Saimaqatigiingniq Fund
2022–2023 Annual Report
CONTENTS

QIKIQTANI INUIT ASSOCIATION .................................................... 4
QIA DEPARTMENTS ..................................................................... 5
MESSAGE FROM QIA PRESIDENT, OLAYUK AKESUK ..................... 6
MESSAGE FROM LIZA NINGIUK, QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION PORTFOLIO LEAD .................................................. 8
SAIMAQATIGIINGNIQ FUND ........................................................... 10
HISTORY OF THE QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION .................. 11
TIMELINE OF QIA’S WORK ON THE QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION ................................................................. 21
QIA’S PROGRESS ON THE QTC RECOMMENDATIONS .............. 22
SAIMAQATIGIINGNIQ FUND PROGRAMS, 2022–2023 .................. 27
QIMMIIT REVITALIZATION ............................................................ 30
HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE ..................................................... 38
TRAVEL AND HEALING ................................................................. 39
SAIMAQATIGIINGNIQ FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 2022–2023 ........ 42
QIKIQTANI INUIT ASSOCIATION

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is a not-for-profit society, which represents Inuit in the 13 communities of the Qikiqtani Region of Nunavut.

QIA is a Designated Inuit Organization under the Nunavut Agreement. QIA is one of three Regional Inuit Associations affiliated with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; the other associations include the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

Two other organizations operate under the QIA umbrella: Kakivak Association, responsible for community economic development and small businesses; and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, created to manage economic development on behalf of QIA.
Mission: QIA advances the rights and benefits of Qikiqtani Inuit through protecting and promoting our social, political, economic, and cultural interests; while safeguarding the land, waters, and resources that sustain our communities.

Vision: Political and cultural empowerment, social equality, economic prosperity, and a healthy environment for Qikiqtani Inuit.
Inuuqatikkai! I am pleased to present you with the 2022–2023 Saimaqatigiingniq Annual Report. This report outlines the programs we have developed and continue to deliver in the Qikiqtani Region under the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund.

The Qikiqtani Truth Commission (QTC) remains to be one of QIA’s top priority files since receiving the Government of Canada’s official acknowledgement and apology in August of 2019.

Understanding and retelling the truth about this part of our history is of the utmost importance to me. One way to begin the healing process of past traumas is through education, reflection, and acceptance.

Upon the conclusion of the QTC, commissioner James Igloliorte defined Saimaqatigiingniq in his final 2010 report as, “a new relationship, the kind that happens when past opponents get back together, meet in the middle, and are at peace”. Our board echoes this statement by continuing to work collaboratively with the Government of Canada towards reconciliation and supporting Inuit in our region.
In October 2022, QIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Canada to seek a final investment and to have a permanent set of programs that promote learning Inuit history, strengthening Inuit culture and creating healthy communities.

QIA remains dedicated and encouraged in providing programs and support to Qikiqtani Inuit through Saimaqatigiingniq Fund programming.

Qujannamiik,

– Olayuk Akesuk
It is an honor to share with you the progress made this year on QTC priorities. While COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns prevented us from starting Saimaqingniq Fund programming in 2020–2021, QIA staff have worked hard over the last two years to implement QTC recommendations. QIA continues to plan and ensure programs are delivered in an efficient and effective manner. QIA staff are dedicated to implementing and upholding the vision by ways of educating, empowering, or advocating the recommendations of the QTC.

We have seen many great activities over the last year and are planning for many more. Over the winter of 2022, we engaged with Inuit in Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung on the travel and healing program. This year, we will continue community engagements for travel and healing and potential site visits. Further to this, we are working towards education and awareness on governance with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Government of Nunavut.
I encourage you to follow our social media pages and to connect with QIA staff in the Department of Social Policy for updates on Saimaqatigiingniq Fund initiatives.

The Department of Social Policy is working towards hosting another Qimuksiqtiit gathering for the winter of 2023 – please watch our social media pages or websites for updates.

This year’s Saimaqatigiingniq Report is dedicated to you all.

Qujannamiik,
– Liza Ningiuk
QIA established the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund to develop and support programs that respond to recommendations of the QTC and align with QIA’s goals and mandate.

The Saimaqatigiingniq Fund allowed QIA to establish programs to address the QTC recommendations as developed by the commission and documented in the *Qikiqtani Truth Commission’s Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq*. The QTC recommendations are grouped in four areas:

- Acknowledging and Healing Past Wrongs,
- Strengthening Inuit Governance,
- Strengthening Inuit Culture, and
- Creating Healthy Communities.

This annual report summarizes the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund programming activities from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.
QIA initiated the QTC to undertake a comprehensive social justice inquiry into the Government of Canada’s colonial policies, programs, and decisions between 1950 and 1975. Inuit calls for a public inquiry into these colonial practices had gone unanswered.

QIA believed Inuit deserved to have the opportunity to confront the Canadian government about forced relocation, killing of qimmiit, and other assimilative actions. In 2004, QIA began the recording of testimonials from Qikiqtani Inuit.

In 2007, the Qikiqtani Truth Commission was officially established with the Qikiqtani Truth Commission’s Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq published in 2010.
The Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq, chronicles the Government of Canada’s colonial practices subjected on Qikiqtani Inuit. The report distills three years of interviews, testimony, and archival research about the experiences of Qikiqtani Inuit with modern-day colonialism. The Final Report also outlines 25 recommendations for action.

After decades of work, on August 14, 2019, the Canadian Government finally issued a formal acknowledgement and apology to Qikiqtani Inuit.

This apology was delivered by Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations, in Iqaluit. The Minister offered the apology in the spirit of Saimaqatigiingniq – a concept that means when past opponents come together, meet in the middle and are at peace with one another.

She acknowledged forced relocation and family separation, killing of qimmiit and other actions that disrupted the way of life for Qikiqtani Inuit. The Government also acknowledged the important work of the QTC in bringing this history to the forefront.
Canada’s apology was accompanied by a contribution to the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund. With this commitment, QIA has been able to set up the initial fund and deliver Saimaqatigiingniq programming – but this is just the beginning. QIA expects the fund to grow and looks forward to every Qikiqtani Inuit benefiting from Saimaqatigiingniq Fund programs.

The QTC’s 25 recommendations provide the framework for the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund programs.
The Qikiqtani Inuit Association should formally present the full QTC report to the Government of Canada and request a formal acknowledgement of the report's findings.

The QTC historical collection (reports, database and testimonies) should be made accessible to all participants and anyone interested in understanding and presenting an accurate picture of the Qikiqtani Region's history.

The QIA and the RCMP should formally recognize the contributions of Inuit Special Constables and their families to the work of the RCMP in the Region.

The Government of Canada should set up a Dundas Harbour Relocation Trust Fund to allow descendants of families separated as a result of this relocation to travel between Cape Dorset and Arctic Bay for periodic family visits.

The Government of Canada should provide funding for on-site healing programs for the families affected by the closing of Kivitoo, Padloping and South Camp (Belcher Islands) communities.

The Government of Canada should defray the costs of allowing Inuit to locate and visit the burial sites of family members who died in southern Canada during medical treatment, in order to provide closure for those families.
STRENGTHENING INUIT GOVERNANCE

7 The Nunavut Legislative Assembly should formally assert that Nunavut and the Government of Nunavut were created by the Nunavut land claims negotiations as vehicles for Inuit self-government, and, therefore, that Inuit goals and aspirations can and should be advanced through the Government of Nunavut working collaboratively with Inuit organizations.

8 The Government of Nunavut should conduct its day-to-day operations in keeping with its obligations and responsibilities under the Nunavut Agreement and section 35 of the Constitution.

9 The Qikiqtani Inuit Association should establish a program that will enable Inuit to develop and utilize the governance skills they will require to strengthen their political and community engagement in a civil society.

10 The Governments of Nunavut and Canada should take all necessary action to make their programs and services for the people of Nunavut accessible at the local level.
The Qikiqtani Inuit Association should develop a framework (principles, policies and techniques) for all private, public and research agencies to use in conducting consultations with Inuit.

To ensure that Inuit culture is better understood by government employees whose work affects the Inuit, the Governments of Nunavut and Canada, assisted by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, should develop and deliver cultural training to all such employees.

The Governments of Nunavut and Canada, and all Inuit organizations, should respect and incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Traditional Knowledge in all decision-making in Nunavut.

The Government of Canada should immediately endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples without qualifications.
STRENGTHENING INUIT CULTURE

The Government of Nunavut Department of Education should develop and distribute an Inuktitut and Inuit-based curriculum to all communities and direct school officials to implement it as soon as possible.

The Government of Nunavut’s Department of Education should include historical material from the QTC reports in the Nunavut education curriculum.

The Government of Nunavut should develop and deliver more programs that actively promote intergenerational experiences between Elders and Inuit children and youth to ensure that young people continue to learn from Elders, and that Elders become more involved in the daily lives of communities.

The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should work together to develop and fund Inuit Language programs that will ensure that all Inuit and Qallunaat in Nunavut have the opportunity to learn the Inuit Language.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association should initiate an Inuit History Month, launching the event in Nunavut and later extending it to all of Canada.
The Government of Canada should formally acknowledge that the levels of suicide, addiction, incarceration and social dysfunction found in the Qikiqtani Region are in part symptoms of intergenerational trauma caused by historical wrongs.

The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should ensure that sufficient Inuit social, mental health and addiction workers and programs are available to meet the needs of all Nunavut communities.

The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should ensure that government health, social and education programs and services are available to the people of Nunavut on a basis equivalent to those taken for granted by Canadians in the South.
23

The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should address Inuit housing needs through provision of short-, medium- and long-term funding to ensure adequate and safe homes for all.

24

The Government of Nunavut and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association should work together to facilitate and promote Inuit participation in hunting, fishing and gathering practices that will sustain and strengthen Inuit culture and food security, improve nutrition and support local economies.

25

The Governments of Canada and Nunavut should provide training and other support that will allow Inuit to actively participate in Arctic environmental studies and activities.
QIA began receiving and recording testimonies from Inuit on the killing of qimmiit.

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

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

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

The Qikiqtani Truth Commission concludes its work and retired Justice, James Igloliorte issues the Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq, which includes 25 recommendations for action.
TIMELINE OF QIA’S WORK ON THE QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION

QIA publicly releases the Qikiqtani Truth Commission reports, Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq. QIA staff travels to each Qikiqtani community to share these report findings.

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

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

QIA begins Saimaqatigiingniq Fund programming in the areas of qimmiit revitalization, history and governance, and travel and healing.

QIA secures an additional investment of over $25 million from the Government of Canada towards Saimaqatigiingniq Fund programming.
QIA has categorized the QTC’s 25 recommendations based on QIA’s capacity to deliver programming.

To date four of the 25 QTC recommendations have been accomplished. Despite their completion, QIA will continue to advocate for Inuit within these recommendations. Nine recommendations are currently part of QIA’s workplan.

The remaining 12 recommendations require partnerships with territorial, federal, and Inuit governments to accomplish. QIA will continue to advance initiatives related to these recommendations and advocate on behalf of Qikiqtani Inuit.
Recommendations are priorities and are in QIA’s current workplan

Recommendations have been accomplished

Recommendations are advancing but require partnerships to accomplish

Recommendations QIA is advocating for implementation by other government partners
The Government of Canada apologized to Qikiqtani Inuit and announced an initial investment of over $20 million towards the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund.

The Government of Canada acknowledged the trauma caused by historical wrongs.

QIA and the RCMP unveiled a monument recognizing Inuit Special Constables.

In 2021, the UNDRIP Act was passed. UNDRIP was adopted by the Government of Canada in 2016.
### PRIORITIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTC RECOMMENDATION</th>
<th>CURRENT QIA PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2 Publicize findings</td>
<td>Updating QTC history better suited to post-secondary education and community research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 Dundas Harbour fund</td>
<td>Working with NTI and the GN to promote an Inuit History Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>#5 On-site healing</td>
<td>Continuing the Qimmiit Revitalization Program and advocating the GN to implement this recommendation</td>
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<tr>
<td>#9 Governance</td>
<td>Developing a governance skills program and increasing community engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>#15 Inuktut and Inuit curriculum</td>
<td>Creating educational resources with the Government of Nunavut (GN) grounded in Inuit culture and language for K-12 students and adult learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>#16 QTC in Nunavut curriculum</td>
<td>Working with NTI and the GN to promote an Inuit History Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>#17 Intergenerational learning</td>
<td>Continuing the Qimmiit Revitalization Program and advocating the GN to implement this recommendation</td>
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<tr>
<td>#19 Inuit History Month</td>
<td>Working with NTI and the GN to promote an Inuit History Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#24 Land-based activities</td>
<td>Continuing the Qikiqtani Qimuksiqtiit Project and expanding cultural programming</td>
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</table>
Through the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund, QIA is acting to strengthen Inuit governance and culture and support healthy communities.

QIA’s Saimaqatigiingniq Fund programs are currently focused on three areas of action:

- Qimmiit Revitalization;
- History and Governance; and
- Travel and Healing.
In October 2022, QIA announced that an additional investment of $25,750,000 was secured from the Government of Canada towards the QTC Final Report and QTC Recommendations. This is on top of the initial over $20 million that was secured in 2019.

QIA and the Government of Canada also signed an Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) originally signed in 2019. This MOU confirms Canada’s commitment to seek a final investment towards the QTC Final Report and QTC Recommendations.

QIA is seeking a final investment of approximately $31 million. Once received, the final installment will support the full establishment of the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund. It will also address QIA’s historical costs to conduct and implement our work on the QTC.
Although not part of the final QTC recommendations, QIA Board of Directors felt that it was imperative that QIA deliver programming which supports qimmiit revitalization.

The activities under the Qimmiit Revitalization Program are proving to be QIA’s most popular programs. We had another busy year supporting established dog team owners through our Qikiqtani Qimuksiqtiit Project and sponsoring Nunavut Quest 2022.

$386,213 Towards qimmiit revitalization
QIMUKSIQTIIT DATABASE

QIA has established a database to understand more about qimuksiqtiit (dog team practitioners) in the Qikiqtani Region and to help QIA plan additional qimmiit programs.

The qimmiit database continues to grow as shown through QIA’s successful grant program, the Qikiqtani Qimuksiqtiit Project.

This year, the qimiit database had 84 established dog teams in 11 Qikiqtani communities.
The Qikiqtani Qimuksiqtiit Project (QQP) is a three-year pilot project to provide financial support for Inuit qimuksiqtiit in the Qikiqtani Region. A grant of $3,000 was available to Inuit maintaining qimmiit to help cover costs such as veterinary supplies, dog food, lumber for dog houses or qamutik building, ropes, and other required supplies.

In 2022–2023, the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund provided $252,000 to qimuksiqtiit throughout the Qikiqtani Region.

2022–2023 was the third and final year for the QPP pilot project. QIA is currently assessing options to make this program permanent through the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund.
TOTAL NUMBER OF QIMUKSIQTIIT SUPPORTED BY THE SAIMAQATIGIINGNIQ FUND IN 2022–2023

84 Qimuksiqtiit supported
QIAM has been planning the next Qimuksiqtiit Regional Gathering, which will be hosted in Iqaluit in fall 2023. Dog teams from across the region come together every two years to connect, learn from one another, and provide feedback on how QIA can best support them.

In November 2021, QIA hosted the inaugural Qimuksiqtiit Regional Gathering in Iqaluit, flying in participants from all over the region to attended and share their knowledge of dog teaming.
After a two-year hiatus, the 2022 Nunavut Quest proceeded with 13 teams departing from Arctic Bay on April 18, 2022. Weather conditions and complications with a team had the racers staying at camps along the way a few extra nights. The racers crossed the finish line approximately 450km away in Igloolik on April 27.

In August 2019, at the long-awaited apology by Minister Bennett, QIA committed $100,000 to support race-related activities, as determined by the Nunavut Quest organizing committee. This year, QIA’s sponsorship went towards prize money, gasoline, oil, snowmobile support, and community feasts.
QIA congratulates all the racers who participated in the Nunavut Quest. Running dog teams over 450km in eight days show your dedication to revitalizing this part of our culture.

The 2023 race is scheduled to go from Igloolik to Arctic Bay.

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<tr>
<th>Standing</th>
<th>Racer</th>
<th>Hours: Minutes: Seconds</th>
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<tr>
<td>1ST PLACE</td>
<td>JONAH QAUNAQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>2ND PLACE</td>
<td>DAVID OYUKULUK</td>
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<tr>
<td>3RD PLACE</td>
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<td>4TH PLACE</td>
<td>TERRY UYARAK</td>
<td>30:23:20</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MICHAEL INUARAK</td>
<td>34:19:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>6TH PLACE</td>
<td>TOM NAQITAQVIK</td>
<td>34:30:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>7TH PLACE</td>
<td>MICHAEL QAUNAQ</td>
<td>36:6:55</td>
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<tr>
<td>8TH PLACE</td>
<td>QILIQTI IVALU</td>
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<td>9TH PLACE</td>
<td>DONOVAN QAUNAQ</td>
<td>39:58:07</td>
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<td>10TH PLACE</td>
<td>JEREMY KOONOO</td>
<td>43:33:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>11TH PLACE</td>
<td>ANDREW PHILLIP TAQTU</td>
<td>44:24:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>12TH PLACE</td>
<td>JOSHUA HAULLI</td>
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HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE

Several QTC recommendations concern history and governance, including implementing Inuit self-governance, developing Inuit-based curriculum products in Nunavut schools and including QTC materials in Nunavut curriculum, and initiating an Inuit History Month.

In June 2021, the Government of Nunavut, Department of Education, and QIA agreed to work together to create educational resources grounded in Inuit culture and language. These resources will help to strengthen cultural identity and Inuktitut language skills for K-12 students and adult learners.

Staff have begun the scope and sequence workshops in making sure that QTC materials are grade and age appropriate.

The creation of Inuit History Month has also started to take shape. Research and connections have been made within Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut to collaborate and plan for this launch.
TRAVEL AND HEALING

QIA's travel and healing program looks to accomplish some of the QTC's recommendations, such as on-site healing programs for families affected by the Government of Canada's forced relocations of Qikiqtani Inuit.

This year, QIA focused on the development of an on-site healing programs for those Inuit affected by the closing of communities at Kivitoo, Padloping, and South Camp.
In December 2022 and March 2023, QIA staff and officials travelled to Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung to host community engagement sessions regarding the development of a travel and healing program. Both engagements were well attended from residents with families expressing a desire to travel to their traditional camps (ilagiit nunagivaktangit).

Plans are underway for families to travel to Kivitoo and Padloping Island along with sites outside of Pangnirtung in summer 2023. Families will be given the opportunity to speak with counsellors, share their grief, and participate in other on-the-land healing activities.

In summer 2023, QIA staff will travel Sanikiluaq to host an initial community engagement to gauge residents' vision for a healing program at South Camp (Belcher Islands).
SAIMAQATIGIINGNIQ FUND
FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 2022–2023

The following financial summary is based on QIA’s fiscal year beginning April 1, 2022 and completing March 31, 2023.

The financial summary is based on information contained in the Qikiqtani Inuit Association’s Non-Consolidated Financial Statements as prepared for QIA by Lester Landau Chartered Professional Accountants and in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

As of March 31, 2023, QIA spent $891,942 on Qikiqtani Truth Commission program development.
$891,942
Total Saimaqatigiingniq Fund spending in 2022–2023
For more information about the Qikiqtani Truth Commission visit: qtcommission.ca