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President's Message

Welcome to the Fall 2018 QIA Newsletter!

I can't believe fall is already here. It also means the last quarter of my term as president of QIA. As I look back, I can truly say that I have been honoured to serve Qikiqtani Inuit over the past few years, and to be able to contribute towards growing opportunities and resources for our communities.

This year has flown by and it has been a year of rapid activity in our region with many new programs and initiatives at QIA.

QIA staff have been very busy working toward the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement. In June, QIA, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Government of Nunavut took part in community visits to Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay to better understand what the needs are in each community for marine infrastructure such as small craft harbours.

In late July we launched our pilot Uattijit Program in Arctic Bay. This program is being rolled out as we work on negotiating the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). The pilot Uattijit Program formalizes Inuit stewardship and lays the foundation for much needed training, jobs and economic opportunities for Inuit. This stewardship model also recognizes, respects, and supports the active hunting and food sharing culture of Inuit today.



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TUSARASSAT

In the past few months we have gained momentum on the Tallurutiup Imanga file and have approached various federal government ministries to discuss delivery through a Whole of Government approach. In late July we also met with the Prime Minister's Office to discuss the IIBA negotiations on Tallurutiup Imanga.

In addition to our hard work and dedication on the Tallurutiup Imanga file, QIA staff has also been working diligently on our other important projects and programs.

In June we announced the first list of Qikiqtani Cultural Activities Program (QCAP) projects. The successful applications include 31 projects from individuals and community organizations from all 13 Qikiqtani communities for Inuit cultural projects. Some projects have already been completed and we have heard great feedback from organizers and participants. Because we were able to increase the QCAP budget, QIA put out a second call for project applications in August and we are now awarding these projects.

We are currently processing applications for our 80 post-secondary scholarships and the John

Amagoalik Scholarship. It is a pleasure to see the responses students have provided to us about how this money has helped them in their studies. We will be announcing the final list of recipients shortly.

This year marked the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Nunavut Agreement. We had the opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary in Iqaluit on Nunavut Day. In partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., we hosted a Nunavut 25 celebration in Cape Dorset in late August.

Despite only having a few months left in this term, I know that I still have a lot more opportunities to connect with Qikiqtani Inuit in the coming days and weeks as we move through our busy fall activities. I look forward to serving you for the remainder of my term as President of QIA.

P.J. Akeegagok

www.qia.ca

info@qia.ca

@QikiqtaniInuit

@Qikiqtani_Inuit

@Qikiqtani_Inuit



Uattijiit: Arctic Bay's Pilot Tallurutiup Imanga Program

On July 18th P.J. Akeeagok, QIA president, along with Catherine McKenna, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, announced the Arctic Bay pilot Tallurutiup Imanga Program – Uattijiit Program.

The Uattijiit Program will be part of the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) that QIA is currently negotiating with Parks Canada. This Arctic Bay Uattijiit Program is a pilot that QIA is rolling out before the IIBA is finalized as an early benefit for the Tallurutiup Imanga communities.

The Uattijiit Program will hire community Inuit stewards. The Inuit stewards will work to manage the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine

Conservation Area. They will monitor ecological health, maintain cultural sites, contribute to land and marine planning and management, and promote intergenerational sharing of Indigenous knowledge. Training and safety are strong components of the Uattijiit Program.

The Arctic Bay pilot Uattijiit Program will help to define the roles of the Inuit stewards and the future Uattijiit Programs for Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

The Uattijiit Program is run by QIA with funding support from Parks Canada. Parks has contributed \$900,000 to the pilot project.

Establishing the Pilot Uattijiit Program in Arctic Bay

April

The Uattijiit Program received overwhelming support at the QIA and Parks Canada hosted community engagement. The community recommended a community-based advisory committee to provide advice to the Inuit stewards.

QIA establishes a community-based advisory committee. The committee will oversee the work and provide advice on priorities for the Uattijiit Program.

August

QIA travels to Arctic Bay to recruit seven new employees for the Uattijiit Program. QIA will hire one community based coordinator, one crew leader and five Inuit stewards.

“Parks Canada is proud to work collaboratively with Inuit to protect and safeguard the Tallurutiup Imanga region. By establishing the Guardian [Uattijiit] program with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, we will bring new employment and economic opportunities to the area, and help Inuit protect the waters and connect them with Canadians and visitors from around the world.”

The Honourable
Catherine McKenna,

Minister of Environment and Climate Change
and Minister responsible for Parks Canada

“I think it is important because we have to protect the marine mammals, especially because they are our main source of food”.

James Simone

Pond Inlet Monitor



Pond Inlet Community Monitoring Project

The Pond Inlet Community-Based Monitoring Project was introduced in 2017. This Project has been a great success and will be extended for at least two more years. QIA established the project in response to community concerns about the possible effects seismic testing and increased shipping may have on sea mammals.

“Our team was near the floe edge waiting for seals and we saw a polar bear in the distance,” recounts Steven Lonsdale, one of the QIA staff leading the program. “Over the period of an hour he got closer and closer to the point where we had to drive him off.”

Through this project, QIA has hired six environmental/wildlife monitors who will be working on a rotating seasonal schedule. This year community monitors participated in three seasonal training sessions; on the sea ice in the spring, on the open water in the fall, and in the winter dark season.

As part of their duties the monitors harvest animals to record their state of health by observing fat content and any indication of injuries. The monitors are also noting the areas of land or sea ice used for harvesting activities over the course of the year.

The training sessions included GPS use and navigation, and data collection techniques and procedures. Each session included a field exercise involving both QIA staff and Pond Inlet monitors.

QIA's project team has had follow-up meetings and presentations in Pond Inlet with the monitors and the Hunters and Trappers Organization. The team is hoping to have another training session before the end of the open water season this year.

The monitoring team had some great experiences and encounters while out on training sessions. On one session they encountered an uninvited guest.

The Pond Inlet Community-Based Monitoring Project is funded by the Government of Canada through the Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program.



Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA

Marine Infrastructure Meetings

In June, QIA and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) jointly hosted meetings in Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. The meetings gave us a chance to meet with each community to discuss their needs for marine infrastructure. These meetings were a part of the ongoing work on the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and its Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA).

As part of the community tour, the project team also visited Pangnirtung to learn more about the successes and challenges of their small craft harbour. Pond Inlet is one of the five Tallurutiup Imanga Communities but was not visited because there is currently a small craft harbour under development in the community.

The project team met with the Hamlet Councils, Hunters and Trappers Organizations and the QIA Community Lands and Resource Committee (CLARC) members. All communities identified that a small craft harbour would significantly improve their access to the water and offer a safe location protected from ice and storms to move their boats.

Community members also noted that safe access to the waters is crucial in their hamlets because of the importance of hunting and fishing to Inuit. Communities are also getting more involved in fisheries and proper marine infrastructure will greatly support and promote this industry.

In Pangnirtung, the team saw the benefits the small craft harbour brought to the community. It has improved safety and access to the waters, improved summer fisheries, supported outfitting businesses, and provided short-term employment during construction. We were encouraged to learn about all the benefits it brought to Pangnirtung and what that will mean for the Tallurutiup Imanga communities.

QIA will continue to work with DFO on marine infrastructure. The next step is completing feasibility studies for marine infrastructure in each of these communities





Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Nunavut Agreement on Nunavut Day

Nunavut Day was celebrated with a little extra oomph this year. 2018 marks the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Nunavut Agreement. The Agreement is the foundation on which Nunavut has grown. It was created to bring real benefits to all Nunavut Inuit.

Much has been achieved since the signing of the Agreement and all the Inuit Organizations and Boards it created have worked tirelessly to fulfill their obligations under the Agreement and will continue to do so for the next 25 years and beyond.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) is marking the Agreement's 25th Anniversary with a Nunavut-wide year-long celebration. NTI hosted a day of festivities in Iqaluit on July 9th with a street festival including live music, country food, Inuit games, children's activities, and giveaways, QIA joined in on the fun.





QCAP awarded projects include activities such as hunting and on-the-land trips, throat singing workshops, print making workshops, sealskin preparation, and parka making

QCAP - 31 community projects announced

In June QIA announced 31 successful applicants for QCAP – Qikiqtani Cultural Activities Program. QIA received applications from individuals and organizations from every Qikiqtani community and is pleased to announce all 13 Qikiqtani communities were awarded QCAP projects.

During extensive consultations with communities in 2017, QIA heard clearly that Qikiqtani Inuit wanted cultural programs that foster traditional skills and strengthen Inuit identity, particularly land and sewing programs. The QCAP application selection process prioritized land and sewing programs with consideration for other Inuit cultural programs as program capacity allowed.

This year under QCAP, each Qikiqtani community can access up to \$53,000. The QIA Board increased the budget for QCAP in 2018 at the May Board meeting in Qikiqtarjuaq. The initial QCAP budget was \$33,000 per community, additional money in the Benefits Fund made it possible to increase the program budget.

QCAP was one of the programs selected by the QIA Board of Directors in October 2017 to be part of the new Benefits Fund spending. Money for the Benefits Fund is derived from the Legacy Fund; as the Legacy Fund grows its revenues go to the Benefits Fund to increase programs for Inuit.



f @QikiqtaniInuit
 @Qikiqtani_Inuit

The second QCAP call for proposals was issued in late July.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on the new QCAP projects.

“It’s exciting to see so many proposals for innovative projects across all 13 Qikiqtani communities. Programs connected to our culture and traditions are essential for fostering Inuit pride and empowering our youth.”

P.J. Akeeagok
 QIA president



“I’m committed to improving affordability of daycare for families across Qikiqtani. Access to affordable daycares gives children a head start and parents the opportunity to re-enter the workforce sooner.”

P.J. Akeeagok

QIA president

QIA Doubles the Daycare Subsidy Program

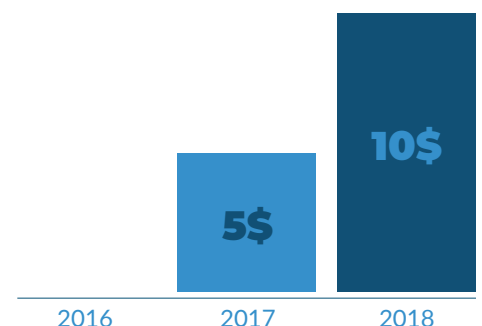
QIA is happy to announce that our Executive Committee passed a resolution at their May 2018 meeting to double the QIA contribution for the Daycare Subsidy Program from \$5 to \$10. This will represent an annual QIA investment of \$500,000 in daycares. This QIA subsidy contributes up to \$2,500 per child per year in savings for Qikiqtani parents improving access to affordable daycares in our communities.

A common theme raised by community members during the QIA 2017 spring tour was early childhood learning and daycare access. Parents asked for help with daycare costs and QIA responded. In October 2017 QIA announced a \$5 daycare subsidy top-up to the Kakivak Association's parental subsidy for daycare users. This subsidy is available to Qikiqtani families registered with the Nunavut Agreement. QIA has now doubled our top-up to \$10 per day per child.

The Kakivak Association provides funding to Qikiqtani Inuit parents who have children attending a licenced daycare. Kakivak provides up to \$19 per day. With QIA's \$10 top-up parents can access up to \$29 per day per child in daycare subsidies.

This QIA Daycare Subsidy will run on a trial basis until March 2020. During the trial period, QIA will continue to evaluate whether the program is an effective way to improve access to affordable daycare for Inuit in our communities. The increase to \$10 per day is retro-active to April 1, 2018.

Annual QIA investment of \$500,000 in daycares.





Resources for Daycares

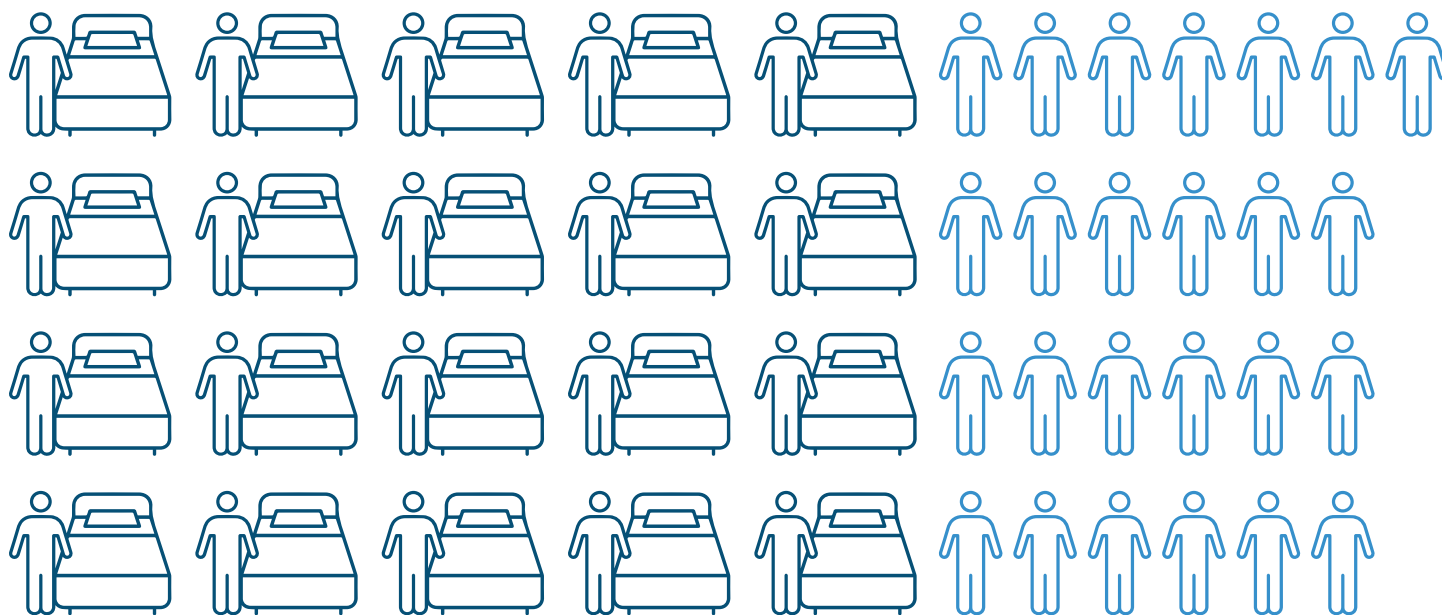
During the 2017 QIA community tour we heard that Inuit want more resources for daycares and early childhood learning. Qikiqtani Inuit told us that they want daycare resources in Inuktitut informed by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Principles. Parents told us that they want their children to be able to see themselves and their culture portrayed in these daycare resources.

In the fall of 2017, the QIA Board of Directors approved funding to create Inuktitut resources for daycares and early childhood learning from the Benefits Fund. QIA has been working with Inhabit Media to create these resources. Some of the resources being developed are:

- Custom hand puppets of arctic animals and a puppet themed story book
- High-contrast books for infants featuring Inuit clothing, shapes and patterns
- Sequence books to help young learners learn how to use books
- Interactive books to build vocabulary for young learners
- An Early Childhood Education Inuktitut Phonics Program
- Tray puzzles illustrated by renowned artist Germaine Arnaktauyok
- Floor puzzle with a northern water scene.

We can't wait to finalize the design of these resources and start production so they can be distributed to our daycares across the Qikiqtani Region!





Currently, Iqaluit's men's shelter only has 20 beds and often has 35-45 men staying there on any given night.

“Lack of affordable housing and homelessness are issues affecting too many Inuit in our region. This project is an exciting initiative that can make a real difference in the lives of Inuit in need.”

P.J. Akeeagok

QIA president

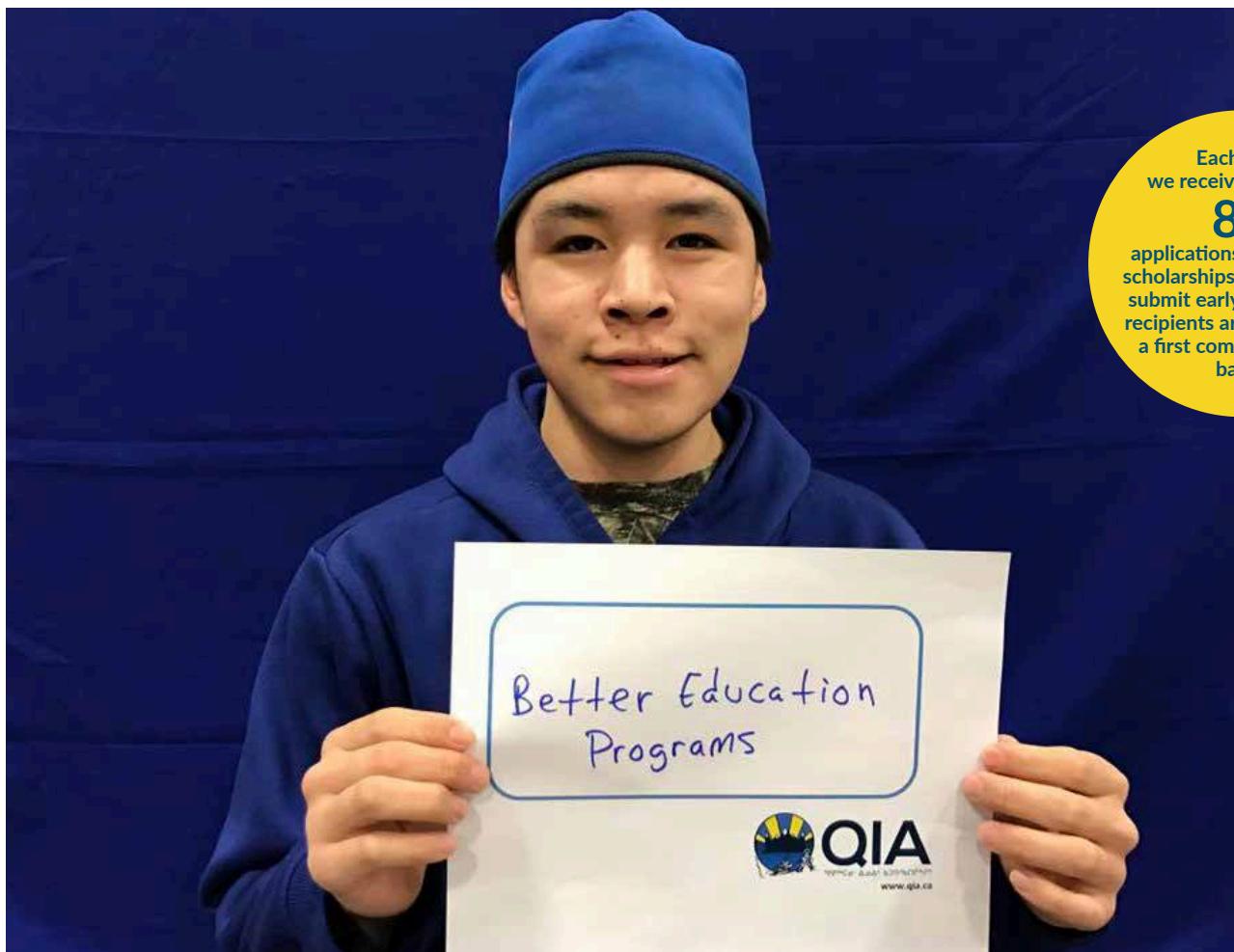
QIA Supports Men's Transitional Housing in Iqaluit

The QIA Executive Committee passed a resolution at the May 2018 meeting to conditionally pledge \$100,000 towards Uquutaq Society for the Men's Transitional Housing Project. The Uquutaq Society is proposing to improve and expand their current services and is seeking funding support.

Currently the Uquutaq Society offers much needed emergency over-night shelter. If sufficient funding is secured for the Men's Transitional Housing Project the services will be expanded to include transitional housing and establish programming such as mental-health support, skill development and employment coaching.

In early 2018, representatives of the Uquutaq Society and the City of Iqaluit made a presentation to the QIA Board of Directors. The presentation offered a clear picture of the current state of emergency at the men's shelter in Iqaluit and the urgent need for transitional housing and programming support. The Board was moved by the presentation and compelled to offer support.

QIA's pledge will go towards the total project costs, however for the Project to proceed, it will require additional funders. QIA is pleased to support projects that work towards fostering Inuit health and well-being.



Each year
we receive well over

80

applications for our QIA
scholarships so be sure to
submit early next year as
recipients are selected on
a first come first serve
basis!

"I'm proud of our QIA scholarships, these scholarships are an investment in the future of Inuit because they give young people the tools they need to succeed in the future."

P.J. Akeeagok

QIA president

Scholarships

QIA's 2018-2019 post-secondary scholarships started accepting applications in late June. This year we were excited to introduce a unified and easy to navigate online application tool for both our QIA Scholarship and the John Amagoalik Scholarship. The new online QIA scholarship application platform on our website allows students to apply for one or both of these scholarships using a single online form.

\$5,000 John Amagoalik Scholarship

Honours the efforts of John Amagoalik towards the betterment of Inuit in Nunavut. Recipients are post-secondary students entering a field that promotes Inuit language and culture.

\$2,500 QIA Scholarships.

Each year, QIA offers 80 scholarships, each \$2,500 to students from the Qikiqtani Region pursuing post-secondary education.





QIA in Cape Dorset

QIA was in Cape Dorset August 27th to 29th to partake in the NTI Board Meetings. While in Cape Dorset NTI and QIA hosted a community feast on August 28th to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Nunavut Agreement. Over 500 people came out for the feast and celebration. There was lots of country food, locally made cakes, pizza, prizes, entertainment and square dancing.

While in Cape Dorset we were lucky to get a tour of the Kenojuak Cultural Centre and Print Shop before its official opening on September 5th, 2018. QIA is proud to have financially supported the development and establishment of the print shop and we are excited to expand our existing relationship with the print shop to work on special projects that benefit Inuit.

QIA and NTI were thrilled to get a tour of the beautiful new Peter Pitseolak High School on the first day of school. This state of the art educational facility is sure to become a community hub that will inspire the youth of Cape Dorset.

