

QIKIQTANI

INUIT ASSOCIATION



TALLURUTIUP IMANGA NATIONAL
MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

TUVAIJUITTUQ MARINE PROTECTED AREA



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INTRODUCTION

“By working as equal partners with the Government of Canada in the spirit of reconciliation, we were able to help protect our environment and provide opportunities for our people”

- P.J. Akeeagok, QIA President

On August 1, 2019 the Government of Canada and Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) announced an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. The IIBA includes provisions for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area, which is currently under interim protection.

QIA employed a whole-of-government approach when negotiating the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA. This approach resulted in additional Agreements being established with other federal departments for investments in infrastructure.

The success of these Agreements serves as a blueprint for what can be achieved when Inuit and the Federal Government work together. These unprecedented Agreements ensure Inuit governance of the protected areas, jobs for Inuit as environmental stewards and funding to address the infrastructure deficit in the High Arctic.



BACKGROUND

In 2019, QIA and the Government of Canada negotiated the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and interim protection for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area. Together Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq represent 7.45 per cent of Canada's protected marine and coastal territory, an area slightly larger than Poland.

This pristine area is important habitat for marine mammals and includes multi-year ice zones needed to regulate our climate and sustain our communities. Tuvaijuittuq houses the multi-year sea ice that supports much of the organisms that sea mammals live on. Tallurutiup Imanga is abundant with seal, beluga, walrus, polar bears, and migrating birds. The area is also home to five Inuit communities.

Approximately 4,000 people live in Arctic Bay, Clyde river, Grise Ford, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay, the five impacted High Arctic communities adjacent to Tallurutiup Imanga. Ninety-two per cent are Inuit. This area is used extensively. In some cases Inuit travel hundreds of kilometers by boat or snowmobile to harvest fish, birds, seals and other marine mammals for food and clothing. Tuvaijuittuq is the bridge from Canada to Greenland, connecting Inuit across the circumpolar world.

Through the historic Agreements that secured protection for Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq, QIA realized the vision of Inuit leaders who have been seeking protection for our waters since the 1960s in the face of growing oil and gas development interest.

These Agreements not only protect our environment, they also secured desperately needed investments in our communities; investments needed to begin to close the equity gap between Nunavut and the rest of Canada. Finally, Inuit in the High Arctic will have Small Craft and Community Harbours to safely launch our boats and harvest food for our families.

“What we achieved through these Agreements is a blueprint for future work between Inuit and the Government of Canada.”

- P.J. Akeagok, QIA President

These Agreements would not have been possible if QIA had not insisted on a whole-of-government approach with the government of Canada – and if the federal government was not willing to respect the vision put forward by Inuit and break down the silos in Ottawa.

Because of these Agreements Inuit will be able to pursue careers in environmental stewardship and wildlife monitoring through our Nauttisuqtiit program. The Nauttisuqtiit, or Inuit stewards, are the eyes and ears of Tallurutiup Imanga – not only monitoring the region but also harvesting to help feed and benefit their communities.

The Nauttisuqtiit positions are a natural fit as Inuit have always protected these waters, icescapes and wildlife. We are the stewards of the High Arctic. With the Arctic rapidly warming and the ice-free season getting longer, these investments in marine infrastructure will allow Inuit to better adapt and be resilient to the changing conditions.



ABOUT THE IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

ARCTIC BAY, CLYDE RIVER, GRISE FIORD, POND INLET, AND RESOLUTE BAY.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGREEMENTS

The Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq Agreements outline important benefits and investments in the Qikiqtani communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay. These benefits and investments are in areas of infrastructure, governance, jobs and programs.

OVER \$190 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS (THROUGH FEDERAL PROGRAMS)

MULTI-USE FACILITIES AND COUNTRY FOOD PROCESSING UNITS for all five communities (funded by Parks Canada).

COMMUNITY HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay (funded by Transport Canada).

SMALL CRAFT HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT in Arctic Bay and Clyde River (funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada).

A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN POND INLET (partially funded by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency). QIA has secured an additional \$10 million commitment for the Regional Training Centre through the Mary River IIBA.

OVER \$54 MILLION IN GOVERNANCE, JOBS AND PROGRAMS INVESTMENT (THROUGH THE INUIT IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT)

MEANINGFUL JOB CREATION in the five communities for Nauttisuqtiit.

NEW COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE MODEL including Imaq, an Inuit Advisory Body, and the Aulattiqatigiit Board, a joint Inuit/Government consensus management board.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT opportunities within or adjacent to Tallurutiup Imanga.

TUVAIJUITTUQ INTERIM PROTECTION to freeze the footprint of the area while a feasibility assessment is conducted, which will include community engagement, and further research.

ON-THE-LAND PROGRAMS to target youth and focus on land skills and knowledge transfer of Inuit cultural practices and values. The Nauttisuqtiit will support the program delivery.

MARINE NAVIGATION training investments for Inuit such as marine certification training in small vessel operation and marine emergency duties.

INUIT-LED RESEARCH including the development of a Research and Monitoring Strategy to facilitate Inuit and community-led research and monitoring efforts in the marine conservation area.

TRAINING, SCHOLARSHIPS AND CAPACITY BUILDING to ensure Inuit can access training to secure jobs related to Tallurutiup Imanga.

HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATIONS' capacity development and participation in governance and management for the five adjacent communities.



ABOUT NAUTTIQSUQTIIT

“We are the eyes and the ears of the region. We are monitoring to capture the change.”

**- Mishak Allurut,
Nauttiqsuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay**

An important component of the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement is the Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit Steward program.

This program provides Inuit roles in environmental stewardship and harvesting in the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. It also provides a foundation for training, jobs, and other economic opportunities for Inuit.

In July 2018, QIA launched the Tallurutiup Imanga Nauttiqsuqtiit pilot program in Arctic Bay as an early benefit. The program is made possible through contributions from Parks Canada. This program formalizes Inuit roles in environmental stewardship and harvesting in the marine protected area. It also provides a foundation for training, jobs, and other economic opportunities for Inuit.

Through the Nauttiqsuqtiit Tallurutiup Imanga pilot program, Nauttiqsuqtiit, or Inuit stewards, managed the marine area around Arctic Bay. The stewards monitored the ecological health of the region, maintained cultural sites, contributed to land and marine planning and management, and promoted intergenerational sharing of Inuit knowledge. As part of the monitoring work, the stewards were active harvesters who shared their catch with the community.

The success of this pilot program resulted in its inclusion in the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement and its expansion to Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, and Resolute Bay.



ABOUT THEIR JOB:

AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE NAUTTIQSUQTIIT



CULTURAL LIAISONS AND INTERPRETERS

Nauttiqsuqtiit welcome visitors to the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. They are the cultural liaisons and interpreters for the area.



MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Nauttiqsuqtiit conduct regular patrols of Tallurutiup Imanga to monitor the waters, sea ice conditions and wildlife.



HARVESTING AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

An important part of the Nauttiqsuqtiit work is harvesting marine animals and sharing their catch with the community.

“This position deals with what I’ve been fighting for, for years – protecting our waters.”

**- Niore Iqalukjuak,
Nauttiqsuqti Manager, Arctic Bay**



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nauttiqsuqtiit actively work with community members, acting as a bridge between Elders and youth.



GATHERING INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT

Nauttiqsuqtiit help in gathering Inuit Qaujimaqatqangit and traditional skills from Elders.



SEARCH AND RESCUE

Nauttiqsuqtiit assist with search and rescue efforts in the High Arctic when needed.



CULTURAL LIAISONS AND INTERPRETERS



“Tallurutiup Imanga is a project for the whole country, all of Canada, not just for Inuit. Around the world it is a recognized marine conservation area. We are part of that, we are proud to be part of that.”

**- Mishak Allurut,
Nauttisuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay**

Nauttisuqtiit are the cultural liaisons and interpreters for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. As part of this position they welcome tourists and visitors to the conservation area and assist them with understanding its cultural significance. They also assist visitors to prepare for excursions onto the sea ice or waters. Part of this work is safety orientation and briefings about the wildlife and cultural sites.



MONITORING AND RESEARCH

“Because of climate change, there are more hazards for hunters. We need to provide information for hunters so they stay safe.”

***- Mishak Allurut,
Nauttisuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay***

As part of their job, Nauttisuqtiit will conduct regular patrols of Tallurutiup Imanga. On the patrols they will gather observations about wildlife, sea ice, snow conditions, changes in the environment and human activity. These observations and data coupled with Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit provide the raw material to draw insights on the impacts of climate change.

The observations and information gathered also assists other harvesters and community members with travel in the region. For example, the location of the floe edge and any concerning areas of thin ice are documented and communicated. They also inform community members about where they can find ice bridges so Inuit can safely cross over ice leads

“Most of what we live on is from the ocean. When we are out hunting we lose track of time.”

- Mishak Allurut, Nauttisuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay

While monitoring, Nauttisuqtiit will also harvest wildlife and note the areas of land or sea ice that are being used for harvesting throughout the year. They will record the state of health of harvested animals including the size, fat content and any indication of injury or illness.

As part of the Arctic Bay pilot program, the team collaborated with the SmartICE project to gather data on sea ice conditions. The SmartICE system relies on a mix of sensors to transmit ice data and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit to enable safe travel over ice. Information from the sensors is combined with additional satellite data and local ice knowledge to create easy-to-use ice travel hazard maps.





HARVESTING AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

An important part of the Nauttisuqtiit work will be harvesting marine animals such as Arctic Char, shrimp, and seal. The harvesting is part of their wildlife monitoring work. The animals harvested not only provide valuable monitoring data but will also help to feed the community.

“Whatever we catch we share. We share with our Elders. We share with those who don’t have anything.”

***- Mike Akumalik,
Nauttisuqti, Arctic Bay***



“The sea provides for us.”
***- Niore Iqalukjuak,
Nauttisuqti Manager, Arctic Bay***

During the 10 months of the Arctic Bay pilot program, Nauttisuqtiit hosted three community feasts. Each feast attracted approximately 250 people from the community, from children to Elders. The feasts were scheduled in the period between the distribution of social assistance cheques and family allowance cheques, to help families in need access nutritious food, when funds are low.





HARVESTING AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY:

STIMULATING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

“I carve whale bones or even seal parts and most of the ladies here make kamiik and clothing out of the seal. Tallurutiup Imanga is really important not only for our cultural needs, but for money as well. Part of my living is carving.”

*- Jeremy Attagutsiak,
artist, Arctic Bay*

In accordance with Inuit cultural values, no parts of harvested animals are wasted. The products from the harvested animals such as tusks, fur and skin will be shared with local seamstresses, artisans and artists. These products are made into clothing, tools, jewellery and crafts that help to stimulate the local economy.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: YOUTH

The Nauttiqsuqtiit are all rooted in the five impacted communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, and Resolute Bay. Nauttiqsuqtiit are connected with other residents through family networks, as such, their approach to work is community-focused and community-led.

During the Arctic Bay pilot program, the Nauttiqsuqtiit team actively engaged youth in the community through ride-along programs as well as skill-building workshops such as igloo, harpoon and sakku making. Youth engagement was incorporated in everything the Nauttiqsuqtiit did, even their uniforms, the trademark blue parkas, were made by local seamstresses who used the project as a mentoring opportunity for young seamstresses. The same mentoring principle was applied with the other parts of the Nauttiqsuqtiit's uniform such as their Pangnirtung-style hats.



*“Taking youth on-the-land
clears their mind.”*

*- Niore Iqalukjuak,
Nauttiqsuqti Manager, Arctic Bay*

*“It gives them the skills to
think.”*

*- Mishak Allurut,
Nauttiqsuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay*



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

ELDERS



“I want to bridge the gap between youth and Elders and traditional knowledge.”

*- Niore Iqalukjuak,
Nauttisuqti Manager,
Arctic Bay*

Engagement with Elders will be a key component of the Nauttisuqtiit's work. Nauttisuqtiit will be a bridge between Elders and youth, passing down Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to the next generation.

During the Arctic Bay pilot program, the Nauttisuqtiit learned many traditional skills from Elders such as qamutiik making – in fact they used this skill to build three qamutiik which they now use to haul equipment for monitoring and harvesting.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Another part of the Nauttiqsuqtiit's community engagement work is informing local harvesters of any hazards such as unsafe ice conditions or polar bear sightings. The Nauttiqsuqtiit will work closely with the local Hunters and Trappers Organization to share this information and keep the community safe.

During the Arctic Bay pilot program, the team spotted many bears coming closer and closer to the town. In mid-April polar bears were seen only 20 kilometers away from town. The Nauttiqsutiq alerted the community of the polar bears' presence to ensure public safety when out on the land.

"We patrol for bears and ice conditions to inform our community."
- Mike Akumalik, Nauttiqsuqti, Arctic Bay

The Nauttiqsuqtiit will also monitor the sea ice conditions and identify ice bridges and share this information with the community. Joshua Kiguktak, the Arctic Bay Nauttiqsuqti team lead, assisted with the 20th anniversary of the Nunavut Quest dog sled race. Kiguktak travelled the route from Arctic Bay to Pond Inlet to find the safest passage for the race participants.

"I see changes in the Arctic climate, small changes."

**- Roland Taqtu,
Arctic Bay**





SEARCH AND RESCUE



“We support the search and rescue and the community, we help when our hunters run out of gas.”

***- Niore Iqalukjuak,
Nauttisuqti Manager,
Arctic Bay***

Due to the shortage of search and rescue services in the High Arctic, Nauttisuqtiit will step in when needed to assist the community. Without a Coast Guard presence in the region, all local search and rescue efforts are conducted by volunteers.

The Nauttisuqtiit in Arctic Bay assisted with search and rescue efforts when possible.

“We are filling a need.”

- Mishak Allurut, Nauttisuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay

The pilot program demonstrated that the Nauttisuqtiit’s familiarity with the community gives them insider knowledge on the people in need of help and their circumstances.

“We are here, we are available, we know the families and we get first-hand information.”

- Mishak Allurut, Nauttisuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay

The team was aware of any mental health issues and personal crises that could make someone particularly vulnerable. This knowledge can mean the difference of life and death when Inuit are in crises.

“Our job is non-judgemental when it comes to search and rescue.”

- Mishak Allurut, Nauttisuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay



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