

2555 TUSARASSAT

⊳ρ⊳[₹] 2021 **WINTER 2021**

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QIA's COVID-19 **RESPONSE**

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PROFILE: ALEXIA GALLOWAY-ALAINGA, EXCITED TO WORK FOR INUIT



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'የΡ"Cöbd" ο δλλος Λαίναίσα δυλια Δυλιωνίο Αιτονογίο Αιτ

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INTRODUCTION

In November 2020, Nunavut had our first case of COVID-19. QIA once again implemented work from home procedures and suspended all non-essential programs in compliance with the Government of Nunavut's measures to mitigate the COVID-19 spread.

QIA's priorities in the past few months have been redirected to address the immediate needs of Qikiqtani Inuit under the continued pressures of this pandemic.

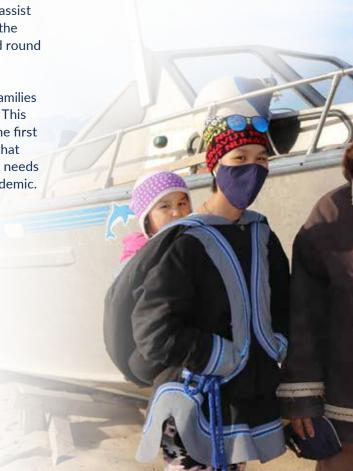
In November, QIA rolled out two initiatives to assist Qikiqtani Inuit through the pandemic including the Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative and a second round of Emergency Grocery Vouchers for Elders.

The Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative helped families with harvesting, grocery and sewing expenses. This initiative received over 2,000 applications in the first 24 hours. The overwhelming response shows that our programs are responding to the immediate needs of Qikiqtani families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In December 2020, QIA announced our third phase of COVID-19 initiatives that will be rolled out starting in January 2021.

At QIA we will continue to work with and support public health officials to keep Nunavummiut safe.

Protect our Elders, our communities, and yourself.





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QIA AGM AND BOARD MEETING

In October, QIA hosted its Annual General Meeting and board meeting in Iqaluit. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the meetings were made available to the public via weblinks or by phone.





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The board meeting included reports on QIA's COVID-19 initiatives such as the Emergency Grocery Vouchers for Elders Program and the social-distancing on-the-land initiative. Our team also shared updates on ongoing work related to the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

The meeting was also an opportunity to release new QIA publications such as:

- QIA's 2019-2020 Annual Report
- QIA's 2019-2020 Benefits and Legacy Fund Annual Report
- QIA's 2020 newsletter
- Inuit Stewardship and the Blue Economy in Nunavut's Qikiqtani Region



Instead of hosting a feast, to encourage social-distancing QIA board members and staff distributed country food.

QIA gave away six whole caribou, 300 lbs of maktaaq, 100 lbs of char, three whole seals and bannock. There was a long line and everything was gone in 12 minutes. Thanks to everyone who came out.

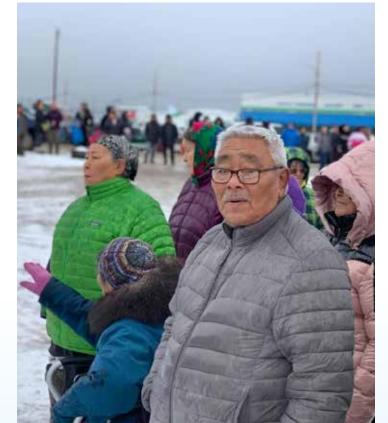


















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AN ADDITIONAL \$1.8 MILLION TO HELP OUR **ELDERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

In November, QIA rolled out a second round of Emergency Grocery Vouchers for Elders to assist Oikigtani Inuit during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working in partnership with Arctic Co-operatives Limited, QIA allocated an additional \$1.8 million to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on Oikigtani Inuit Elders. The funds were distributed as \$250 vouchers every other week for a total of six vouchers per Elder or \$1,500 per Elder.

In Clyde River, QIA delivered this program through Ilisagsivik and Arctic Co-operatives Limited as grocery hampers delivered to Elders.

Urban Inuit, originally from Qikiqtani communities and registered with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., received a one-time payment of \$750 via cheque.

The first round of this initiative ran from April 14 to August 18 and distributed \$3 million in benefits to Qikiqtani Elders.

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Elders are at higher risk of respiratory infections such as COVID-19. This emergency financial support helped with access to healthy food, necessary cleaning supplies, and other household essentials.

The funds for QIA's COVID-19 response plan come from the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) announced by the Federal Government. QIA's share of the ICSF is \$4,311,793.



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\$2.66 MILLION TO HELP QIKIQTANI FAMILIES PURCHASE HARVESTING, GROCERY, AND SEWING SUPPLIES DURING THE PANDEMIC

In November 2020, QIA announced the Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative to assist Inuit during the COVID-19 pandemic. Within 24 hours QIA received more than 2,000 applications for this important initiative, a record for our programs.

The Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative provided Qikiqtani Inuit with money to use towards harvesting, purchasing groceries, and sewing. Responding to the high number of applications received, QIA adjusted the grant allocation from \$1,500 to \$1,000 for each eligible household. This allowed an additional 884 Inuit household to receive the grant.

A total of 2,660 Qikiqtani household benefited from this program, each receiving \$1,000 to help with harvesting, purchasing groceries, and sewing.

The funds for QIA's COVID-19 response plan came from the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) announced by the Federal Government. QIA's share of this fund is \$4,311,793. Additional funds for the Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative are from the COVID-19 Mental Health Surge Funding.

TUSARASSAT 2555 2021

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QIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN: PHASE 3

QIA is rolling out a third round of COVID-19 initiatives aimed at helping Inuit on Income Support, schoolaged children, and impacted communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

QIA's new COVID-19 initiatives will be made available to Inuit in 2021.

The funds for QIA's COVID-19 response plan come from the phase three of the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) announced by the Federal Government. QIA's share of that fund is \$2.008.101.



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\$731,250 for the Qikiqtani COVID-19 **Emergency Grocery Vouchers for** families on Income Support



\$663.665 ʹϧϲͳϭͼϧϽͼϧϹͼϧͼϫϧʹϼͼ ᠘᠙᠙ᠺ᠘᠙᠘᠙᠘᠘ᠻ᠘

\$663,665 for the COVID-19 impacted community support initiative for Sanikiluaq



\$311,970 ᡩ᠙᠙᠙᠙᠘ᠳ᠙᠘ᠳ᠙᠘ᠳ᠙᠘ᠳ᠙᠘ᠳ᠙

\$311,970 for the Qikiqtani COVID-19 school food program initiative

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QIA DISTRIBUTES OVER \$150K OF FOOD IN SANIKILUAQ BEFORE CHRISTMAS

QIA distributed \$80,000 in food hampers and \$72,000 in food vouchers to Sanikiluaq households before Christmas. This was an early benefit from round three of QIA's COVID-19 initiatives.

"Sanikiluammiut had a difficult November, they faced active COVID-19 cases in their community and came together to prevent the spread of the virus, and fight their way back to zero cases," says QIA President P.J. Akeeagok, "these food hampers and grocery vouchers, delivered to every household before Christmas, are one way that we can remind the community that we appreciate their strength and endurance."

QIA delivered this holiday benefit to Sanikiluaq in partnership with Arctic Co-operatives Limited, who helped with food distribution and provided a top-up to expand the initiative to non-Inuit households.

This support for Sanikiluaq is part of the third round of QIA's COVID-19 initiatives. QIA has allocated \$663,665 for Sanikiluaq as a community impacted.

The funds for QIA's COVID-19 response plan come from the phase three of the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) announced by the Federal Government. QIA's share of that fund is \$2,008,101.



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OVER \$1.8 MILLION TO HELP WITH MENTAL WELLNESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting a strain on the mental wellbeing of Inuit. To help with this, QIA provided over \$1.8 million to communities and hamlets to help with mental wellness initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding is supported by the Ilisaqsivik Society, the YWCA Agvik, the Uqutaq Society, the Tukisigiarvik Society, Qikiqtani Hamlet recreation departments, and the Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative.

On August 25, 2020, Minister Miller announced \$82.5 million for surge capacity and the adaptation of existing mental wellness services to address COVID-19 related mental wellness needs and pressures in Indigenous communities. QIA's share of the COVID-19 Mental Health Surge Funding is \$1,839,763.

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ILISAQSIVIK SOCIETY: \$517,000

QIA partnered with Ilisaqsivik to increase Inuit-led mental health and wellness capacity in the Qikiqtani Region such as preparing social supports for those asked to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

THE YWCA AGVIK: \$182,000

The funds supported sewing programs and hosting storytelling and traditional games for women at the shelter. Funding also provided staff support for issues related to COVID-19 restrictions and shutdowns.

UQUTAQ SOCIETY: \$237,000

Funding bolstered programming and training such as on-the-land programs, counselling services, and mental health training.

TUKISIGIARVIK SOCIETY: \$62,000

The funds assisted with programs such as cabin building and qamutiik making.

QIKIQTANI HAMLET RECREATION DEPARTMENTS: \$425,000

Funding supported Qikiqtani Hamlet recreation departments to provide youth mental wellness programming during the pandemic.

QIKIQTANI FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVE: \$415,000

QIA announced the Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative on November 4, 2020. The \$415,000 was used to expand the initiative.

TUSARASSAT 2555 2021

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ADVOCATING FOR HOUSING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

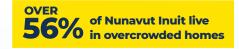
November 22 was National Housing Day, a day to call attention to the housing crisis in Canada. In Nunavut, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for safe housing has once again taken centre stage.

Over 56 per cent of Nunavut Inuit live in overcrowded homes – many with multi-generational families crammed into small dwellings. These conditions pose specific risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, making it hard, if not impossible, for many Inuit to physically distance from family members, and creating conditions that exacerbate the spread of the virus.

Now, more than ever before, we need affordable, safe housing in our territory. QIA is eager to see fast and decisive action on building new affordable homes in Nunavut that allow Inuit families to live in safety and with dignity.

QIA continues to advocate the territorial and federal governments to tackle the housing crisis in Nunavut so that every Qikiqtani family has a safe place to call home.





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QIA **WORKS WITH BECKY HAN**

QIA worked with Becky Han, of Arctic Bay, to create a music video advocating for more housing in Nunavut.



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"Everyone deserves a safe home. But that is not always the case. All lives are precious, so let's come together to protect them.

Let's save lives by providing safe homes, helping to stop the spread of COVID."

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GROWING THE NAUTTIQSUQTIIT TEAM

QIA's Department of Marine and Wildlife continues to deliver new benefits for Inuit through Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA).

The Nauttiqsuqtiit team is growing with new staff in Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay and Igaluit.

In October, Nauttigsugtiit from each of the five High Arctic communities travelled to Igaluit for a week of training. The training finished with a successful harvesting trip.

In Clyde River the Nauttigsugtiit have been busy making gamutiit to use for their work.

In Arctic Bay, our team has been providing country food to their community during the pandemic.

The Nauttigsugtiit will continue their important work as the stewards of Tallurutiup Imanga.

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OIA LAUNCHES PROJECT TO SUPPORT INUIT DOG TEAM OWNERS

In October 2020, QIA announced the launch of the Qikiqtani Qimuksigtiit Project (QQP). This project is designed to assist Qikiqtani Inuit with the maintenance of their dog teams.

This three-year pilot program provides funding to Qikiqtani Inuit who are established gimmiit practitioners. Each eligible applicant receives \$3.000 as a one-time payment. The program is part of QIA's ongoing work on the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

On November 20, 2020, the QQP was suspended in compliance with the Government of Nunavut's measures to mitigate COVID-19.

The pilot program will run until March 2023.



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QISILIRINNIQ WORKSHOPS IN IQALUIT

QIA offered a series of workshops in October and November to familiarize Inuit youth with harvesting and sealskin preparation.

The Qisilirinniq workshops were offered in Iqaluit for Qikiqtani Inuit youth between the ages of 15 to 30.

Three workshops were held over three weekends. The workshops included traditional small tool making, seal harvesting, and seal skin preparation.

The participants had a fantastic time learning traditional Inuit activities.

These pilot workshops are supported by the MakeWay Foundation – Arctic Marine Fund.

QIA hopes to offer similar workshops again in the future.

















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JOHN AMAGOALIK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT 2020-2021

QIA was pleased to announce the 2020-2021 recipient of the John Amagoalik scholarship, Jenna Kilabuk.

Originally from Pangnirtung, Kilabuk is in her second year of the four-year Nunavut Teacher Education Program at Nunavut Arctic College. In her application she explained how she hopes to honour John Amagoalik's legacy of serving Inuit and fostering Inuit culture and language as a teacher.

The \$5,000 scholarship honours the efforts of John Amagoalik towards the betterment of Inuit in Nunavut. QIA prioritizes applications from post-secondary students entering a field that promotes Inuit language and culture.



"I believe John's journey and experiences have greatly contributed to learning for individuals like me. I would like to thank QIA for making this opportunity available to Inuit students who are furthering their education for the betterment of Inuit. Qujannamiik!"

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QIA POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

QIA was pleased to announce the recipients of QIA's scholarships for post-secondary students enrolled in the 2020-2021 academic year.

This is the fourth year QIA is offering \$200,000 in scholarships. The 80 QIA scholarships, at \$2.500 each, are awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis to students from the Qikiqtani Region who are pursing post-secondary education.

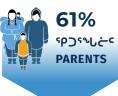
Congratulations to all Qikiqtani students who are furthering their education this year.

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\$2,500 SPPSSCOTS QIA SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENTS/YEAR

OIA 2020-21 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS







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PROFILE: ALEXIA GALLOWAY-ALAINGA, EXCITED TO WORK FOR INUIT

QIA's new Policy Analyst, Alexia Galloway-Alainga, is a young Inuk eager to apply her education and life experience to her role with the Department of Social Policy.

"I'm excited to work with an Inuit organization and work for Inuit," explains Galloway-Alainga who graduated from Ottawa's Carleton University in 2019 with a major in Social Work and a minor in psychology.

After completing university, she tried on a few different jobs including working with the territorial and federal government. She also took a few months to go on tour with Inuk-electropop artist Riit in the spring and fall of 2019. Together they performed at many prominent music festivals and Canadian stages including the National Arts Centre.

While Galloway-Alainga is unsure what she wants to do in the future she's candid about what fuels her passion for serving her community.

"A big driving factor for my education and choices of employment have been my personal experience with trauma as a kid," explains Galloway-Alainga, "my passion is to help others who have experienced similar things."

Growing up, Galloway-Alainga saw first-hand the impact of colonialism and inter-generational trauma on Inuit families.

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"I noticed how my childhood experiences were a result of different things that happened because of our history as Inuit," says Galloway-Alainga. Her time in university allowed her to contextualize those early experiences, "a big realization for me was understanding that some of these things that had happened, such as substance abuse, domestic violence and mental health issues were a result of trauma."

Now, in her new role as Policy Analyst, Galloway-Alainga wants to tackle the systemic issues that cause a ripple effect in Inuit communities.

"I'm eager to find solutions by looking to our past and Inuit cultural practices that are positive examples," she says, "I want to bring traditional Inuit values into the work we do."

Her advice for young Inuit is to never give up.

"Definitely try, it's not just about getting to the finish line, it's



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QIA OFFERS ONLINE Q-STEP WORK READINESS PROGRAM

Since 2017, the Q-STEP Work Readiness Program has been at the core of QIA's training. About 300 Inuit have completed this training and many have found employment or enhanced their skills.

Usually, Q-STEP participants travel away from their home communities to take part in the five-day Work Readiness Program. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, QIA temporarily adapted this Program to an online format. We worked with the Government of Canada and Baffinland Iron Mines Inc. to provide computers and internet access to participants. The online Q-STEP program was successfully delivered in Igloolik, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay.

QIA will continue to offer the Work Readiness Program with a stronger online focus due to the realities of COVID-19.

RECENT WORK READINESS PROGRAMS IN QIKIQTANI COMMUNITIES

IN-PERSON TRAINING:

• Igloolik: September 14 - October 9

• Sanirajak: October 26 - 30

ONLINE TRAINING:

• Pond Inlet: November 2 - 26

• Iqaluit: December 7 - 11



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MEET A FEW OF THE Q-STEP WORK READINESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

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"It was really positive, I never had that kind of training before. It went beyond just working relations, there was personal stuff that we could use, like how to manage finances. There are a lot of Q-STEP programs that are available that I didn't know about."

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Igloolik's Joasia Kublu was one of the participants in the online Work Readiness Program. This was his first time in a Q-STEP training. Hearing about the online program through a community radio broadcast prompted Joasai to take steps towards his goal of completing the Q-STEP Heavy Equipment Operator training by first completing the Work Readiness Program. Previously, Joasia has worked with the Hamlet of Igloolik as the Director of Public Works.

خر ⊳نوات، کوت SHEILA OKKUMALUK, IGLOOLIK



"It was good, I would recommend it to others. I enjoyed talking with other people and learning new things."

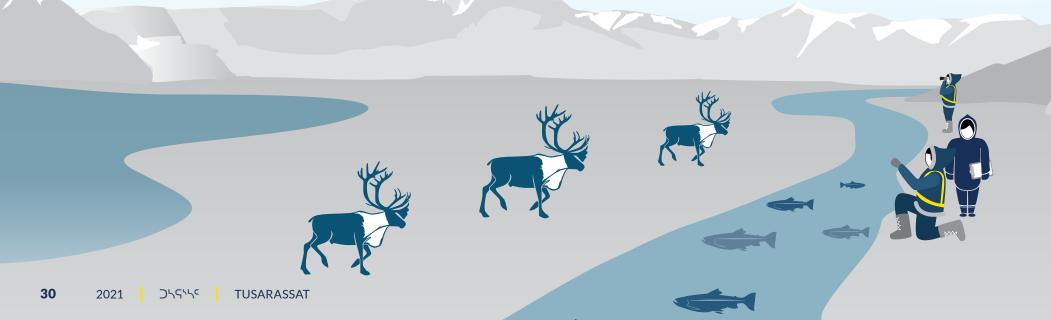
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Igloolik's Sheila Okkumaluk completed the online Work Readiness Program. This was Shelia's' first time in Q-STEP training. Sheila worked at a camp site previously as a dishwasher. She is hoping for a job in administration. Sheila heard about the Q-STEP online training through an advertisement on Facebook.

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QIA CONDUCTS TUSAQTAVUT WORKSHOPS TO GATHER INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT





- פשפעאישרי עריפעראפל עררשפעאפל פל ארדי

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Throughout September to November 2020, our team worked with Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Igloolik and Sanirajak to conduct Tusaqtavut Inuit-led studies. These studies use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to demonstrate Inuit use of the land and water and to determine the impacts of the Mary River Project on Inuit access to using the lands and waterways.

In October, QIA staff met with the Mayor of Pond Inlet and the Mitimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization to lay the groundwork for the Inuit-led freshwater study. This study will use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to:

- Demonstrate the importance of freshwater for Inuit cultural activities,
- Note water bodies of particular importance, and
- Identify potential impacts of the Mary River Project on inland water bodies.

In November, our staff returned to Pond Inlet to conduct the studies. While there, we also met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to discuss environmental mitigation measures and adaptive management plans for the Mary River Phase 2 proposal.

To date, all five Mary River impacted communities have draft Tusaqtavut studies completed. These are important as they will be referenced in the future to understand if the Mary River Project is having impacts on the land and waterways.

For example, the information in the Pond Inlet freshwater study will allow Inuit to put in place monitoring of bodies of water that are important to Inuit of Pond Inlet.

QIA staff will conduct cumulative effects studies in Igloolik, Sanirajak and Pond Inlet using Inuit Qaujimajatugangit.

TUSARASSAT 25545 2021

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CREATING A BLUE ECONOMY IN NUNAVUT

In October 2020, QIA published Inuit Stewardship and the Blue Economy in Nunavut's Qikiqtani Region. This document outlines QIA's plans to use the negotiation and governance model we developed under the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA to extend protection for two additional marine areas in the Qikiqtani Region: Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait.

Sarvarjuaq, in the High Arctic, lies between Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq. Once all three areas become protected this would create a 502,866 km² continuous protected zone.

Qikiqtait, adjacent to Sanikiluaq, includes more than 1,500 islands and is distributed over 3 million terrestrial hectares.

This work would include an expansion of our Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit steward program – creating more local jobs for Inuit. It also includes measures to bolster fisheries and repatriate fishing quotas in waters adjacent to our communities.

In addition, we are seeking additional blue economy infrastructure to support research and monitoring as well as an exchange centre in Grise Fiord, multi-use facilities in Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq, and a deep-water port in Qikiqtarjuaq.



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75,456 KM²

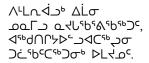
43,068 KM²

σουνονος αντιστιστιστιστιστού Δείτο ο Αιτο ο Αι

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

Foraging and breeding area for seabirds.

Walrus winter and summer haul out sites.



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

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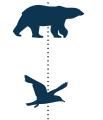
Habitat for Beluga and northern Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Atlantic Walrus.

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

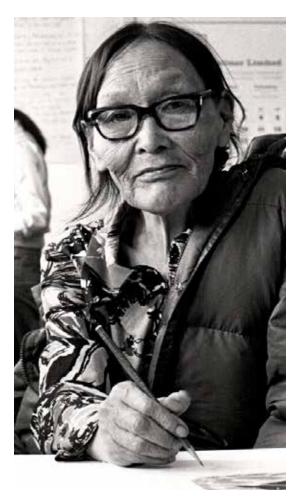
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Year round habitat for entire population of Hudson Bay subspecies of Common Eider.









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PITSEOLAK ASHOONA CONSIDERED FOR RECOGNITION ON NEW FIVE DOLLAR BILL

Inuk-Canadian artist, Pitseolak Ashoona, is one of eight people considered for recognition on a new \$5 Canadian bank note. Ashoona, who was born on-the-land on Nottingham Island in the Hudson Straights, was one of the first recognized Inuit artists in Kinngait. She settled in Kinngait in the early 1960s and had 17 children, several of whom also became artists.

A prolific artist, Ashoona made close to 9,000 drawings during her 20 years in Kinngait. Her prints have appeared in every annual print collection since her work was first published in 1960.

During her career, Pitseolak was awarded several honours and accolades. In 1971 the National Film Board produced a film based on her book, "Pitseolak: Pictures out of my life". In 1974 she was elected a member of the Royal Canadian Academy and she received the Order of Canada in 1977.

Pitseolak died in 1983 and is buried behind the Anglican Church in Kinngait. Her impressive body of work now resides on long term loan at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection where it is being photographed, documented, and exhibited.

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MORE ON THE \$5 BANK NOTE

This recognition is the result of a broad public consultation process launched in late January 2020. The Bank of Canada initiated this process with an open call for nominations inviting Canadians to suggest who they would like to see on the next \$5 note.

Nearly 45,000 people answered the call, resulting in more than 600 eligible nominees. The nominees were then reviewed by an independent Advisory Council appointed by the Bank.

Informed by public opinion and historical research, and after careful deliberations characterized by open dialogue and a wide range of perspectives and experiences, the Advisory Council finalized their short list. They believe this list emphasizes diverse and important contributions to our shared history.

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THE EIGHT SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES ARE:

- Pitseolak Ashoona
- Robertine Barry ("Francoise")
- Binaaswi (Francis Pegahmagabow)
- Won Alexander Cumyow
- Terry Fox
- Lotta Hitschmanova
- Isapo-muxika (Crowfoot)
- Onondeyoh (Frederick Ogilvie Loft)

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The selected candidate is expected to be announced in early 2021, following the final decision by the Minister of Finance. The bank note design process will then begin, the note is expected to begin circulating in a few years.

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2020 SEPTEMBER BY-ELECTION

On September 21, 2020, QIA held a by-election in Igloolik to elect their new Community Director. Louis Tapardjuk was elected in a close race.

Louis Tapardjuk has been a long-time leader in Inuit organizations, municipal politics, and territorial politics. He has been the mayor of Igloolik and served as a Board Member of the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut. He was also a Director and President with QIA's predecessor the Baffin Regional Inuit Association.

Tapardjuk was notably a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the electoral district of Amittuq from 2004 to 2013. He served in the Executive Council of Nunavut as the Minister of Finance and Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Minister of Justice.

Tapardjuk has been a life-long champion for Inuktitut. During his time in territorial politics he introduced the Official Languages Act for Nunavut. Tapardjuk is currently the Chair of the Inuit Ugausinginnik Taiguusiliugtiit, the Inuktut language authority.



QIA ELECTION

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QIA'S UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS





2020 QIA ELECTION FOR VICE PRESIDENT Olayuk Akesuk

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2020 QIA ELECTION FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER Levis Barnabas

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 2020 QIA ELECTION FOR COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

ARCTIC BAY / Jeremy Tunraluk
GRISE FIORD / Liza Ningiuk
KINNGAIT / Mathew Saveakjuk Jaw
PANGNIRTUNG / Charlie Qumuatuq
QIKIQTARJUAQ / Stevie Aulaqiaq
RESOLUTE BAY / Paul Amagoalik - Acclaimed



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