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**Inuit Stewardship and Tallurutiup
Imanga National Marine
Conservation Area**

TALLURUTIUP IMANGA NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

Canada's Largest Body of Protected Waters

In 2017 the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) announced the proposed boundary for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). To establish the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, QIA staff have been negotiating an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) with the Government of Canada.

Once established, the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area will be Canada's largest body of protected waters. At almost 110,000 square kilometers, Tallurutiup Imanga is approximately twice the size of Nova Scotia.

This pristine marine area is home to five Inuit High Arctic communities—Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, and Resolute Bay. It is also abundant with seal, beluga, walrus, polar bears, and migrating birds.

Whole-of-Government Approach

QIA is advocating for a whole-of-government approach to the negotiation of the IIBA that will establish Tallurutiup Imanga. Parks Canada is the primary federal department involved. QIA continues to work with Parks Canada but is also pursuing involvement from other federal government departments.

QIA meets quarterly with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada. QIA met with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Health Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, Transport Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. In July 2018, QIA also met with the Prime Minister's Office to discuss the IIBA.



AUGUST 2017 TALLURUTIUP IMANGA NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARIES ANNOUNCED

In August 2017, the Government of Canada and QIA, along with the Government of Nunavut, announced the final boundaries for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area in Canada's High Arctic – making this important marine conservation area the largest in Canada. This represents approximately 1.9 per cent of Canada's marine area and makes a significant contribution towards Canada's international commitment to conserve 10 per cent of its marine and coastal waters by 2020.

JANUARY 2018 COMMUNITY TOUR

QIA started 2018 with a tour of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, and Resolute Bay to discuss the IIBA that will lead to the creation of Tallurutiup Imanga. QIA's Chief Negotiator for the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA, Sandra Inutiq, hosted the meetings.

The meetings were open to the community. QIA asked for community insights about what should be included in the IIBA. QIA and Parks Canada have had monthly negotiation meetings since February 2018, plus many program-specific meetings with communities and our partners.

JUNE 2018 MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE

In June 2018, QIA, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Government of Nunavut travelled to Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. QIA hosted community meetings to gather perspectives on each of the communities' needs for marine infrastructure, such as small craft harbours. The group also visited Pangnirtung to learn more about the design and benefits of the marine infrastructure there. (Pond Inlet was not visited because marine infrastructure for this community is already under development led by the Government of Nunavut).

JUNE / JULY 2018 INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

QIA has been drafting the Interim Management Plan for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Protected Area with the Government of Nunavut and Parks Canada. The Management Plan will guide the first five years of operation. It will include management objectives and a zoning plan. QIA wants a new approach to parks management that is Inuit-led and grounded in Inuit Qaujimaqatunqit. QIA has travelled to all five Tallurutiup Imanga communities to collaborate with Inuit on the development of the Management Plan.

JULY 2018 TALLURUPTIUP IMANGA PILOT PROGRAM IN ARCTIC BAY

In July 2018, QIA launched a pilot program in Arctic Bay. Though the IIBA has not been finalized yet, this pilot program is an early benefit of it for the Tallurutiup Imanga communities. The pilot program will hire Inuit stewards to manage the area of Tallurutiup Imanga around Arctic Bay. The stewards will monitor ecological health, maintain cultural sites, contribute to land and marine planning and management, and promote intergenerational sharing of Inuit knowledge. The program formalizes Inuit roles in environmental stewardship and harvesting in the protected area. It also provides a foundation for training, jobs, and other economic opportunities for Inuit.



OCTOBER 2018 AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED

On October 30, 2018, QIA and the Government of Canada reached an Agreement in Principle on the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). The Agreement outlines key elements of the future IIBA for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area.

The Agreement includes a new collaborative Government of Canada-Inuit governance model and an Inuit advisory body for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. In addition, the parties agreed to consider options to protect additional marine areas north of Grise Fiord in the High Arctic Basin or Tuvaijuittuq (which means “the ice never melts” in Inuktitut).

In signing the Agreement in Principle, P.J. Akeagok, President of QIA, Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, and Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, reaffirmed their commitment to finalizing an IIBA that would ensure the protection of Tallurutiup Imanga. This will be an internationally significant natural and cultural area for the benefit of present and future generations of Inuit and all Canadians.

Establishing Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area is key in helping to preserve Canada’s nature and the wildlife that depend on it, while ensuring that Inuit rights are respected and traditional activities continue to be carried out in the area for future generations.



- Proposed community investments**
- Marine Infrastructure
 - Regional Training Centre
 - Search and Rescue Support
 - Mobile Country Food Processing Unit
 - Community Multi-Use Facility

* Boundaries for potential conservation areas in the “High Arctic Basin” or Tuvaijuittuq are not yet determined and could be larger or smaller than the area depicted.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and the Government of Canada (represented by Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Transport Canada) have been actively negotiating an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) since early 2018. The parties have recently reached an Agreement in Principle and wish to share the following highlights of their work.

- IIBA for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA** – QIA and the Government of Canada have reached an Agreement in Principle on the following aspects, which recognize the value of Inuit knowledge and set out the leadership role that Inuit will take in the management of the NMCA, and provide the framework for management of Tallurutiup Imanga:
 - The preamble and principles of the IIBA;
 - A new collaborative governance model; and
 - A community advisory body.
- High Arctic Basin/Tuvaijuittuq** – In collaboration with QIA, the Governments of Nunavut and Canada will begin discussions on a feasibility study to assess options to pursue the creation of marine conservation areas in the area known as the “High Arctic Basin” or Tuvaijuittuq (which means “the ice never melts” in Inuktitut). QIA has agreed in principle to support such an initiative in partnership with the Governments of Canada and Nunavut. The size, geographic boundaries, and designation of this marine protected area will be informed through community consultations, science and a feasibility study.

The vision brought forth by QIA into the IIBA negotiations was one of Inuit Stewardship for the Qikiqtani Region and the advancement of the conservation economy. Specifically, QIA is seeking dedicated investments in Inuit cultural practices such as traditional harvesting, Inuit employment, and infrastructure development. Moving forward, QIA will propose tangible benefits for Inuit that support economic development consistent with the objectives of an NMCA. QIA is seeking:

- Proposed Stewardship Programs** – Uattijiit Inuit Steward and Harvester positions within each of the five communities in and around Tallurutiup Imanga would realize tangible, direct socio-economic benefits, including food security and addressing research while engaging youth and building Inuit capacity and autonomy
- Proposed Infrastructure Support**
 - Marine infrastructure investments in four of the five communities. The Government of Canada and QIA have commenced feasibility studies to advance this work.
 - Multi-use infrastructure that would sustain safe access to the land and sea in the context of rapid environmental changes and supporting operations of the Uattijiit Inuit Steward and Harvester programs. This would include mobile country food processing units to support food processing and economic activities related to harvesting.
 - The establishment of a Regional Training Centre to train Inuit within the Qikiqtani Region for employment across various sectors.

The final terms of the IIBA, including all of the QIA proposals outlined above, are still subject to negotiation between the Government of Canada and QIA, and the Government of Nunavut as required.

NOVEMBER 2018 A SPECIAL COMMUNITY FEAST: ARCTIC BAY

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association celebrated Arctic Bay's pilot Tallurutiup Imanga program during our community tour on November 20, 2018. The Stewards shared seal and char they had harvested with their community.





NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018 TALLURUPTIUP IMANGA COMMUNITY TOUR

In late 2018, QIA conducted a community tour to the five hamlets impacted by the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement to share updates on the ongoing negotiations and the newly signed Agreement in Principle with the Government of Canada.

Sandra Inutiq, QIA's Chief Negotiator, led the discussions with the hamlet councils, members of the Hunters and Trapper's Associations and the Community Lands and Resource Committees. She also hosted open house events in the evenings where residents and other community members gathered to share their ideas and feedback.



MARCH 2019

QIA RELEASED FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND HARVESTING REPORT AND QIA'S RESPONSE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S VALIDATION DRAFT "STRONGER TOGETHER: AN ARCTIC AND NORTHERN POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CANADA" REPORT

QIA released several reports to help guide the discussions on food security in our Region and our Territory. These reports outline a forward-looking, solution-oriented approach to Nunavut's food problems.

Our reports call for the need to shift the thinking from food security to food sovereignty. To achieve food sovereignty in Nunavut requires renewed policy frameworks and funding models that recognize Inuit leadership in decision-making and enable long term strategic planning. Major investment in infrastructure, particularly small craft harbours are needed, as well as resources to train and employ Inuit for jobs in the harvesting industry.

The Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefits negotiations and priorities align with these reports.



