



QIKIQTANI

INUIT ASSOCIATION

A REGIONAL CONSERVATION APPROACH 2022

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Message from QIA President, Olayuk Akesuk

It is time to take a bold approach to conservation and community development. A new approach that meaningfully reflects the deep rooted understanding Inuit have of nature, and applying our understanding of Inuit laws, customs, and practices that ensure the wise stewardship of wildlife, land and marine areas.

This approach further develops the creation of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and the interim protection of Tuvaijuittuq, and builds on Canada's implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), informed by the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)'s Calls to Action, Canada's commitment to Qikiqtani Truth Commission (QTC) Recommendations, and the Inuit Nunangat Policy.

All of these commitments are taken into consideration when strengthening our relationships with the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada for the benefit of Qikiqtani Inuit.

As Inuit, we view ourselves being intertwined with nature and all that it has to offer. Our lands and waters, despite being under stress, are still quite pristine and keeping them that way is an absolute priority for Inuit.

We think collectively about community and prioritize communal wellbeing.

We have a sharing culture.

We understand the connectivity of nature and the importance of protecting the Arctic, our fellow Inuit, and the planet.

Inuit values stand in contrast to the crisis unfolding on our planet with nature being decimated, biodiversity lost, the climate warming and oceans being depleted faster than they are regenerating.

Never has the world needed more of what Inuit have.

QIA proposes to partner with the whole-of-government to implement an Inuit-led, regional, and integrated conservation approach within the entire 989,879 km² of the Qikiqtani Region.

As a part of being bold, and advancing Inuit self-determination, QIA believes that Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) can play a significant role in the Qikiqtani Region for achieving long-term protection of marine and terrestrial areas supporting Canada's commitments to protect 25% of its land and marine areas by 2025, and 30% by 2030.

The Qikiqtani Region spans the northern, eastern, and southernmost areas of Nunavut and is home to approximately 20,000 people living in 13 remote communities. This represents 10 percent of Canada's land mass – larger than British Columbia and more than twice the size of California.

A regional approach would be anchored by the creation of two new conservation areas, Sarvarjuaq to our northeast and Qikiqtait in our southern reaches.

Together with the consolidation of existing conservation areas on land and in the marine environment, we will seek direction from our communities to propose identification of further land and marine conservation areas. This vast regional network of conservation areas will be collectively managed through a holistic Inuit approach, creating an interconnected area of ecosystem integrity in the Qikiqtani Region.

Fortunately, the political will and commitment to bring this perspective into action has improved.

Since 2018, QIA and Canada have deepened our working partnership on conservation while advancing an honest approach to reconciliation. Both entities better understand how to effectively bring about a whole-of-government response. Together, we have built the foundation for the next steps towards reconciliation and have begun implementing the recommendations of the QTC.

Discussions have also begun on reconciliation to implement the objectives of the Nunavut Agreement regarding fisheries. The Government of Nunavut has new leadership that is familiar with the benefits that can flow to communities from a well-managed conservation plan. These factors combined, improve the conditions to take the next step in conservation and economic development.

We recognize the window of opportunity presented by the renewed Government of Canada mandate for reconciliation and the implementation of the UNDRIP, as well as the renewed ambitious global conservation targets.

We also understand that this window of opportunity is present during a time of unprecedented climatic and cultural change. We are excited to walk forward as willing partners.

Qujannamiik,



Olayuk Akesuk



Executive Summary

QIA is proposing a new and bold conservation vision in partnership with Canada across all of 989,879 km² of the Qikiqtani Region. Taking a whole-of-government approach, Qikiqtani Inuit, with Canada, are seeking to create a vast mosaic of interconnected marine and terrestrial protected areas that are pivotal to the health and well-being of Inuit, Canadians and the global community.

Founded on Inuit stewardship and led by communities across the Qikiqtani Region, investments in the Qikiqtani network of protected areas will safeguard ecosystems, wildlife and Inuit culture, while supporting sustainable employment, economic diversification, building critical infrastructure and reinforcing financial stability that enable healthy communities.

Our deepened partnership will advance reconciliation and assist Canada in meeting its objective in the Inuit Nunangat Policy to “promote prosperity and support community and individual wellbeing throughout Inuit Nunangat with the goal of socio-economic and cultural equity between Inuit and other Canadians”¹. The partnership will also further the implementation of the inherent right of Inuit self-determination as set out in the UNDRIP and the recommendations of the QTC.

Taking transformational action for a sustainable future builds on the creation of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and the interim protection of Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area, and requires protecting additional ecosystems across the Qikiqtani Region.

Although separated by more than two thousand kilometers, the network of protected areas will be anchored by Qikiqtait in the sub-Arctic and Sarvarjuaq in the high Arctic.

Sarvarjuaq is the Canadian portion of Pikialasorsuaq, which is the largest high Arctic polynya, an area of year-round open water. A critical refuge, teeming with marine life that has nourished Inuit communities for thousands of years and is surrounded by ice, essential to our ecosystems.

Qikiqtait takes its form from the ribbon-like Belcher islands of southeastern Hudson Bay and is a unique and significant region both ecologically and culturally.

Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait are connected through culture, wildlife, and ecological services, forming significant areas of ecological integrity, encompassing three unique bioregions.

Sarvarjuaq, the Canadian side of Pikialasorsuaq (The North Water Polynya), is the largest Arctic polynya and biologically one of the most productive regions in the Arctic. It is vital to many migratory species, and for generations Inuit have recognized it as a critical habitat upon which the surrounding communities depend.

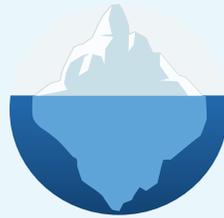
Qikiqtait includes more than 1,500 islands and up to 35 recurrent polynyas, which provide important habitat for wildlife, including beluga, walrus, and polar bears. This area is the year-round home for the entire population of the Hudson Bay Common Eider.

¹ Government of Canada, Inuit Nunangat Policy, 2022



Today, for the benefit of Inuit Nunangat and for all Canadians, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Inuit leaders commit to working in partnership together, and with the Governments of Denmark and Kalaallit Nunaat, to develop a path forward for advancing the sustainable marine management and environmental protection of the Pikialasorsuaq region, and to facilitate mobility for Inuit of the region”.

– Pikialasorsuaq Leaders Statement, April 4, 2019



The Arctic is warming at three times the global average

Arctic sea ice is declining at a rate of 13% per decade

Permafrost is melting 70 years ahead of predictions

Canadian wildlife depends on the land and waters of Inuit Nunangat

75%



Narwhal - 75% of global population

62%



Beluga – 67% of global population summer in Canadian waters

90%



Bowhead whale – 90% of global population summer in Canadian waters

80%



Polar Bear – up to 80% polar bears live in Canada



Seabird species – some of the largest colonies in the Canadian Arctic



Creating Resiliency in the Qikiqtani Region

Qikiqtani Inuit are experiencing the impacts of climate change that are accelerating and threatening the survival of our wildlife that we rely on for physical sustenance and cultural renewal.

The globally significant ecological services that the Arctic provides, storing carbon, cooling the planet, and influencing oceanic and atmospheric currents, are under pressure.

As our ice disappears and the Northwest passage and Central Arctic Ocean becomes navigable, the Inuit way of life is at stake, as is the security of Canadian Arctic waters and Arctic sovereignty.

The world, and more specifically Canada, is facing unprecedented challenges and we must harness Inuit knowledge, practices, and skills to collectively find solutions.

QIA is proposing a deeper partnership with Canada to create resiliency and security in our Arctic environment through Inuit-led governance, and sustainable economies for our communities, built upon Inuit leadership, and stewardship.

Our partnership for conservation will prioritize the use of Inuit knowledge, laws, customs, and practices that reflect the Inuit self-governing way of life and align with the ultimate Inuit goal for cultural and economic self-sufficiency.

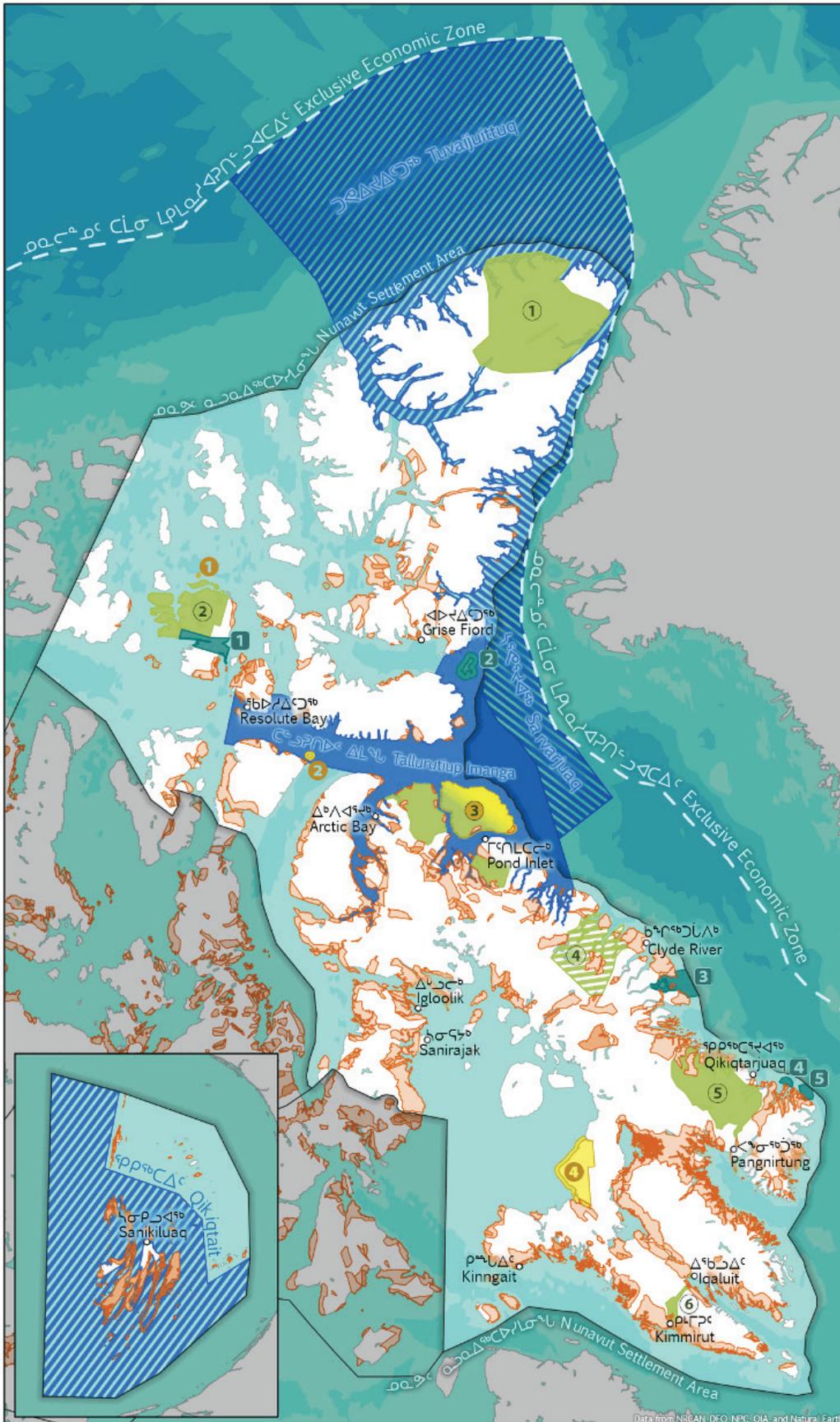
Inuit will always protect the environment, it is embedded in our customs, culture, and laws - our future depends on it.



As we work together to implement the Inuit Nunangat Policy, QIA proposes to partner with the whole-of-government to implement an Inuit-led, regional, and integrated conservation approach within the entire 989,879 km² of the Qikiqtani Region”.

– Olayuk Akesuk, QIA President

Conservation Mosaic - Qikiqtani Region



National and Territorial Parks

- ① Qitturnipaq National Park
- ② Qausuittuq National Park
- ③ Sirmilik National Park (includes Bylot Island and the area south of Pond Inlet)
- ④ Agguttinni Proposed Territorial Park
- ⑤ Auyuittuq National Park
- ⑥ Katannilik Territorial Park

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

- ① Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- ② Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- ③ Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary (overlapping Sirmilik National Park)
- ④ Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary

National Wildlife Areas

- ① Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area
- ② Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area
- ③ Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area
- ④ Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area
- ⑤ Akpait National Wildlife Area

Marine Areas for Conservation

- Tuvaivjuttuq
- Sarvarjuaq
- Tallurutiup Imanga
- Qikiqtait

Data from NR/CAN, DFO, NPC, QIA, and Natural Earth

Inuit Regional Approach to Sustainable Conservation

Sarvarjuaq located in the High Arctic and Qikiqtait/Belcher Island archipelago at the southern end of the Qikiqtani Region in Hudson Bay will anchor a vast mosaic of interconnected marine and terrestrial protected areas.

Already, Sarvarjuaq is profoundly interconnected with the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, and Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area. Together, they create a continuous area of marine protection covering over 500,000 km², the size of Atlantic Canada. Sarvarjuaq is also the Canadian portion of the larger Pikiyasorsuaq, which spans into Greenland and is vital to Greenlandic communities. This vast area of marine protected areas will also connect with over 70,000 km² of terrestrial protected areas in the High Arctic.

An integrated approach based on Inuit knowledge and stewardship must recognize that these areas are part of a single functioning ecosystem and cannot be successfully safeguarded if they are managed in isolation and in a fragmented fashion under a multiplicity of legislation, governance structures, and decision-making bodies.

Maintaining the integrity of lands, seas and ice within a conservation area network will be essential to ensuring that these areas continue to provide critical global ecosystem

services at a time where world environments are fragile and, in some places, collapsing. Snow and ice, and their reflective and cooling qualities, are critical to slowing climate change and are also vital to Inuit, cultural practices, and the ability to feed ourselves with nutrient rich country foods. Safeguarding our seabed is essential to sequestering an estimated 46 billion metric tonnes of carbon surrounding the Qikiqtani Region.

Qikiqtani Inuit propose a holistic approach for environmental resiliency based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit acquired through focused Inuit-led management. This holistic approach also requires consideration of the role of existing protected areas, current efforts to conserve Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait, as well as moving forward with additional conservation priorities of Qikiqtani communities and our partners, including the Government of Nunavut, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Working together, strategically implementing conservation tools, including through federal and territorial legislation, and IPCAs we can establish a full network of interconnected marine and terrestrial conservation areas for the benefit of Inuit, Canadians and the global community.



Qikiqtani Inuit Association recognizes that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

- Contains Inuit oral history that has been passed down verbally over centuries of Inuit knowledge. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit includes the past and the present. This knowledge is unique to each individual.
- To be interchangeable with Qaujimanituqangit. This knowledge is a collective knowledge.
- Inuit Qaujimajangit is Inuit knowledge living and adapting, and very much part of the present day and present-day life. It is in how Inuit live and see the world today.

QIA supports creating IPCAs in the Qikiqtani Region for advancing reconciliation, Inuit self-determination and achieving long-term protection of marine and terrestrial areas. These areas of high value support Canada's commitments to protect 25% of its land and marine areas by 2025, and 30% by 2030. IPCAs offer long-term protection to areas of critical importance to Inuit while championing Inuit-led governance. The desire for IPCAs stems from challenges with current co-governance processes for legislated protected areas that are not living up to Inuit expectations for long-term sustainable protection as well as not providing decision-making reflective of Inuit culture and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Going forward with legislated protected areas, such as Marine Protected Areas for Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait, QIA is seeking a governance model that recognizes Inuit leadership, laws, and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

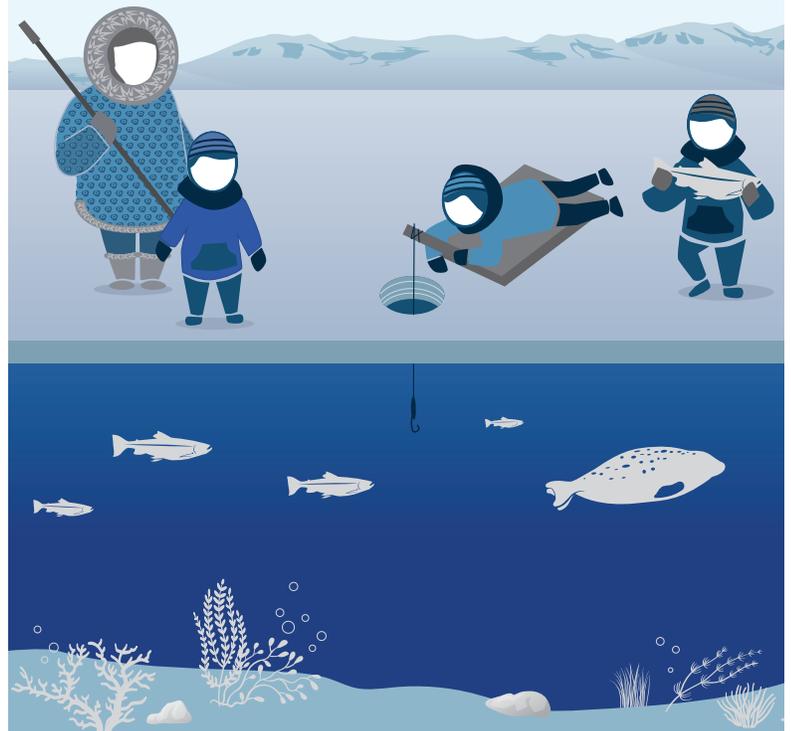
A sustainable future requires equipping Inuit with a defined and dependable economic resource base and governance structures that recognize Inuit decision-making while positioning Inuit to succeed in future economic activities as we adapt to a rapidly changing environment.

Investments in Inuit stewardship are already making a difference. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, our team of Nauttiqsuqtiit (Inuit stewards) in Tallurutiup Imanga impacted communities have made important strides in establishing monitoring activities to enhance their role as the eyes and ears of the Arctic marine environment and have distributed a significant amount of harvested country food to community members at a time of great uncertainty.

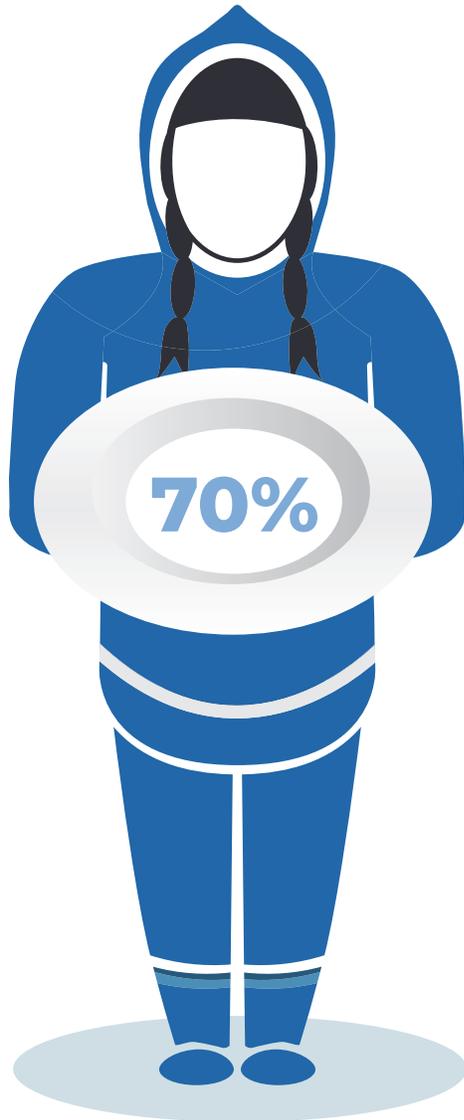
Nature Based Solution Carbon Sequestration

46 BILLION
metric tonnes of blue carbon
is stored in the Arctic seabed
surrounding the Qikiqtani region.

This represents 26% of Canada's
total marine carbon stock².



² Global Patterns in Marine Sediment Carbon Stocks (March 2020), online: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.00165/full>



Food insecurity remains a daily issue for 70% of Inuit families in Nunavut and remains eight times higher than the Canadian national average and represents the highest documented food insecurity rate for any Indigenous population residing in a country part of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Qikiqtani Inuit and Canada have built the foundation to guide the next steps in reconciliation, we must continue to advance this work towards the elimination of socio-economic disparities that exist among Inuit and achieve equity with the rest of Canada.

Food security remains an issue on a daily basis for 70% of Inuit families.

Indigenous populations in other parts of Canada experience up to 54% food insecurity.

9% of non-Indigenous Canadians experience food insecurity.



Reconciliation means building new relationships and negotiating agreements that directly address historical injustices experienced by Inuit associated with federal government policies and decision-making – this includes disparities with respect to Inuit access to adjacent fisheries.

We must make greater strides towards reconciliation through a renewed commitment to implement the UNDRIP. Legislation, policies and actions must be consistent with the

UNDRIP, including through the modernization of the *Oceans Act*, and in our negotiations to achieve the ambitious commitments to international conservation targets.

Innovative conservation approaches are required to achieve reconciliation and to support Inuit self-determination as set out in the UNDRIP and the Inuit Nunangat Policy.

“ Inuit have unique rights, interests, and experiences. Today’s endorsement of the Inuit Nunangat Policy is the culmination of years of collaboration and will help ensure Inuit priorities and self-determination are part of the government’s programs, policies, and initiatives going forward. This is an important step on the long journey toward reconciliation and we will continue to work together to deliver lasting and meaningful solutions to the issues facing communities across Inuit Nunangat”.

– The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada



Part One of this Proposal provides important context on Inuit culture that richly draws upon laws, customs, practices, and lessons passed down through Inuit Qaujimanituqangit. Inuit culture has been tested during the difficult journey colonization thrust upon us, and we continue to remain resilient.

Part Two of this Proposal sets out the components of the Inuit regional approach for Inuit-led conservation. Through sustainable conservation, economic development and Inuit stewardship, these investments will work towards community and environmental resiliency, supporting Inuit

goals, and meeting Canada's conservation targets while safeguarding the security of marine waters and land in the Qikiqtani Region.

Additionally, Part Two of this Proposal lays out QIA's vision for Inuit-led fisheries reconciliation and details on how our partnership with Canada can achieve Canada's blue economy vision, and can stimulate Inuit-led economic development designed to advance cultural and economic self-sufficiency compatible with global conservation objectives and the principles of the Nunavut Agreement.

“Reconciliation is a way of life, continuous, with no end date. It is learning from our lived experiences and understanding one another. It is creating the necessary space for us to heal. It is planting seeds of hope and respect so that our garden blooms for our children”.

– Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, September 29, 2021

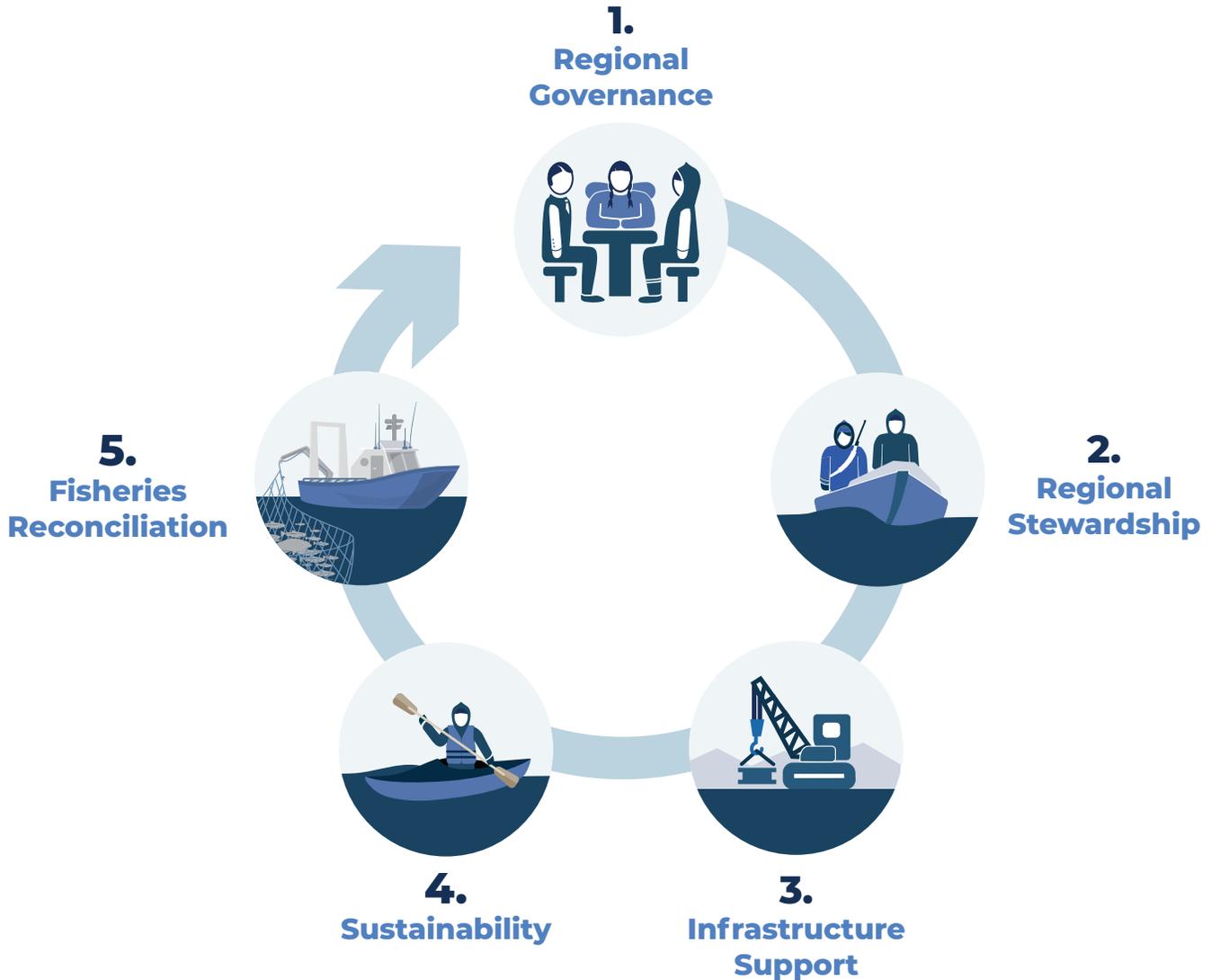


Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon,
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

Photo credit: Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall © OSGG-BSGG, 2021

To implement an integrated Inuit regional conservation approach that achieves our mutual goals, investments are required using a whole-of-government-approach in five key areas:

1. Inuit-led Governance on a Regional Scale
2. Inuit Stewardship (Nauttisuqtiit) Programs for all Qikiqtani Communities
3. Infrastructure Support
4. Sustainability of Inuit-led Conservation
5. Fisheries Reconciliation



Part 1: Inuit Context: Past, Present and Future Relationship with Canada

Before contact, Inuit were completely self-governing and Inuit society was carefully and thoughtfully interconnected with nature. This special relationship was closely nurtured between generations.

Unikkausivut: Inuit sharing of story telling and oral history, is foundational to Inuit culture and has always existed. Elders, parents, and community members retell lessons in wonderful depictions that teach the next generation about the land, sea, and ice explaining critical knowledge of Inuit spirituality, practices, rules and cautions that safeguard them.

Unikkausivut ensures that essential knowledge, understandings, and reminders of lessons are passed on to sustain cultural practices that foster and encourage Inuit partnerships with nature.

Unikkausivut: the sharing of our oral history, is foundational to Inuit culture



Our Legend and Knowledge of Inuit Stewardship

Uinigumasuituq was a beautiful human woman, but stubborn and proud. She became enamored with a mysterious young hunter and wished to leave her family and join him. After leaving her family, the hunter revealed that he was a powerful shaman, a dog that could take human form. She was unhappy and she gave birth to a multi-coloured litter, of which it was difficult to know which were humans or animals.

Seeing her family coming to her island to visit, she pushed the litter out to sea and yelled to come back only if they learned to take care of themselves. They became the different races of the world.

She then quickly left the island with her family and abandoned the young hunter, but when he returned to camp, he was furious at her treatment of him and their children and called upon Sila, the most powerful spirit of all, to bring a storm to capsize the umiaq of the fleeing humans.

On understanding the power of the spirit world and seeing that they all would perish if she remained, her family were convinced to drop her in the sea. They cut her fingers from her as she tried to hang on, which became the sea mammals of the ocean.

She finally sank to the bottom of the ocean and became a very strong sea goddess, known by different names in Inuit communities, and sometimes transliterated by non-Inuit as “Sedna”.

When sea mammals are not plentiful or threatened, when Inuit face starvation, shamans will visit her to see if the sea mammals, that were once a part of her, have told her that the humans are mocking or mistreating them and showing no respect to them or the environment in which they all live. She looks after the sea mammals and all living things

and only returns them to humans if the shamans show her respect, such as by combing her hair as she no longer has fingers. If the sea goddess is satisfied with the renewed respect shown by the humans, only then does she return the animals.

Our legend is profoundly connected to us, our spirituality, and our views of stewardship over our lands and seas. Inuit of the Qikiqtani region are a coastal society, and have been a coastal society from time immemorial, with cultural values and identities intrinsically connected to our Arctic environment and wildlife.

Our understanding of our place in the world is based on our close relationship with the land, sea, ice, and environment. We are a part of the land and sea. Inuit rely on marine wildlife for physical sustenance and cultural renewal and in turn Inuit are the stewards of the marine environment dedicated to ensuring its long-term health and sustainability in order to protect our own long-term health and cultural sustainability.

Inuit laws, customs and practices that reflect our self-governing way of life, including our stewardship of the environment, have been detrimentally impacted by our contact with non-Inuit, and a necessary feature of reconciliation is to enter relationships with Canada that restore Inuit self-governing jurisdiction and governance capacity, including in relation to matters affecting Inuit stewardship of the environment. Fulfillment of our rights to autonomy in our internal matters, to be secure in our means of subsistence and economy, and to practice, revitalize and transmit our cultural traditions, customs, histories, philosophies and language are essential to our future prosperity and well-being.

Only a few Elders remain today that still have memories of Inuit self-governance, without southern influence, before any Canadian Government officials ventured North. It was only in the early to mid 1900s that government officials focused attention on the Eastern Arctic and the tragedies associated with colonization began.

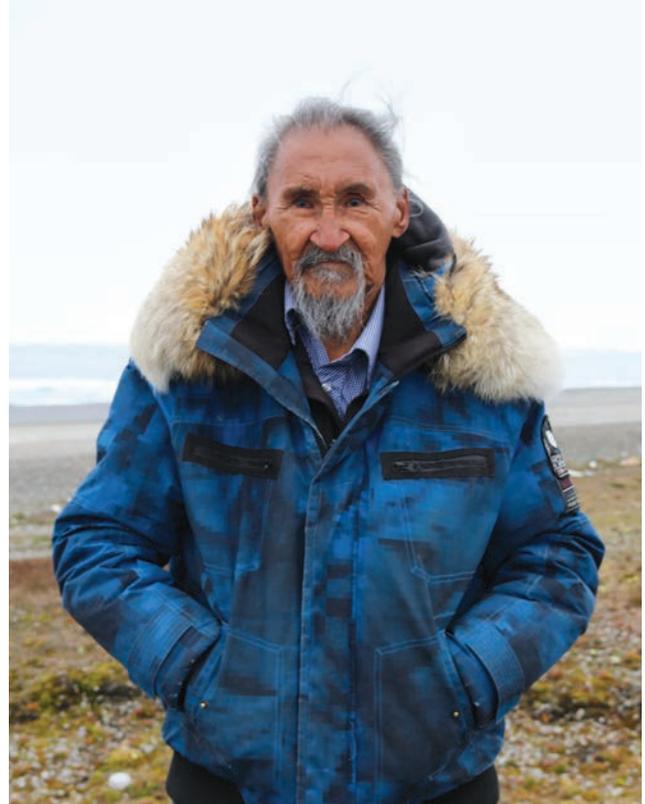
Since the beginning of colonization, the predominant description Inuit tell of the relationship with Canada is fear, sorrow, anger, and mistrust.

Young children were torn from their families and placed in harsh residential schools, in some cases never to return and others, emotionally damaged and unable to communicate in their mother tongue.

Relocations, forced settlements, loss of language, culture, and lands, and the slaughter of qimmiit (Inuit sled dogs) were actions inflicted by representatives of the Canadian Government.

In a very short space of time, Canadian government officials dominated and took control of Inuit access to housing, healthcare, education, supplies, movement, and access to land and wildlife.

Colonization has left a devastating legacy on Inuit and the Far North. It is important that all of Canada know this history, a history that many Qikiqtani Inuit continue to live with the consequences of today.



“In order for forgiveness to be given there must be truth and an acknowledgement of what happened”.

– John Amagoalik, in response to the findings of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission

Inuit have remained resilient and the telling of unikkausivut ensured that Inuit culture and lessons on how to continue cultural practices and self-sufficiency continued to be passed down to the next generations.

Inuit began advancing self-determination efforts in the late 1960s, when the movement for a land claim started. This has resulted in the historic milestones of obtaining a modern treaty, a public government, and the acknowledgement and advancement supporting Inuit rights.

The implementation of the right to Inuit self-determination, now endorsed by Canada through the acceptance into law of the UNDRIP, is just in the beginning stages of implementation.

Self-determination is the ability to make decisions to govern ourselves based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit without external influence or oversight.

Self-determination is also about having the means, structures, and resources in place so that we can reclaim decision-making roles in areas that Inuit have historically governed.

A necessary feature of reconciliation is to enter relationships with Canada that restore Inuit self-governing jurisdiction to oversee the stewardship of Inuit land, seas, ice, and wildlife.

Through self-determination, we acknowledge and accept our responsibility as stewards not only for ourselves but also on behalf of all Canadians who benefit from the protection of a network of Arctic ecosystems.

We have a fiduciary duty to all Canadians to responsibly steward the gifts nature provides us.

 Self-determination is the ability to make decisions to govern ourselves based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit without external influence or oversight.”

Strengthening the Partnership between Qikiqtani Inuit and Canada for Transformative Change

“ Together, we can bring about the type of transformative change that we need to make a real difference for Inuit, for the benefit of all Canadians”.

– The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee Meeting (March 29, 2018)

Qikiqtani Inuit continue to seek transformative change that results in Inuit-led decision-making based on Inuit culture and knowledge, the sustainability and regional expansion of Nauttiqsuqtiit stewardship, the elimination of socio-economic disparities between Inuit and Canadians, and a lasting goal of reconciliation, including with respect to fisheries.

This type of transformative change requires a permanent commitment and partnership with Canada that offers Inuit certainty and confidence that the basic principles of agreements, such as governance systems and resources, can be relied upon over-time to allow Inuit the ability to focus on Inuit-led adaptations and Inuit defined conservation goals and objectives.

Through the hard work undertaken, we have built a foundation for partnership to realize the Inuit visions for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and Tuvaiguittuq Marine Protected Area.

As well, following the recommendations of the QTC, we have established a formal partnership and continue to work together on building a long-term and sustainable approach to achieving Saimaqatigiingniq.

All this, while participating in decision-making processes that will inform the development of lands, marine areas, fisheries, and Inuit Owned Lands. in our region for years to come.

Saimaqatigiingniq means a new relationship “when past opponents get back together, meet in the middle, and are at peace”



Over the last two years, we have seen the strengths and weaknesses of our existing partnerships. We have identified areas where new paths can create efficiencies. Despite COVID-19, important strides towards implementing Inuit stewardship programs is occurring and progress continues to be made in developing infrastructure in communities that have been under-serviced for too long.

Less progress has been made in advancing management of Tallurutiup Imanga that reflects Inuit knowledge, as well as Inuit laws, cultural practices and customs.

Going forward, conservation tools supporting Inuit governance including through IPCAs must be prioritized and long-term investments made to ensure Qikiqtani Inuit re-assume the leadership role in conservation decision-making that reinforces Inuit stewardship and self-determination. Key investments in infrastructure and fisheries reconciliation also remain critical to sustainable economic opportunities that address socio-economic inequities.

There is an urgency to move forward with a sustainable and integrated approach to conservation for the benefit of Inuit, Canadians and the global community.

The world is less stable than we would want, Arctic marine security is no longer a given, and climate impacts in the Arctic are accelerating.

Qikiqtani Inuit are proposing to partner with Canada, harnessing a whole-of-government effort, on an expedited basis to meet these challenges in a manner that offers greater certainty to Inuit and Canada.

From a Canadian security perspective, these areas demarcate Canada's Arctic sovereignty: from the contiguous northern ice and seas bordering Russia, including the northeastern reaches of the Central Arctic Ocean, to the Northwest Passage that is critical for maintaining marine security, to the eastern Arctic and Sarvarjuaq that bridges Canada with Greenland, to the entry to the southern Arctic in Hudson's Bay.

Important to Inuit and Canada and also globally, Qikiqtani conservation areas are keystone ecosystems providing critical ecosystem services by protecting nature, wildlife and combatting climate change.

Maintaining our summer ice extent, often referred to as the last ice area, is elemental to reducing the warming of our oceans. Safeguarding our seabed is essential to protect the estimated 46 billion metric tonnes of carbon sequestered in the Arctic sediments surrounding the Qikiqtani Region.

The ecosystem services provided by Qikiqtani conservation areas are fundamental to global ecological sustainability.

Our Proposal is premised on a long-term partnership with Canada to meet ambitious conservation targets and the commitment to working together to build a long-term and sustainable approach to Inuit stewardship, conservation and resource management.

This type of decision-making will benefit Qikiqtani Inuit, Canadians, and the world.

Achieving conservation targets requires moving forward with reconciliation through a whole-of-government effort and investments with a clear objective to support socio-economic equity, Inuit self-determination and ecological sustainability, over the long-term.

Keystone ecosystems sustain natural ecosystem process and scarce resources. They are the parts of the landscape that have high diversity, distinctive species compositions, and/or distinctive ecological processes that are beneficial to many other species and/or ecosystems.

Part 2: Proposal – Inuit Stewardship – the Qikiqtani Approach to the Blue and Conservation Economy

To implement Inuit stewardship and an integrated approach to the blue and conservation economy, investments are required using a whole-of-government-approach aligned with the Inuit Nunangat Policy in the following key areas:



Section 1: Inuit-led Governance on a Regional Scale



Section 2: Inuit Stewardship (Nauttiguqtiit) Programs for all Qikiqtani Communities



Section 3: Infrastructure Support



Section 4: Sustainability of Inuit-led Conservation



Section 5: Fisheries Reconciliation



PART 2: Section 1 – Inuit-led Governance on a Regional Scale

In our region, Qikiqtani Inuit are the rights holders. Through our land use and occupancy, Inuit have supported Canadian sovereignty over the land, water, and ice. Sovereignty for Inuit begins by respecting our rights and ensuring equity in the quality of life for all Canadians. Conservation and protection of our lands, water and ice support our rights for equity, therefore we must lead in the effort to manage existing and expand conservation areas. We must also lead in the planning and management of all our resources to ensure Inuit laws, knowledge, and cultural practices are fully reflected in decision-making.

Current governance approaches, under existing federal conservation legislation, do not focus on Inuit knowledge, values or views and do not provide a foundation for Inuit conservation and natural resource planning and management.

Stronger Inuit and streamlined approaches are needed for effective co-governance. Conservation in the Qikiqtani must be Inuit-led. Presently, QIA representatives sit on over 20 co-governance bodies for conservation areas including parks

co-management committees, and area co-management committees for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas, as well as other natural resource management bodies.

The governance experiences are not living up to Inuit expectations, are not sustainable, efficient and do not reflect Inuit culture adequately.

Inuit on these committees are faced with an unreasonable expectation of shouldering the responsibility of being the experts on every aspect of Inuit Qaujimanituqangit without adequate support.

For Tallurutiup Imanga, Imaq was created, an Inuit advisory committee, to support QIA and co-governance. The creation of Imaq was a step in the right direction, but this approach needs to be greatly enhanced to reclaim Inuit self-governing jurisdiction and stewardship of our land, waters, ice and wildlife.



Our Proposal advocates for Inuit-led governance at a regional scale supporting community level committees.

At the community level, a community committee of representative Inuit will carry out both Inuit responsibilities and sit with government officials in a co-governance capacity as needed. This will facilitate streamlining of governance structures in each community and require that Inuit knowledge, values and views be at the forefront of decision-making.

Community committees will be supported at the regional level through the establishment of a Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council will include an elected QIA Board Executive Member and four Community Directors representing Qikiqtani communities. The Council will seek the advice of representatives of the Nauttiguqtiit, Imaq, and Hunters and Trappers Organizations and will work with each Qikiqtani community committee to ensure Inuit views and knowledge are reflected in conservation and natural resource decision making.

The Council will also play an important role in guiding the streamlining of co governance processes at the community level.



The Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council will lead on marine and land conservation planning and natural resource management and will work with the Government of Canada at a regional scale.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council will be the collective voice for Inuit laws, knowledge, rules and cultural practices to advance Inuit stewardship and resource management objectives throughout the region.

With Inuit laws and rules in place, the Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council will have a high level of decision-making authority to make recommendations on behalf of Qikiqtani Inuit directly to the federal Ministers. To support Inuit-led governance, Inuit laws and knowledge must be equally respected in decision-making.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council will play several roles, including to:

- Work with Inuit knowledge holders across the Qikiqtani Region to record Inuit laws, knowledge, rules, and cultural practices related to conservation area establishment, planning, management and operations.
- Propose new conservation areas that can be added to the network of protected areas in the Qikiqtani Region.
- Oversee and guide Inuit stewardship, marine, land, natural resource planning and management based on Inuit laws, knowledge, rules, and cultural practices.
- Provide guidance and direction to the community level Inuit committees acting as co-governance committees on planning, management, and operations of conservation areas.
- Facilitate capacity building at regional and community levels for Inuit leadership in decision-making, particularly related to conservation and natural resource governance.
- Advise on economic opportunities in the blue economy and more broadly to support and facilitate Inuit economic self-sufficiency, including in the areas of food sovereignty and Inuit stewardship in each community.



A Regional Inuit Approach Supporting Communities

Across the whole Qikiqtani Region, we must focus equally at a regional and a community scale to manage conservation areas, respect the connectivity of this region, adequately monitor environmental changes and risks, bolster our ability to be the eyes and ears of our lands, waters, ice and wildlife and drive solutions based on Inuit Qaujimajangit.

A regional governance approach will allow for a holistic, integrated approach and support the use of tools such as marine spatial planning that can be applied at a bioregional level and in the context of assessing proposed future protected areas and resource development projects

A regional approach based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and stewardship recognizes that Qikiqtani communities are inextricably interconnected and must work in unison to safeguard vital ecosystems relying on the foundation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Challenges such as climate change impacts and an exponential increase in vessels in our marine waters necessitates bringing our communities together to apply our knowledge and skills to provide key direction for the management of our collective ecosystems.

Deepening our Partnership with Canada for Inuit-led Conservation through IPCAs

To maximize the potential for conservation at a regional scale and to enhance Inuit leadership in conservation, QIA proposes that Canada expand the scope of current negotiations for an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for marine protected areas for Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait to include marine IPCAs and terrestrial IPCAs, including Qikiqtait and Government of Nunavut priority areas such as Agguttinni Proposed Territorial Park. For QIA, this can be accomplished by partnering with the Government of Nunavut, and the whole-of-government, with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment and Climate Change Canada taking leadership positions.

If defined and established on mutually acceptable terms, QIA believes that IPCAs can play a significant role in the Qikiqtani Region for advancing reconciliation, Inuit self-determination and achieving long-term protection of marine and terrestrial areas of high value to Inuit supporting Canada's commitments to protect 25% of its land and marine areas by 2025, and 30% by 2030.

For QIA, this means that the foundation for IPCAs must enable Inuit self-determination through Inuit-led governance of the conserved areas, creating prosperity for Inuit while assuring ecosystem sustainability, and upholding Inuit rights. QIA supports the three key integral parts of an IPCA as described in the reports of the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards and the Indigenous Circle of Experts:

1. They are Indigenous led;
2. They represent a long-term commitment to reconciliation and elevate Indigenous rights and responsibilities; and,
3. They meet conservation goals.

Regional Inuit Approach to all IIBAs

To further advance an integrated regional approach to conservation, QIA is seeking a commitment from Canada that all existing IIBAs be renegotiated overtime to support Inuit-led regional and community governance structures.

For QIA, this includes the renegotiation of the IIBA for Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq and Sirmilik National Parks that was negotiated before Nunavut was created and requires modernization to support alignment with Inuit stewardship and conservation goals.

Collectively, all current and proposed protected areas in the Qikiqtani represent approximately 23.15% of terrestrial and 30.75% of all marine protected areas in Canada.



PART 2: Section 2 – Inuit Stewardship (Nauttiqsuqtiit) Programs for all Qikiqtani Communities

Investments in Inuit stewardship and the Nauttiqsuqtiit speak to the positive steps taken in reconciliation, renewing the relationship between Canada and Qikiqtani Inuit and recognizing that Inuit have always been the guardians and stewards of our lands, seas, ice and wildlife.

QIA proposes to expand Inuit stewardship activities and the Nauttiqsuqtiit to all Qikiqtani communities as a foundation for sustainable conservation.

Nauttiqsuqtiit activities are contributing significantly to the maintenance, balance and well-being of the ecosystem that Inuit have overseen and protected all of these years.

As well, Nauttiqsuqtiit activities support cultural practices, collection of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, food sovereignty, and the social and economic well-being of Qikiqtani communities.

The Nauttiqsuqtiit play an important role in providing country food like arctic char, seal and other wildlife to be shared within and between communities to increase food sovereignty, and reduce food insecurity and reliance on less nutritious southern foods and products.



The Nauttiqsuqtiit bridge the gap between youth and Elders, providing intergenerational transfer of knowledge. The skills and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit they acquire from working with Elders are passed down to young Inuit eager to learn traditional skills.

Bringing youth out-on-the land strengthens our communities, preserves knowledge of our ancestors, and shows how our knowledge is alive, relevant, and is still being created and obtained today.

Nauttiqsuqtiit also monitor sea ice conditions to ensure safe passage for harvesters and often assist in search and rescue efforts. Expanding Inuit-led research and monitoring activities is a priority to build on the current programs to monitor changes to sea ice and wildlife health.

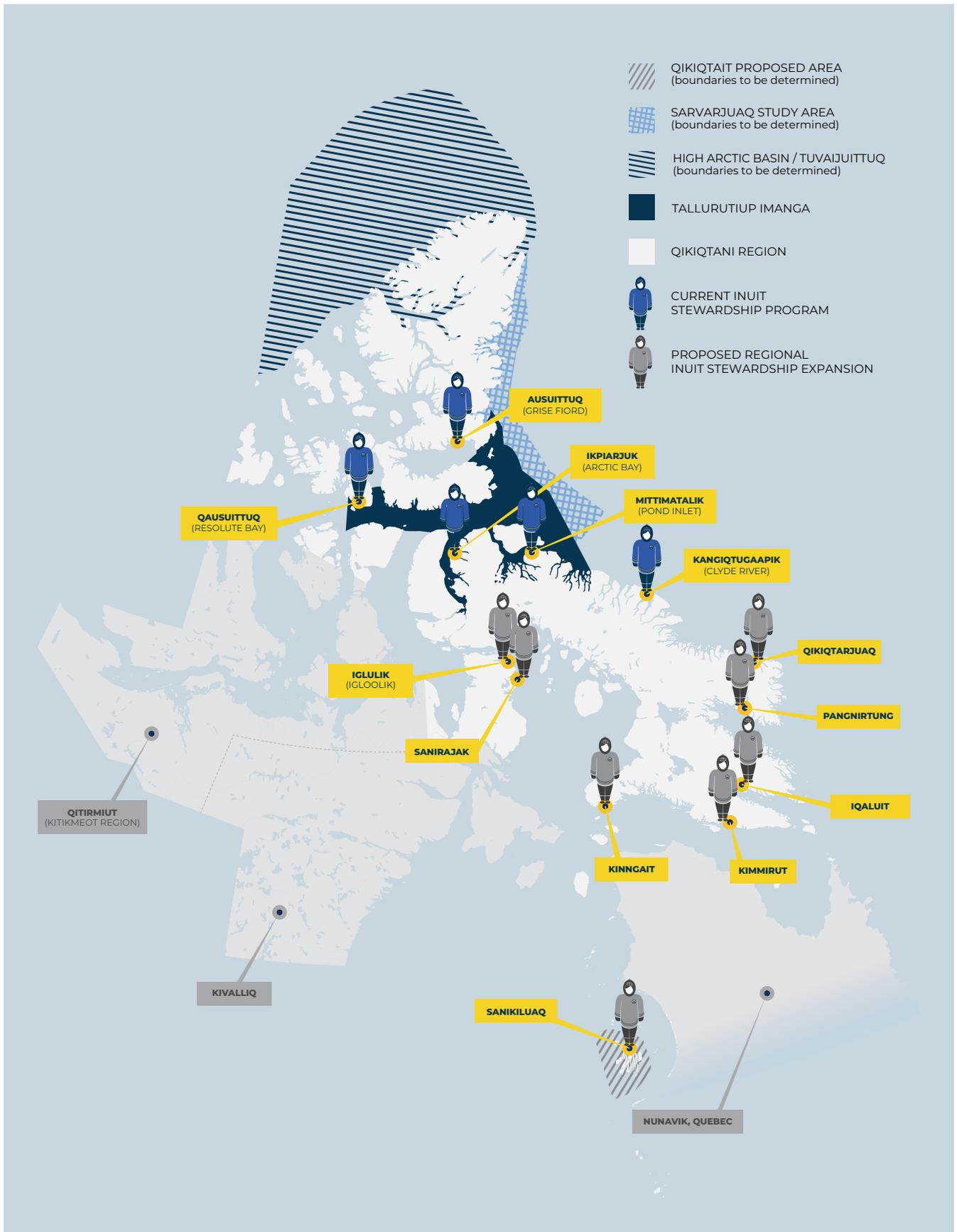
The expansion of the Nauttiqsuqtiit program supports the Inuit regional approach to sustainable conservation, which recognizes that the environment is part of a single functioning ecosystem, and that Qikiqtani lands, seas, ice and wildlife are all connected. Stewardship of the environment cannot be managed in isolation and will function more successfully with the eyes and ears of Nauttiqsuqtiit in each community working together.

Inuit stewardship activities are having a positive impact on the day-to-day lives of Qikiqtani Inuit. Based upon QIA's experience with IIBAs, Inuit employment remains the single largest economic benefit from IIBAs.

The Nauttiqsuqtiit expansion represents a tangible benefit for Inuit through conservation area establishment, which supports QIA's vision for diversified economic development, Inuit stewardship and community well-being.

QIA envisions that on-going Nauttiqsuqtiit activities will:

- Support the collection of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and the use of this knowledge in management decisions;
- Support Inuit-led research and monitoring and the formation of research partnerships;
- Support Inuit food sovereignty and reduction of food insecurity;
- Support more frequent intergenerational knowledge exchange - oral histories, language, place names, harvesting practices (particularly between Elders and youth);
- Support monitoring of vessels and communications of vessel movements to community members;
- Provide jobs and training opportunities that advance protection of conservation areas, monitoring and enforcement capacity over vessels, and support local economies;
- Provide for conservation activities such as habitat restoration and the protection of vulnerable and species-at-risk; and,
- Provide quick responses and assistance to search and rescue operations and emergency responses.



Continued support for Nauttiqsuqtiit is fundamental to strengthening Inuit self-determination and autonomy over our lands and waters. Nauttiqsuqtiit contribute to community well-being, mental and physical wellness and to tangible social and economic benefits.

QIA is calling on the expansion of the Nauttiqsuqtiit program to all Qikiqtani communities.

QIA is proposing a streamlined Nauttiqsuqtiit program for the eight communities without Nauttiqsuqtiit (Kinngait, Kimmirut, Igloodik, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, Sanirajak).

QIA envisions implementing the program with Nauttiqsuqtiit in each community who will work with experienced Elders, hunters, and community members to supplement Inuit stewardship activities.

The expansion program will be facilitated by a QIA Inuit stewardship team that will support Nauttiqsuqtiit activities, coordinate training, address infrastructure needs, participate in regional governance activities and establish partnerships to expand research and monitoring, search and rescue capabilities, food sovereignty activities, as well as marine security and enforcement opportunities.

QIA proposes that the Nauttiqsuqtiit expansion program be implemented in the additional eight communities in the Qikiqtani Region in a phased approach. With the

initial expansion of the program to three communities and the remaining five communities accessing the program in stages.

QIA is committed to reinforcing Inuit stewardship through the establishment of a permanent Nauttiqsuqtiit program across the Qikiqtani region.

QIA recognizes the contribution that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is already making to Nauttiqsuqtiit in Sanikiluaq that is facilitating the expansion of critical stewardship activities and supporting community well-being and the monitoring of sensitive ecosystems by Qikiqtani Inuit.

Continued stewardship of our lands, seas, ice and wildlife is critical to the practice of Inuit culture and deeply connects us with our Inuit ancestors.

Today, Inuit stewardship remains key to maintaining Inuit culture, to community well-being and to monitoring and responding to environmental challenges, including to the impacts of climate change.

Achieving permanent and sustainable funding for the Nauttiqsuqtiit program, guided through Inuit governance that reflects Inuit laws, customs and practices is our priority.



PART 2: Section 3 – Infrastructure Support

The 2017 Inuit Nunangat Declaration on Inuit-Crown Partnership demonstrates the shared commitment to a renewed Inuit-Crown relationship between Inuit and the Government of Canada, and underscores the common goal of creating prosperity for all Inuit, which benefits all Canadians and recognizes “the disproportionate socio-economic and cultural inequity facing Inuit compared to most other Canadians and commit[s] to working in partnership to create socio-economic and cultural equity between Inuit and all other Canadians”.³

For Inuit, one of the purposes of conservation is the creation of socioeconomic and cultural equity between Inuit and Canadians.

QIA believes that the infrastructure needs related to Inuit stewardship and a diversified sustainable economy must be addressed with the infrastructure included in this document.

Key infrastructure investments will support reconciliation, ecological integrity, address environmental monitoring and timely responses to climate change. These investments will also support a diversified Inuit-led economy in our communities. In proposing infrastructure development, QIA is taking into account the long-term requirements for operations and maintenance of facilities.

“ This commitment includes energetically and creatively pursuing the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental conditions of success through the full implementation of land claims agreements as well as reconciliation”.

– Inuit Nunangat Declaration on Inuit-Crown Partnership

³ Government of Canada, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Inuit Nunangat Declaration on Inuit-Crown Partnership (February 9, 2017)

Infrastructure investments are vital to support Inuit stewardship and to address infrastructure gaps that pose a barrier to advancing related Inuit economic, cultural and community goals. These investments must be made through the most effective and efficient mechanisms to ensure the timely delivery of essential infrastructure to Inuit. QIA proposes that Canada resource the following essential needs:

- Multi-use facilities in eight communities to address Inuit stewardship and community needs that may include office space, equipment storage and maintenance, garage and workshop space, country food processing and storage, community outreach, Elder gatherings, and visitor reception;
- Operation and maintenance costs of facilities that support Inuit stewardship activities;
- The long-term sustainability of facilities supporting Inuit stewardship activities including operation and maintenance costs;
- Additional infrastructure that supports Inuit stewardship activities and the Inuit Stewardship – Nauttiqsuqtiit program, such as housing, and including supplementing the facilities in Tallurutiup Imanga communities as appropriate; and
- Infrastructure requirements for Inuit stewardship that arise due to changing socio-economic or environmental conditions.

QIA advocates for a whole-of-government approach to infrastructure funding and recognizes that agreements may be made with government departments outside of the IIBA negotiations for land infrastructure development in the Qikiqtani Region that may require adjustments to this Proposal. QIA is committed to working with Canada on aligning investments to ensure all Qikiqtani communities have facilities that support Inuit stewardship activities and healthy communities.

Additionally, in conjunction with the community of Sanikiluaq, QIA is seeking a commitment from Canada to continue resourcing Nunavut's marine infrastructure including a commitment to prioritize a small craft harbour in Sanikiluaq.

QIA also seeks that Canada ensure that community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay are equivalent to small craft harbours in other Qikiqtani communities.

QIA views these commitments as integral to addressing Nunavut's long standing infrastructure gap and therefore stand in addition to all other infrastructure described in this proposal.





PART 2: Section 4 – Sustainability of Inuit-led Conservation

Sustaining Inuit stewardship of lands and waters and a sustainable economy are vital to meeting conservation goals and maintaining ecosystem integrity over the entire Qikiqtani Region. A healthy and resilient Qikiqtani Region supporting a mosaic of interconnected conservation areas requires dedicated resources to safeguard the conservation economy and ecosystems through active stewardship led by communities.

Achieving socioeconomic, cultural and health equity between Inuit and all Canadians is a main objective of QIA. Securing sustained, consistent and appropriate investments for critical Inuit stewardship activities through the creation and preservation of conservation areas in the Qikiqtani Region is essential to realizing that objective.

Qikiqtani Inuit must be the stewards of the land, waters, ice, and wildlife indefinitely as we are relying on the sustainability of our ecosystems for cultural and physical survival.

Canada and the world are also dependent on maintaining the ecological services of these keystone ecosystems.

To maintain the ecological services and sequestered blue carbon benefits that the Arctic provides, QIA proposes to partner with Canada to intensify our conservation efforts to secure the long-term protection of Sarvarjuaq, Qikiqtait, and additional areas through existing conservation tools and IPCAs.

QIA is presenting a regional model founded on a commitment to Inuit stewardship within the context of a blue and conservation economy in perpetuity that also anticipates the inclusion of other important ecological areas.

QIA recognizes the importance of blue carbon capture stored in our seabeds to ecological sustainability and to our well-being and is committed to working with Canada and our partners to achieve adequate protection of our seabeds.

In seeking to meet its national and international conservation targets of 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030, Canada must meet criteria as to the quality of the conservation it is proposing. One clear criterion is that the conservation area is “permanently protected or conserved and the mechanism is not easily reversed”.⁴

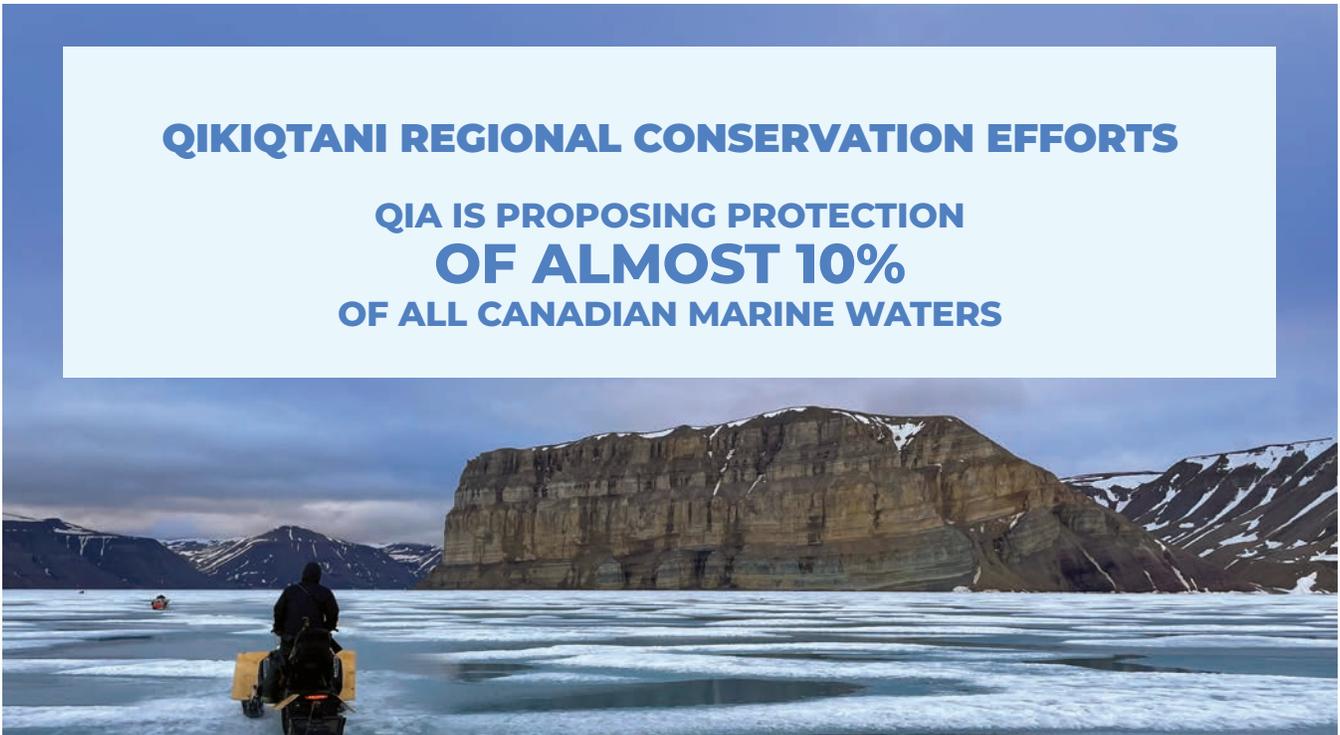
In the marine environment this was further refined by Fisheries and Oceans Canada for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) so that implementation of protection for long-term duration must be through legislation or there must be evidence that the conservation measure is for the long-term (minimum 25 years).⁵

It follows that funding for the IIBA and related agreements associated with the creation of conservation areas must also be designed to confirm long-term, sustainable, and adaptable funding for on going Inuit stewardship and governance of these critical ecosystems. This is not the funding model currently associated with existing conservation areas.

Five or seven year funding commitments with future funding dependent upon renegotiation cycles, typical of existing IIBAs for conservation areas, hinder Inuit from meeting long-term socioeconomic and cultural goals, while offering permanent conservation outcomes for Canada.

QIKIQTANI REGIONAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

QIA IS PROPOSING PROTECTION
OF ALMOST 10%
OF ALL CANADIAN MARINE WATERS



⁴ Pathway to Canada Target 1, Decision Support Tool: For Assessing Areas Against Pan-Canadian Standards for Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) for Terrestrial Areas and Inland Waters (March 2019), online: <https://bit.ly/3OfT1iK>

⁵ Operational Guidance for Identifying ‘Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures’ in Canada’s Marine Environment (January 22, 2020), online: <https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/4069060x.pdf>

Clarity on stable long-term funding is needed to support Inuit and Canada's goals for long-term conservation, ecological sustainability, security, and reconciliation, as well as to support Inuit stewardship, governance, and infrastructure needs in a fragile environment that is under stress.

In response to the above, QIA proposes to work with Canada to create a mechanism(s) to ensure sustainable financial basis for Inuit-led conservation activities.

To open these discussions QIA would like to introduce the principle that funding mechanisms should be cost effective for all parties while ensuring QIA achieves certainty and flexibility to deliver upon QIA's vision of a conservation economy.

QIA recognizes there may be variety of funding mechanisms, such as contributions to an independent endowment fund, available to Canada, to ensure Inuit have access to adequate resourcing.

Notably, QIA highlights activities such as employment, training, programming, and governance, which are anticipated to have relatively stable predictable annual costs, whereas infrastructure development and operations require different considerations and flexibility.

Whole-of-Government Approach to Sustainability

Consistent with a whole-of-government approach, and with the Inuit Nunangat Policy, QIA is committed to working with Canada and our partners, including the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, to ensure we are taking a coordinated approach to funding the existing critical needs of Nunavummiut.





PART 2: Section 5 – Fisheries Reconciliation

Canada’s commitment to reconciliation and to a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, partnership and to the implementation of the UNDRIP requires eliminating socio-economic disparities that exist between Inuit and achieving equity with other Canadians.

As a part of this process, reconciliation means directly addressing historical injustices experienced by Inuit associated with federal government policies and decision-making including disparities with respect to Inuit access to adjacent fisheries.

Qikiqtani Inuit recognize that since 1993 there have been substantial economic losses by not having had access to the allocation of adjacent licenses in Nunavut waters comparable to allocations on the East and West Coasts or to investments to support Indigenous fisheries access licences that have occurred on the other two Coasts. Additionally, there has been an insufficient level of scientific research on current turbot and shrimp fish stocks to ensure the sustainable management of these fisheries.

“We will put action to our apologies. Our hope is to partner with you, and that by acknowledging past wrongs we can strengthen Inuit culture and governance and create healthier communities. We will work with you to turn the page on the intergenerational trauma your communities faced as a result of past federal policies. Through a Saimaqatigiingniq approach of meeting in the middle, we can help families reconnect with your history, address the long-term effects of past policies enacted upon Inuit in this region, and provide tools and support for Qikiqtani Inuit to build self-determining and healthy communities”.

– The Hon. Carolyn Bennett on behalf of the Government of Canada, Statement of apology regarding the findings of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission (2019)

According to Statistics Canada, commercial fisheries contributed \$112 million to Nunavut’s GDP in 2015. The Nunavut fishery created 367 direct jobs – 40% of which were held by Inuit – and sustained a total of 912 jobs in 2019.

A Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement for Fisheries Resources will allow Inuit, collaboratively working with Canada, to establish a process to advance reconciliation in respect of Fisheries with the following goals:

- Reducing socio-economic gaps by creating fuller employment and enhancing economic opportunities through:
 - expanding Qikiqtani Inuit participation and access the commercial fishing industry, including pre-employment training and employment in all classes of offshore vessel including deckhand up to, and as, ships captain; and,
 - developing community fisheries including increasing opportunities in Nunavut landed fishery out to market.
- Increasing Qikiqtani Inuit capacity to conduct Fisheries research both inshore and offshore, including:
 - addressing interest in developing Nunavut inshore fisheries for shrimp, clams, sea cucumbers, scallops, and crabs; additional research is needed to identify the viability of an increased inshore fishery and ability of communities through infrastructure development to support the fisheries going forward;
 - ongoing access to offshore fisheries research with stable consistent funding is needed that forms the basis for evaluation of our turbot and shrimp resources; and
 - creation of a long-term, well-funded program to acquire Inuit knowledge and western scientific knowledge about oceans health and fisheries critical to the future good management of the marine environment in a rapidly warming world.
- Strengthening Qikiqtani Inuit capacity relating to fisheries resources management including by:
 - establishing a sustainable development model to identify and implement potential opportunities such as low-impact, natural aquaculture in the region while supporting local economies in both the inshore and offshore fisheries.
- Furthering predictability and stability with respect to the governance and management of fisheries resources;
- Increasing community well-being and reducing food insecurity; and,
- Fair allocation of Nunavut adjacent fisheries, and sustainable ongoing commitments to fair allocation of future increases in Nunavut adjacent waters.

 The Indigenous communities have a court-ordered right to fish in their traditional waters or to fish for a moderate livelihood. It is a principle of our government to satisfy those rights. We do our very best to work with indigenous peoples to satisfy their rights and work with harvesters to make sure they are included in any changes of quota that will affect them. The government is obligated to act”.

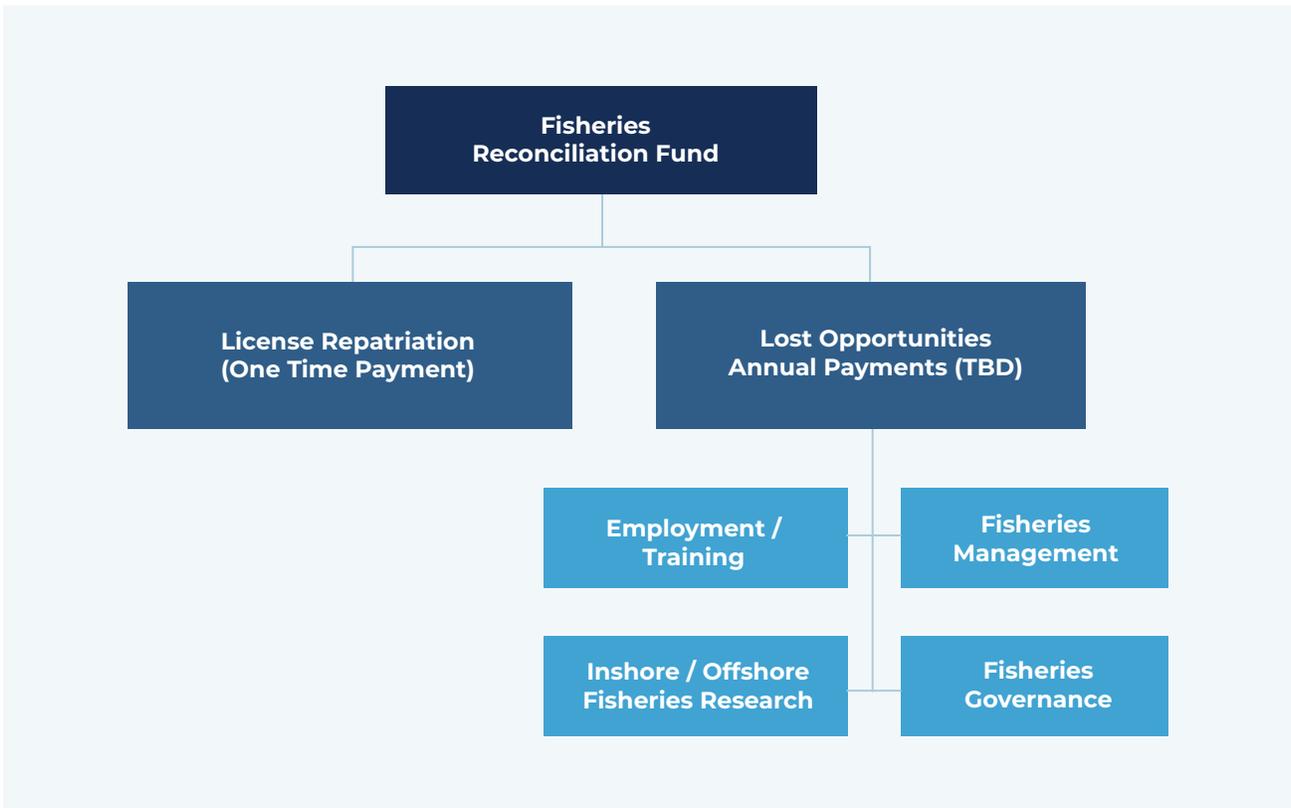
– 44TH PARLIAMENT, 1ST SESSION Edited Hansard No. 50, Hon. Joyce Murray, Fisheries and Oceans Minister (March 31, 2022, 14:55 and 15:01)

QIA seeks a Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement to address the missed economic and community development opportunities in our region owing to the detrimental treatment of Inuit with regards to fisheries.

Funds received through a Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement will be used for the benefit of Qikiqtani Inuit now and into the future. One of the main objectives of funding is to stimulate the full, equitable, and sustainable participation of Qikiqtani Inuit in fisheries (in-shore, near- shore and off-shore) outlined in the goals identified in this section.

QIA envisions the Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement requiring the establishment of a Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Fund for which QIA is seeking an initial payment together with additional annual contributions to the Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Fund until such time the fisheries allocations to Qikiqtani Inuit in offshore adjacent waters reach an equitable allocation compared to other Canadians within fisheries on the East and West Coasts.

Funding provided under a Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement are distinct from funds associated with any IIBA tied to the creation of conservation areas, as per the Nunavut Agreement. They are, however, integral to a holistic blue economy approach to the Qikiqtani Region and therefore form a crucial component of QIA’s agreement to advance conservation areas.



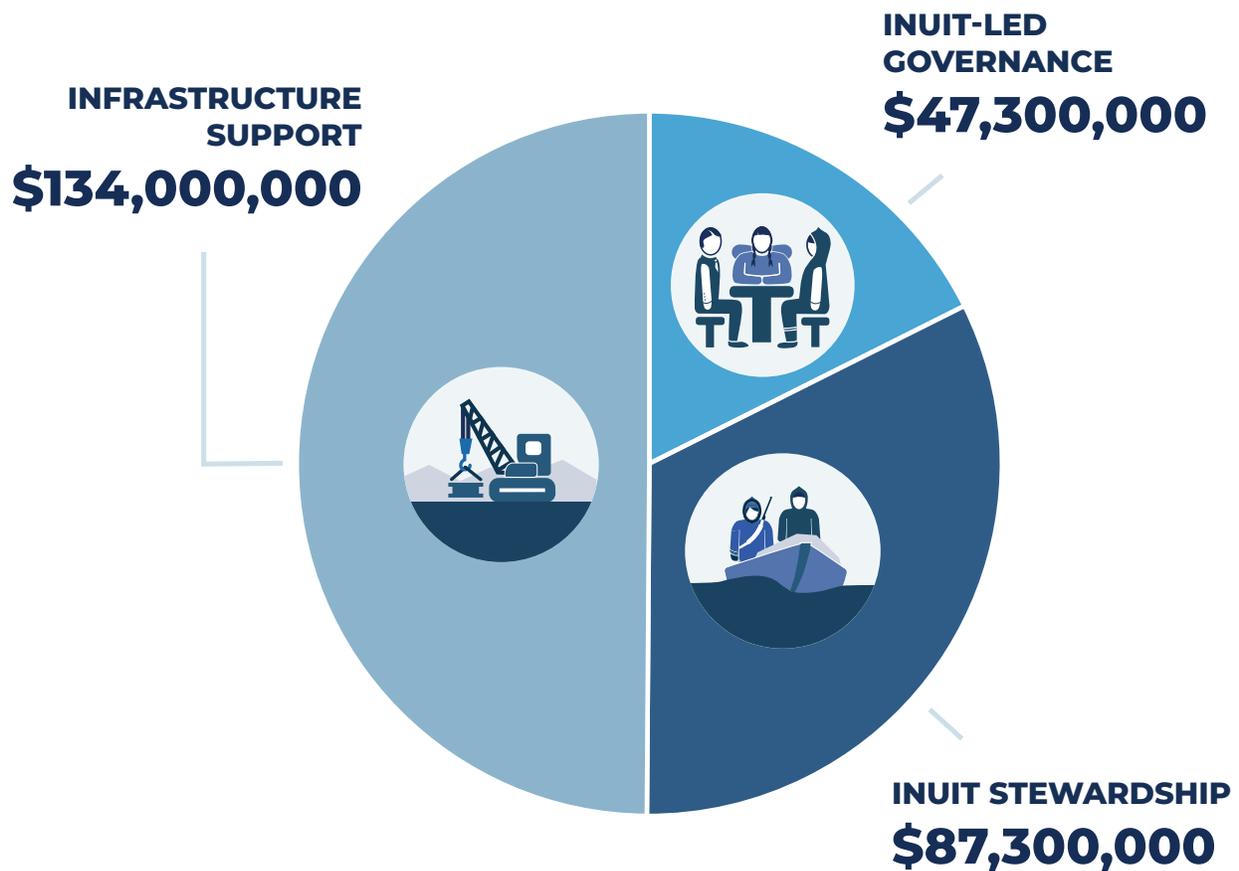
Appendix A – QIA Funding Proposals

The total ask of QIA's funding proposal above corresponds to the funds required over a seven-year period.

QIA envisions that long-term conservation commitments by Canada must include equal long-term commitments to Inuit and ensure sustainability of the Nauttiqsuqtiit program and other critical benefits.

\$268.6 MILLION

Total Ask for current Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq IIBA



Inuit-led Governance on a Regional Scale



\$47.3 MILLION

QIA supports the creation of a Qikiqtani Inuit Stewardship Council, which is for Inuit-led governance at a regional scale supporting 13 community level committees.

At the community level, a community committee of representative Inuit will carry out both Inuit responsibilities and regularly sit with government officials in a co-governance capacity.

A regional governance approach will allow for a holistic, integrated approach to conservation and support the use of Inuit Qaujimanituaqangit and tools such as marine spatial planning that can be applied at a bioregional level.

Inuit Stewardship (Nauttisuqtiit) Programs for all Qikiqtani Communities



\$87.3 MILLION

Continued support for Inuit stewardship activities is fundamental to strengthening Inuit self-determination and autonomy over our lands, seas, ice and wildlife.

QIA proposes to expand Inuit stewardship activities and the Nauttisuqtiit to all Qikiqtani communities as a foundation for sustainable conservation. Inuit Stewardship includes the following:

- Full time employment in 8 Qikiqtani communities including support and capacity building positions: \$47.6M
- Operations: \$17.5M
- Training for Nauttisuqtiit: \$3.5M
- Program Development: \$17.6M
- Communications: \$1M

Infrastructure Support



\$135 MILLION

QIA believes that the land and marine infrastructure needs related to Inuit stewardship and a diversified sustainable economy must be addressed commencing with the infrastructure included in this document. Key infrastructure investments will support reconciliation, ecological integrity and address monitoring and timely responses to climate change.

In proposing infrastructure development, QIA is focusing on long-term sustainability of facilities that will support Inuit stewardship activities including operations and maintenance costs.

QIA is committed to working with Canada on aligning investments to ensure all Qikiqtani communities have facilities that support the Nauttisuqtiit program. The costs associated with the commitment for marine based infrastructure as prioritized for Sanikiluaq in QIA's prospectus is not included in the above budget.

Tallurutiup Imanga cost overrun



\$37.3 MILLION

QIA also recognizes that the current supports for community infrastructure to operate a successful Nauttisuqtiit program requires Canada to commit to funding shortfalls under current Tallurutiup Imanga funding. This includes \$20M for cost overrun on the construction of multi-use facilities for unforeseen increases related to the pandemic and inflation.

In addition, the construction of community harbors in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay have been affected by cost overruns of approximately \$17.3M, which is needed to ensure these communities obtain harbours equivalent to other communities in Nunavut.

Sustainability of Inuit-led Conservation: Annual costs



\$27.85 MILLION

Sustaining Inuit stewardship of lands and waters and a sustainable economy are vital to meeting conservation goals and maintaining ecosystem integrity over the entire Qikiqtani Region. QIA's proposal is premised upon confirming a stable long-term basis for Inuit participation in conservation consistent with OECMs which require evidence that the conservation measure is for the long-term (minimum 25 years).

From QIA's perspective long-term protection is fully dependent upon sustained and meaningful Inuit participation.

Additional ongoing costs for sustainability:

- Annual cost of Nauttisuqtiit program: \$19M/yr + inflation
- Operations and Maintenance for infrastructure: \$2.1M/yr
- Annual cost of Inuit-led governance: \$6.75M

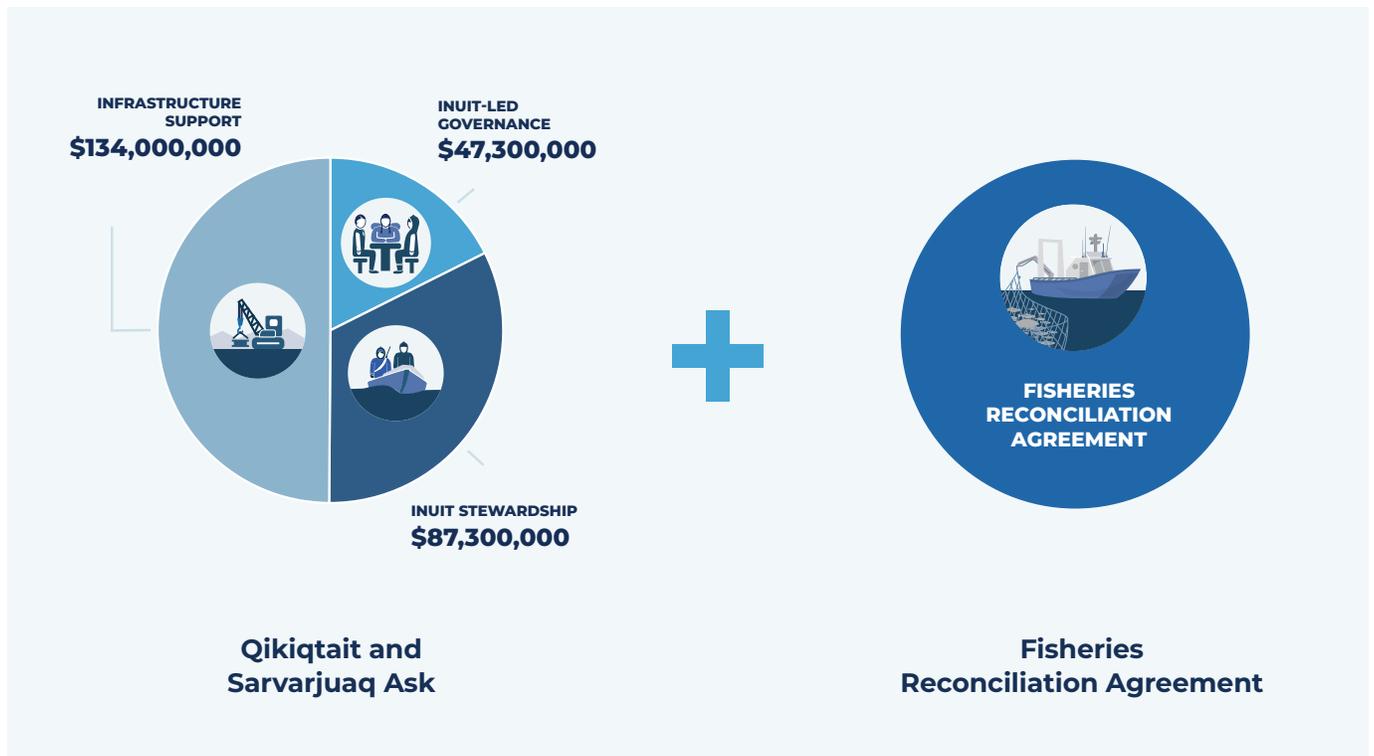
Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement



TBD

QIA seeks a Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement to address the lost economic and community development opportunities in our Region owing to the detrimental treatment of Inuit with regards to fisheries.

Funding provided under a Qikiqtani Fisheries Reconciliation Agreement are distinct from funds associated with any IIBA tied to the creation of conservation areas.



Provision of QIA Funding Proposal

The figures presented in QIA's proposal are indicative of QIA's vision of what sustained and meaningful Inuit participation will cost over seven years and to maintain key benefits on an annual basis.

In presenting these figures it is important to note QIA is committed to seeking and securing additional resources from Canada through other programs and funding opportunities that may exist.

1. This budget is based on the best information available to QIA at the time of writing this proposal. This budget, as presented, will be refined upon completion of the following:
 - a. Agreement among negotiators on conservation area governance and Inuit stewardship structures; and
 - b. Updated costing and feasibility studies (including costing estimates) associated with proposed infrastructure.
2. There is no intention to add additional line items to the budget. Existing line items will be refined consistent with improved costing assumptions.





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