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## President's Message

2018 is an exciting year for Nunavut – it marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Nunavut Agreement. As we reflect on the strength, resilience and dedication of those who worked so hard to realize this momentous Agreement, we also look to the future of delivering on the promises that were passionately negotiated.

The Government of Canada has taken a new approach to Indigenous-Crown relations. This new approach is reflected in the deployment of a whole of government strategy, a renewed Arctic Policy Framework, and Ministerial mandate letters prioritizing Indigenous relations. We at QIA have actively pursued fostering better communication and working relationships with Prime Minister Trudeau's government and delivering projects through a whole-of-government approach.

To support this approach, the QIA recently developed "A New Approach to Economic Development in Nunavut" and presented it to the Federal Government in January and most recently developed "Inuit & Tallurutiup Imanga: A New Stewardship Model". The Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement is undoubtedly one of the largest projects QIA is currently undertaking. This IIBA will have lasting impacts for years to come.

In the context of reconciliation, it is not enough to focus on conservation. Inuit need a pathway to sustainable economies. Our work offers a chance to translate the traditional roles that Inuit have played as stewards, guardians and harvesters into opportunities for economic prosperity. We are in favour of a whole-of-government approach in the IIBA negotiations, prioritizing infrastructure, economic opportunities and Inuit-led management of Tallurutiup Imanga.



As we negotiate the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA, we are also renegotiating the Mary River IIBA, championing benefits for the five impacted communities. The renegotiation process has already resulted in improved access for Inuit to jobs at the mine.

The first Q-STEP graduates have already transitioned from training to employment and we are very proud of their success. We have over 350 enrolled in Tuttarvik, our new Inuit labour pool database, so we can see the great potential this resource offers Qikiqtani Inuit.

We have so many wonderful programs underway and we are excited to share them with you. In April QIA hosted Elders from Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung and Iqaluit as part of the Ipitiki program. As with many of the great programs and projects underway, the Ipitiki program will have long lasting impacts as the literacy packages and daycare resources developed with Elders will inspire the youth of today and tomorrow.

Twenty-five years ago, we as Inuit opted through the Nunavut Agreement to be Canadians, to proudly guard the Arctic while keeping the entirety of our Country in view. I am proud to be Canadian, proud to be Inuit and proud to have the opportunity to serve Qikiqtani Inuit in my position as President of QIA. The Nunavut Agreement has guided our development, delivery and perseverance of many impactful and positive initiatives that I am proud to have been a part of. I will continue to work hard for the remainder of my term to ensure the Nunavut Agreement is reflected in our work and I look forward to the benefits it will bring to our families.

P.J. Akeeagok

# Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Nunavut Agreement

May 25th, 2018 marked 25 years since the signing of the Nunavut (Land Claims) Agreement. The Agreement is the foundation on which Nunavut has grown and will continue to build and guide our future. It was signed to bring real benefits to all Nunavut Inuit.

QIA is a Designated Inuit Organization under the Nunavut Agreement. This means we have certain roles under the Agreement that we must fulfill, and we use the Agreement to guide our mandates and day-to-day activities. Under the Agreement, QIA is responsible for managing Inuit Owned Lands in the Qikiqtani Region on behalf of the 14,000 Inuit we represent. We look to the Agreement to guide our decisions and programs to promote the Inuit language and traditions, Inuit environmental values and self-sufficiency, and to promote the economic, social and cultural well-being of Inuit. We at QIA feel privileged for the opportunity to serve the Qikiqtani Inuit through the implementation of the Nunavut Agreement.



Negotiating the Nunavut Agreement was an intense process that spanned 20 years. Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (now NTI) was instrumental during this time in engaging the Inuit of the region to better understand what Inuit wanted for their future and to ensure this was incorporated into the Agreement. We are thankful to the Inuit negotiators who never once relented on their primary goal of self-government

and a separate territory. The Agreement became law after it was signed by Paul Quassa, the then president of NTI, and Brian Mulroney, the then Prime Minister of Canada, on May 25th 1993.

The Nunavut Agreement guides the mandates of Nunavut's Inuit Organizations and the Boards that were created under the Agreement for the joint management of lands, water and wildlife resources. The Agreement protects Inuit rights for the use of lands, water and resources and provides financial compensation and a means of participating in economic development. Much has been achieved since the signing of the Agreement 25 years ago, all of the Inuit Organizations and Boards have worked tirelessly to fulfill their obligations under the Agreement and will continue to do so.

## Quick Facts about the Nunavut Agreement:

1. The Agreement dedicates 350,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the land in Nunavut as Inuit Owned Land (that's almost the size of Newfoundland and Labrador!). 44% of this land is in the Qikiqtani region making QIA one of the world's largest private land owners!
2. The Nunavut Agreement is the largest Indigenous land claims settlement in Canadian History and involves the largest number of beneficiaries.
3. Under the Agreement, five (soon to be six) Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreements have been signed in the Qikiqtani Region.
4. The Agreement requires a share of royalties for Nunavut Inuit from resource development such as oil, gas and minerals and provides the right to negotiate with industry for economic and social benefits with non-renewable resource development.
5. In 2015, NTI negotiated an additional \$255.5 million settlement with the Government of Canada for failure to implement various promises made in the 1993 Agreement. The majority of this funding is dedicated to providing training for Inuit employment.

The Nunavut Agreement is lengthy (300 pages!) and can be difficult to understand in any language as it captures complex legal ideas. It required many, many new words to be developed in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. On the 10th anniversary of the Agreement, NTI published a Plain Language Guide to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that is much shorter and simplifies the ideas of the Agreement. This easy to understand guide is available on the NTI and QIA websites.

Five years ago three master carvers, Inuk Charlie of Taloyoak, Paul Malliki of Nauyasat, and Looty Pijamini of Grise Fiord created the monument that prominently stands in front of the NTI and QIA building in our Capital City. NTI commissioned this monument to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Nunavut Agreement and to honour those who worked tirelessly to realize the vision of self-government and a separate territory for Inuit people.



On July 9th, Nunavut's birthday, NTI will launch a one-year campaign to celebrate the Agreement's 25th anniversary. NTI will lead the celebrations and host different events across the Territory. Keep an eye out for these celebrations in your community!

# Tallurutiup Imanga Update

2018 has been a flurry of activities related to the establishment of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). Following the community tours of the five impacted communities, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Clyde River and Pond Inlet, QIA staff have been working to champion for benefits such as for jobs, infrastructure, economic opportunities and Inuit-led management and stewardship of Tallurutiup Imanga. The rapid pace of meetings and negotiations over the past few months has certainly kept us busy!

## Interim Management Plan

QIA is working with Parks Canada to develop an Interim Management Plan. The Management Plan will be a strategic guide for the first five years of operation of the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and will include management objectives and a zoning plan.

To guide the development of this Interim Management Plan, the QIA, the Government of Nunavut and Parks Canada hosted a second round of community meetings to gather feedback and input from community members about community issues, challenges and opportunities related to managing this proposed NMCA. The team held community meetings in Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay in May, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord in June and with Clyde River in early July.

Our team met with hamlets, hunters and trappers' organizations, Community Land and Resources Committees, Joint Park Management Committees, youth, Indigenous Knowledge Working Groups and hosted open houses for community members.

## IIBA Negotiations

To support and guide the ongoing Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA negotiations, QIA staff have developed several supporting documents including: A New Approach to Economic Development in Nunavut, Inuit & Tallurutiup Imanga: A New Stewardship Model, and

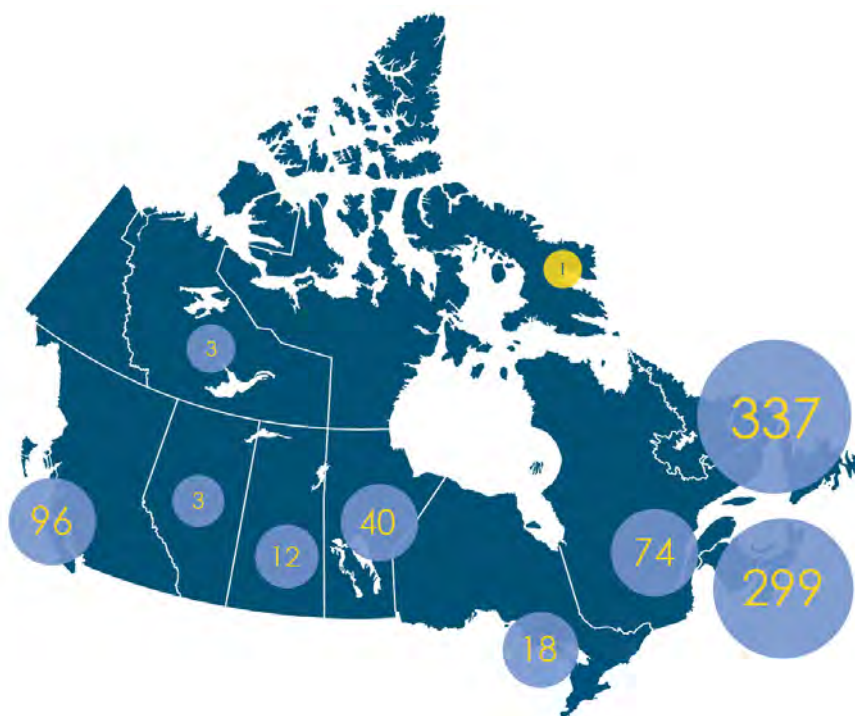
Tallurutiup Imanga and Food Sovereignty. These have been presented to various levels of federal ministries to demonstrate our commitment and desire to working together through a whole-of-government approach to bring economic opportunities and to foster self-reliance and cultural and social well-being through the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA.

This IIBA will have lasting impacts for years to come. We are pursuing a whole-of-government approach in the IIBA negotiations prioritizing not only infrastructure and economic opportunities, but Inuit-led management of Tallurutiup Imanga. Some measures that we are working to put in place as part of this IIBA include:

- Small craft harbours in each of the Tallurutiup Imanga communities. Our communities require infrastructure: harbours, docks, boats, gear, and processing facilities. This infrastructure will allow us to take full advantage of the jobs we create, grow our economy by developing sustainable fisheries industries, and offer better quality of life for our communities.

- Permanent training programs to ensure that Inuit are employed as a result of the NMCA creation. Unique Guardian and Harvester positions within Tallurutiup Imanga will realize tangible direct economic benefits while engaging youth and building individual Inuit capacity and autonomy.
- Governance lead by Inuit to ensure that we are at the forefront of decisions critical to the objectives of conservation. For QIA, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area will be successful if Inuit are leading the management and making the key decisions affecting our communities in the region.

We are still on schedule to complete the final negotiations with Parks Canada by March 2019. We continue to hold the Federal Government to their commitment to working in a whole-of-government approach on this very important IIBA. The negotiation team will continue to update and inform the five impacted communities and encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming community meetings.



There are over 1,000 harbours overseen by DFO's Small Craft Harbours Program across Canada. Collectively they represent 10,000 structures valued at \$6.03 billion.<sup>9</sup> There is 1 harbour in Nunavut. Numbers are based on Harbour Authority Statistics of Core Fishing Harbours, does not include other infrastructure maintained or operated by DFO.



# QIA Spring Board Meeting

The QIA 2018 spring board meeting was held in Qikiqtarjuaq from May 8-10th. The Board was honoured to receive a special address from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. President Aluki Kotierk and a presentation from Premier Paul Quassa on Turaagtavut, the Government of Nunavut's mandate for the next four years. QIA's activities on key files were on the agenda including the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and presentations on QIA's Subsidiary Organizations' financial reports (Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and Kakivak Association). Many community members came out to celebrate with QIA at a community feast and some were lucky enough to win exciting door prizes!





# Mary River Project Updates

## Highlights from the IIBA Renegotiation Community Visits

In April QIA hosted community meetings and information sessions to gather input and insights on the renegotiation of the Mary River Project Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA).

The IIBA was first signed on September 6, 2013 and was established to ensure the negative impacts of the mine are minimized while providing Inuit with benefits that go beyond what would naturally occur. Article 22.2 states an IIBA review shall be conducted every three years to determine whether its objectives are being met. QIA's three-year review identified the IIBA had not been implemented in a manner that maximizes benefits to Inuit. The review highlighted lost benefits to Inuit such as training programs, employment, Inuit Firm contracting and the social and cultural impacts. Therefore, pursuant to Article 22.4, QIA is pursuing the renegotiation of this IIBA to rectify the shortfalls.



To inform the renegotiation, QIA hosted a series of community meetings in the five impacted communities; Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik and Pond Inlet. The meetings were led by the QIA team's Chief Negotiator, Eva Aariak, and Co-Negotiator, George Qulaut. The QIA team met with hamlet councils, hunters and trappers' organizations, Community Land and Resources Committees and hosted public gatherings for community members. During these meetings, the QIA team sought input on the how to improve the IIBA and enhance the benefits it brings to Inuit.



## How can you get a job at the Mary River Project?

Register with QIA's new Inuit Labour pool database, Tuttarvik, by emailing to [tuttarvik@qia.ca](mailto:tuttarvik@qia.ca) or talk to your local QIA Community Liaison Officer.

## There is now better access to jobs at Mary River!

Progress has been made on the renegotiation and implementation of benefits stipulated in the IIBA. We are very encouraged that Baffinland is now hiring and transporting Inuit employees from all 13 Qikiqtani communities. To date Article 7.6.2. has not been implemented by Baffinland. Through the hard work of QIA's negotiation team during the renegotiation process, Baffinland is now fulfilling Article 7.6.2. and covering the travel costs of flights, hotels, and meals for Inuit employees from all 13 communities within the Qikiqtani Region to the Baffinland pick-up locations. This also applies to Baffinland employees from the Qikiqtani region who may be studying and residing in the Kivalliq or Kitikmeot regions as part of their training and apprenticeship work.

"Increasing Inuit employment numbers at the Mary River Project has been one of our main focuses at QIA," says President P.J. Akeeagok, "the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement we negotiated with Baffinland is there to ensure that development on Inuit Owned Land translates into opportunities and jobs for Inuit in our region."



The QIA renegotiation team sought input on several key areas and heard valuable feedback from each community. Overall it was received that improved communication and transparency is needed through regular updates and information sharing. Many Inuit expressed they wanted more information on the Mary River IIBA and would like a more accessible way of learning about it. The input from the communities is invaluable and many important points were raised. We have attempted to capture the spirit of the feedback recognizing we cannot do justice to all the great ideas raised in the small space of this newsletter.

- Training and Education:** Accessible training and education opportunities should be prioritized. Many are concerned the training programs are run in English and if run in Inuktitut would foster greater participation. Many Inuit want training for higher-level jobs such as management, electricians and mechanics. Inuit want QIA to be more involved in training and employment at the Mary River project.
- Employment:** Equitable Inuit employment should be prioritized. Inuit want good jobs at the mine to be made available to them and the Inuit employment rate needs to increase. Inuit want more information on the jobs available through outreach materials and career fairs. Many Inuit feel there are too many barriers to employment at the mines such as the lack of administration for pre-trade exams, the long response time to job applications, and the lack of support for job retention.
- Contracting:** Inuit feel that more opportunities need to be made available for Inuit contracting and not just on simple contracts and would like to see QIA offer more training about contracts.
- Social and Cultural:** More social services are needed at the mine such as counsellors and employment assistance services. Inuit suggested that QIA should be more involved on the mine site and in the exit surveys to gain a better understanding of why Inuit are leaving jobs at the mine. It was identified that Inuit morale can be increased at the mine by making country food available and providing more access to traditional practices.
- Implementation, Monitoring and Enforcement:** Inuit do not want to undergo another arbitration with Baffinland, monitoring mechanisms within the IIBA are preferred to mitigate any future disputes. Communities requested that any communication and negotiations with Baffinland are through QIA and not directly between Baffinland and community hamlet councils and HTOs. Inuit would like to see more monitoring around the impacts of the ships on hunting areas and on the impacts of dust from blasting and transportation.

The QIA renegotiation team is championing this feedback during their renegotiations. We will develop more resources to better share information with Qikiqtani Inuit about the IIBA and related programs, initiatives and services. As we proceed through the next steps of the IIBA renegotiations, we will be returning to the five impacted communities to share our progress.





## Annual Project Review Forum

QIA and Baffinland hosted the Mary River Annual Project Review Forum in Hall Beach on April 17th and 18th. The two-day forum was very productive. The Qikiqtani Community Directors, an elder and youth delegate from each of the five Mary River impacted communities, and QIA and Baffinland representatives came together to review the impacts and plans for improvement related to the mine. The public was invited to the meetings to ask questions and provide their input and insight on recommendations for project improvements.

The meeting participants provided constructive and comprehensive recommendations to be considered. Key recommendations that resulted from the two-day meeting include:

- Improved communication on IIBA committees, policies, training and job opportunities, and meeting minutes.
- Greater transparency on the IIBA funds, policies, Inuit impacts statistics, and monitoring and testing results.
- More support for travel to the project site such as airport shuttles.
- Increased on-site resources such as 24/7 counseling, on-site QIA employee to monitor project issues, better enforcement of mine policies and protocols, and increase Inuktitut literacy in FLRA.
- More focus on Inuit training for advancement, Inuit content in contracts, dust control, and community infrastructure investments.

QIA and Baffinland want to thank the participants of the Mary River Annual Project Review Forum for their participation. We have heard your suggestions and recommendations and have taken away a clear message for improved communication and transparency through making existing resources more accessible and developing new resources for distribution. QIA and Baffinland will present a response for how we will work to address each recommendation made at the annual project review forum. This report will be sent back to participants and made public.

In Hall Beach we also hosted information sessions on the recently launched Q-STEP and Tuttarvik programs with high school students and at a community feast. The community feast was a time of celebration with an opportunity to recognize the five recent Q-STEP graduates from Hall Beach! Keep your eye out for Issaccie Qanatsiak from Hall Beach who is featured on QIA's YouTube Channel talking about his Q-STEP experience!



# Check-out Tuttarvik; QIA's new Inuit Labour Pool Database

It is now easier for Inuit to access jobs in the Qikiqtani Region. QIA launched a new Inuit Labour Pool Database; Tuttarvik. Tuttarvik automatically creates a resume for anyone registered and links them to upcoming employment opportunities. Inuit registered with Tuttarvik will also be eligible to participate in training and education, including skills training, apprenticeships and university programs.

Tuttarvik is easy to use: all you need to do is enter your contact information, your prior employment and training history, and your education and skills information and it does the rest! The database will create an applicant profile (online resume) so potential employers across the Qikiqtani can view your profile and contact you if you're a qualified candidate for training and employment.

There are other great features of Tuttarvik such as a job posting board and a suite of e-learning courses. It's also available 24/7 so you can access it any time you'd like!

QIA has already visited 12 communities and set up enrollment stations. We will continue to provide assistance and information sessions between now and 2020 to engage, promote and enroll participants and employers into Tuttarvik. Be sure to ask us about Tuttarvik next time we are in your community!

We already have more than 360 Inuit registered in Tuttarvik! So don't miss out, register today. Email [tuttarvik@qia.ca](mailto:tuttarvik@qia.ca) or visit your local QIA Community Liaison Officer for more information.





# Big Steps for the Q-STEP Program

A lot has happened since we last provided an update on our new Q-STEP program in our Winter Newsletter. We've had lots of new enrolments and even 23 graduates from the Heavy Equipment training program! We are very encouraged by all the positive feedback, new enrolments and interest in the program.

## What is Q-STEP?

**Qikiqtani Skills and Training for Employment Partnership (Q-STEP) aims to boost skills development and increase Inuit employability across Qikiqtani with a focus on Inuit women and youth (age 18-30) in the mining sector.**



## Our training targets:

The Q-STEP program will run for four years, until March 2021. The training targets over this timeframe are:

- 260 participants in Work Readiness stream;
- 80 participants in Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO) stream;
- 60 participants in Mining Essentials stream;
- 30 participants in Trades Apprenticeship stream; and
- 30 participants in General Skills.

## What is the progress so far?

We are very excited about the success so far of the Q-STEP Program.

- 14 apprentice trainees went through the Trades Apprenticeship program at the Mary River site and wrote their trades exams in June.
- 12 applicants started in the Work Readiness stream in Igloolik.
- 23 Heavy Equipment Operator trainees graduated from Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario and were hired at Mary River.
- 3 hires resulting from QIA employment referrals through Tuttarvik to Mary River sub-contractors
- 12 new candidates for the HEO stream were recruited in April. The trainees started on June 26th and the training will last three months.

## What else will be done this year in the Q-STEP Program?

This year we plan to enrol another:

- 16 participants into the Trades Apprenticeship stream
- 65 participants into the Work Readiness stream
- 30 participants into the HEO stream
- 60 participants into the Mining Essentials stream
- 15 participants into the General Skills stream

## How can I join Q-STEP?

The best way to find out about training and employment opportunities through Q-STEP is by enrolling in Tuttarvik. Tuttarvik works in conjunction with Q-STEP and is QIA's new Inuit Labour Pool database.

## Helping Qikiqtani Inuit speak up about oil and gas development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait



Since 2017, QIA has been helping the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) with their Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on oil and gas development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. QIA is part of the SEA working group and are helping to gather information to inform the recommendations for the SEA. QIA have conducted community tours and hosted community meetings to gather feedback from Qikiqtani Inuit on how future oil and gas development could affect and impact their surroundings.

### What is QIA's Role?

Our focus is to work with Inuit to collect traditional knowledge at the community meetings. QIA has met with ten communities adjacent to Baffin Bay and Davis Strait including: Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Resolute Bay. QIA met with the hunters and trappers' organizations, the Community Lands and Resources Committees (CLARC), youth and the public.

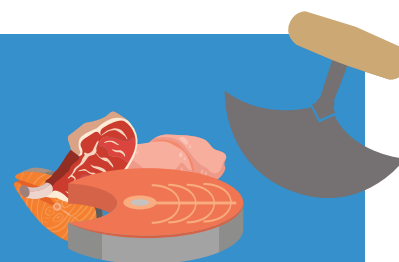
QIA also formed an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) committee who we meet with on a regular basis. The committee is comprised of IQ advisors selected from the CLARC, HTO, public and youth in five communities; Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq. IQ committee meetings took place in March and April of this year.

### FOOD SECURITY SURVEYS

As part of the study we looked at the role of country food in our communities. We conducted public surveys and targeted surveys with harvesters to gather information on:

- The cost of country food in each community
- The work it takes to harvest and prepare country food
- How country food is shared and distributed

All information gathered will be used to assess the value of country food to the local communities and its importance will be highlighted in our report.



### SEASONAL IQ CALENDARS

Our IQ advisors worked with each community to create a seasonal IQ calendar. These calendars chronicle animal migration patterns and traditional harvesting times in specific communities. They are a very important part of our traditional knowledge study. importance will be highlighted in our report.

### What did Inuit tell us?

Qikiqtani Inuit are concerned about the potential impacts of oil and gas exploration activities such as:

- The harmful impacts of seismic testing on the environment and wildlife-ultimately affecting their traditional way of life.
- The possibility of an oil spill in waters adjacent to their communities and its impact on the health and safety of water, wildlife and people.

At the IQ committee workshop in April, the IQ advisors met to discuss how IQ will influence possible scenarios related to oil and gas activity in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. We had conversations on seismic testing, increased shipping, and the presence of oilrigs. Recommendations will be brought forward to minimize negative impacts associated with oil and gas development on wildlife and traditional Inuit practices.

### What are the next steps?

QIA is now compiling all the great feedback and drafting the IQ report to form part of the SEA report presented to the Government of Canada. NIRB will be meeting with the ten adjacent communities in the fall to continue their work on the study. The Federal Government is funding this Assessment and will compile the information in a final report about oil and gas development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.



# Introducing our New Online Land Use Application Registry

In May, the QIA launched a new online Land Use Application Registry to replace the old paper-based system. The new online platform provides a speedier and more efficient application process. Applicants can now submit all land use permit applications through the online portal. Once an application is submitted applicants can check the status of their project approval, can find all communication and documents associated with the project in an accessible online location and will receive automatic reminders on reporting deadlines and inspection timings. With the online system, QIA can more efficiently keep track of applicants such as researchers, cruise ships and prospectors visiting or working on Inuit Owned Lands and notify communities of the activities on their lands and waters.

No access to the internet? No problem!

Paper-based applications are still accepted in English and Inuktitut.

The new online registration program can be accessed via the QIA website.

For inquiries on the Land Use Registry contact [registry@qia.ca](mailto:registry@qia.ca).

## QIA Wins Prestigious Award

QIA was extremely honoured to bring home the 2018 Mining Symposium's prestigious **Organization Award** this year! President, P.J. Akeeagok accepted the award on behalf of QIA. We are happy to have been able to make positive contributions to the mining industry in Nunavut and are excited about the growing opportunities in this industry!

QIA launched our new Q-STEP videos during the Symposium and were blown away by the positive feedback! Levi Barnabas, QIA Community Director, showed the video during a panel on Indigenous Involvement in Mining. The video showcased a few of the star participants from our first round of heavy equipment training.

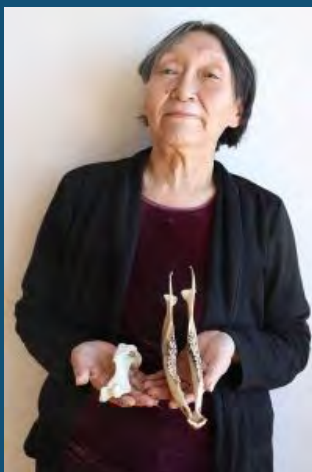
QIA wants to remind everyone to SAVE THE DATE! The next Nunavut Mining Symposium is scheduled for April 1st - 4th, 2019 and is a great way to meet with a number of organizations, groups and businesses that work in the mining industry and to share best practices and tools for success. We are already excited knowing we will have new Q-STEP videos to showcase next year!



# Linking Elders and Youth through the ipitiki Program

Over the last year QIA met with community members – Elders, community leaders, children, youth, teachers, and families. We asked you what programs you wanted developed, we listened, and we responded.

The ipitiki program was developed based on the feedback we heard. The program is aimed at delivering capacity building and increased culturally and linguistically relevant early childcare resources. We are excited to share an update on one of the ipitiki projects - the Elders in Daycare Project. As the first step in this Project QIA hosted an Elders' gathering in Iqaluit in April. Elders came from Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit to partake. The Elders were invited to share their positive experiences working with children and youth. The Elders shared their experiences as parents and memories of teaching youth traditional skills such as sewing and carpentry. We learned about the tools, games and activities they had used in the past when teaching children.



This information is what will be used to develop the activities and resources that will be useful as part of the Elders in Daycares Project. As part of this Project we will develop resources to support Elders' involvement in daycares across the Qikiqtani.

In addition to the Elders in Daycares Project, the ipitiki program has three other projects that will be delivered throughout 2018 and 2019: family literacy packages, a daycare conference, and training for daycare board members. Ipitiki program is made possible through \$500,000 over two fiscal years from Makigiaqta, established by the Makigiaqta Training Corporation as part of the settlement between Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Federal Government.

## Inuktitut Language Month Celebrations

# Congratulations to the Inuktitut Song/Poem Contest Winners

Every year QIA is excited to celebrate Inuktitut Language month and this year was no exception. QIA hosted a number of initiatives and events throughout the month of February including an Inuktitut song/poem contest. We were impressed by all the amazing submissions we received from all over the Qikiqtani Region. With so many great submissions selecting the winners was not an easy decision!

“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”

-QIA President, P.J. Akeegok



Becky Han, originally from Arctic Bay, took home the first-place prize of \$400 for her love song “Nagligigakkit” (Because I Love You). Becky is no stranger to the stage, she was the 2016 winner of the Government of Nunavut's Qilaut Children's Song Contest and in March 2017, she opened for Tanya Tagaq at the West End Cultural Centre in Winnipeg. Becky is establishing a strong online following for her videos and posts featuring Inuktitut songs.





Second place honours went to 19-year-old Joshua Haulli from Igloolik. Joshua took home a \$300 prize for his song “Kingummungaaq” (Remembering the Past) which is a touching testament to his love for his father. Joshua is a budding young artist and the winner of the 2015 Alianait Battle of the Bands competition.

The third-place winner of \$200 went to 19-year-old Quentin Sala from Sanikiluaq. Quentin submitted a poem titled “Inuusiᑦ” (Life) that speaks to the resilience of Inuit. Quentin is graduating this year and is the Inuit Games coordinator/supervisor and an RCMP guard.

We are very proud of all the artists who submitted their songs and poems. Thank you for sharing your passion with us and we look forward to your submissions next year! Copies of the winning submissions can be found on the QIA website and social media accounts.

“I am proud to see this showcase of cultural and linguistic pride and talent from Inuit in our Qikiqtani communities,” says QIA president P.J. Akeeagok, “these songs and poems are a testament to the connection of young people to Inuktitut.”

## Recognizing Nunavut's Authors

Nunavut has many great children's book authors and we at QIA want to celebrate and recognize their contributions. During Inuktitut Language Month QIA spotlighted 12 different Inuktitut books published by Inhabit Media, one each day from February 12th to 28th. We are so proud of these amazing authors who through their work are helping to reinvigorate the Inuktitut language and culture.

The author signing event we hosted with Inhabit Media last year was such a success, we teamed up again to host our second author signing event on February 25th. The event was again a huge success and attended by many young Nunavummiut. There was a steady line-up of people wanting to meet the creators of their favourite stories and to get their books signed. Authors and illustrators, many Inuit, were flown in from around the Territory to showcase their work. Many of the books, often in both Inuktitut and English, tell stories of Inuit mythology and day-to-day life while others provide educational resources on the Inuktitut language and traditional Inuit activities such as whale hunting and iglu building.

Thank you to all who joined us in the celebrations and a special thank you to the authors and illustrators for sharing your stories with us! We look forward to continuing to work with Inhabit Media in hopes of making this an annual event.



# Supporting Culture and Youth through Qajaq Building

Iqaluit's Qajakkut Society continues to build on their goal to create a qajaq program for the community and to revive the art of building traditional Inuit qajaqs. Last summer the Society mentored a handful of local youth during the building of three Greenland-style wood-frame qajaqs. This spring, expert seamstress Leah Kalluk from Arctic Bay shared her traditional sewing knowledge with group leaders Moosa Akavak and Eemeelayou Arnaquq and mentored local seamstress Jeannie Pishuktie. Over the spring school break in April the group used Inukshuk High School's workshop to finish a new frame and to sew canvas skins. Keep an eye on the water this summer – you may see Qajakkut Society members testing out their traditionally crafted qajaqs!



## IQALUIT TOONIK TYME FEAST

The QIA was once again proud to sponsor the Annual Toonik Tyme Festival in Iqaluit. Through our Grants and Contributions Program we supported the closing ceremonies' community feast of caribou, fish, seal, rabbit and ptarmigan. The Toonik Tyme Festival in Iqaluit is an annual week-long celebration of Inuit traditions and return to spring and is one of the many initiatives that QIA supports in Qikiqtani communities. We are always happy to be able to support celebrations that build community connections and instill a sense of pride in Inuit identity such as Nunavut Day activities, Christmas festivities, Fishing Derbies and Arts Festivals.



## ALIANAIT ARTS FESTIVAL

QIA is proud to be a supporter of the Alianait Arts Festival. This year's festival ran from June 29th-July 2nd and featured many Inuit and Indigenous artists from Nunavut and around the world. In 2018 we sponsored the free Canada Day concert on July 1st which featured the Arviat Band, Billy Kuksuk and the Inuktitut Tribute Band.





# Resolution Highlights

## RSB-18-05-17

Ningeolaa Kiliktee is appointed to the Joint Parks Management Committee-Katannilik for a 2-year term

## RSB-18-05-11

The QIA Board of Directors approves the use of the \$3 million Qausuittuq IIBA funds as follows: \$1 million towards the establishment of a multi-use facility in Resolute Bay; \$1 million invested and with interest earned run annual land-camp programs for Resolunmiut; \$1 million for future programming based on community feedback.

## RSB-18-05-06

The QIA Board of Directors approves a total contribution to the Kakivak Association of \$852,151 for FY 2018/19. \$618,901 is to be earmarked for economic development initiatives and \$233,250 for Nunavut Sivummut Funding Program to increase the number of Inuit owned and controlled businesses.

## RSB-18-05-16

Archie Angnakak is appointed to the Nunavut Trust until May 2021.

## List of QIA Community Liaison Officers (CLOs)

Jack Willie	Arctic Bay	P.O. Box 69, Arctic Bay, NU X0A 0A0	ph: 867-439-8277 Fax: 867-439-8217 jwillie@qia.ca
Ooloosie Manning	Cape Dorset	Box 151, Cape Dorset, NU X0A 0C0	ph: 867-897-8638 Fax: 867-897-8650 omanning@qia.ca
Nina Qillaq	Clyde River	Box 159, Clyde River, NU X0A 0E0	ph: 867-924-6119 Fax: 867-924-6120 nqillaq@qia.ca
Laisa Watsko	Grise Fiord	Gen. Del., Grise Fiord, NU X0A 0J0	ph: 867-980-4076 Fax: 867-980-4078 lwatsko@qia.ca
Lily Arnaqjuaq	Hall Beach	Box 9, Hall Beach, NU X0A 0K0	ph: 867-928-8103 Fax: 867-928-8114 larnaqjuaq@qia.ca
Sidonie Ungalaq	Igloolik	Box 117, Igloolik, NU X0A 0L0	ph: 867-934-8760 Fax: 867-934-8562 sungalaq@qia.ca
Marie Michael	Iqaluit	Box 1340, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0	ph: 867-975-8420 Fax: 867-979-3238 mmichael@qia.ca
Perry Ikkioluak	Kimmitut	Box 82, Kimmitut, NU X0A 0N0	ph: 867-939-2135 Fax: 867-939-2134 pikkioluak@qia.ca
Sheena Machmer	Pangnirtung	Box 633, Pangnirtung, NU X0A 0R0	ph: 867-473-8991 Fax: 867-473-8994 smachmer@qia.ca
Joapie Ootova	Pond Inlet	Box 459, Pond Inlet, NU X0A 0S0	ph: 867-899-8640 Fax: 867-899-8642 jootova@qia.ca
Oolana Nuqingaq	Qikiqtarjuaq	Box 239, Qikiqtarjuaq, NU X0A 0B0	ph: 867-927-8195 Fax: 867-927-8196 onuqingaq@qia.ca
Susan Salluviniq	Resolute Bay	Box 118, Resolute Bay, NU X0A 0V0	ph: 867-252-3127 Fax: 867-252-3129 ssalluviniq@qia.ca
Julie Emikotailak	Sanikiluaq	Box 90, Sanikiluaq Nu X0A-0W0	ph: 867-266-8162 Fax: 867-266-8163 jemikotailak@qia.ca

