

NAUTTIQSUQTIIT

TALLURUTIUP IMANGA
NAUTTIQSUQTIIT

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT
PROVIDING FOR OUR PEOPLE



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INUIT ASSOCIATION

Two other organizations operate under the QIA umbrella: Kakivak Association, responsible for community economic development and small businesses; and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, created to manage economic development on behalf of QIA.

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 interim protection for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

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 these 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

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

- P.J. Akeeagok, QIA President

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.

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 Nauttitsuqtiit program. The Nauttitsuqtiit, 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 Nauttitsuqtiit positions are a natural fit as Inuit have always protected these waters, icescapes and wildlife. They 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 TALLURUTIUP IMANGA ADJACENT COMMUNITIES

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



3,865 TOTAL POPULATION

92% INUIT POPULATION



85% INUKTITUT SPEAKING



27.12 AVERAGE AGE

19% POPULATION WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



28% OVERCROWDED HOUSING



35% EMPLOYMENT RATE



20,491 AVERAGE INCOME

44% SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

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 INVESTMENTS (THROUGH THE INUIT IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT)

MEANINGFUL JOB CREATION in the five communities for Nauttigsuqtiit.

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 Nauttigsuqtiit 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,
Nauttisuqti Coordinator, Arctic Bay**

An important component of the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement is the Nauttisuqtiit 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 Nauttisuqtiit 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.

The Nauttisuqtiit 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.



IMPACT OF THE ARCTIC BAY NAUTTIQSUQTIIT

“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**

In its inaugural year the Nauttisuqtiit pilot program had a notable impact on the social and economic well-being of Arctic Bay. Five of the six Nauttisuqtiit are sole providers for their families. Collectively, they support approximately 11 adults and 22 children.

But their contribution and support extends far beyond providing for their own families. The Arctic Char, seal and other animals harvested by the Nauttisuqtiit was shared with the community in feasts to help feed the hungry. The nonedible animal parts were shared with seamstresses and artisans to bolster the local economy.

The Nauttisuqtiit bridged the gap between youth and Elders. The skills and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit they acquired from working with Elders was passed down to young Inuit eager to learn land skills. Youth engagement was incorporated in everything the Nauttisuqtiit did, even their uniforms, the trademark blue parkas, were made by local seamstresses who used the project as a mentoring opportunity for young seamstresses.



NAUTTIQSUQTIIT SPOTLIGHT NIORE IQALUKJUAK

NAUTTIQSUQTI MANAGER, ARCTIC BAY

Niore Iqalukjuak is an environmental advocate and photographer who has campaigned to protect and preserve the High Arctic throughout his life. Iqalukjuak has served as Hamlet Mayor for three terms and is one of the founding members of the Nunavut Quest, an annual dog sled race. Iqalukjuak's parents were relocated from their traditional settlement in Scott's Inlet to Clyde River, where he was born.

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



MARRIED WITH THREE DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON



SOLE PROVIDER FOR FAMILY



FOUR PEOPLE LIVING IN A THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE



NAUTTIQSUQTIIT SPOTLIGHT MISHAK ALLURUT

NAUTTIQSUQTI COORDINATOR, ARCTIC BAY

Mishak Allurut is a community leader and translator with a masterful command of Inuktitut. Allurut has lived in Arctic Bay since he was six years old, when his family was relocated from their traditional campsite for Allurut and his siblings to be enrolled in the government mandated school.

Allurut left his studies in Grade 8, later returning as a mature student to upgrade his education through Nunavut Arctic College.

Throughout his career Allurut has worked various jobs ranging from a mine worker to a wildlife officer.

“I know there are youth without fathers. We can provide them the opportunity to learn. We can teach them the traditional way to catch seal with a harpoon.”



MARRIED WITH SEVEN CHILDREN; THREE BIOLOGICAL AND FOUR ADOPTED, 15 GRANDCHILDREN, AND ONE GREAT-GRANDCHILD



SOLE PROVIDER FOR FAMILY



SIX PEOPLE LIVING IN A FOUR-BEDROOM HOUSE



NAUTTIQSUQTIIT ROLES

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



CULTURAL LIAISONS AND INTERPRETERS

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



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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



MONITORING AND RESEARCH

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



GATHERING INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT

Nauttiguqtiit help in gathering Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit and traditional skills from Elders.



HARVESTING AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

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



SEARCH AND RESCUE

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



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