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## President Akeeagok - another four years!

On November 2, 2018, P.J. Akeeagok was acclaimed, for a second term, as QIA's President. The acclamation is a strong signal that Qikiqtani Inuit support Akeeagok's leadership in advancing, protecting and promoting Inuit rights and values. Akeeagok celebrated this swearing-in ceremony with friends, family and community members in his hometown of Grise Fiord on December 4, 2018.

The swearing-in ceremony was an intimate event, as the people he grew up with surrounded President Akeeagok. The community of Grise Fiord welcomed Akeeagok warmly and helped celebrate his achievements. The occasion was marked with a community feast.

While the visit was too short to allow Akeeagok to take part in a seal hunt, it did afford President Akeeagok the opportunity to take part in a discussion on QIA's work on the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

## President's message

I am humbled that Qikiqtani Inuit have once again entrusted me with the responsibility to represent them and their interests. During the past four years at QIA, I have been able to implement numerous projects that have directly benefitted Inuit.

I am thankful for the hard work and dedication of the QIA team. I am proud of our efforts to make QIA a more accountable organization with strong links to our communities.

I feel privileged to have been the QIA's President as it has grown and expanded its scope, budget and programming to better serve Qikiqtani Inuit.

P.J. Akeeagok

[www.qia.ca](http://www.qia.ca)

# Meet the QIA board members

QIA held elections for the position of President and seven Community Directors on December 10, 2018. We are please to welcome our new community directors:

## Charlie Inuarak - Community Director for Pond Inlet

Charlie Inuarak was the Mayor of Pond Inlet from 2013-2017. He is the owner of Inuarak Outfitting, which provides logistics and services for outdoor activities, hunting and transportation. In 2018, Charlie completed the Nunavut Quest.

## Mike Jaypoody - Community Director for Clyde River

Mike Jaypoody worked in film, photography, television and digital media with Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre in Clyde River. He won Best Feature Documentary at the 2014 Yellowknife International Film Festival for Tony: Back from the Brink.

## Steven Polee Lucassie - Community Director for Iqaluit

Steven Polee Lucassie is a heavy equipment operator with Nunavut Airport Services in Iqaluit. Before joining the QIA board, he served on the Board of Directors with Maliganik Tukisiniarvik.

## Moses Appaqaq - Community Director for Sanikiluaq

Moses Appaqaq is a soapstone carver and was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northwest Territories for Sanikiluaq from 1979 to 1987. He served on the Board of Directors for Qikittaluk Corporation for 16 years.

# Tallurutiup Imanga community tour

We have achieved a great deal of important work towards the establishment of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. 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 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.

No community tour in the High Arctic during winter is complete without a few incidents. In Resolute Bay, the QIA team had to conduct meetings despite issues with heat and power. Due to lack of heat at the community hall, we relocated to the hotel conference room. We were there for a short time before the power went out. The meeting continued thanks to the commitment of community members and a few flashlights -we really appreciate your dedication and resourcefulness!





# A special community feast: Arctic Bay

We had a chance to celebrate Arctic Bay's pilot Tallurutuip Imanga program during our community tour on November 20, 2018. The Stewarts provided seals and char and others shared country foods. We spent a lot of time eating, laughing and drawing for awesome prizes including a laptop.

The feast also provided an opportunity for QIA staff to share information on our work on the Tallurutuip Imanga IIBA negotiations. We shared a video that featured the program and the five Inuit Stewarts, which was greeted with enthusiasm and cheer.

The Tallurutuip Imanga Inuit Stewarts program was established by QIA in July, 2018, with funds from Parks Canada. It's an early IIBA Benefit for the Tallurutuip Imanga National Marine Conservation Area that employs five Inuit Stewarts who monitor the waters near Arctic Bay.





# QIA continues to invest in scholarships for post secondary students

To apply for a QIA scholarship, you must be:

- Registered under the Nunavut Agreement
- Living in the Qikiqtani Region
- Enrolled in a post-secondary academic institution

“An investment in education is an investment in our future. These post-secondary scholarships give Inuit a little help so they can focus on their studies, pursue their goals and achieve their dreams.”

**P.J. Akeeagok**

QIA president

This is the second year QIA is offering \$200,000 in new scholarships. The QIA scholarships, at \$2,500/year, are awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis to students from Qikiqtani who are enrolled in post-secondary programs. Over 100 students applied for the new QIA scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year.

Here’s what a few of them said:

“I’m one of the recipients of the QIA scholarships. Thanks QIA, we appreciate it!”

- Samantha Giroux, Pangnirtung, Nunavut Teacher Education Program

“I’d like to thank QIA for this opportunity for this scholarship, it does really help ...I appreciate it so much and I just wanted to say thank you!”

- Maybelle Enuaraq, Clyde River, Bachelor of Science in Arctic Nursing

“This will help me with my school and my work, so I am very happy, thank you!”

-Gerald Anawak, Iqaluit, Community Health Promotion Diploma



# Inuktitut family literacy initiative

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association launched a new Inuktitut family literacy initiative as part of the Ipitiki program in early January, 2019.

The family literacy initiative aims to encourage more Inuktitut speaking within homes, where both children and parents/guardians can enjoy fun activities while learning new Inuktitut words and phrases. QIA provided the project with the help of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Education, including resources developed with the help of Inhabit Media.

This year, each kindergarten student in the Qikiqtani region received a family literacy package, which includes:

- Ipitiki backpack
- Activity booklet
- Daily activity cards
- Inuktitut syllabic cards
- CD of Inuktitut children's songs
- Home vocabulary stickers
- Inuktitut books

QIA's Ipitiki program focuses on projects that support Early learning and Childcare (ELCC) in the Qikiqtani region. Other Ipitiki projects to be rolled out this year include: governance training for daycare boards, a daycare manager's conference, and an Elders in Daycares pilot project. The Ipitiki program is made possible through funding from the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.



“I’m excited about this program because it pushes forward QIA’s commitment to early childhood learning and provides real tools for families to keep Inuktitut strong at home.”

**P.J. Akeagok**  
QIA president

# QIA / Inhabit Media book signing

To help launch the third annual Inuktitut Language Month this February, we teamed up with our friends at Inhabit Media for our book-signing event. We are proud of the authors who write these books and encourage young Inuit to read. The books instill a sense of pride in Inuit because the stories reflect our lives, communities and culture.

As always, participants had fun meeting the authors and getting their books signed. This year's event featured prominent Inuit singer/songwriter Susan Aglukark and her new children's book, *Una Huna? What is this?*

Germaine Arnaktauyok, the well-known artist, was another popular personality at the event. She was there to promote her iconic illustrations and collection of prints for her book *Takannaaluk*.

The crowd favourites were the young authors who co-wrote books or had books written about them. It was so nice to see them take pride in authorship.

QIA is proud to help preserve and strengthen Inuktitut and learning in our communities.

“Inuktitut is key to preserving our culture and identity as Inuit. QIA wants to celebrate our language and encourage young people to keep it alive.”

**P.J. Akeegok**  
QIA president





# Congratulations Q-STEP graduates

We are very proud of the latest group of Heavy Equipment Operators who graduated from training at the Operating Engineering Training Institute in Morrisburg, Ontario, on December 7, 2018.

This training is under the Qikiqtani Skills & Training for Employment Partnership (Q-STEP) initiative that boosts skills development in the Qikiqtani Region, with a focus on training in the mining sector. The Q STEP program is run by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), in partnership with the Government of Canada, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp., the Government of Nunavut and the Kakivak Association for a four year period ending on March 2021.

Eight Qikiqtani Inuit graduated from the Heavy Equipment Operators training. Since the Q-STEP program started in November 2017, we have certified 54 Heavy Equipment Operators. Other Q-STEP graduates include 53 Work Ready Participants. There are 15 apprentices currently completing on-the-job training with Baffinland. The apprentices learn about their respective trades from carpenters, electricians, plumbers, welders, and others on the job. The goal is to hire 25 new apprentices in the future.

To take advantage of training with Q-STEP sign up with QIA's Inuit Labour Pool database, Tuttarvik. Tuttarvik will automatically create a resume for those registered and link them to new and upcoming job opportunities across the Qikiqtani region. Those registered with the database will also be eligible to participate in training and education opportunities, including skills training, apprenticeships and university programs. We have over 600 Qikiqtani Inuit enrolled in Tuttarvik, with a goal of 1,500 by 2021.



Here's what we heard from some of the graduates:

**"The training was awesome!"**

-Lalla Onallk, Kimmirut

**"I graduated, it feels good!"**

-Akeesho Alalnga, Iqaluit

**"I'm so happy that I used to work at Baffin/and as a dishwasher and I'm going to come back as an operator!"**

- Stacey Shappa, Arctic Bay

**"Having the chance to work for Boffin/ and now, that's what I'm excited for ...Heavy Equipment Operating is my dream job and I got certified for it today. Thank you QIA for the Q-STEP program!"**

-Christopher Hayward, Cape Dorset

New graduates from the Heavy Equipment Operator program are joining the workforce at Baffinland. Congratulations to:

- Christopher Hayward, Cape Dorset
- Rodger Salluviniq, Resolute Bay
- Joanie Akulukjuk, Pangnirtung
- Laila Onalik, Kimmirut

We wish you all the best!

# Amended Mary River IIBA

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and Baffinland Iron Mines Corp. released signed copies of the amended Mary River Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement (IIBA) on October 23, 2018. Article 22.2 of the IIBA between Baffinland and QIA, states that an IIBA review takes place every three years for potential amendments and improvements to the agreement.

Under the leadership of Eva Aariak, IIBA Chief Negotiator for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association's Mary River Project, QIA visited the communities impacted by the mine to gather input. We used the recommendations we received during these visits to develop QIA's overall negotiation strategy during the IIBA renegotiations. Aariak also led a community tour to share information on the amended Mary River IIBA with Inuit in Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik, and Pond Inlet.

This amended Agreement, available on QIA's website, will replace the Mary River IIBA, originally signed in September 2013. QIA looks forward to continuing to partner with Baffinland on joint projects that benefit Inuit.

“This amended Mary River IIBA is a testament to how much QIA has achieved in tangible benefits for Qikiqtani Inuit through the renegotiation. I am proud that we delivered on what communities wanted: more training and employment opportunities for Inuit.”

**P.J. Akeeagok**

QIA president



Highlights from the amended Mary River IIBA:

- \$10 million toward the design and construction of a regional training centre in Pond Inlet
- A significantly expanded Inuit training budget
- \$2.25 million per year from 2018-2021
- \$1.5 million on the delivery of training to Inuit from 2021-2031

## Harvesters enabling fund (\$400,000/year)

A fund will be established to provide fuel for Inuit in Pond Inlet. This fund was created to assist Inuit in accessing wildlife, recognizing that due to project activities Inuit may need to travel further to harvest wildlife. This program will run for 10-years

## Marine equipment program (\$300,000/vessel)

Every three years Baffinland will purchase and transfer ownership of a vessel that can be used for research to Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik and Hall Beach. The goal is that within 12-years each community will have received a vessel for research.

## Wildlife monitoring fund (\$200,000/year)

A fund will be established to support independent wildlife monitoring of the project. Baffinland will pay \$200,000 every year for ten years for this fund.

# IQ advisory committee conference

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association held the second Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) Advisory Committee conference on oil and gas development in Iqaluit from January 15 to 17, 2019. This was an important gathering to discuss IQ and traditional practices to determine how future oil and gas development may affect hunting activities in Qikiqtani communities.

This conference was part of the collaboration on the Strategic Environmental Assessment to investigate oil and gas development in the High Arctic. The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) is leading this assessment in partnership with QIA, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut.

The results of this work will affect the health and vitality of residents in communities near future developments.

A group of elders from the community-based IQ committees in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung participated in the conference. The elders have strong knowledge of IQ, traditional practices and harvesting activities.

Their knowledge combined with understanding of the practices used in the oil and gas industry, provide critical input into the on-going assessment by NIRB.

The elders also took the opportunity to demonstrate the use of traditional tools and compare their use with modern tools.

This conference and related IQ data gathered by QIA will help us gain, interpret and record Inuit perspectives on development. We are very excited about this project and look forward to providing a report on our work in the near future.



# Qikiqtani cultural activities program

We invited applications from individuals and community organizations in all 13 Qikiqtani communities for the Qikiqtani Cultural Activities Program (QCAP) in early 2019.

There is \$600,000 available for QCAP this fiscal year, for projects that will run from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020. This is approximately \$45,000 per community, depending on the number and scope of applications received. Although land and sewing programs are given priority, QIA also considers other Inuit cultural programs.

“These community projects go a long way to keeping our culture and traditional practices alive. I’m delighted that QIA can help fund programs that celebrate and empowering Inuit.”

**P.J. Akeegok**

QIA president



# In conversation with the Government of Canada

QIA has been engaged in dialogue with the federal government on a number of issues.

Throughout the past year, QIA has been involved in the development of a new Arctic Policy Framework.

The Arctic Policy Framework is an initiative by Prime Minister Trudeau in partnership with Northerners, Territorial and Provincial governments, and First Nations, Inuit and Metis People. Once developed, it will replace Canada's Northern Strategy and Statement of Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy.

The Arctic Policy Framework will provide overarching direction to the Government of Canada's priorities, activities and investments in the Arctic until 2030.

QIA's president and team have been involved in the roundtable sessions. To date, QIA has provided two written submissions outlining our perspective on Arctic Policy the Framework. Our second written response to the federal government's draft was submitted in January 2019. This response outlines some of QIA's priorities in the coming months and years for our Region including the need for:

- Action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission
- Renewed policy frameworks and funding models
- Investments in major economic infrastructure
- Investments in a conservation economy
- Social and cultural infrastructure that supports reconciliation

Copies of QIA's response to the draft Arctic Policy Framework are available on the QIA website.

QIA has also issued a written document outlining our perspective on Food Sovereignty and Harvesting. In this document, we propose tangible, made-in-Nunavut solutions to food insecurity. We show how Inuit can transition from food insecurity to food sovereignty, by giving our communities the supports and infrastructure needed to harvest more country food.

Copies of this document are also available on the QIA website.



# Action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission

This year started with renewed efforts to take action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission. In the May 2018 Board meeting in Qikiqtarjuaq, the Board gave our staff direction to move forward on this file.

Since that time, we have hired former interim Liberal Leader, Bob Rae and former Nunavut Premier, Eva Aariak to lead this file. With their guidance, QIA is escalating efforts on negotiating an apology and action to implement the recommendations from the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

To this end, we have secured support letters from the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Natan Obed and Nunavut Tunngavik President, Aluki Kotierk regarding our approach on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

Our team has also created an information package on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission, which outlines what we mean when we call for action on this file. This document titled “Action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission” outlines key facts about the history of modern day colonial practices and policies in the Qikiqtani Region particularly from 1950 to 1975, as well as QIA’s desire to achieve reconciliation through Saimaqatigiinngiq.

In January, our President and QTC negotiating team held a series of meetings in Ottawa with Crown-Indigenous Affairs minister Carolyn Bennett, Northern Affairs minister, Dominic LeBlanc, and Environment minister, Catherine McKenna to discuss action on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission. QIA is optimistic that in the upcoming months we can make significant inroads on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.



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