholarship

QIA is pleased to announce that Joshua Komangapik has been selected as the recipient of the 2018-2019 John Amagoalik Scholarship. The annual \$5,000 scholarship honours the efforts of John Amagoalik towards the betterment of Inuit in Nunavut.

Komangapik, a 24 year-old from Iqaluit, just completed his final year in a Bachelor of Arts in Geography with a focus in resource management and northern geographies at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

In his winning essay for his scholarship application, Komangapik made the connection between Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements and the management of protected areas in Nunavut. He said his work with the Government of Nunavut during the community consultations for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area was a great way to understand the importance of the Nunavut Agreement.



QIA provides sneak peek of new project at Nunavut Mining Symposium

QIA used the annual Mining Symposium in Iqaluit to showcase our work on the Mary River Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement Outreach Project. QIA's Community Director Levi Barnabas presented a preview of the project.

This project is an initiative to make the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the Mary River Mine more accessible. This work is being led by QIA, in consultation with Baffinland and includes creating outreach material about the benefits within the IIBA.

The aim of the project is to make the 155-page-long legally-dense document more engaging by presenting the information through illustrations, infographics and easy to understand text.

The project is broken down into three initial phases. The first phase will include the publication of a Mary River IIBA Guide. This Guide will then be digitized and made available on the QIA website. Finally, QIA will launch a social media campaign to promote awareness about the IIBA.



Empowering youth leadership

QIA held a successful Youth Leadership Workshop in Iqaluit earlier this spring to foster leadership skills among Inuit youth in the Qikiqtani Region and bolster community engagement.

Twenty youth participated from Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Igloodik, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, and Pond Inlet. The workshops included media training from Nipiit Magazine and training on podcast production by Miali Coley.

A number of notable speakers also addressed the youth including the Honourable David Joanase, the Honourable

Elisapee Sheutiapik, Johnny Issaluk, Celina Kalluk, and Elder representatives Meeka Mike and Simon Nattaq.

This year, the workshop was funded by the Government of Canada through the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples Program. The funding will allow QIA to continue this work for another three years. The next workshop with Inuit youth leaders is being planned for Fall 2019.



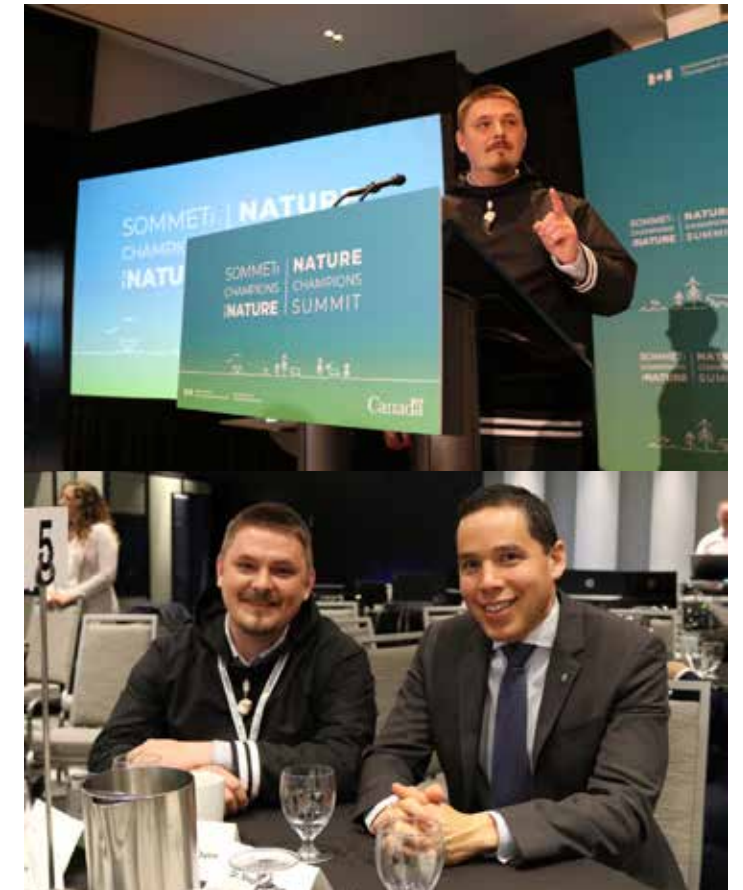
QIA champions Tallurutiup Imanga at Nature Summit

QIA took part in the 2019 global Nature Champions Summit in Montreal in April. The summit was led by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, and supported by the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Jonathan Wilkinson.

QIA's President, P.J. Akeegok, and Tallurutiup Imanga Chief Negotiator, Sandra Inutiq, spoke about QIA's work to establish the largest marine protected area in Canada and the integral role of Inuit in safeguarding the Arctic environment while securing tangible benefits.

The event brought together nature champions from around the world, including governments, major philanthropists, business leaders, non-governmental organizations, youth, Indigenous leaders, and United Nations agencies.

The summit included two notable appearances, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and American actor Harrison Ford. In his remarks, Ford lauded Canada's response to climate change.



QIA takes part in Nunavut language conference with a focus on Inuktitut

In late March a contingent from QIA's Board of Directors and staff took part in the three-day Inuugatta Inuktuuqta Conference. The gathering focused on protection, revitalization and promotion of the Inuit language. It occurred during the International Year of Indigenous Languages which is a United Nations initiative for 2019 that aims to raise awareness about the importance of Indigenous languages across the world.

QIA's participation in the conference included the delivery of a keynote speech by our Vice-President, Olayuk Akesuk, and a panel talk by QIA's Arctic Bay Community Director, Levi Barnabas.

The conference was organized by Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Nunavut's language authority and the Office of the Languages Commissioner. This is the second such gathering – the first was held in February 2015.

QIA's representatives used the conference to highlight our efforts to bolster Inuktitut in the Qikiqtani Region through our work on Early Childhood resources and Inuktitut books, our Inuktitut Language Month, and word of the day initiative.

QIA also flagged that there is inadequate, unstable and unpredictable funding devoted to language preservation. QIA echoed Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami calls for greater language rights for Inuit and a recognition of Inuktitut as an official language of Canada within Inuit Nunangat.



QIA's first Board of Directors Meeting in 2019

QIA hosted its first board meeting of 2019 in Iqaluit on March 6.

The Board of Directors meetings provide an opportunity for important discussions about our work. QIA staff presented reports on the renewed efforts to implement action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission (QTC) and released the Action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission report. The report sets out a plan for a formal acknowledgement, apology and action on the QTC recommendations. The release of the report coincided with Prime Minister Trudeau's Nanilavut Apology on March 8, 2019, in Iqaluit.

We are experiencing tremendous growth in our programs and benefits agreements. The Board of Directors approved the 2019-20 budget and voted on appointments for a number of boards and committees. These include multi-year terms to the Kakivak Association Grants and Loans Appeals Committee, Nunavut Disabilities Council, Inuit Heritage Trust, and Joint Parks Management Committees.

The board meeting was preceded by the orientation for the new board members who were elected to their positions on December 10, 2018.



QIA commemorates the 20th Anniversary of Nunavut Quest

QIA President P.J. Akeeagok made a special trip to Arctic Bay this April to take part in the 20th anniversary of the Nunavut Quest and honour the founders who made this event possible. Moses Oyukuluk, Joeli Qamanirq, Piuyuq Enoogoo, Niore Iqalukjuak and Cecil Marshall were presented with special commemorative plaques.

QIA is a proud supporter of the annual Nunavut Quest through our Grants and Contributions program. We have committed \$10,000 each year until 2021 to help revive and sustain traditional dog team racing.

This year, twelve teams took part in the race from Pond Inlet to Arctic Bay.



Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Stewards at work

QIA visited Arctic Bay in April to meet with the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Stewards. The Steward Program is an early benefit of the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement provided by Parks Canada.

Six Inuit have been hired in Arctic Bay to manage and steward Tallurutiup Imanga. The Stewards take on a number of tasks; from monitoring sea ice conditions, to archiving cultural sites and assisting with search and rescue efforts. As part of their work, they have been harvesting fish and seal to collect data on marine life. What they have harvested, they have shared with the community through feasts.

To help promote the importance of country food and the Program, the Stewards will harvest country food for the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Taste of the Arctic event in Ottawa in May.

Once the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement is finalized, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area will be the largest protected area in Canada. Arctic Bay is one of the five communities neighbouring Tallurutiup Imanga. The other communities include Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River. QIA hopes to have similar Inuit Steward Programs in each of the five Tallurutiup Imanga communities.



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