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Fall 2019

**TALLURUTIUP  
IMANGA AND  
TUVAIJUITTUQ  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GOVERNMENT  
OF CANADA  
APOLOGIZES TO  
QIKIQTANI INUIT**

**MARY RIVER  
ANNUAL PROJECT  
REVIEW FORUM**

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# COMMUNITY HARBOURS IN GRISE FIORD AND RESOLUTE BAY

QIA President, P.J. Akeeagok welcomed Minister of Transport Canada Marc Garneau to Iqaluit, on August 14, to share more details about the community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. These investments were announced in early August by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau under the Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq Agreements. Transport Canada is providing \$76.5 million over seven years towards the project, as part of a \$190 million fund for infrastructure in the Tallurutiup Imanga communities.





# TALLURUTIUP IMANGA AND TUVAIJUITTUQ FEAST IN ARCTIC BAY

After the announcement QIA President, P.J. Akeeagok, accompanied the Prime Minister, Minister of Environment and Minister of Fisheries, to Arctic Bay to join the Nauttiqsuqtiit and the community for a celebration of the Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq agreements.

The Prime Minister and President Akeeagok's first stop in the visit was to Elder Qaapik Attagutsiak's home. The Prime Minister arrived bearing a gift basket of fresh fruit and Qaapik in turn gifted him with two pairs of handmade seal skins mitts she had sewn, one for him and one for his son.

Afterwards, the group travelled to Pamiujaq, where Akeeagok and Trudeau had a chance for a private chat about future collaborations.

The Prime Minister and Ministers also met with the Nauttiqsuqtiit to talk about the success of the pilot project in its inaugural year.

Hundreds of Inuit were gathered by the Community Hall in the afternoon to welcome the delegation to the feast. Community members were also joined by a large group from the 2019 Students On Ice Arctic expedition. Students On Ice altered their route to make a special trip to Arctic Bay for the celebration. The ship was also in Pond Inlet for the August 2017 announcement about the boundary for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area.

The community feast started with a special five-person inter-generational qulliq lighting. The hall was packed with Inuit including many Elders and youth. The event included welcome messages from politicians as well as sharing country food.

In the next few months the staff at QIA will be working to implement the benefits gained through the Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq agreements as well as visiting all the impacted communities to share further details about the agreements.

During the visit, QIA's team also met with the Arctic bay mayor, councilors, Hunters and Trappers Association, and other leaders and presented the Ajjagutaq food bank with a \$5,000 contribution.

"The donation was greatly appreciated because the food bank doesn't have a permanent home yet," said Arctic Bay Mayor Frank May. "This was a very pleasant surprise, I know this will help them with purchasing discounted goods locally."







# GOVERNMENT OF CANADA APOLOGIZES TO QIKIQTANI INUIT

On August 14, 2019, the Government of Canada formally acknowledged and apologized for modern-day colonial practices imposed on Inuit in the Qikiqtani region between 1950 and 1975, such as forced relocations, family separation, and killing of qimmiit.

Elders, dignitaries and representatives from all 13 Qikiqtani communities joined Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) President P.J. Akeeagok and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett for the apology in Iqaluit.

There was a number of moving performances and speeches, including remarks from former QIA Board Member and Elder Representative, Joanasie Qappik.

**“Today, I speak for every Inuk who sought justice and equality in our Inuit Nunangat. For every patient Elder who endured unspeakable hardships with grace, strength and dignity. For every youth who dared to achieve despite the burden of intergenerational trauma. It has taken us years to come to this point and finally hear an acknowledgement and apology for modern-day colonial practices in the Qikiqtani region – in our Inuit Nunangat.”**

Excerpt from P.J. Akeeagok, QIA President’s speech at the QTC apology

The Government of Canada’s apology follows the recommendation of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission final report, Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq. The QIA and Government of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership to build a long-term and sustainable response to the Qikiqtani Truth Commission’s findings. This includes identified funding to implement programming for Qikiqtani Inuit to promote Inuit culture, healing and well-being for current and future generations.



The initial investments agreed to between QIA and the Government of Canada towards action on the recommendations of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission include:

**\$15 Million towards QIA's Legacy Fund**

**\$5 Million towards the creation of immediate programs**

- › Over \$2 Million for Inuit history and governance programs
- › \$2.9 Million for a qimmiit revitalization program
  - › Including \$100,000 in annual sponsorship to the Nunavut Quest from 2020-2027
- › Over \$1.2 Million for a travel and healing program for Inuit impacted by the Dundas Harbour relocation, and the closing of Kivitoo, Paallavvik, and south camp communities







# QIA BOARD MEETING IN QIKIQTARJUAQ

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) held its spring 2019 board meeting in Qikiqtarjuaq in early June.

During their visit to Qikiqtarjuaq, the board members took part the Kativvik High School graduation ceremony. Our president was asked to speak at the ceremony to recognize the achievement of the four students and gifted the graduates with laptops to help with their ongoing education. The event was very moving as the students talked about their personal journey and the obstacles they faced to make it to graduation.

QIA also hosted a community feast to thank Qikiqtarjuaq residents for the warm welcome. The feast was a huge success with hundreds of community members of all ages joining to share country food and a live musical performance by the Akullirmiut band. The excitement was high as door prizes such as airline tickets were handed out and the event ended with a spirited candy toss for all the kids to enjoy.



# MARY RIVER ANNUAL PROJECT REVIEW FORUM

Qikiqtani Inuit Association participated in the 2019 Annual Project Review Forum and Community Feast in Clyde River in late May. The Forum is a requirement under the Mary River Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement between QIA and Baffinland Iron Mines. The forum is an opportunity to review the impacts and benefits associated with the mine and progress on implementing the benefits. It is also a chance for the public to ask questions and develop recommendations for improvements regarding the Mary River project.

The participants at the forum included, QIA's Community Director Levi Barnabas who leads the Mary River file, other QIA staff working on the project, Elder and youth representatives from the five impacted communities, as well as Baffinland representatives.

During the two-day meeting, the group discussed what was accomplished in 2018 and the work done to deliver benefits to Inuit. New benefits from the renegotiated IIBA, such as the \$2.25 million increase in the Inuit training budget from 2018 to 2021, were also highlighted.



## Some of the recommendations brought forward at the forum include:

- Ways to improve communications about the Mary River project and IIBA benefits
- More focus on keeping Inuit working and helping Inuit through problems instead of losing them as employees
- A simpler process for accessing the Wildlife Compensation Fund
- More information on contracts – who gets contracts and why

All the recommendations have been collected and will be published in a report which will be available on the QIA website and at the CLO offices. QIA will continue to provide updates throughout the year, the 2020 Annual Project Review Forum is scheduled in Pond Inlet.





# A VISIT TO THE MARY RIVER MINE

In May the community delegates from the Mary River Annual Project Review Forum had a chance to visit the Mary River mine. The group toured the site and learned about mine operations.

As part of the tour, the group visited the new residence at the mine called Sailivik, which includes a country food kitchen.

One of the highlights of the tour was trying out some of the simulation equipment used to train heavy equipment operators. Although the simulations were fun, they were a lot harder than they looked and showcased the challenge of doing this work in real life.

The best part was visiting with a few of the Inuit employees at the site and see them at work. Some of these employees are successful graduates of the Qikiqtani Skills & Training for Employment Partnership (Q-STEP) program.

## Workshop on Nunavut culture at Mary River

In July, Baffinland Iron Mines CEO, Brian Penney invited QIA President, P.J. Akeegok to take part in a three-day workshop on Nunavut culture and history for the mine's employees. This was a part of a program to familiarize mine employees with Nunavut history and culture.

The gathering included a celebration of Nunavut Day.

# PROFILE: LAURA CHURCHILL

Laura Churchill comes from a long line of mushers. Her grandfather was the first garbage collector in Clyde River to use a dog team. Her late father also ran a dog team before she was born. Laura grew up hearing the stories about her father's dog team adventures from her mom, she admits that her longing to connect to her father is what drove her to raise her own team.

Although, Laura's journey as a musher began in Clyde River, she developed her skills in Iqaluit. Experienced dog team musher Meeka Mike, was her guide and mentor, and gave Laura her first puppies to raise.

Laura's dog team had their first running season last February. Training dogs can be stressful and making harnesses and qamutik and tracks is a lot of work. All this effort pays off once the dog team starts running on the land. Laura says all that stress melts away once she hears the qamutik gliding and the sound of dog's paws hitting the snow. She says it's much easier to take the time to enjoy and appreciate the land on a sled than on a fast and noisy snowmobile.



Laura is very passionate about her team, and enjoys the active lifestyle of a dog musher. She also loves the feeling of taking back something that was once taken away from her ancestors through colonial policies and practices. Laura is proud to be involved in a practice that revitalizes Inuit culture and also benefits her mental health.

Her personal experience inspired Laura to start a youth program which teaches Inuit youth what goes into raising and running a dog team. Through her program she hopes that she can help young Inuit regain an important part of their culture and identity. So far, her and her youth group have built 10 dog houses and sewn numerous harnesses. Soon, they will learn how to butcher seals. Laura plans to keep teaching, encouraging and supporting Inuit youth.







# UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY BASED MONITORING PILOT PROJECT IN POND INLET

The Community Based Monitoring (CBM) pilot project in Pond Inlet, which is entering its third year, continues to offer training to Inuit to strengthen the skills of local monitors.

The 2018 winter/spring monitoring season began in November and finished with a successful floe edge monitoring exercise in June.

In July, community monitors and residents participated in wilderness first aid training. This training followed a successful recruitment of six new monitors for the open water season, all from Pond Inlet.

In addition to the training recently completed, QIA is planning to introduce peer-to-peer training where more experienced monitors are partnered with new monitors to enhance learning. More workshops are planned in late fall, following the open water season.



# RISING ABOVE THE CHALLENGES ON THE AKSHAYUK PASS

Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) On-site Environmental Monitor, Adam Aliqatuqtuq, recently participated in a hiking expedition on the Akshayuk Pass near Pangnirtung with a group of youth from the Nunavut Land-based Educational Adventure Programs.

Five youth from Qikiqtarjuaq, ages 16 to 17, as well as four instructors sponsored by QIA, Parks Canada and Quality of Life Secretariat, took part in the hike. The expedition was from August 10 to 22 and included 10 intense days of hiking.

“We had fun, but also we also had moments where we felt like we can’t go on anymore,” said

Aliqatuqtuq, “We motivated each other by telling each other that it was worth it to keep going, it was challenging but fun.”

Aliqatuqtuq volunteered to be an instructor on the expedition, partly to observe changes in the glaciers and to support and encourage young people from his home community of Qikiqtrjuaq.

“I think it was important to show the youth that there are other things they can do to challenge themselves and also to train their minds to achieve anything, to go beyond their limits,” said Aliqatuqtuq.

## About Adam Aliqatuqtuq

**Age:** 22

**Home Community:** Qikiqtarjuaq

**Position at QIA:** On-site Environmental Monitor in the Major Projects Department

**Career goals:** Looks forward to new experiences as environmental monitor with QIA and hopes to continue working in a field where he can be outdoors and connected to the land

**What motivates him:** “I am a part of the generation that is experiencing climate change first hand. I have already seen some changes in my short lifespan. I really hope QIA also moves forward by advancing and creating jobs where Inuit are working to resolve environmental issues and help preserve our Inuit culture.”



