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QIKIQTANI

INUIT ASSOCIATION

SARVARJUAQ AND
QIKIQTAIT: INUIT
STEWARDSHIP AND
THE BLUE ECONOMY
IN NUNAVUT'S
QIKIQTANI REGION





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QIKIQTANI

INUIT ASSOCIATION

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is a not-for-profit society, which represents approximately 15,500 Inuit in the Qikiqtani region of Nunavut. The Qikiqtani region includes 13 communities from Grise Fiord, in the High Arctic, down to Sanikiluaq, on the Belcher Islands.

QIA was established to protect, promote and advance the rights and benefits of Qikiqtani Inuit. It is a Designated Inuit Organization under the Nunavut Agreement. The Nunavut Agreement gives the Regional Inuit Associations the power to negotiate Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBAs). QIA negotiates IIBAs on behalf of Qikiqtani Inuit.

QIA is one of three Regional Inuit Associations affiliated with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; the other associations include the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Kivalliq Inuit Association. We work closely with our partners, such as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, as well as different levels of government, to represent Inuit in the Inuit Nunangat.

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.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2019 we did something different, we thought outside the box and collaborated with the Government of Canada to knock down departmental silos as we worked to protect two of the largest marine areas in the country. By establishing Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and providing interim protection for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area, we not only tackled climate change, protected a significant multi-year ice area in the High Arctic, and safeguarded key wildlife habitat, we also created a new economic development model for Nunavut's Inuit communities based on a blue economy.

Our work proved that the future of Inuit and the Inuit Nunangat is not solely tied to extraction industries at the cost of our land and waters –mining and drilling for oil are not the only path to jobs and economic opportunities for our children. We can create jobs that connect our past to our future, empower our communities and secure opportunities in conservation and sustainable industries, such as fisheries.

Now, we are ready to take the next steps to expand this model and protect even more of our oceans and multi-year sea ice in Canada. Part of that work requires us to think globally and collaborate across borders with Inuit partners in the circumpolar world.

For Inuit, these relationships and partnerships are engrained in our fabric as a people.

You don't see many borders or checkpoints where I come from. The tundra and sea ice dictate boundaries of where you can travel and who your neighbours are. As a child raised in Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord), Canada's most northern High Arctic community, I always considered kalaallit, Greenlandic Inuit, as neighbours and kin.

Our communities were connected by family ties, harvesting routes, language and culture – the sea ice that expanded from my childhood home to Qanaaq was a lifeline bringing our worlds together. The sea also held our shared genesis stories – Nuliajuk, the sea goddess that gave birth to marine life, known in Greenland as Sassuma Arnaa.

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QIA's vision of protecting Sarvarjuaq, the area known as Pikialasorsuaq in Greenland, or North Water Polynya, is an extension of our work on Tallurutiup Imanga. By working together, Canada and Greenland can protect this ecologically unique polynya and safeguard a key migration corridor and habitat for many Arctic species.

Simultaneously, we are advocating to protect Qikiqtait, the Belcher Island archipelago in the heart of Hudson Bay. With over 1,500 islands and up to 35 polynyas this area is a sanctuary and migratory corridor for many species of wildlife.

Our vision of a blue economy in the Qikiqtani Region is one that carves out new opportunities for Inuit in sustainable industries such as fisheries. It's time to right past inequities and repatriate quotas so that Inuit have access to the natural resources in our adjacent waters. The economic opportunities present through a blue economy will allow our communities a chance for future prosperity.

I know that by working together as team Canada, we will not only be able to meet our country's conservation goals but also address the Federal Government's commitment to reconciliation.

Qujannamiik,

- P.J. Akeeagok



> Is informed by Inuit Qaujimanituqangit



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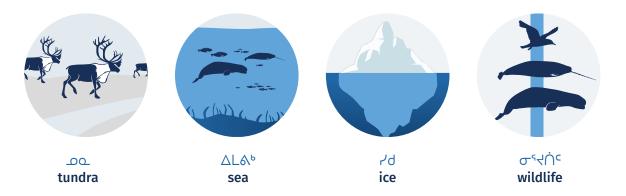


Is guided by Inuit-led research

UUdecold@fishred

INUIT VISION OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

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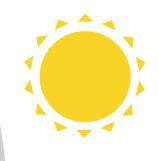




food sovereignty

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Creates Meaningful Jobs







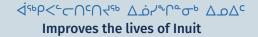






Protects coastal communities from the impacts of climate change







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Empowers Inuit and strengthens our culture and language



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INTRODUCTION

On August 1, 2019, Qikiqtani Inuit and Canada proudly celebrated a significant affirmation of Inuit stewardship and self-determination in our homelands and waters with the signing of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) and the announcement of interim protection for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

These agreements mark an important milestone in real reconciliation between Inuit and the Crown. Recognizing Inuit as stewards lays the foundation for a local conservation economy rooted in sustainable renewable resource use, including fisheries, harvesting, and research and monitoring of our globally important Arctic environment during a time of rapid change.

The investments in jobs and infrastructure arising from Tallurutiup Imanga are already having positive impacts for Inuit in the High Arctic. These contributions strengthen Canada's ability to provide for scientific research, marine security, and Arctic sovereignty, and help ensure the safety and resilience of our coastal communities.



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This 21st century approach to stewardship and cooperative management is a necessary step toward Inuit self-determination, effective conservation, and the socio-economic well-being of our communities. Our collective accomplishment serves as a testament to what we can achieve together when Inuit and Canada work as equal partners in the spirit of reconciliation.

Environmental changes such as record-breaking warming in the Arctic and a substantial increase in access to Northern waterways present new threats to the Qikiqtani Inuit environment. As climate change quickly reduces sea ice and changes familiar patterns, it increases access by vessels from around the world to our Arctic seascape, sensitive wildlife, and sacred cultural sites. Simultaneously, the reduction of ice severely limits Inuit access to these same areas. Changes in sea ice formation and breakup are making ice travel more difficult and dangerous, while less multi-year ice and stronger storms mean we must face rougher seas when hunting and travelling in the open water season.

These environmental changes threaten our ability to harvest wildlife and provide our communities and families with country food. This ability to provide food is vital to our health and culture and is central to achieving food sovereignty. We must continue to be the eyes and ears of change to identify emerging risks and drive solutions. Support for Inuit stewardship is crucial to monitor and take action on the impacts of climate change.

The opportunities and risks we face together inspire and motivate us to continue the Qikiqtani Inuit-Crown partnership that established Tallurutiup Imanga and brought interim protection to Tuvaijuittuq. This prospectus is an initial submission to help open the door to formal negotiations, anticipating a continuing and iterative process of community engagement before, during, and after negotiations to establish interim protection.

Investments in the blue economy bring life to the Government of Canada's apology to Qikiqtani Inuit on August 14, 2019, that acknowledged:





Multiple government policies dramatically impacted the lives of Inuit in the decades following the 1940s. Canadians are only just beginning to understand the history of healthcare, education, and housing policies and programs imposed on Inuit, and how those misguided and underfunded initiatives have lasting impacts that are seen today.





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Partnership between Qikiqtani Inuit and the Crown on oceans protection reflects a different approach, grounded in saimaqatigiingniq, a new relationship "when past opponents get back together, meet in the middle, and are at peace."

The concepts in this prospectus build on the Tallurutiup Imanga model of Inuit stewardship, infrastructure, and Inuit-led governance to support oceans protection in Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait. From this foundation, QIA is proposing further steps to take advantage of a rare opportunity to repatriate fisheries licences that will right a historic wrong and increase Inuit benefits from fisheries in the waters adjacent to our communities, to secure a foundation for the long-term development of a diversified Inuit economy.

Each of these measures are fundamental parts of the blue economy, the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic development, improved conditions of everyday life, and jobs that preserve the health of the ocean ecosystem.

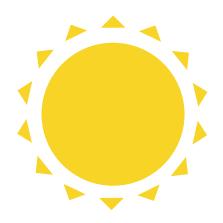


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Working together to build the blue economy in Inuit Nunangat and Canada's north coast will set Inuit and Canada on a more prosperous trajectory into the 21st century. Qikiqtani Inuit have already made significant contributions to Canada's marine conservation targets through the creation of Tallurutiup Imanga (108,000 km², or 1.9 per cent of Canada's target), and interim protection for Tuvaijuittuq (319,411 km², or 5.55 per cent of Canada's target).

Protection of Sarvarjuaq (75,456 km² or 1.3 per cent of Canada's target) and Qikiqtait (43,068 km², or 0.75 per cent of Canada's target) presents an opportunity to act on long-standing community interests in marine protection and fisheries reconciliation, building a blue economy as we work together to conserve 25 per cent of Canada's land and oceans by 2025, and 30 per cent by 2030.





Permafrost is melting 70 years ahead of predictions.

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CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC

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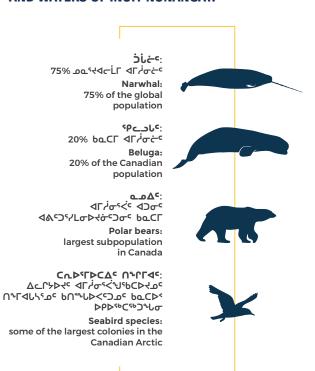
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Arctic is warming at two times the global average. The Arctic temperature has increased 2.3 degrees Celsius since 1950.

11

CANADIAN WILDLIFE DEPEND ON THE LAND AND WATERS OF INUIT NUNANGAT.



Arctic sea is decreasing at 4.6% per decade.



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INUIT STEWARDSHIP

- Bolster the existing Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit Steward program in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River
- Expand the Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit Steward program to Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq





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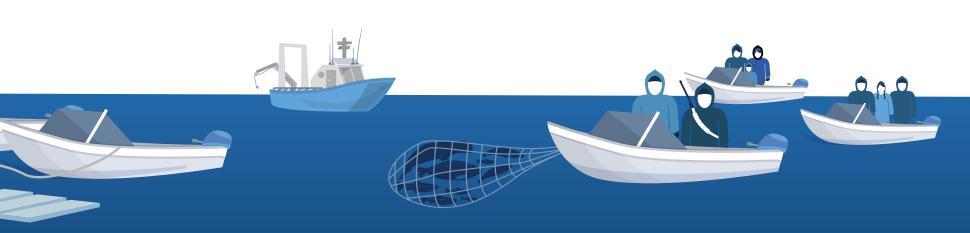
Sarvarjuaq adjacent communities: Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq Qikiqtait adjacent community: Sanikiluaq

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BLUE ECONOMY INFRASTRUCTURE

- A Sarvarjuaq Centre in Grise Fiord for research, monitoring and exchange between Canada and Greenland
- Multi-use facilities in Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq
- Small craft harbours in Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq
- Support for a deep-water port in Qikiqtarjuaq
- Support for increased land access through terrestrial roads, trails and bridges in Sanikiluaq





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INUIT-LED GOVERNANCE

- Oversight through an Inuit Advisory Committee
- Creation of a co-management board similar to the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Aulattiqatigiit Board
- Collaboration with Inuit in Kalaallit Nunaat





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Sarvarjuaq adjacent communities: Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq Qikiqtait adjacent community: Sanikiluaq

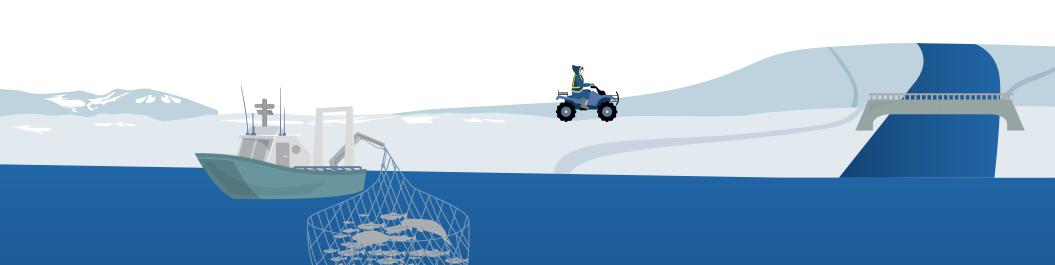
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FISHERIES

- Bolster sustainable inshore fisheries
- Ensure Inuit have access to and benefit from fisheries in the waters adjacent to our communities through repatriation of quotas





75,456 KM²

APPROXIMATELY 1.3% OF CANADA'S 2025 MARINE CONSERVATION TARGET

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Key habitat for various species. Feeding area and migration corridor for marine mammals.

Foraging and breeding area for seabirds.

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Walrus winter and summer haul out sites.













IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA:

- Central for Inuit harvesting and food security for various Inuit communities from Grise Fiord to Clyde River
- Contains critical forage areas for commercial fish stocks in the Baffin Bay/Davis Strait Region
- Creates a continuous protected zone when coupled with Tuvaijuittuq and Tallurutiup Imanga of over 502,866 km²

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HIGH ARCTIC BASIN / TUVAIJUITTUQ (boundaries to be determined)



C⁻→?∩Þ[<] ΔL[®]U TALLURUTIUP IMANGA



የዖየቴር _ ቴ QIKIQTANI REGION

SARVARJUAQ

Sarvarjuaq is the name Qikiqtani Inuit give to an area of year-round open water and surrounding ice known to Greenlandic Inuit as the Pikialasorsuaq ("Great Upwelling"), or North Water Polynya. Located in the High Arctic and northern part of Baffin Bay, Sarvarjuaq in profoundly interconnected with Tuvaijuittuq, Tallurutiup Imanga, and the whole of Baffin Bay. Sarvarjuaq is the most biologically productive polynya in the Arctic, a place of globally unique ecological, biophysical, economic, and cultural interconnectivity.

In 2017 the Pikialasorsuaq Commission, an independent commission supported by the Inuit Circumpolar Council, noted that "the Pikialasorsuaq is an extraordinary place. It is an Arctic haven where sky, ocean, and ice meet, teaming with marine life that has nourished Inuit subsistence culture for thousands of years." QIA supports the Pikialasorsuaq Commission's recommendations to establish an Inuit management authority, management zone, and freedom of movement for Inuit between historically connected communities in Canada and Greenland.

On April 4, 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Inuit leaders released the Pikialasorsuaq Leaders Statement, affirming their shared commitment:



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"To working in partnership together, and with the Governments of Denmark and Kalaalliit Nunaat, to develop a path forward for advancing the sustainable marine management and environmental protection of the Pikialasorsuag region, and to facilitate mobility for Inuit of the region. The work to advance Pikialasorsuag will draw from efforts to create other marine protected areas such as the work being done to establish Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound). Planning will be founded upon systems developed during the establishment of other Arctic marine protected areas as well as evidence based Indigenous and western knowledge, and the principle of integrated oceans management so that decisions will be made for the sustainable use, development and protection of the ocean area and resources of the Pikialasorsuag."

QIA supports this vision. With the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, QIA has agreed to engage and consult with affected communities on a feasibility area for the protection of the Sarvarjuag that covers 74,000 km² and could potentially contribute 1.3 per cent towards Canada's marine conservation targets.

Marine protection over this globally significant area would reflect the true connectivity of the Sarvarjuag, Tallurutiup Imanga, and Tuvaijuittug, potentially creating a contiguous area of protection over 500,000 km² (close to the size of Spain). By working with Inuit, Canada is one of very few countries that can make such a significant contribution to international conservation objectives.

Just as Inuit are one people, the Sarvarjuag is one ecosystem. QIA is committed to working with the Government of Canada to ensure protection of the Sarvarjuag within Canada, and to working as part of team Canada with our neighbours in Greenland and Denmark to support international protection for this unique area of global importance.

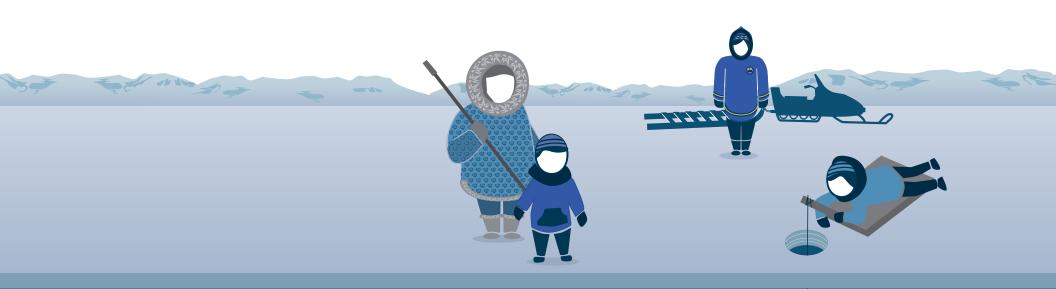


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SARVARJUAQ: INUIT STEWARDSHIP

Nauttiqsuqtiit, Inuit stewards, will support Inuit-led management of Sarvarjuaq. The success of the Nauttiqsuqtiit pilot program in Arctic Bay, established through the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA, has already resulted in expansion of this unique form of Inuit employment in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River.

The program is already a valued foundation for mentorship, training, and economic development for Inuit. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the strength and versatility of program, with Nauttiqsuqtiit providing healthy country food for our communities. Protecting Sarvarjuaq presents an opportunity to continue support for this model in these communities, while extending it to Qikiqtarjuaq, a community in Baffin Bay with profound ecological, cultural, and socio-economic connections to Sarvarjuaq.











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Inuit stewardship is a synthesis of several concepts that underpin the Inuit connection to the environment and wildlife. Inuit have relied on the land and sea for as long as there have been Inuit. Our stories and spiritual beliefs, education and material well-being originate from the land and our relationship with it.

Through generations, we have acquired the skills and knowledge to survive and thrive here in an ethic of respect, diligence, and care for uumajuit, all beings that are alive. Inuit have long known that without uumajuit, we could not survive, and it is through this careful balance of harvesting and conservation, this Inuit stewardship, that we have thrived in our homelands and waters.

In all Sarvarjuaq communities, Nauttiqsuqtiit will serve as cultural liaisons and interpreters, conduct regular patrols to monitor waters, sea ice conditions, and wildlife, support Inuit harvesting and food sovereignty, actively work with community members as a bridge between Elders and youth, gather Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and assist with search and rescue efforts when needed. As Inuit and Canada seek enduring protection for Sarvarjuaq, these abilities will continue to serve Inuit well, and will be ready for mobilization to support Canada and the world in this area of global importance.









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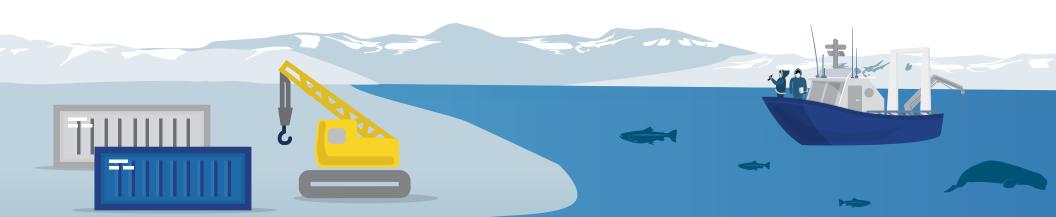
SARVARJUAQ: INFRASTRUCTURE

The Inuit Nunangat Declaration on Inuit-Crown Partnership recognizes "the disproportionate socio-economic and cultural inequity facing Inuit compared to most other Canadians, and commits [Inuit and the Government of Canada] to working in partnership to create socio-economic and cultural equity between Inuit and all other Canadians."

Infrastructure investments in communities adjacent to marine protected areas are essential for community participation in the blue economy, for the long-term viability and success of marine protection, for achieving just sovereignty in Arctic Canada, for research and monitoring in a region facing rapid climate change, and for achieving equity and reconciliation between Inuit and all Canadians.

In Sarvarjuaq, our approach aligns and builds upon the model Inuit and the Government of Canada developed together for Tallurutiup Imanga. As the five Tallurutiup Imanga communities are also adjacent and dependent on the Sarvarjuaq ecosystem, our approach brings investments to ensure multi-use facilities are ready to support Nauttiqsuqtiit across this new and larger area of operations.

Grise Fiord's unique proximity to the Sarvarjuaq makes it the ideal location for the proposed Sarvarjuaq Centre. This unique facility will be a centre for research and monitoring in the Sarvarjuaq,



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for exchange between Canada and Greenland, and a profound and positive symbol of Inuit-Crown partnership in the community closest to Canada's border with Greenland and Denmark.

Qikiqtarjuaq's inclusion as a Sarvarjauq community reflects the biophysical, ecological, cultural, economic, and political connectivity of these waters in relation to wildlife and community life. We propose application of the Tallurutiup Imanga stewardship model in Qikiqtarjuaq, including investment in a multi-use facility supporting Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit stewardship with equipment storage, a maintenance bay, and office space, while serving community needs with multi-purpose spaces for hosting meetings, planning exercises, youth activities, training courses and traditional skills workshops.

We also propose adapting the usual small craft harbour inclusion in this model to achieve a long-standing priority in the community to invest in significant marine infrastructure supporting both community and offshore fisheries. The Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, the Government of Nunavut, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans have each independently recognized the opportunity for a deep-water port in Qikiqtarjuaq.

At the confluence of Baffin Bay and the Davis Strait, investment in Qikiqtarjuaq marine infrastructure will serve the existing offshore fishing industry, while supporting Inuit participation and benefit from the fishery. This infrastructure can also serve the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Coast Guard at a strategic location, decreasing dependence on Greenland and Denmark in joint operations, while increasing emergency response and operational capability at a time of increasing marine activity.



ΔΓ₄ρ: ∇ΦΦς

IMAQ: INUIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hunters and Trappers Organization members

Harepac Purtable

Hamlet Council members



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Inuit Knowledge Holders

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Community Lands and Resources Committee Members

عما حمد عمم

Inuit Elders

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SARVARJUAQ: INUIT-LED GOVERNANCE

Working together, Qikiqtani Inuit and the Government of Canada have created a new model of for Inuit-led management and Inuit-Crown co-management of protected areas. As we continue living this new approach together in Tallurutiup Imanga, it provides a helpful starting place for Inuit-led governance in Sarvarjuaq.

The IMAQ (translated as "water") Inuit Advisory Committee, composed of community representatives, including harvesters, is the heart of this model. IMAQ will deliberate on Inuit concerns, guide the Nauttiqsuqtiit program, and advise QIA on achieving maximum benefits for Inuit.

We also propose creation of a co-management board composed of IMAQ members, QIA, and our government partners to address all management, planning and operations of the proposed conservation areas using a consensus decision-making model. Like the Aulattiqatigiit Board for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, this board will include senior officials from QIA and government departments working equally on issues. QIA remains open to options for Inuit-led governance innovations that reflect the interconnectedness of Tallurutiup Imanga, Tuvaijuittuq, and Sarvarjuaq.

Inuit are one people, and the Sarvarjuaq is one system stretching across an international border. QIA recognizes the interconnectedness of Inuit in the Qikiqtani Region with Inuit in Kalaallit Nunaat, and the indivisibility of the Sarvarjauq/Pikialasorsuaq.

Negotiating an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement process detailed in the Nunavut Agreement is essential for providing certainty for Inuit and the Crown, and to facilitating a Ministerial Order for interim protection under the Oceans Act. This is also an essential step in a complementary process, as Qikiqtani Inuit work as part of "Team Canada", and with Greenlandic Inuit, to secure protection for the whole of the Sarvarjuaq/Pikialasorsuaq through agreement with Naalakkersuisut and the Kingdom of Denmark.

τρρτυς Δε Γυίλως ABOUT QIKIQTAIT

43,068 KM²

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Key marine and terrestrial habitat, a refuge and migratory corridor for a wide variety of wildlife.

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Habitat for Beluga and northern Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Atlantic Walrus.

Seasonally important feeding area for the southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear population.

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Year round habitat for entire population of Hudson Bay subspecies of Common Eider.

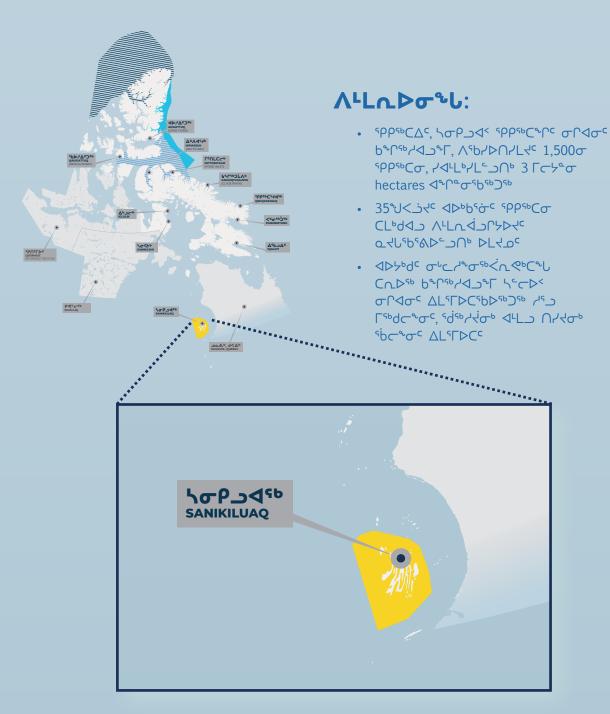
7% TERRESTRIAL
93% MARINE
OVER 5,000 KM
OF COASTLINE







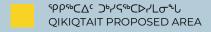


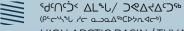


IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA:

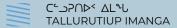
- Qikiqtait, the Belcher Islands
 Archipelago in the southeastern
 portion of Hudson Bay includes more than 1,500 islands, distributed over

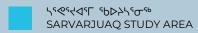
 3 million hectares
- Up to 35 recurrent polynyas in the Belcher Islands provide important habitat for wildlife
- Coldest summer sea-surface temperatures in Hudson Bay south of Southampton Island which sustain sea urchins, sea cucumbers and bivalves





HIGH ARCTIC BASIN / TUVAIJUITTUQ (boundaries to be determined)







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QIKIQTAIT

The Belcher Island archipelago in the heart of Hudson Bay is a unique, complex, and sensitive region long recognized as a priority for stewardship and conservation. Over 1,500 islands and up to 35 recurrent polynyas spread over 30,000 km² act as a refuge and migratory corridor for wildlife. Inuit of Sanikiluaq have been and are the sentinels and stewards of the Hudson Bay ecosystem.

They have a rich history of mobilizing Inuit knowledge, including the ground breaking "Voices from the Bay" published in 1997 in reaction to the environmental changes witnessed by Inuit as a result of the hydro-electric dams that had been built on rivers draining into the Bay and the award-winning documentary "The People of the Feather", released in 2011.



Qikiqtait is truly unique and is home to the non-migratory subspecies of the Common Eider, which remains on the islands year-round and is a key indicator of large-scale ecosystem change. The archipelago includes over 5,000 km of coastline due to its exceptional shape. It is key habitat for walrus haul outs, polar bear denning, shorebirds, and a rich variety of fish, shellfish and invertebrates. Qikiqtait is perhaps the most unique and important archipelago in Canada and has been long recognized as a priority for protection by the Government of Canada. The Sanikiluaq-based Arctic Eider Society has received a Nature Fund grant to advance terrestrial protection within Qikiqtait.





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QIKIQTAIT: INUIT STEWARDSHIP

The creation of Qikiqtait provides a unique opportunity to expand the Tallurutiup Imanga Nauttiqsuqtiit, Inuit Stewardship model to another community. As in Sarvarjuaq, Qikiqtani Inuit see the establishment of Qikiqtait as an opportunity to apply this model to the benefit of Sanikiluaq.

In Qikiqtait, Nauttiqsuqtiit will provide crucial functions as cultural liaisons and interpreters conduct regular patrols to monitor waters, sea ice conditions, and wildlife, support Inuit harvesting and food sovereignty, actively work with community members as a bridge between Elders and youth, gather Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and assist with search and rescue efforts when needed

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DRAFT

THE NAUTTIQSUQTIIT INUIT STEWARDS

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.

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Monitoring, research and data management

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

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Harvesting and food sovereignty

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



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Community engagement and youth mentorship

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

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Gathering Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

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

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Search and rescue

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

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QIKIQTAIT: INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure investments in Qikiqtait closely follow the Tallurutiup Imanga model, including multi-use facilities, small craft harbours, and supportive terrestrial infrastructure facilitating movement and access on the islands and their adjacent waters, an important community priority. Multi-use facilities provide essential office space for the Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit stewards, storage for operational equipment, and space for processing country food.

Small craft harbours improve safety for people and equipment, support community harvesting and food sovereignty, and underpin community economy development by supporting inshore commercial fisheries in and around Qikiqtait. Ensuring that local fishing operations have access to safe harbours and landing facilities remains crucial to their development and success.

Small craft harbours also support the local harvesting economy by improving access and reducing equipment losses, improving the value for harvesters and the community. Developing this infrastructure for Sanikiluammiut follows the Tallurutiup Imanga model, and affirms Canada's commitment to the people of this community.

Finally, the community of Sanikiluaq has signaled interest in infrastructure facilitating access to their islands and marine environment through a network of terrestrial roads, trails and bridges. These too will facilitate safe navigation through the unique system of polynyas at the heart of local harvesting and food sovereignty, and further adapts the Nauttiqsuqtiit model to this unique island and marine ecosystem.





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ΥΘΊΤΑΝ, ΊΡΡΊΤΟ ΤΗ ΘΕΊΝΑΝ ΤΗ ΑΝΕΙΝΑΝΉ ΤΗ Α

QIKIQTAIT: INUIT-LED GOVERNANCE

As with Sarvarjuaq, QIA's proposed governance model for Qikiqtait broadly reflects the Tallurutiup Imanga model, with a IMAQ Inuit Advisory Committee composed of community representatives, including harvesters, empowered to deliberate on Inuit concerns, guide the Nauttiqsuqtiit program, and advise QIA on achieving maximum benefits for Inuit.

We also propose creation of a co-management board composed of IMAQ members, QIA, and our government partners. Taking a lead role in the governance of Qikiqtait means that Inuit will be able to set objectives that are both meaningful to Inuit, and align with government priorities.

We also propose creation of a co-management board, modelled after the Aulattiqatigiit Board for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, to be composed of IMAQ members, QIA, and our government partners. This board will address all management, planning and operations of the proposed conservation areas using a consensus decision-making model, and will include senior officials from QIA and government departments approaching issues from a position of equality.



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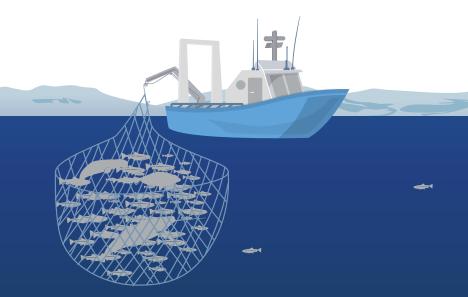
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FISHERIES

Inuit participation in fisheries is essential to the blue economy in the Qikiqtani. Qikiqtani translates as "the many islands" and fisheries have always been a part of our economic life as Inuit. Ensuring Inuit have access and benefit from fisheries in the waters adjacent to our communities reflects the spirit and intent of the Nunavut Agreement, and remains a uniquely important priority for Qikiqtani Inuit.

For too long, licenses in waters adjacent to Qikiqtani Inuit communities were distributed by Canada to non-Inuit interests. Inuit have not had opportunity to fully participate in adjacent fisheries, due to historic barriers to entry and limited quota expansion in recent years.

In division OB, Nunavut holds only 40 per cent of the turbot allocation. Since 2004, Nunavut's share of its adjacent northern and striped shrimp stocks has only increased from 31 per cent to 37 per cent. When taking division OA into account, Nunavut's share of adjacent stocks remains far below levels enjoyed on Canada's East Coast, where fisheries resources held by interests in adjacent jurisdictions are roughly 88 per cent of total resources. Without action by Canada and license transfers to Inuit, Nunavut will remain underrepresented. This is why Inuit and the Government of Nunavut are united in seeking action from the Government of Canada.

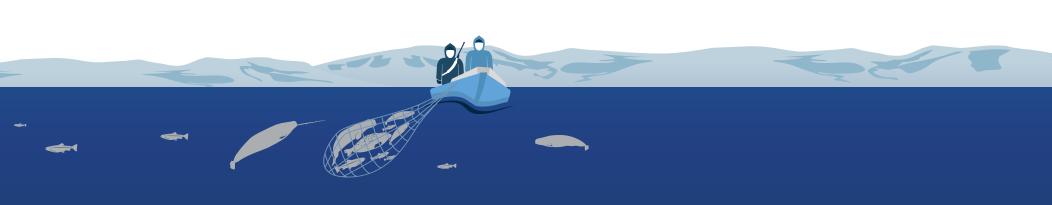




Qikiqtani Inuit seek repatriation of shrimp and turbot licenses in the waters adjacent to Qikiqtani Inuit communities. This may be achieved by reaching a fisheries reconciliation agreement with the Crown equipping QIA with the financial resources needed to increase Inuit ownership of adjacent resources in a manner that equitably reflects Atlantic jurisdictions.

We believe this approach is consistent with the spirit and intent of the Nunavut Agreement, and will support the development of a diversified Inuit economy, aligned with principles of adjacency and sustainable use. Additionally, repatriation of licenses supports the objective of the DFO-Coast Guard Reconciliation Strategy of Indigenous groups having appropriate access to commercial fisheries and the ability to participate in a variety of economic development opportunities, including investments in marine infrastructure.

Fisheries reconciliation is crucial to closing the equity gap between Inuit and all Canadians, to economic reconciliation, and to a more just society. We see this action as a crucial and substantive indication of the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation with Inuit. We continue to call on the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to exercise powers under the Fisheries Act and take Ministerial action to repatriate licenses currently held in waters adjacent to Qikiqtani Inuit communities back to Qikiqtani Inuit.



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CONCLUSION

Qikiqtani Inuit live at the heart of Canada's north coast, in a region that spans nearly one million square kilometers of Arctic islands and ocean from Qikiqtait to Sarvarjuaq. Investments in Inuit governance, stewardship, infrastructure, and fisheries are essential to achieving a blue economy that sustains healthy oceans and communities for the benefit of Inuit and all Canadians.

From coast-to-coast, equity, ecology, and economy succeed together. Inuit have always known this to be true, and this principle continues to inform our equitable approach to oceans protection and the blue economy. Inuit are ready to work in partnership with the Government of Canada to achieve Canada's oceans protection targets, advance reconciliation, and build a blue economy that Inuit and all Canadians have reason to celebrate.

Qikiqtani Inuit and Canada have an opportunity to continue collaborating on 21st century marine conservation that underpins a new blue economy. Seizing this opportunity is not only vital to Qikiqtani Inuit, but also to Canada's national conservation efforts, its reconciliation efforts, as well as its efforts to transform its economy to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It is also a vital opportunity for Inuit and Canada to demonstrate global leadership on issues that require active inspiration around the world.





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