



ԼԴՎՊԱԾԸՎՅՈՒՆԻ
ՎԵՃԱԸՆԴՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԻ
FROM APOLOGY TO ACTION

ԳՐԲԵԸԺ ԴՆԴԵՐ ԲՆԴՏՎՅՈՒՆ
QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION



ԱժԺԻ ԵՇԿԵՆՈՐԻՐ

[illegible]**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.

Qikiqtani Inuit Association

ΛΡΔΨΩ

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INTRODUCTION

After decades of work, on August 14, 2019, the Canadian Government finally issued a formal acknowledgement and apology to Qikiqtani Inuit for colonial policies and practices from 1950 to 1975. This apology was delivered by Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, in Iqaluit.

The Minister offered the apology in the spirit of Saimaqatigiingniq – a concept that means when past opponents come together, meet in the middle and are at peace with one another. In her speech, the Minister noted that the past Inuit-Crown relationship has been marked with unfairness, inequality, and harmful treatment.

She acknowledged forced relocation and family separation, killing of qimmiit (sled dogs) and other assimilative actions subjected on Qikiqtani Inuit. The Government also acknowledged the important work of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission, an initiative led by QIA, in bringing this history to the forefront within their final report, *Achieving Saimagatigiingniq*.



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QIKIQTANI INUIT'S TRUTH

For years, the Canadian government rejected Inuit calls for a public inquiry into colonial practices that radically transformed the Inuit homeland and traditional ways of life from 1950 to 1975. Inuit did not have the opportunity to confront the Canadian Government about forced relocation, killing of qimmiit (sled dogs), and other assimilative actions.

Instead of an inquiry, the government directed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to look into these allegations and report to Parliament. QIA was deeply disappointed with the RCMP report, which contradicted and rejected Inuit accounts of this history. Instead of providing an opportunity for reconciliation and healing, the RCMP report exacerbated the disconnect between Inuit and the Government of Canada about the true history of the Arctic.

For these reasons, QIA established an independent truth commission to gather its own account of what happened to Qikiqtani Inuit between 1950 and 1975. Approximately 350 Inuit participated through public hearings to uncover the truth about the Government of Canada's policies and practices.

The Qikiqtani Truth Commission's Final Report distills three years of interviews, testimony, and archival research about the experiences of Qikiqtani Inuit with modern-day colonialism.



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MOVING FORWARD AFTER CANADA ACKNOWLEDGED AND APOLOGIZED

As part of reconciliation, Canada is engaged in a process of decolonization that includes making amends for past wrongs such as the denial of Indigenous rights that led to disempowerment and assimilation.

Reconciliation, for Inuit in Nunavut's Qikiqtani Region, means acting on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq (2010).

As part of the August 14 apology made by the Federal Government, Canada and QIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership to build a long-term and sustainable response to the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's findings.

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— Γσ⁴C Δμογελαστοβ⁵δ⁶μο⁷

“We hope to move forward from this unjust chapter in our history and together, begin turning the page. The Commissions’ Final Report, with its recommendations, provides a path forward towards a harmonious future, as well as looking back and reflecting on the road we have travelled.”

— Minister Crown-Indigenous Relations



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QIA began receiving and recording testimonies from Inuit on the killing of qimmiit.

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The House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development hears accounts of the killing of gimmiit.

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The RCMP produce a report for Parliament responding to the allegations of qimmiit killing. The report contradicts and rejects Inuit accounts of this history.

[illegible]

QIA initiates and finances a truth commission to create a more inclusive history of decisions and events that affected Inuit living in the Qikiqtani Region between 1950 and 1975. Approximately 350 people testify.

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The Qikiqtani Truth Commission concludes its work and retired Justice, James Igloliorte issues the Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq, which includes 25 recommendations for action.

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QIA publicly releases the Qikiqtani Truth Commission reports, Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq, Community Histories, Thematic Reports and Special Studies.

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QIA staff travel to each of the 13 Qikiqtani communities to share the findings of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission reports.

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QIA renews lobbying efforts to compel the Government to take action on the recommendations made by the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

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Minister Bennett formally acknowledges and apologizes for the Government of Canada's actions towards Inuit in the Qikiqtani region between 1950 to 1975 and announces the initial investment towards action on the recommendations of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

2004

2005

2006

2007**2010****2013**

2014

2019

2019



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QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

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Strengthening Inuit Governance

Canada's modern-day colonial policies in the Arctic systemically targeted Inuit self-governance. Reconciliation should include restoring Inuit jurisdiction and capacity for governance. This will require effort from each level of government.

7. The Nunavut Legislative Assembly should formally assert that Nunavut and the Government of Nunavut were created by the Nunavut land claims negotiations as vehicles for Inuit self-government, and, therefore, that Inuit goals and aspirations can and should be advanced through the Government of Nunavut working collaboratively with Inuit organizations.
8. The Government of Nunavut should conduct its day-to-day operations in keeping with its obligations and responsibilities under the Nunavut Agreement and section 35 of the Constitution.
9. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association should establish a program that will enable Inuit to develop and utilize the governance skills they will require to strengthen their political and community engagement in a civil society.
10. The Governments of Nunavut and Canada should take all necessary action to make their programs and services for the people of Nunavut accessible at the local level.
11. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association should develop a framework (principles, policies and techniques) for all private, public and research agencies to use in conducting consultations with Inuit.
12. To ensure that Inuit culture is better understood by government employees whose work affects the Inuit, the Governments of Nunavut and Canada, assisted by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, should develop and deliver cultural training to all such employees.
13. The Governments of Nunavut and Canada, and all Inuit organizations, should respect and incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Traditional Knowledge in all decision-making in Nunavut.
14. The Government of Canada should immediately endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples without qualifications.

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QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

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Strengthening Inuit Culture

The systemic colonial policies and education initiatives from 1950 to 1975 threatened Inuit language and cultural practices. In the spirit of restitution, Inuit ask for a commitment to reinvigorate, strengthen and preserve Inuktitut and Inuit culture.

15. The Government of Nunavut Department of Education should develop and distribute an Inuktitut and Inuit-based curriculum to all communities and direct school officials to implement it as soon as possible.
16. The Government of Nunavut's Department of Education should include historical material from the Qikiqtani Truth Commission reports in the Nunavut education curriculum.
17. The Government of Nunavut should develop and deliver more programs that actively promote intergenerational experiences between Elders and Inuit children and youth to ensure that young people continue to learn from Elders, and that Elders become more involved in the daily lives of communities.
18. The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should work together to develop and fund Inuit Language programs that will ensure that all Inuit and Qallunaat in Nunavut have the opportunity to learn the Inuit Language.
19. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association should initiate an Inuit History Month, launching the event in Nunavut and later extending it to all of Canada.

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QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

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Creating Healthy Communities

Inuit continue to grapple with the social and economic challenges resulting from colonial practices including inadequate healthcare, housing, education and economic resources. Reconciliation calls for addressing the inequality between Inuit and other Canadians.

20. The Government of Canada should formally acknowledge that the levels of suicide, addiction, incarceration and social dysfunction found in the Qikiqtani Region are in part symptoms of intergenerational trauma caused by historical wrongs.
21. The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should ensure that sufficient Inuit social, mental health and addiction workers and programs are available to meet the needs of all Nunavut communities.
22. The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should ensure that government health, social and education programs and services are available to the people of Nunavut on a basis equivalent to those taken for granted by Canadians in the South.
23. The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should address Inuit housing needs through provision of short-, medium- and long-term funding to ensure adequate and safe homes for all.
24. The Government of Nunavut and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association should work together to facilitate and promote Inuit participation in hunting, fishing and gathering practices that will sustain and strengthen Inuit culture and food security, improve nutrition and support local economies.
25. The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should provide training and other support that will allow Inuit to actively participate in Arctic environmental studies and activities.

**ՃՐԴՐՎՐՈՐ ԳԵՄԱՇԱԿՆԵՐԵՐԻ ԳԵՂԵՄՆԵՐԻ
ԳՐԱԳԵՐՈՒՄ ԲԵՐՈՒՄ - 1950 ԹՎ 1975Ը**
**SNAPSHOT OF QIKIQTANI HISTORY
- 1950 TO 1975**

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After World War II, the Canadian government initiated profound social, economic and cultural changes in the North that had far-reaching, negative and lingering influence on Qikiqtani Inuit. The colonial policies conceived and approved in Ottawa by the Government of Canada had a profoundly disruptive and traumatic effect on the lives of Inuit.



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 **Qikiqtani Inuit Association**