

ΛΓΔΕΖ

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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.

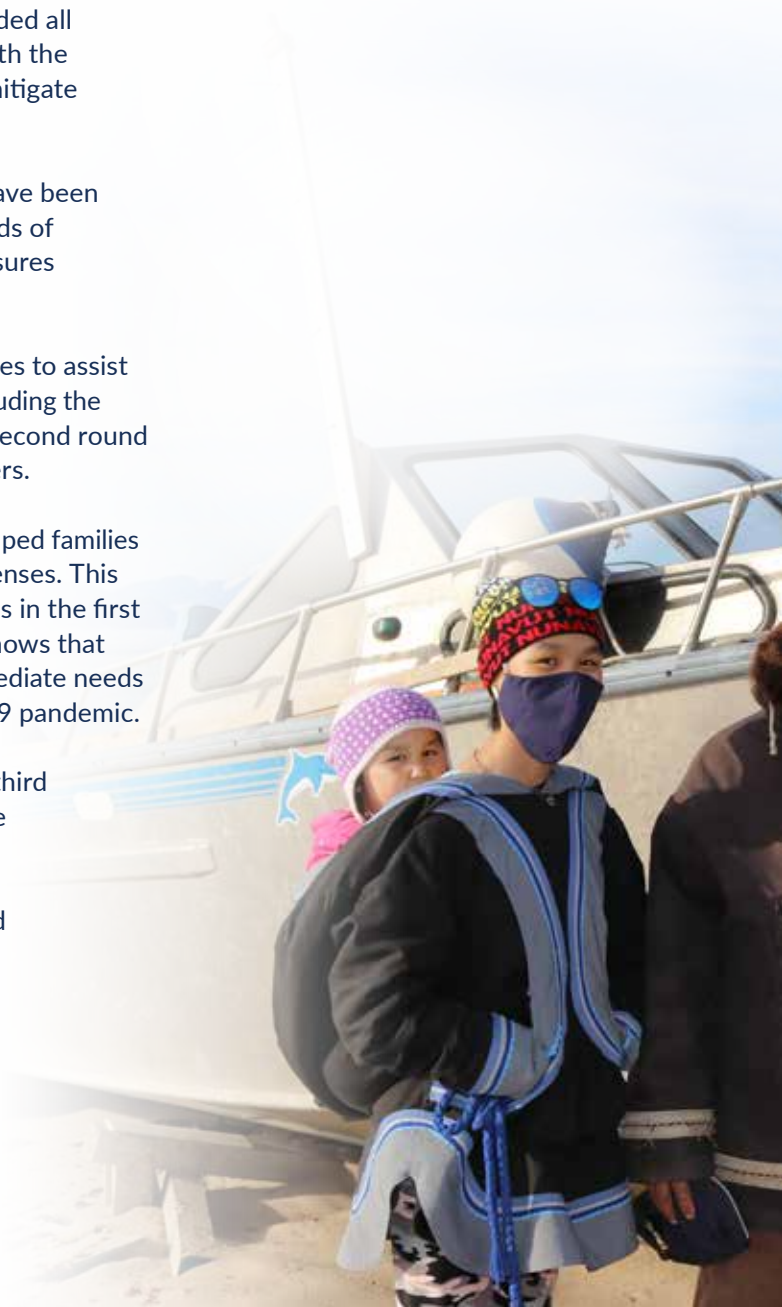
In November, QIA rolled out two initiatives to assist Qikiqtani Inuit through the pandemic including the Qikiqtani Family Support Initiative and a second round of Emergency Grocery Vouchers for Elders.

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



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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 Qikiqtani 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 Qikiqtani 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 Iisaqsivik 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.

[illegible]

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.



\$1,500 **IN GROCERY CARDS**

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6 GROCERY CARDS EACH WORTH \$250



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\$731,250

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\$731,250

for the Qikiqtani COVID-19
Emergency Grocery Vouchers for
families on Income Support



\$663,665

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\$663,665

**for the COVID-19 impacted
community support initiative –
for Sanikiluaq**



\$311,970

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\$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.

“Sanikiluaamiut 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. Akeagok, “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 Tukisigiavik 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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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.

“የሆሽናህ ልማት ልማት
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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.”




 ልማት ልማት ልማት ልማት
 SAFE HOMES SAVE LIVES



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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 Iqaluit.

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

In Clyde River the Nauttiqsuqtiit have been busy making qamutiit to use for their work.

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

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

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QIA LAUNCHES PROJECT TO SUPPORT INUIT DOG TEAM OWNERS

In October 2020, QIA announced the launch of the Qikiqtani
Qimuksiit 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 qimmiit 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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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 about the experience and what you learn along the way."





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

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JOASAI KUBLU, IGLOOLIK

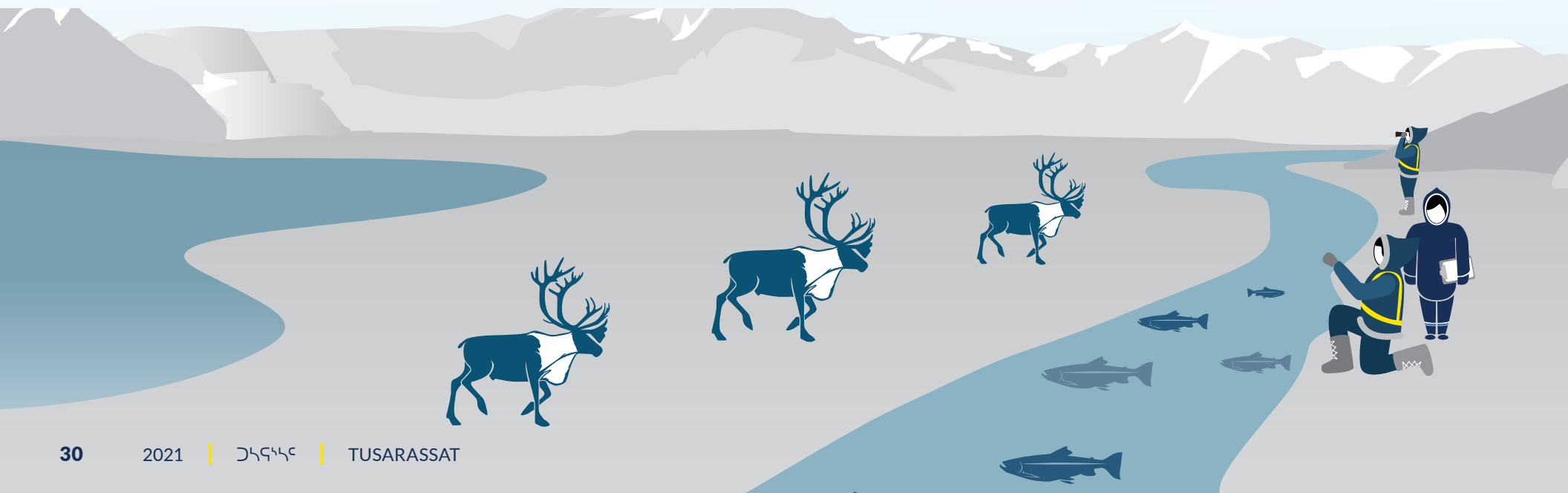
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“It was really positive, I never had that kind of training before. It went beyond just working relations, there was personal stuff that we could use, like how to manage finances. There are a lot of Q-STEP programs that are available that I didn’t know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

[illegible]

Iglulik'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 Igloodik as the Director of Public Works.

QIA CONDUCTS TUSAQTAVUT WORKSHOPS TO GATHER INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT



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Throughout September to November 2020, our team worked with Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Igloodik 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 Igloodik, Sanirajak and Pond Inlet using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

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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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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.

Pitsoelak 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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2020 SEPTEMBER BY-ELECTION

On September 21, 2020, QIA held a by-election in Igloodik 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 Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, the Inuktitut language authority.



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QIA ELECTION

QIA'S UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

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2020 QIA ELECTION
FOR VICE PRESIDENT
Olayuk Akesuk

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ግልጽ ምክር ቤቱ ምርጫ



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

TUSARASSAT




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