Katimajjii Conference a Milestone in Nunavik’s Evolution

- MAKIVIK’s Role in the Torngat Mountains
- Adventures in the High Arctic
- Good News for Low Income Earners
...and much more
Makivik is the ethnic organization mandated to represent and promote the interests of Nunavik. Its membership is composed of the Inuit beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). Makivik’s responsibility is to ensure the proper implementation of the political, social, and cultural benefits of the Agreement, and to manage and invest the monetary compensation so as to enable the Inuit to become an integral part of the northern economy. Makivik’s role is to continue providing essential services for survival. Power and responsibility are distributed among the people, fighting over limited resources for survival. Many ask how global warming can be a peace issue. The Norwegian parliamentarians who nominated Sheila Watt-Cloutier for the Nobel Peace Prize predict that the inability of our plant to be able to continue providing essential needs once the climate has gone too far out of whack will cause escalated wars amongst people, fighting over limited resources for survival. When Sheila talks about her so far 12-year campaign to “put a human face on global warming”, just as she had done on the October 12th morning news after learning that Al Gore and an intergovernmental panel on climate change were awarded the prize instead, she repeats that her work is not for personal benefit, nor only for Inuit, but for humankind. She also vows to continue her crusade and is booked for speaking engagements at least for the next year. “It is not Nobel Peace Prizes or any other prizes that make or break us,” she said. While the North remains behind many southern regions and federal government ministers. This issue of Makivik Magazine stands as a record of commitments presented at the conference ranging from the historic Katimajiit Conference, co-hosted by Makivik president Pita Aatami and Quebec Premier Jean Charest and attended by a number of provincial and federal government ministers. This issue of Makivik Magazine stands as a record of commitments presented at the conference ranging from the economic to the environment, with lots in between.
Serving the Inuit of Nunavik

Makivik’s Role in the Torngat Mountains
Adventures in the High Arctic
Good News for Low Income Earners
...and much more

Katimajiit Conference Highlights

Legal Tips

Sound Systems in the Classroom

Air Inuit Propwash

First Air, Nirlivallat

Nunavik Creations Update

PennyWise

Polar Point of View

Nunavik Notes

Youth

WHAT IS THIS?

You could win $100 if you guess what this mysterious picture is. Mail your answer to “Mystery Photo Contest” at the address shown below. Good Luck!

Drawing will be held at Makivik head office on Friday, December 14th, 2007.

Mystery Photo Contest
Makivik Corporation
P.O. Box 179
Kuujjuaq, Québec
J0M 1C0

Four much-sought-after Makivik Magazine T-shirts.

Congratulations to Anna Niviakie of Inukjuak who identified these demonstration shotgun cartridges. Other prizes were sent to Qipitaq Angma, Annie Quissa, Michael Nutara, and Johnny Kingalik for their correct answers.
Parks Canada welcomed numerous invitees to its 2007 Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve (TMNPR) base camp at St. John’s Harbour, Labrador, from July 20th to August 10th. There was a general theme for each of the three weeks: 1) Through Inuit Eyes: A Cultural Landscape, an Inuit Homeland; 2) Managing as Partners — Parks Cooperative Management Board Orientation; and 3) Exploring Visitor Experience Opportunities in the Torngat Mountains National Park.

Among the distinguished guests that attended the second week of the base camp were some elders from Nunavik and Labrador and most of the members of the cooperative management board (CMB) for the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve. Makivik plays an active role in the management of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve.
Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve

Parks Canada describes the area covered by the TMNPR as follows: The spectacular wilderness of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve comprises 9,700 square kilometres of the northern Labrador mountains natural region. The park extends from Saglek Fjord in the south, including all islands and islets, to the very northern tip of Labrador; and from the provincial boundary with Quebec in the west, to the iceberg-choked waters of the Labrador Sea in the east. The mountain peaks along the border with Quebec are the highest in mainland Canada east of the Rockies, and are dotted with remnant glaciers. Polar bears hunt seals along the coast, and both the Torngat Mountains and George River caribou herds cross paths as they migrate to and from their calving grounds. Today, Inuit continue to use this area for hunting, fishing, and travelling throughout the year.

The status of the area is a 'national park reserve' as opposed to the status of 'national park' until such a time that the federal parliament passes a Bill to ratify and give effect to the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA). To date, an Act to give effect to the NILCA and to make a consequential amendment to another Act (Bill C-51) has been passed by the House of Commons and has gone through the first reading at the Senate.

Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement

The area of the TMNPR continues to be used by Nunavik Inuit and forms a vital cultural, historic and natural component of the heritage of Nunavik Inuit.

The NILCA calls for the negotiation of a park impacts and benefits agreement for the TMNPR. The parties to the Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement (PIBA) are the Nunavik Inuit, as represented by their birthright Makivik Corporation, and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, as represented by the minister of environment, for the purposes of the Parks Canada Agency.

Makivik plays an active role in the management of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve.
The purpose of the PIBA is to provide for the administration and maintenance of the national park in a manner consistent with the NILCA, the PIBA itself, the Canada National Parks Act, the National Park Management Plan, the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and the Labrador Inuit Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement. Secondly it ensures that the management of the national park respects and reflects Nunavik Inuit rights and interests and provides for continued use by Nunavik Inuit of the National Park and its resources as set out in the NILCA. It also provides a framework for cooperative management and planning by the parties for the national park. Fourthly, the PIBA addresses any matter connected with the national park that might have a detrimental impact on Nunavik Inuit or that could reasonably confer a benefit on Nunavik Inuit.

Cooperative Management Board

The Cooperative Management Board (CMB) was established pursuant to both Nunavik Inuit and Labrador Inuit PIBAs. The CMB has a crucial role to play in the management of the TMNPR. It shall be an advisory board to the federal minister of environment for all matters related to the management of the park.

The CMB shall consist of seven members: two appointed by Makivik, two appointed by the Nunatsiavut government, two appointed by the Parks Canada Agency, and one independent chair. The two Makivik appointees are George Berthe and Willie Etok.

- changes to the national park boundary;
- a draft business plan and draft operational priorities;
- national park management planning and the national park management plan;
- the removal of carving stone in the national park;
- campsites;
- visitor access and use of the national park;
recruitment and hiring of national park staff and the removal of employment barriers;

h) economic opportunities;

i) a national park research strategy and authorization processes;

j) safekeeping of archaeological materials and Inuit cultural material relating to Nunavik Inuit in the possession of the Parks Canada Agency;

k) developing materials for the promotion of the national park; and

l) development plans for facilities, displays and exhibits about the national park.

Managing as partners, a CMB orientation

On July 27th the two Makivik appointees to the CMB, accompanied by elders from Kangiqsualujjuaq and I, travelled on an Air Inuit Twin Otter
from Nunavik to Sagleq, Labrador. We then headed by boat to St. John’s Harbour where the base camp was being set up.

The general objectives of the week for the CMB members included activities aimed at getting a sense of what managing a national park implies, getting orientation on various relevant topics, and connecting with the land in the national park reserve.

The CMB had quite an ambitious agenda for the week. Among the topics discussed were the following: the Inuit knowledge project, place names, connections to the land (the stories, legends, special places), a presentation on agreements (Labrador and Nunavik Inuit PIBAs and land claims agreements), a presentation on National Parks Act / Park management planning process, the Nunavut experience with cooperative management committees, administrative protocols, management planning, and more.

Although all the agenda items were not covered during the week, there was a consensus that the event was very productive and that the CMB members are taking full assessment of the tasks ahead. The nice weather allowed for an extensive visit of the area of the park. Very precious information was gathered with regards to place names, the use of the area, and archaeological sites.

The week at the base camp was an incredible journey for all the Nunavimmiut and others that were given the privilege to participate. The CMB members will meet again in the near future. Makivik is truly dedicated to ensuring that the management of the national park respects and reflects Nunavik Inuit rights and interests and provides for continued use by the Nunavik Inuit of the area and its resources as provided for in the NILCA.
Makivik organized the Katimajiit Conference in Kuujjuaq this past August 23rd and 24th, now regarded as an historical meeting of Nunavik organizations with the governments of Canada and of Quebec.

As a background to Katimajiit, Nunavik Inuit signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement — the first modern land claims treaty with government partners and the Cree nation — a good 30 years ago. In April 2002, the Government of Quebec, the KRG and Makivik also signed the Sanarrutik Agreement on Nunavik economic and community development. More recently, Makivik signed the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA) with the Government of Canada, which provides certainty to the Nunavik Inuit over the use and ownership of lands and resources, including marine resources, in the Nunavik Marine Region. It is within this context of good relationship between Makivik and their partners that Nunavik Inuit were able to come together and discuss their priorities and concerns.

Highlights of the Katimajiit Conference

Premier Charest toured facilities in Kuujjuaq before sitting down at the Katimajiit Conference.
Katimajiit Conference

The economy and employment

Premier Charest reiterated his support to include Nunavik in the National Strategy for Northern Canada, while Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Chuck Strahl, confirmed hearing Nunavik’s request to be included in the strategy and promised to discuss the matter with his colleagues in Ottawa. Action démocratique du Québec leader Marion Dumont also voiced his support for the idea to include Nunavik in the National Strategy.

The Quebec government is also ready to coordinate a tripartite committee with the federal government and Nunavik to study the feasibility of a railway or road linking Kuujjuaq to the southern part of the province. Canada is ready to participate in the committee, which will begin its work by the end of 2007. Incidentally, Yvon Lévesque, Bloc québécois MP representing Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik-Eeyou, said he would also like to sit down with representatives of Makivik and a private proponent to discuss building a railway between Schefferville and Kuujjuaq. Quebec has also committed $200,000 annually over a three-year period, beginning in 2007, toward a marine infrastructure maintenance and repair program and is ready to participate in a tripartite committee to determine a long-term solution.

The Quebec government will begin carrying out airport improvement projects in the region beginning in 2008-2009. They are also ready to contribute $8-million toward an estimated $20-million project to extend Puvirnituq’s runway along with other upgrades to permit jet service there. This commitment is on the basis of the federal-provincial agreement of 1983, which made the construction of airports in Nunavik possible. Meanwhile, the federal airports capital assistance program (ACAP) can fund projects that are related to safety issues and Canada is willing to participate in a tripartite committee to evaluate the state of the Nunavik airports to see what role each level of government can play in this context.

Quebec will make $12.1-million available over three years, beginning in 2007-2008, to reduce the costs of transporting people and goods, whatever the method of transportation. This will allow the KRG to determine and put in place specific measures to reduce the cost of living in Nunavik. Nunavik will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of the current programs to reduce the cost of transporting goods, whatever the method of transportation. This will allow the KRG to determine and put in place specific measures to reduce the cost of living in Nunavik. Nunavik will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of the current programs to reduce the cost of transporting goods, whatever the method of transportation. This will allow the KRG to determine and put in place specific measures to reduce the cost of living in Nunavik.

Corporation (representing the Inuit of Nunavik) and the governments that Katimajiit was organized.

The conference was a milestone in Nunavik history in that, although other prime ministers and ministers visited our territory over the years, we have never seen so many policy makers present in our territory at the same time. The same way, never were we so many regional leaders around a table sharing the same concerns and trying to identify innovative solutions for our collective future. The two-day meeting was a phenomenal success, yielding a list of government commitments from Quebec and from Canada.
Johnny N. Adams provided a background description of Nunavik realities for the conference delegation.

Other measures to reduce the cost of living in Nunavik are also to be taken. Quebec's 2007-2008 budget provides for the payment of $500,000 to the KRG to put in place cost of living mitigation measures for Nunavimmiut. In addition, the refundable tax credit for individuals living in a northern village will be increased by 50% for adults and by 66 2/3% for children. This change will be applied retroactively to 2006 in order to permit an increase in tax credit payments during 2007. This tax credit will rise in 2006 from $40 per month to $60 per month for an adult and from $15 per month to $25 per month for a child. It is estimated that this improvement will cost the province $700,000 per year. As a coordinating body with various Quebec government departments, the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA) is also interested in studying the problem of Nunavik's high cost of living. Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and his officials are willing to meet with Nunavik representatives to discuss certain tax matters for the region well.

Katimajiit also attracted some good news for Nunavik senior citizens. Over the next five years, the Quebec government will entrust regional conferences of elected representatives with $12.5-million in order to adapt regional services and infrastructures to the needs of seniors. The KRG is to begin receiving these moneys in 2007-2008. The terms governing the use of these sums will be defined in a specific agreement and there will be a leeway for those requests that the KRG considers pertinent. The Secretariat of Innovation and Exportation agreed to examine the project for Nunavimmiut. In addition, the refundable tax credit for individuals living in a northern village will be increased by 50% for adults and by 66 2/3% for children. This change will be applied retroactively to 2006 in order to permit an increase in tax credit payments during 2007. This tax credit will rise in 2006 from $40 per month to $60 per month for an adult and from $15 per month to $25 per month for a child. It is estimated that this improvement will cost the province $700,000 per year. As a coordinating body with various Quebec government departments, the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA) is also interested in studying the problem of Nunavik's high cost of living. Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and his officials are willing to meet with Nunavik representatives to discuss certain tax matters for the region well.

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A process for examining an FCNQ economic development proposal was also set in motion in partnership with Makivik, the KRG, and the Government of Canada. The Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation agreed to examine the project for the Government of Quebec and would soon respond regarding their involvement. Chuck Strahl, who is also responsible for Aboriginal Business Canada, said his departments would study the project.

An economic and community development agreement was signed in Kuujjuaq on August 24th that makes $13.5-million for economic development projects and $14-million for community infrastructure projects available to the KRG. These budgets fall under the Quebec government's Aboriginal Initiatives Fund, announced at the First Nations Socioeconomic Development Projects and $14-million for community infrastructure projects available to the KRG. These budgets fall under the Quebec government's Aboriginal Initiatives Fund, announced at the First Nations Socioeconomic Development Forum held in Mashteuiatsh in October 2006.

Quebec's Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale is in favour of setting up a Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi (CJE) to serve the Inuit youth in Nunavik. The ministry offers to collaborate with the Nunavik stakeholders of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Lawrence Cannon, also announced that the federal gas tax fund would be continued.
Etua Snowball was one of the opening acts at Katimajit.

Culture and education

Quebec’s Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (MCCCF) has promised to set aside $100,000, in collaboration with the KRG and one of Nunavik’s municipalities, for the development of a pilot project for Nunavik’s first public library.

The MCCCF has also offered technical support, along with $195,000, to set up a museum reserve for Avataq's collection of art and archaeological artefacts. This reserve will have to meet all of the museum standards in effect. This Quebec grant amounts to about half the cost of setting up the reserve. The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec will collaborate with Avataq to develop artists’ residences in Nunavik. Furthermore, the MCCCF plans to contribute $50,000 over two years towards an initiative to revitalize Inuktittut.

The Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) will make up to $130,000 available in 2008-2009 for KSB to develop and implement a survival skills course. In 2008-2009, $370,000 will be made available to recruit Inuktittut teachers and prepare programs and MELS will continue providing support with the goal of offering Inuktittut instruction up to Grade six: up to 50% of the teaching time in grade four, then 30% in grade five, and 20% in grade six. Beginning this year (2007-2008), MELS is also to provide $50,000 toward an assessment of the cost of setting up the reserve. The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec will collaborate with Avataq to develop artists’ residences in Nunavik. Furthermore, the MCCCF plans to contribute $50,000 over two years towards an initiative to revitalize Inuktittut.

Another recurrent sum of $350,000 MELS funding in 2008-2009 and subsequent years will be used for the continuation of a parenting skills program. In the spring of 2008, once a working group on college-level instruction in Nunavik is set up, the project will receive expertise and financial support of $50,000 per year for three years. This money will be to hire resource persons to follow up on the work under way, collect and compare needs, and make a survey of existing programs.

Furthermore, within the context of a program to support sports and recreational facilities, the limit on Quebec government assistance is increasing from 50% to 80% of the eligible costs. This will make it possible to fund projects by also relying on other government programs, notably SAA’s Aboriginal Initiatives Fund.

Health, social services and early childhood

The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) is to ensure front-line services and second-line services to improve the well being of families and children in the region. Fourteen workers...
Katimajit Conference

will be hired to enable Nunavik to fully assume its obligations under the Youth Protection Act: one assistant for each of the two directors of youth protection; four Inuit workers in charge of receiving reports; four problem evaluators; two professional workers assigned to the application of measures; and two Inuit workers for the Inulitsivik Health Centre. Moreover, a recurrent sum of $200,000 will be granted for youth protection officers training. These commitments total $1,934,000 per year, offered on a recurrent basis.

At an expected cost of $1,114,000 per year, the MSSS is adding five professional workers, two Inuit workers, and one clinical supervisor to strengthen front-line social services and to lighten the workloads on youth protection officers. A regional youth rehabilitation office will be created under the responsibility of the Tulattavik Health Centre. This new office will include a director, a programs supervisor, and a secretary. The recurrent costs of this commitment are $450,000 per year.

The sum of $150,000 was also promised to the NRBHSS to hold a regional consultation on traditional adoptions, while another non-recurrent $125,000 will be made available to hold a consultation to devise an assistance program adapted to the employees involved in youth protection.

The MSSS granting recurrent funding of $860,000 per year to hire 14 Inuit community workers in charge of mobilizing their respective community to combat social problems and to improve the well-being of families and children. Moreover, a sum of $25,000 per year is being granted to fund the activities of the health committee of each of the 14 communities — a recurrent total of $350,000.

The MSSS will finance the construction and maintenance of 50 new housing units for health and social services workers in Nunavik at a cost of $30.9-million, provide an annual amount of $700,000 to the Isuarsivik Treatment Centre for substance abuse issues, and increase funding for three women’s shelters by $606,275. Furthermore, the MSSS, in collaboration with the NRHSSB, also agrees on a follow-up to be given to the regional strategic plan by not later than the end of September 2008.

Maggie Emudluk, Chuck Strahl, and Jean Charest.
Concerning support for childcare services, the MFA will grant 110 supplemental spaces in daycare centres during the next two years. Following this, demographic trends and specific needs of communities will be analyzed to determine the number of new daycare spaces necessary to meet these needs. Confirmation was also given for the annual amount of $50,000 for early childcare staff training to be continued over the next three years. By 2012, Quebec will also have paid $509,000 to the KRG to make it possible for salary adjustments required following the wage equity initiative for salaried personnel of early childcare centres in Nunavik. Lawrence Cannon also voiced his support for daycare services through the federal Early Childhood Development Program / Childcare Policy.

It was also noted that Minister of Health and Social Services Philippe Couillard is aware of the problem of Inuit midwives and their desire for official recognition. He committed to work very hard on this file to ensure that progress is achieved, mentioning that there might be possible solutions found with Inuit midwives from other jurisdictions.

Infrastructure and housing

As the Internet has by now become an essential public service and managerial tool of Nunavik society, the Government of Quebec has confirmed a $2.2 million contribution to improve access to Internet services. This project, headed by the KRG, is in partnership with MELS, the Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions (MAMR) and the federal government. Lawrence Cannon furthermore announced that Canada would make up to $20,650,000 (representing up to 75% of the necessary funding) available to help purchase new satellite infrastructures.
Quebec has also confirmed they will go ahead with an additional investment of $25-million for the construction of new housing units by 2010. During the next three years, in addition to new housing already planned, the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) will be able to finance at least 50 new units with this additional funding. Over the three-year period from 2008 to 2010, the total budget that the SHQ will earmark for housing renovations in the North will increase to $53-million, including $21-million in 2008, according to priorities identified by the KMHB.

The SHQ, through discussions with KMHB, will make changes to the affordable housing program and, in collaboration with Hydro-Quebec, will set up an energy efficiency program in Nunavik. Quebec also proposed that discussions in preparation for the negotiation of the Canada-Quebec Nunavik housing agreement, which will expire in 2010, should begin immediately. From the federal side, Lawrence Cannon said that the Government of Canada is willing to sit down immediately to initiate the discussions regarding these issues. It is also expected that an agreement will be reached with insurance companies to take into account the particular situation of homeowners in Nunavik considering a lack of insurance services in the region is putting many Nunavimmiut off from building private homes.

Community Environment and Sustainable Development

Following a decision by the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission, the Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) decided to propose the creation of Kuururjuaq National Park, which will be planned, managed, and operated in collaboration with the KRG. The Government of Quebec will also pay the KRG $600,000 per year to manage Pingualuit National Park and has agreed to $5.7-million for the infrastructures required for this park’s operations. We assume that these budgets provide an idea of the commitments to come for the other parks. Public hearings concerning the creation of Lacs-Guillaume-Delisle-et-à-l’Eau-Claire National Park will be held in June 2008 in Umiujaq and Kuujjuaraapik.

The MAMR proposed to the KRG the creation of a joint technical committee made up of professionals (such as engineers, urban planners...
and land developers) from both organizations to work on the preparation of the guide for constructing buildings. As necessary, this committee will also call on climate change and permafrost experts to obtain specialized information.

The MAMR will create and coordinate an inter-ministerial committee on the impacts of climate change in Nunavik, especially in the case of Salluit for which more in-depth analyses and studies will be carried out. The KRG and some elected officials of Salluit will also be involved in the committee’s work. Meanwhile, the MDDEP plans to make their programs better known so that the people of Nunavik are better informed and can use the financial assistance measures stipulated therein.

The huge project of cleaning up abandoned mining exploration sites across the region is ongoing as well. A sum of $4.1-million will be invested for the restoration of 18 of these sites in Nunavik, which should be completed by March 31st, 2012. This investment results from an agreement concerning the cleanup of these sites in Nunavik reached between the Government of Quebec, the KRG, Makivik and the Resto-Action Nunavik Fund.

Follow-Up Mechanism

A Quebec–Canada–Nunavik roundtable (the “Katimajiit Table”) has been proposed, with the first session taking place no later the March 2008. It will be co-chaired by the provincial minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, the federal minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the president of Makivik, and the chairperson of the KRG, in the presence of the premier of Quebec. The mandate of this roundtable will be to see to the implementation of the commitments made at Katimajit, as well as following up on discussions and talking about any other subjects agreed upon between the parties. Other Quebec and Canadian ministers, as well as the president of KSB, the president of the NRBHSS and any other representative whose presence is necessary according to the subjects being discussed will be invited. There will be at least one of these meetings per year, as set by the participants. A technical committee made up of representatives these organizations and governments shall be set up to support the Katimajit Roundtable in carrying out its mandate.
“The economic future of Québec is closely related to the responsible development of Nunavik.” Jean Charest.

This plaque was unveiled on the occasion of the Katimajiit Conference, in the presence of Mr. Pita Aatami, President of Makivik Corporation, Mrs. Maggie Emudlulk, President of the Kativik Regional Government, and Mr. Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec.

An agreement regarding environmental restoration at abandoned mining exploration sites was signed during the conference.
Participants of the Katimajit Conference
Hosted by Kuujjuaq, Nunavik: August 23rd and 24th, 2007

### Nunavik Inuit representatives
- **Larry Watt** Mayor, Municipality of Kuujjuaq
- **Pita Aatami** President, Makivik
- **Michael Gordon** Vice-President, Makivik Economic Development
- **George Berthe** Corporate Secretary, Makivik
- **Anthony Ittoshat** Treasurer, Makivik
- **Johnny Peters** Vice-President, Makivik Renewable Resources
- **Maggie Emudluk** Chairperson, Kativik Regional Government
- **Jusipi Annahatak** Executive, Kativik Regional Government
- **Mary A. Pilurtuut** Executive, Kativik Regional Government
- **Alasie Nalukturuk** President, Kativik School Board
- **Alacie Arngak** President, Nunavik Regional Health and Social Services Board
- **George Peters** President, Nunavik Landholding Corporations’ Association
- **George Kakayuk** President, Taqramiut Nipingat Incorporated
- **Ohituk Ammamatuak** President, Fédération des Coopératives du Nouveau Québec
- **Andy Moorhouse** President, Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau
- **Paulusi Novalinga** President, Nunavik Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Association
- **Jennifer Watkins** President, Saputiit Youth Association
- **Bobby Snowball** President, Nunavik Elders Association
- **Johnny N. Adams** Private businessman and former KRG Chairperson
- **Premier and Government of Quebec Ministers**
  - **Jean Charest** Premier
  - **Nathalie Normandeau** Deputy Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions
  - **Philippe Couillard** Minister of Health and Social Services
  - **Michelle Courchesne** Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport and Minister of Families
  - **Line Beauchamp** Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks
  - **Benoît Pelletier** Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information
  - **Julie Boulet** Minister of Transport
  - **Marguerite Blais** Minister responsible for Seniors
  - **Christine St-Pierre** Minister of Culture and Communications and the Status of Women
- **Government of Canada Ministers**
  - **The Honourable Chuck Strahl** Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor with Métis and Non-Status Indians
  - **The Honourable Lawrence Cannon** Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
- **Members of the National Assembly**
  - **Mario Dumont** Leader of the Official Opposition Action démocratique du Québec
  - **Luc Ferrand** MNA for Ungava
  - **Yvon Lévesque** MP for Abitibi – James Bay – Nunavik – Eeyou
The Quebec Human Rights and Youth Commission report regarding the situation of youth in Nunavik entitled *The Investigation Into Child and Youth Protection Services in Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay* presents in a forthright manner difficulties faced by young Inuit in northern Quebec. Premier Jean Charest would have read it for the first time last spring.

The authors of the report asked the premier to personally take control of the issue “to coordinate the required actions by the government; therefore offering to children of Nunavik hope for a better tomorrow.” The message was unmistakably clear. Without putting the blame on anyone in particular, the report was nevertheless targeting the Charest office. That was the appropriate action taking into consideration the fact that youth issues fall under the responsibility of the ministry of executive council — the ministry of Premier Charest.

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**Nunavik’s Request for Help Is Heard**

*From text provided by Michel St-Germain*

*Makivik Communications Officer*

*BOB MESHER*
or resort to moving down south just so they could find their
in overcrowded dwellings with parents and extended families
ing shortage that prevents many young adults in Nunavik from
were brought to tears when she mentioned the severe hous-
hearts of ministers attending the conference. Some participants
Saputiit President Jennifer Watkins noticeably touched the
impacts of the conference will be felt across public services.

The important sums of money injected are obviously wel-
come, but beside the financial aspect, the Katimajiit Conference
has been an opportunity to conduct direct exchanges between
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Inuit and on August 23rd and 24th he co-ordinated the Katimajiit
Conference along with Pita Aatami and Maggie Emudluk.
Premier Charest led a delegation of nine Quebec ministers,
while Mario Dumont the leader of the Action démocratique du Québec (and leader of the official opposition) also came
to Kuujjuaq for the occasion. Then newly appointed Minister
of Indian and Northern Affairs, Chuck Strahl, and Minister of
Transport, Lawrence Cannon, represented the federal gov-
ernment.

It is easy to forget that leaders are human beings like all
of us. Behind their public image, they also have noble senti-
ments. We cannot doubt the impact the investigation had on
Mr. Charest and his ministers, including Minister of Health and
Social Services, Philippe Couillard, who is also directly con-
cerned by the situation of youth in Nunavik.

At the same time that the Quebec Human Rights and Youth
Commission was tabling its report, and that media, alerted by
the conclusion of that document, were paying greater attention
to the situation and asking more questions, the final prepara-
tions for the Katimajiit Conference were well under way.
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The important sums of money injected are obviously wel-
come, but beside the financial aspect, the Katimajiit Conference
has been an opportunity to conduct direct exchanges between
the leaders from Nunavik and from the two governments. The
impacts of the conference will be felt across public services.

Deeply moving testimonies such as the one delivered by
Saputiit President Jennifer Watkins noticeably touched the
hearts of ministers attending the conference. Some participants
were brought to tears when she mentioned the severe hous-
ing shortage that prevents many young adults in Nunavik from
fully experiencing an independent life because they must live in
overcrowded dwellings with parents and extended families
or resort to moving down south just so they could find their
own apartment. On the near horizon, these situations could seriously impact Inuit culture, language, traditions and family ties. One obvious fact remains above all: the youth of today are the vital forces of tomorrow’s society.

The message delivered by young Inuit and the conclusions of the investigation conducted by the Quebec Human Rights and Youth Commission seem to have been well understood by Quebec representatives. Among the investments and measures announced, $78-million will be spent for housing construction and renovation plus a regional directorate dedicated to youth rehabilitation will be created under the responsibility of the Tulattavik Health Centre. In addition, one community worker will be added in each northern village and better financial support will be provided.

Things, however, do look good for the future despite the numerous serious problems encountered in Nunavik. Acknowledging the problems is already an important step forward. Open and frank discussions like the ones that took place in Kuujjuaq are a clear sign of self-empowerment indicating a willingness to find solutions. A committee has been created to monitor the follow-up of the Katimajit Conference to ensure that government political directions and instructions are fully respected and that money invested is efficiently used to best serve Nunavimmiut interests. At the end of the conference, Premier Charest, paraphrasing Pita Aatami, declared: “You requested our help, you have been heard.”

Times are changing. With the recent signing of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement and the agreement in principle towards the creation of a Nunavik regional government, media will likely become even more present. Nunavik organizations and Nunavimmiut will have to make additional efforts to patiently communicate with the outside world the realities of their environment and their aspirations.

Nunavik will be under close scrutiny with the creation of a new form of government that does not yet exist anywhere else in Canada, or even in the world. Nunavik leaders are actually laying the foundations of a new Inuit society. Today’s youth will eventually take over responsibilities and pursue the work. In order to do so, young Nunavimmiut need a solid education and good living conditions.
All About Copyright

Prepared by the Makivik Legal Department

Rynee has just finished her first novel which tells the story of two Inuit brothers who, separated in childhood, meet together as adults at a Nunavik mining exploration site and proceed to unravel a murder mystery that takes place there.

Jusipi has just completed the unbelievable task of translating Charles Dickens’ lengthy novel, *Bleak House*, into Inuktitut.

Kevin has composed music and lyrics to an Inuktittut rap song centered on the strength of inuksuit.

Rynee, Jusipi and Kevin all wish to know how they can protect their right in the material or work they have created, or in the case of Jusipi, translated.

As soon as an artistic work is created copyright protection exists. Copyright literally means the right to copy. The Canadian Copyright Act (Revised Statutes of Canada, C-42) grants copyright owners the sole and exclusive right to reproduce, perform or publish the work they have created or own.

The author of the work, who under the Copyright Act is considered the first owner of the copyright, can transfer this ownership to another so that the owner of the copyright work and its author are no longer the same person.

In order for a work to be protected by copyright, it must be an original work and must also meet the criterion of fixation meaning that it must be fixed in some material form. Obviously written works meet the test and video and digital cameras have helped other forms of creative work like ballet or mime meet the fixation test by allowing them to be viewed on screen.

Even the translation of someone else’s work is protected by copyright because translated work is treated as separate and new work from the original. Of course, the translator of the work must obtain the permission of the original work’s copyright owner, unless the copyright in the original work has expired.

Under the Copyright Act there are no formal requirements to obtain copyright protection. There is no requirement to register a work, mark it with a copyright symbol or deposit it with a depositing registry.

However, without doing so the copyright owner may have problems proving his/her copyright interest and enforcing rights over the work against violators of the copyright.

The universal symbol used to mark copyright material is the symbol “©”. Although it is not obligatory to mark your creation under the Canadian Copyright Act, there are advantages for doing so. The most important advantage
is that it reminds all third parties that copyright exists over the work and would provide proof in any court action against a violator of the copyright that he or she should have known that copyright existed. It will also help third parties who wish to use or copy the work to locate the copyright owner for his/her permission. All books published in North America, whether fiction or non-fiction, bear on their information page located at the front of the book the copyright symbol (©) followed by the date of first publication and the name of the copyright owner. In the case of a translated book, you’ll notice that both the author’s copyright and the translator’s copyright will be noted.

The federal government provides a registration system for copyright through the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO). Although it is unnecessary to register a copyright work, doing so provides certain advantages. The Copyright Act provides that a certificate of registration issued by CIPO creates the presumption that copyright subsists in the work and that the person registered is the owner. These presumptions would be helpful in any court action against a potential violator of the copyright. In addition to stopping the violator from continuing to disregard the copyright, registration may also allow the owner require the violator to pay compensation.

The Canadian Copyright registration system is voluntary and no deposit of the actual copyright work takes place. Therefore, many authors who wish to provide additional proof that they are the creators of a specific work deposit it in one of the deposit systems established for that purpose by certain artists’ organizations or with the American Copyright Office (ACO). Although Canadian registration is recognized in the United States, registering the work as well with the ACO will provide additional protection because the ACO requires a deposit of a copy of the work. This additional protection would certainly come in handy in any litigation that took place in the U.S.

For most first-time authors who have yet to find a publisher and who are not prepared to pay even the modest sums to register their work in Canada or in the U.S., there is a way for them to protect their work using the poor man’s copyright. This method is simply the following: the author of the work mails it to himself by registered mail and does not open it when he receives it. If the author ever has to prove later in a court of law that the work is his work, he opens the envelope for the first time in front of a judge, thereby proving that at the date of the mail registration he had ownership of the work.

The Copyright Act (Section 6) provides that the duration of a copyright is the author’s life (not the owner’s life, if different from the author) plus 50 years commencing on January 1st of the year immediately following the author’s death.

So now you know that copyright is automatic in Canada and protects you for your lifetime plus 50 years. However, it is probably wise to take the additional steps of marking your work upon publication or depositing or registering your work for copyright in order to be able to prove authorship and ownership. And with this knowledge and peace of mind you can now safely start working on that masterpiece that you know is within you.

The cost to register a work is approximately $65.00. Copyright forms can be obtained from the following office:

Canadian Intellectual Property Office; Place du Portage 1, 50 Victoria Street, Room C-114, Gatineau, Québec K1A 0C9
In Nunavik schools, 15 to 35% of students have some hearing loss. Students with hearing loss can still hear the teacher's voice. The problem is that they miss some parts of the message. This puts them at a serious disadvantage in school. The missed sounds are the consonants because they are softer. When consonants are not audible, the message may be completely unintelligible.

“LE_ _ DO I_”

Even students with normal hearing can miss some consonants when a classroom is noisy, or if they are sitting in the back of the class. Understanding takes more time and requires extra effort.

“To help students understand the teacher better, more and more classrooms in Nunavik have been equipped with sound systems. Teachers use a microphone attached to a wireless transmitter. Their voice is broadcast through speakers so that all the students can hear, no matter where they are sitting in the classroom.”
Hanna Irniq has been teaching grade one at Arsaniq School, Kangiqsujuaq, for 17 years, and using a sound system regularly for the last four years. She finds that students with hearing problems learn reading and writing faster with the sound system. If it stops working, she notices that her voice and even her whole body are more tired at the end of the day.

Marion James has been teaching students in a second language for the past 13 years. She explains: “Learning a second language is already quite difficult, especially in an all day immersion setting. So much of language teaching is modelling proper oral structure. If students can’t hear well, how will they ever do this? Some of them are too shy to repeat what we have said; because they have not even correctly heard the words we are trying to model. Many of our students with hearing difficulties simply do not wear their hearing aids. By using the sound system, we are still able to reach this group.

Also, for our other students with normal hearing, we are able to teach them a second language using a tool, which actually enhances their ability to hear words with difficult spellings. This is especially evident with the “d” and “t” word endings as well as the “p” and “b” beginnings of words. Since these sounds are similar in Inuktittut, it makes it difficult to hear the difference between them. With more clarity, precision, and volume, the students’ spelling actually improves. I believe some of our dropouts could have had a different school experience if the sound system had been used. Hopefully we will prevent some of this by giving our students a strong second language base right from the beginning.”
The coordinator of schools for Kativik School Board, Sarah Airo, supports their use. “Teachers are happy about having sound systems. Kids can hear and when they can hear they perform better. They are not being yelled at; there is less stress for everyone.”

Thank you to the municipalities, the mayors, principals and especially the teachers who are supporting the use of classroom amplification.

Quality Sound Environment, Significant Improvement

By Jean Leduc

In 2007, most people are familiar with the fact that Nunavik schools have an unusually high number of hearing impaired students. At Ulluriaq School here in Kangiqsualujjuaq, we have been giving attention to this reality for many years, and this attitude has paid dividends. There is absolutely no doubt that a quality sound environment can make a significant difference in learning.

And it is simply because, hearing what the teacher is saying is essential. If you don’t hear, or if you only partly hear what the teacher says, it is just a matter of time before you get caught in the descending spiral to big learning problems and to discouragement and failure.

Most of the time, schools have very little leverage to act on some outside factors, such as the socio-economic situations of families. Fortunately, we do have the power and the technology to improve certain learning conditions. Managing the sound in the classroom is just one of them. It is within reach and when educators care enough for those kids, they choose to do something about it.

Soundfield technology for the classroom is efficient: “LET’S DO IT!”

Jean Leduc is the principal of the first school using classroom amplification in Nunavik.
We encourage AIL customers to visit Air Inuit’s tri-lingual website which will inform you on the upcoming specials, your flight status and our new October 15th flight schedule. Among other features, direct web booking is as easy as 1-2-3. Visit us at: airinuit.com

**Revised ID requirements for air travellers**

Bring your valid, government-issued identification (ID) with you to the airport! New identity screening regulations require all passengers planning to travel on Canadian domestic flights, who appear to be 12 years of age or older, to present the following ID before boarding:

- One piece of valid government-issued photo ID that shows name, date of birth, and gender, or
- Two pieces of valid government-issued ID (without a photo), one of which shows your name, date of birth, and gender, and
- The name on the identification must match the name on the boarding pass.

**Revised security measures for air travellers**

The Government of Canada has recently revised the list of restricted products that may be carried on board an aircraft, including in carry-on baggage, in accordance with the following provisions:

- The restricted products now include all liquids or gels of 100 millilitres or more, which may be packed in checked baggage only.
- Passengers with infants may bring aboard baby formula, bottled breast milk and baby food needed for the duration of the flight, as well as diapers, baby wipes and baby powder.
- Prescription medicine with a name that matches the passenger’s ticket, insulin and other essential non-prescription medicines are allowed.

We again emphasize that the requirement for a passport for travel into the USA by aircraft has also become mandatory when crossing the border.

**Air Inuit specials**

During various field trips and meetings throughout Nunavik it was requested that Air Inuit provide more advance notice of specials or seat sales so individuals could better plan to take advantage of them. The following thus outlines the program between the fall and March 1st, 2008. The ‘PreFreeze’ Seat Sale was offered throughout the month of October. The ‘Shopping Special’ runs from November 12th to December 9th. The ‘Christmas Special’ in Nunavik is from December 10th to January 6th. Finally, the ‘Deepfreeze Seat Sale’ is offered from January 14th to February 17th. Please contact your local agent for further details including pricing and restrictions. Air Inuit advertises these specials throughout Nunavik, on the website, and are posted in all the company’s offices.

**Scheduled service improvements**

As of this past August 22nd, Dash-8 service to Umiujaq has been added as well as a new Sanikiluaq Twin Otter service from Kuujjuaarapik,
enabling northbound and southbound connections for both communities.

Also, effective October 15th, a number of additions have been made to the Ungava coast schedule to improve service to Kangiqsualujjuaq and between Tasiujaq, Aupaluk and Kuujjuaq for southbound and northbound connections.

Scheduled service enhancements for the Christmas period

During the latter part of the December and in early January, Air Inuit has planned to increase flights to accommodate the traditional increase in travelling over the holiday season. These will include the following extra flights between Nunavik and Montreal, extra flights between Salluit and Kingait on December 20th, 27th and January 3rd, and service to Nain will likewise be provided on December 20th, 27th and January 3rd. As always, your local Air Inuit agent will happily provide details of these holiday service enhancements.

Ilaujuq Program

The second edition of Air Inuit’s Ilaujuq program for 2007 was issued prior to October 1st. We are pleased to write that the Air Inuit board of directors have again approved the issue of a spring Ilaujuq certificate, valid for travel wherever the company provides scheduled service, in April of 2008.

Annual Christmas tree sale

Contributing to the cheer of Nunavik’s upcoming holiday season, Air Inuit’s annual Christmas tree sale will be provided again this year. We anticipate full size Christmas trees landed in all Nunavik communities prior to December 20th. Please stay tuned for further details of this program.

Air Inuit reservations

For any information needs or reservations please contact the Air Inuit reservation centre where they will be pleased to assist you with your travel requirements: 1-800-361-2965. Hours of availability are Monday to Friday, from 8:00 to 20:00, and Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays from 9:00 to 17:00.

Air Inuit wishes you numerous pleasant flights and thank you for your support.
Memorable Adventures in the High Arctic

Johnny Peters, George Eckalook, and Pita Aatami posed beside a monument made of boulders at Resolute indicating where the children huddled for protection in the cold when they were first relocated from Inukjuak in the 1950s.

His ride on Cruise North Expedition’s High Arctic Cruise from Resolute to Kuujjuaq, this past September 1st to 10th, was the second time that QIA vice-president George Eckalook had travelled these waters by ship. His first trip to the High Arctic was aboard the C.D. Howe in 1955 when he was around 11 years old, going with other family members from Inukjuak who were requested to live in the High Arctic region by the federal government. George still lives up in Resolute, as do many other former Inukjuammiut and their descendents. Although they now lived comfortably and would not want to live any place else, this was not always so.

At the invitation of Makivik, this boat cruise was more than an opportunity for elected Inuit officials from Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut to take in the High Arctic scenery (with its record scarcity of ice), it was also a business trip to meet about political, social and economic issues of common interest. George Eckalook was one of the elected Nunavut leaders, along with Ludy Pudluk (Qikiqtaaluk Corporation) and Thomasie Alikatuktuk (Qikiqtani Inuit Association). All five of our Makivik executives were on board, along with Nunatsiavut Government ministers Greg Flowers and Darryl Shiwak.

Pita mentioned, “The main reason why we invited Nunavut and Nunatsiavut leaders was for them to see what our cruise
business is about, for them to have a better understanding of where we are trying to go with this. We have also been discussing other ventures off and on. The airline is one example where we might be able to work together with both Nunatsiavut and Nunavut. We are also in partnership with Nunavut in the shrimp business and in the shipping business, so this is just a continuation of the different partnerships we have.”

Thinking back to his first major boat ride in the High Arctic, George told Makivik Magazine, “On our trip from Inukjuak in 1955; I thought it was good because I was young and I didn’t know what was happening. It was okay, but a long trip from June almost to the end of August. We had to stop at communities [along the way] because the people had to have x-rays and be seen by the doctors and all that. Then we continued on to Resolute in the High Arctic. It was almost three months to get there.”

George and the other Inuit on the C.D. Howe were also anxious to see their relatives from Inukjuak again who were relocated to the High Arctic two years prior, in 1953. “We didn’t see them or hear from them for two years because in them times communication was really bad. No telephones, no radio, and mail and planes were very slow. It was like a miracle to see them again alive,” he said.

Soon after his arrival to Resolute as a young boy, George realized that his relatives who were already up there were unhappy and resentful they had been misled into thinking they could return home to Inukjuak in two years if they so wished. Furthermore, they had been told that there would be plenty of game to harvest. They certainly would miss the vegetation and berries that grow in Inukjuak. “We didn’t understand. They were telling us some truth and some lies. The adults thought; if it is for only two years, we are able to do that. We’ll be fine and then go back after two years, so they made an agreement with the families, they’d go,” George said.

Being in a strange land, the Inukjuammiut had no idea of where to hunt for land animals, birds, and fish, although they were able to get seals and walrus to feed themselves and their dogs. George fondly mentions Jaybedee Amagoalik who had been amongst the previous group of Inukjuak relocates. By roughing it in the
High Arctic for two years already, Jaybedee had learned to understand the landscape and habits of wildlife up there somewhat. Thus he was able to advise the new Resolute residents on which indicators to look for. “Nobody knew, except that guy who came from Pond Inlet that helped us out. He knew the area so he was directing us to where it might be good hunting for caribou and fishing,” George said.

They were also very hard up for housing and built shacks to live in out of scrap materials. “We got all the wood, and even the nails, that we could find to make a shelter from what was dropped on the ground and in the garbage. Our supplies never got in from the government. It never happened: no store, no school, no church, no health service, even the nails, that we could find to make a shelter from what was dropped on the ground and in the garbage. Our supplies never got in from the government. It never happened: no store, no school, no church, no health service,” George said.

Beading Technique
Transferred from High Arctic

Dora Pudluk, the sister of QIA vice-president George Eckalook, was one of the instructors for this year’s annual art workshops, organized by Makivik from September 12th to 27th, this year in Inuvik. Dora Pudluk lives in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, but was born in Inukjuak. She learned how to sew from her mother, but learned beading on her own by looking at other people’s work and is now renowned for her beadwork. The beading technique she taught the Nunavik students involved the creation of three-dimensional objects as well as flat pieces.

Three other courses were given this year: carving by George Pilurtuut and by Lucassie Echalook and printmaking by Jolly Atagooyuk. Beginning in 2002, the first such art workshop was in Salluit, followed by Inukjuak, Kangiqsujuaq, Umiujaq, and Kuujjuarapik. These courses are provided free to Nunavik beneficiaries, funded by the federal government and KRG, with travel discounts from Air Inuit and First Air.
High Arctic Adventures

This September, Makivik’s airline proudly announced that it has again expanded its services to northerners by adding the growing community of Thompson, Manitoba to its scheduled service route map.

The thriving city, appropriately nicknamed the ‘Hub of the North’, lies just over 700 kilometres north of Winnipeg and is an important centre for business activity and the flow of passenger travel and cargo movement between Winnipeg, Rankin Inlet, and the entire Kivalliq region of Nunavut.

First Air’s new six days per week service between Winnipeg and Rankin Inlet, which now includes Thompson, will significantly increase commerce opportunities and travel convenience for the entire Kivalliq region of Nunavut.
New Collection of Parka designs

Here at Nunavik Creations we have been thinking a lot about the fall and winter and the warmth that would be provided by our new collection of down-filled parkas. We started work on our fall/winter 2007-08 collection early last spring because there is much work that goes into the production of a collection.

There are many steps to be done before the seamstresses start to produce our parkas. First of all, our designer, Victoria Okpik, has to research and prepare her sketches. While she draws upon her Inuit culture and trends in the fashion industry as inspiration for her designs, Victoria also incorporates the feedback that she receives from our customers.

After all of the styles have been sketched out, paper patterns are prepared for a medium size prototype parka that is sewn out of inexpensive cotton muslin by our sample maker. It may take several samples before we perfect the prototype. We use the prototype to review the size and overall design of the parka and to confirm that the pattern has been correctly prepared. Any necessary changes are made to the paper pattern and then the pattern is graded. Grading is the process whereby the medium size pattern is made smaller or larger to create the range of sizes required for that particular parka. Grading can be done by hand, but it is more economical to have it done by a service that uses special plotters and computers to create the various sizes.

There are also many hours spent meeting with suppliers to obtain all the materials required to complete the garments. We have to find suppliers for the fabrics, linings, furs, yarns,
threads, trims, etc. and we must also determine how much of each item is needed for each individual parka.

After all the preparation has been done and we have all our patterns and fabrics, we cut one parka in each style. The sample maker completes each parka as a final test that everything is correct before we put the parkas into production. Often our styles have elements that may not be familiar to our seamstresses. As our sample maker prepares the first parka, she makes a detailed assembly plan outlining the steps for proper assembly. If everything is fine with the parka sewn by the sample maker, all the fabrics are cut and put together with all the necessary linings, threads, cords, trims, velcro, elastics, etc. in bundles which can then be distributed to our seamstresses for completion.

Our collection for the fall/winter season includes six exciting new styles for the ladies (four of which are form fitting) and four handsome new styles for the men. In addition to new colour choices, these parkas will be down filled to provide extra warmth without bulk. Some new elements you will see in our collection will be the addition of new pocket styles, lots of double top-stitching, a variety of style lines, detachable hoods, and a wide variety of trims.

Taking her inspiration from the many beautiful nassaks seen in the North, Victoria has designed some of the new parkas with hand-knit collars and storm cuffs that will have a small tri-color design. These collars and cuffs will be both fashionable and functional, providing additional warmth and protection from the elements.

At Nunavik Creations, we always strive to have our products produced and manufactured in Nunavik by Inuit seamstresses and craftspeople.

Enjoy the winter and if you live in Kuujjuaq, or your travels take you there, we invite you to drop into our boutique and check out our new collection of down-filled parkas.
Good News for Low Income Nunavimmiut

As the residents of Nunavik are well aware, we endure a high cost of living compared to the southern population. On August 23rd, 2007, Finances Quebec announced that the refundable tax credit for individuals living in a northern village would increase by 50% and 66 2/3% for a dependent child. This announcement came at the same time the Katimajit Conference in Kuujjuaq was taking place. This increase will help alleviate the high cost of living for low-income households in Nunavik and is retroactive to the 2006 taxation year.

During 2006, for every month an individual resides in a Nunavik community, that individual was entitled to a $40 tax credit, $80 if that person had a spouse, and $15 for each dependent child. Thanks to the new policy, these tax credits have been increased to $60 for single individuals, $120 for those with a spouse, and $25 for each dependent child.

It is important to note that the tax credit examples illustrated in the following tables apply only to those who have resided in Nunavik throughout the whole year.

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### Summary of the annual increases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Old Tax Credit</th>
<th>New Tax Credit</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Individual</td>
<td>$480</td>
<td>$720</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single with 1 dependent child</td>
<td>$660</td>
<td>$1,020</td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple with no children</td>
<td>$960</td>
<td>$1,440</td>
<td>$480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple with 2 children</td>
<td>$1,320</td>
<td>$2,040</td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2006 retroactive tax credit first installment was to be paid to those that qualify during the last week of September 2007, (unless as of August 1st, 2007 the taxpayer no longer lived in Quebec), and the second installment shall be in December 2007.

If a taxpayer claimed a tax credit and died before September 1st, 2007, his/her spouse will receive the deceased tax credit that the deceased claimant was entitled to.

The refundable tax credit for individuals living in a northern village is also indexed annually.

For the 2007 taxation year, monthly tax credits will be increased by $1. For example it will be $61 for individuals, $26 each dependent child, and so on.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Refundable tax credit per month</th>
<th>Refundable tax credit per year</th>
<th>Entitled tax credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Individual</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$720 ($60 x 12 months)</td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single with 1 dependent child</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$1,020 ($60 + $25)</td>
<td>$510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple with no children</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$1,440 ($60 + $60)</td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple with 2 children</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$2,040 ($120 + $25 + $25)</td>
<td>$1,020 ($720 – 943.50)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meanwhile, if the household income for 2006 is over $28,710, the refundable tax credit will be reduced by 15% for every dollar exceeding that amount.
Studying beluga whales in James Bay

This summer, Inuit from Kuujjuaq, Cree from Wemindji and Eastmain, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientists worked together on an IPY project focusing on the beluga whales that summer in the James Bay region. Their mission: to deploy satellite transmitters on beluga whales to track their movements and diving behaviour. James Bay is an area where beluga are abundant, but have received little attention.

In early August, a field camp was established near Eastmain, James Bay. In discussion with local people, the team learned that beluga whales are often seen in the river mouths and coastal regions of eastern James Bay throughout the spring, summer and fall, but perhaps more so when animals move into the estuaries following spawning runs of whitefish. James Bay belugas are smaller than belugas from other areas and have much smaller foreflippers and tail flukes.

During the three weeks of fieldwork, the team managed to capture two beluga whales and to attach satellite transmitters on them. The transmitters provide information on the movements and diving activities of whales and also on the temperature and salinity of the water. Temperature and salinity information are important for developing models to forecast currents, ice formation and contribute to weather forecast models. Although not quite as accurate as dedicated temperature and salinity instruments that must be deployed from large vessels, the sensors on the whales provide an opportunity to check between what the models predict and what the actual salinity and temperature values are for a specific region.

The deployments on the whales are only recent, but during the short period following deployment, the data shows that the two belugas remain in the Eastmain area. The deepest dives so far have been to 50 metres, but this is not surprising since James Bay is a relatively shallow area. Hopefully, the transmitters will continue to transmit for many months, so we can learn if James Bay beluga make extensive movements as is seen among some eastern Hudson Bay and western Hudson Bay animals, or if they remain in the same area throughout the winter. Local hunters have observed some beluga whales in the James Bay area during the winter.

The satellite data will be sent regularly to James Bay communities, the Nunavik Research Centre, and to interested HFTAs. For more information contact the author at: hammillm@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Many thanks to all team members for their great work and team spirit. We hope to work again with all of you in the near future.
The Urqsuk program

The Urqsuk program is an integrated research program on Arctic marine fat and lipids. This program lead by Dr. Éric Dewailly, Public Health Research Unit, CHUL (CHUQ), will involve the collection and analysis of data in four regions (Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and NWT) for three projects looking at the importance of marine fats (omega-3) in the prevention of cardio vascular and mental disorders among Canadian Inuit. The negative influence of trans-fatty acids from junk food will be also evaluated. As well, a fourth project will collect data to better understand the changing attitudes and perspectives towards traditional and contemporary fats in Inuit communities.

The Urqsuk program is designed to better understand the nature, health and cultural importance of fats in the Canadian Arctic. Changes in lifestyle and dietary patterns have been observed among Inuit populations. The gradual abandonment of aspects of a traditional lifestyle and diet has been linked to the increased prevalence of heart disease risk factors among the Inuit population such as obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes. On the other hand, the many health and cultural benefits of a traditional lifestyle have long been recognized.

This research program supports the role of Inuit health and research organizations in providing information for health and nutrition education specific to local needs and preferences, regarding fats, nutrition and health.

Activities have already begun in Nunavik as some of the data included in the study was collected during the 2004 Qanuippitaa survey. Furthermore, a research team representative travelled to Kuujjuaq in May 2007 to meet and consult with regional authorities and community members and discuss further work to be conducted in that region.

For further information on this program, please contact Susie Bernier: susie.bernier@crchul.ulaval.ca.
It was a warm morning last summer when they had the door open to let the air circulate at the First Air gate in Montreal and a bewildered immature European starling flew inside. A few passengers and airport employees watched as the small bird fluttered around, trying to escape. Along came Penina Simiunie, First Air customer services manager, who coaxed the starling into her hands and then released it without injury.

We thank George Sirk, the ornithologist who worked onboard our Cruise North Expeditions ship this summer, for identifying the species of bird that was liberated by Penina.

The Land and Sea Need Our Help

By David Okpik

They went to clean the camps.

Not too many years ago six people from Quaqtaq chartered a plane to go to Robert’s Lake during the summer to clean the campsite and prepare garbage that would be picked up by ski-doos during the winter. The trip went really well, the garbage was picked up and the land and the lakes remained clean. I am proud of the decision that was made by the people of Quaqtaq to go and clean up and I will praise them for what they have done. The airplane was used just to transport these people to and fro. The money for the chartering of this airplane was well spent.

We have to help nature, the lakes and the wildlife to sustain us. They feed us, they clothe us and they were used in the past to keep us warm. The mammals of the land and the sea are constantly changing and they need our help to sustain, but soon it’s going to become difficult especially for the caribou; they seem to be getting back the way they were in the past. The herds of caribou are going to disappear again according to the knowledge of our ancestors. For many years we did not see any caribou, but they gradually came back without the help of anyone in particular and all the people of northern Quebec have been enjoying them. But we haven't had time to sit down and consider why their patterns are changing again, slowly disappearing, the words of our ancestors will come true again for they have said the herds of caribou will disappear and will eventually gradually come back.

Epilogue: Later in the summer a number of cabins were damaged or destroyed by invading polar bears; an unusual event to happen so far inland.
Nunavik Hosts Liam Neeson

Some Nunavimmiut had an opportunity to see actor Liam Neeson, from such movies as Schindler’s List, Rob Roy, and Star Wars, when he passed through on a fly fishing adventure in the areas of Kuujjuaq, Tasiujaq, and Kangiqsualujjuaq for one week at the beginning of August. Liam is seen here with Nunavik Tourism Association president (and Makivik governor), Tommy Cain. A crew also followed from Fly Fishing the World, a weekly program featuring a celebrity guest who, with the show’s creator and host, John Barrett, fly fishes and enjoys some of the most beautiful and unique waters this world has to offer.

Liam caught and released several trout. They also had an opportunity to fly around Akpatok Island where they spotted close to 30 polar bears. Other animals seen during the trip were beluga whales and muskox.

NTA manager Allen Gordon said their celebrity guest was especially impressed by Kuujjuaq’s local entertainment provided by the young throat singers and singer / songwriter Etua Snowball. Allen said, “People recognized him very much and were surprised and happy to see somebody they saw in movies, especially from Schindler’s List. There were quite a few autograph seekers.” Tourism Québec and the NTA hope that his star power will boost tourism activity.

Support for Youth Football

Now and then Makivik responds affirmatively to smaller requests from Inuit beneficiaries for support or recognition. One example of this was a $100 request towards a banquet for youth that play football at the multiethnic Ma Baie Park in the Montreal area. The FCNQ also donated a sculpture from Akulivik for the park, which is likely to be auctioned to help pay for a trophy for the best coach of the year. Among the boys that will benefit from this donation are Michael Irqumia-Steinberg and Shane Irqumia-Richard. Affiliated with Puvirnituq, both boys live in Montreal and Shane has the goal of becoming the first Inuk in the National Football League.

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Hunting For Mushrooms

Asked by Makivik to look at fungi (mushrooms) in the Kuujjuaq area and the feasibility of collecting edible species for domestic use, mycologist Lawrence Millman noted approximately 60 samples during his fieldtrip, August 12th to 18th.

Besides investigating three ‘more or less different habitats’ in the area, Lawrence also led a small group of interested residents on a mushroom walk and met with elders and regional leaders during a retreat in Old Fort Chimo. Avataq president Charlie Arngak was able to tell about when he was cut as a child and his mother treated the wound using puffball ("pujuraq"), which aided in healing. Lawrence reported, “This does have a basis in science, since fungi (pencillin is, after all, a fungus) have strong antibiotic properties."

Lawrence also writes, “As part of this project, I was asked to identify potentially harvestable mushrooms, and the two species I would most recommend are Leccinum scabrum (Birch Bolete) and Leccinum insigne (Aspen Bolete). The field differences between these two boletes are slight: Birch Bolete usually has more pronounced projections on its stalk, and the Aspen Bolete typically stains purplish-grey, then black when cut or bruised. As both are good edibles, there’s no need to make a positive identification before collecting them. Also, both fruit in considerable quantities during the mushroom season, August and September. Since they likewise fruit in considerable quantities in other parts of Canada, I would not encourage attempts to market them. Another good edible, Rozites caperata (Gypsy), fruits in the area, but as there’s a slight risk of confusing it with a poisonous Amanita, I would not recommend it to beginners.”

Samples of the mushrooms were tested at the Nunavik Research Centre for toxic elements and the results were reassuring. Lawrence has also worked on Cruise North Expeditions Inc. as a field guide.
MV Avataq, Sister Ship of MV Umiavut

Makivik joint venture company Nunavut Eastern Arctic Shipping took ownership of the MV Avataq on June 8th, 2007. NEAS decided to purchase a third vessel because the market in the North is growing. The MV Avataq will allow more flexibility in scheduling and improved service all around. Unlike the MV Avataq and the MV Umiavut, which utilize lift-on-lift-off loading, cargo and equipment can be rolled on and off of the MV Aivik. The sister ships were built in Japan, although this latest ship was purchased from a company in Europe. Majority owned by Inuit Birthright Corporations, Michael Gordon (Makivik vice-president for Economic Development) is the president of NEAS, while the NEAS vice-president is Suzanne Paquin.

Much more than just a marine carrier, NEAS is first and foremost a direct economic link between Canada's Eastern Arctic and the rest of the world and a development tool serving the Nunavut and Nunavik Inuit. NEAS prioritizes the employment of qualified Inuit on their ships.
17-19 сакавіка 2007 г. Дзяржаўныя пазыцыі БССР 1920 г. – 1922 г. ДСНСР 1922 г.
The 17th Nunavik Inuit Elders’ Conference, held for four days this year in Kangiqsujuaq, wrapped up on September 28th. The theme for this conference was *Inuktitut Language Preservation*. The elders were consulted in workshops on a number of topics ranging from specialized vocabulary to traditional Inuit names. Some elders are dismayed because they have difficulty pronouncing the non-Inuktittut names of their grandchildren.

Representatives from the major Nunavik Inuit organizations were at the conference, including Pita Aatami (Makivik), Maggie Emudluk (KRG), Alacie Arngak (NRBHSS), Alacie Nalulturuk (KSB), Uqqutuk Ammamatuak (FCNQ), Andy Moorhouse (Safer Communities & NRBHSS), Paolosie Novalinga (Anguvigaq), and Jobie Epoo (KRPF), as well as Nunavik government negotiator Minnie Grey.

The Saputiit board members, including their president, Jennifer Watkins, also attended the conference. In one of the most touching moments of the week, Avataq president Charlie Arngak asked each elder to embrace the youth delegates as a way of bringing the generations together.

A DFO beluga management plan presentation by Myrthe Gagnon and Mike Hammill prompted a lively discussion. André Fradette and Pierre Desrosiers, representing the Quebec Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, highlighted the archaeological work being done in the region.

As a special honour, the Quebec Minister Responsible for seniors, Marguerite Blais, chose this conference as a stop in her province-wide Public Consultation on the Living Conditions of Seniors. She was visibly moved by the testimonials of the elders, and promised to reflect their concerns in her final report. The previous day, the minister went on a special outing to gather mussels near the community with Mayor Mary Pilurtuut and Avataq staff. Avataq executive director Rhoda Kokiapik also invited the minister grocery shopping, to witness the high cost of living in the North.

The community gathered for a feast on Thursday evening, where entertainment was provided by young Benji Snowball on the accordion, Jobie Kumartuluk square dancing, and Elisapi Amarualik throat-singing.

The late Mitiarjuk Nappaaluk of Kangiqsujuaq was recognized for her life-long work to preserve Inuit language and culture with a sculpted glass award presented to her widower, Naala. The winners of the *Joadaanie Inukpuk Award* for post-secondary studies were also announced at the conference. Three awards instead of two were granted because of the quality of submissions: Jessie Annanack ($400), Aisa Anautak ($350), and Joey Flowers ($250).

During elections for the Avataq board of directors, incumbent president Charlie Arngak (Kangiqsujuaq) was re-elected, as was board member Isaki Padlayat (Salluit). They are joined by newly elected members Jeannie Nungaq (Kangirsuk), Ida Saviadjuk (Salluit), and Minnie Itidloie (Kangiqsujuaq). The next Nunavik Inuit Elders’ Conference, which are organized by Avataq, will take place in Salluit in 2009.
The Elders’ Retreat Declaration

As declared by Inuit Elders of Nunavik on the occasion of the Katimajiit Conference, August 23rd and 24th 2007.

We hereby:

1. Strongly welcome the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned Report on Youth Protection in Nunavik;
2. Reaffirm the commitment of the elders of Nunavik to developing and maintaining a strong Inuit society based on principles and characteristics that define our culture;
3. Urge the organizations of Nunavik, the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada to make every effort possible to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our youth to live in;
4. Call upon federal and provincial governments to recognize the inherent rights of Inuit with respect to sustainable hunting, co-management, and other subsistence activities;
5. Receive with appreciation the important involvement from Nunavik Inuit youth;
6. Welcome with gratitude the guidance received from Inuit elders at this retreat; and
7. Request the Nunavik organizations, the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada to accurately determine the nature and scope of required changes to enhance our well being while protecting our own identity and culture;

The Elders of Nunavik
The Kativik Municipal housing Bureau head office was officially opened on August 24th when Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, cut through a ceremonial ribbon of sealskin with an ulu. Present for the ceremony was KMhB president Andy Moorhouse and members of the KMhB board along with KRG chair, Maggie Emudluk. An open-house tour of the KMhB office building was held after the ceremony, although the building was constructed in 2005.

KMhB is responsible for the management and operation of social housing units in Nunavik. During his presentation at the Katimajiit Conference prior to the grand opening, Andy joked that, “my family name is ‘Moorhouse’ and I want ‘more houses’ for Nunavik.” He would later thank Minister Normandeau and Premier Jean Charest after they had announced $25-million toward social housing: $12.5-million for construction over and above the current Nunavik housing agreement in place, and $12.5-million toward housing operations over the next 20 years. Another $53-million was announced for housing renovations of existing units over the next three years, although fieldwork by a team of students from the University of Quebec’s Building Science Program and SHQ experts in the summer of 2006 found that as much as $350-million would be required to bring worn and torn social housing units throughout Nunavik up to par.
The federal government’s Rural Partnership – Networking Initiative offers funding under its for various types of community projects. The overall objective of this program is to encourage and support rural community capacity building. Proposals can be made by individuals, non-profit organizations, colleges, cooperatives, and non-governmental corporations as well as municipal or regional governments. The deadline for submitting proposals is the end of November 2007.

Proposals can be made under one of the following three categories: 1) Learning Events (such as conferences, workshops, or seminars aimed at knowledge or skill development), 2) Partnerships (for example, creating a plan of action for community development and community capacity building), and 3) Networks (including activities to increase coordinating capacity among multi-community or multi-sectoral groups to better advise all levels of government on rural development policies.

The maximum funding for a learning event is $15,000, the maximum for a partnership is $40,000, and up to $80,000 of funding can be provided for proposals under the networks category.

For more information about the Canadian Rural Partnership – Networking Initiative, call the Canada-wide toll-free number: 1-877-295-7160 or navigate to their web page from www.canadabusiness.ca.

Alootook’s Writing Lives On

A new educational book for young readers entitled The Inuit Thought of It places into context various Inuit innovations such as the kayak, igloo, inukshuk, Inuit sports, and snow goggles. This 32-page attractively illustrated publication was created by Alootook Ipellie, with David MacDonald, and came across our desk around the same time as the announcement of Alootook’s unexpected death in Ottawa, this past September 8th. Born in a Nunavut outpost camp in 1951 and having later lived as a resident of Ottawa, Alootook was also a cartoonist, illustrator, columnist, poet and fiction writer. Alootook is fondly remembered by the Inuit community of Ottawa as well as in the North.
Some of the fans and participants of the Living Life youth kayak tour of all the Nunavik communities.
Jennifer Watkins,
Saputiit President

Makivik Magazine: Can you tell us about how you became the president of the Saputiit Youth Association?

Jennifer Watkins: I was appointed by the board of directors this past July at the end of Saputiit AGM in Kangiqsujuaq. I was Saputiit treasurer for one year before that.

MM: Are you the first female Saputiit president?

JW: Apparently I am. I never really thought about it until now that you asked me. But they had mentioned it at the AGM that I was the first female president. I am happy about it because women have to speak out as much as men.

MM: Since being the president, have you been quite busy?

JW: Yes, since July I have been travelling to various meetings and we had concluded the Living Life project. That was my first task after I became the president because it was the end of that project, and afterward I had to go to the Avataq Elder’s Conference and from there I went straight to Montreal for the Makivik board of directors budget meeting.

MM: Were you in Kangiqsualujjuaq when the kayakers arrived?

JW: Actually on the night they arrived, I had to arrive in Kuujjuaq for a different meeting. So my sister, Shelly (who was the coordinator), Minnie Alaku, Ina Cain and a Kangiqsualujjuaq representative were there on behalf of Saputiit.

MM: How do you feel about the Living Life project now that it is finished?

JW: First of all I was very happy and relieved that they made it there safely because the kayakers were stuck between Kuujjuaq and Kangiqsualujjuaq for a few days due to bad weather, so I was quite worried. It was raining a lot and very cold. So I was very happy and I felt better when they arrived there safely.

The kayaking trip itself is over but, like I told the board of directors and executives of Saputiit, I won’t close this file because I’d like to work on suicide prevention with the Nunavik Regional health Board.

MM: Are there any other issues on the top of your list?

JW: Yes, education. I want to stress the importance of education for young people in Nunavik. That’s my priority right now.

MM: It was also your first time sitting at a Makivik board meeting as well. How did it go for you?

JW: I was nervous, being my first time. It went pretty good — I had asked for a certain amount of funding and they approved it so I was happy. In general, the funding is for travel and accommodations, to get a company vehicle for Saputiit, and for events and activities.

MM: Do you have any other comment for the Inuit of Nunavik?

JW: I just want the young people to be aware that I am here to help them. It might take time because I just got in as the new president and I am still working on closing previous files and working on some other things here at Saputiit that have to be taken care of. But I want everyone to be patient; I am here to work with all the young people. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at the Saputiit head office.

MM: What’s next on your agenda?

JW: I was invited to attend an education summit in Inuvik with Jonathan Epoo who is the NIYC president. I am going to reach him and find out what is going on from there.

MM: Thanks very much.
Kids from Kuujjuaarapik had their heads held high as they entered the gymnasium bearing their community’s municipal flag at the opening of the tournament.

Sarah Fleming and Clara-Ann Tuckatuck on their way to Wemindji.

Sarah Fleming (age 10), Clara-Ann Tuckatuck (age 11), and Sandra Papialuk (age 10) are all in grade six at Asimautaq School in Kuujjuaarapik. Clara-Ann and Sandra (along with Melanie Shields) got gold, while Clara-Ann also got gold in the individual yellow-orange belt Kata.
Kuujjuaraapik Kids Triumph in Karate

Mike Shields is the airport manager in Kuujjuaraapik, as well as a volunteer fire fighter and a foster parent. He was overjoyed when the kids from Kuujjuaraapik/Whapmagoostui, including his daughter Melanie, won the majority of the children’s medals at the Second Cree Traditional Karate Championship this past August, presented by the Cree Nation of Wemindji. We thank him very much for sending these photos and details of the event. Should your youth be involved in an activity that you would like to share with the rest of Nunavik, please tell us all about it so we can also add you to the Youth section of Makivik Magazine.

Mike says the experience was not only good for the children’s esteem, but also a big boost for the adults. As for the participants, he says karate instills discipline that is good for the spirit and the body. There was also entertainment: “The Japanese drummers were awesome; they put on quite the show.”

Mike and his wife, Marlene Blacksmith, became involved when the Whapmagoostui First Nation asked for volunteers. He says, “My daughter, Melanie, was there and we wanted to see her in action. She’s been involved with this sport for three years.

“It was awesome. The energy was electric and there was a very proud feeling from seeing all their practice come together. They’ve worked hard during the last couple of years to get where they are now.”

Melanie and two of her team mates took home gold. Her father explained, “They learned a routine as a team and had to execute their routine in unison and against other opponents at the same time.”

The tournament was also an opportunity for the kids to be among role models such as Canadian champion Etienne Herady, Kamba Bwanga, an international champion from France, as well as the two founders of the Simba Martial Arts Academy.

He has concerns about whether the community of Kuujjuaraapik will secure enough funding for the Inuit kids to participate in the next tournament, considering the Cree paid for this year’s participation. He says, “We really need help from the Inuit side of the community for financial aid and support. The Cree paid everything for last two years... hopefully Kuujjuak will be invited to compete next year — I heard they have a team too!”

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Nunavik Player

Name: Caroline Anautak  
Date of birth: June 13, 1971  
Place of birth: Iqaluit  
Home community: Puvirnituq  
Favorite people: All of my relations  
Favorite food: Steak  
Favorite sport: Volleyball  
Occupation: Childcare giver  
Future goal: I like the job I have now, working with children  
Toughest challenge: Having to leave my hometown  
Pet peeve: When my children are picking on each other
A Lively Ottawa Lunch

President of the National Inuit Youth Council (and formerly of Saputit), Jonathan Epoo, was first on the list of speakers on Parliament Hill on September 10th when Inuit groups staged a traditional gathering called “Lunch on the Hill” to recognize World Suicide Prevention Day. Other Inuit organizations represented there included ITK, Pauktuutit, and the Ajunnginiq Centre. The gathering took place beside the eternal flame to celebrate and show the strengths of the Inuit way of life through Inuit games and other traditional activities. Inuit suicide rates are more than 11 times higher than the Canadian rate and 83% of these are acted out by people under 30.

In view of this situation in Nunavik, Saputit organized a project for the past three summers, whereby teams of Inuit youth paddled by kayak each summer from west to east spreading a message of positive living. Year one was from Kuujjuaraapik to Ivujivik, year two was from Ivujivik to Quaqtaq, and year three started in Quaqtaq and ended in Kangiqsualujjuaq on August 13th.

Jonathan Epoo gives an interview on Parliament Hill to bring awareness to the issue of suicide among Inuit youth, and help celebrate the many activities that individuals and groups across Arctic are doing to combat the problem.
Isummasaqvik Students Question the Astronauts

Makivik’s newest governor, Eva Deer, was the principal of Isummasaqvik School in Quaqtaq over two years ago when the school, along with Makivik, Air Inuit, First Air, and the Amateur Radio International Space Station (ARISS) began planning a space contact between the students and the NASA space station. Eva said she was glad to be in attendance when the contact was made, this past October 10th. “I was really proud of the students speaking to the astronauts. It went very well,” Eva said.

Retired fireman Ron Ralph looks after Makivik’s and its subsidiaries’ interests in bringing this educational program to schools throughout the North. Other individuals to be thanked for helping to make this happen include Lori and Steve McFarlane who are coordinators with ARISS, Claude Lacasse who put the presentation together, as well as First Air’s Pita Aatami, Bob Davis and Jim Ballingall. Space station system engineer Clay Anderson was the astronaut who dealt with the Quaqtaq space contact.

The space station orbits 400 km above earth. It travels around 30,000 km per hour and rotates around the earth every 90 minutes. The students had 20 questions for the astronauts ranging from the ever popular, ‘Is there a toilet? / how do you use it?’ to ‘Can you see Arctic Canada and the northern lights from space?’ “There was still some time left over for other talk. It was flawless,” Ron said. He also mentioned that the people of Quaqtaq welcomed them heartily: “The community could not do enough for us and were very happy... our main goal is education for the children. I truly believe that someday, some Inuit children will be involved in the space program — it’s just a matter of time.”
Reflecting on Nunavik's Air Transportation

Hi everyone who will be reading this letter, I would like to start by saying my name is Jacob Tookalook. I was born about seven miles north of Kuujjuaraapik. My parents were travelling by dogteam from Richmond Gulf to Kuujjuaraapik in February and I was born not too far from their destination. In those days there was a Hudson Bay post in Kuujjuaraapik. I was raised here and I had a good life when I was young; I didn't have the life of hardship that my parents went through.

As I grew up in Kuujjuaraapik the federal government agency started working in northern communities, in the 1950s. In the 1960s, the airplane started coming into the community. For example a single otter with floats would land on the river and I remember people used to shout: “The plane is coming, the plane is coming!” And when it landed in the river most of the people would go to see who was arriving, although it was usually only the pilot.

On the Hudson coast, Austin Airways Ltd. started serving with the DC-10 and twin otter. Although I didn’t ride on those planes, my first plane ride, and longest ride, was on an army airplane (hercules) going to a boy-scout jamboree in Yellowknife.

We left Kuujjuaraapik to Kuujjuaq and from Kuujjuaq to Churchill, Manitoba; from Churchill we went to Baker Lake and Eskimo Point and then to Yellowknife. While staying in Yellowknife for one week, we met Queen Elizabeth and she shook our hands. The scouts who were in Yellowknife came from all over the world.

We left Yellowknife by a different route, this time going to Hall Beach, Broughton Island and Iqaluit. After the plane fuelled up we took off from Iqaluit to Kuujjuaraapik, but couldn’t land there because of fog so we turned back to Iqaluit and spent the night there.

The next morning we again left from Iqaluit to Kuujjuaraapik but we couldn’t land again so we headed to Trenton, Ontario where there was an army base. The next morning we left Trenton for Kuujjuaraapik and finally landed there. I felt proud when we got out of the plane.

In northern Quebec, now called Nunavik, I started flying with Austin Airways to other communities. In the
Although it was not on the Cruise North itinerary, prior to boarding the Lyubov Orlova, Makivik executive members were invited by Resolute Inuit to see where children would take shelter when they first came there. When asked what the most memorable moment of the High Arctic Cruise was for him, Pita Aatami replied, “It was the start of the trip because I had always wanted to go to Resolute during the summer to see what it is like up there. I had been there in the winter but I had never been there in the summer. I wanted to see where they landed, and for them to discuss it first hand with me. There are only a few rocks that the children would huddle behind to try and stay warm from the cold wind that was blowing in the fall. There were wonderful moments such as seeing polar bears and so forth, but for me to see what the High Arctic relocatees went through was the highlight of my trip.”

Today conditions are far better for Inuit living in these Baffin Island communities and many will recall the series of events made toward healing the wounds of the group of Inuit whose lives were marked by what had become known as the High Arctic Relocation. There were various public forums, media blitzes, and even a documentary produced by the title Broken Promises: The High Arctic Relocation. Makivik exerted pressure on the federal government for a good 15 or 16 years, leading to a $10-million settlement agreement and statement of reconciliation in 1996. However, to this day the federal government has not officially apologized to these former Inuit ‘human Canadian flag poles’, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in 1994.

Makivik president Pita Aatami wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper last spring: “You are not without knowing that the Inuit of Nunavik, which Makivik Corporation represent, are requesting that the Government of Canada offer an apology to the High Arctic relocatees and acknowledge the hardships that they endured.”

According to the former relocatees and their relatives that met the prime minister this past summer when he was up there to announce construction of a future Arctic deep water port, Stephen Harper replied that he had no knowledge of the letter. This reply, the Inuit found disheartening. Pita said, “When we were in Resolute, the people that were relocated started telling me about how they had met with Stephen Harper and they brought up the letter I had sent to him. Harper apparently said he never saw the letter, so we are going to keep trying until something is done. We won’t give up until we get to the bottom of this.”

Speaking as a representative from Nunatsiavut, Darryl Shiwak said of his Cruise North Expeditions trip to the High Arctic, “The total experience was wonderful. Cruise North is doing a good job of selling this to cruise to the Inuit or non-Inuit who are working for Air Inuit. To the directors of Air Inuit: keep up the good work. In the near future I would like to see Air Inuit getting a [Boeing] 737 for the Hudson coast.”
Former Students’ Information Session

Lawyer Gilles Gagné holds a copy of the thick Agreement.

Makivik conducted an information meeting for representatives of the nearly 400 Nunavik former Indian Residential School students on August 19th and 20th, 2007, animated by Ida Saunders. Participants were welcomed by Mayor Larry Watt and by Makivik vice-president for Economic Development, Michael Gordon, who extended the Corporations gratitude to lawyer Jocelyn Barrett for her tireless work on this file. The message of Pauktuutit president Martha Greig, who also tended the flame of a ceremonial quill during the session, set the stage for commemoration and healing. She told participants, “If you would like to cry then cry because it will take off the mask you are wearing... When we went to school, we didn’t say, ‘Let’s go there so we can be compensated.’ Even though money is given, we have inner pains and still must have healing sessions.”

The lawyer representing Nunavik Inuit in the matter, Gilles Gagné, began his presentation with a history of residential schooling in North America, leading up to Inuit involvement and the obstacles faced by Inuit in efforts to be included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The session began on the same date that ended the time period for which former students were able to opt out of the Agreement and the major focus of the session, participated by former student representatives from all Nunavik communities as well as by other regional leaders, was the Settlement and resulting Common Experience Payment (CEP).

Alexandre Carrière, a program officer for Indian Residential Schools Canada, gave an overview of the settlement and fielded questions, repeatedly expressing regrets on behalf of the government for the hardships endured by the former students. Financial experts were also there to talk about money management. The lawyer representing Nunavik Inuit in the matter, Gilles Gagné, began his presentation with a history of residential schooling in North America, leading up to Inuit involvement and the obstacles faced by Inuit in efforts to be included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The session began on the same date that ended the time period for which former students were able to opt out of the Agreement and the major focus of the session, participated by former student representatives from all Nunavik communities as well as by other regional leaders, was the Settlement and resulting Common Experience Payment (CEP).

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What is DNA?

DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) is a molecule that carries genetic information for the development and function of living organisms. It is found in the nucleus of cells and is responsible for transmitting traits from parents to offspring. DNA is a double-stranded helix composed of four types of nucleotides: adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G), and cytosine (C).

DNA is essential for all life forms, from bacteria to humans. It is involved in various processes, including replication, repair, and transcription, which are crucial for the survival and reproduction of an organism.

In Nunavik, DNA research is conducted to understand the genetic diversity and health of Inuit populations. This knowledge is vital for preserving cultural traditions, managing resources sustainably, and addressing health concerns specific to Inuit communities.
Parasites in Water Tanks?

During the past summer we had sampled a number of domestic water tanks in Kuujjuaq, in collaboration with Makivik, to look for a parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii*. This tiny parasite can cause serious damage to unborn children if their mothers become infected for the first time while pregnant. Wild and domestic cats shed this parasite, but there are few domestic cats in Nunavik, and as far as we are aware the lynx population is low north of the tree line. However antibody evidence in the Inuit population suggests a much higher infection risk in Nunavik than in the other parts of Quebec. The life cycle of the parasite is a mystery here, and our objectives are to understand the ecological cycle of *Toxoplasma gondii* in Nunavik, and identify the main source of infection for the Inuit. Studies to date suggest (but do not confirm) that there are two possible routes of infection in the Arctic: eating raw infected meat and drinking contaminated water.

The parasite could be shed by lynx or other cats in the South, and spread in the environment by surface water run-off into rivers or lakes that are the sources for municipal water systems.

The parasite is chlorination-resistant and can survive for a long time in water. It is a relatively heavy parasite and in the water tanks it may sink to the bottom and become trapped in the biofilm (a thin layer coating water tank surfaces). With help from three Inuit trainees, we have harvested this biofilm from 40 water tanks in Kuujjuaq, and concentrated it by centrifugation in the parasitology laboratory of the Nunavik Research Centre. The biofilm samples will be analysed at laboratories of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), near Montreal where we will look for the parasite’s DNA, the most efficient method of detecting *Toxoplasma gondii*. The results will be available in 2008.

Dr. Audrey Simon is conducting the research under the supervision of Dr. Nick Ogden and colleagues from PHAC, Université de Montréal, Université de Laval, Université of McGill and the Nunavik Research Centre. ArcticNet (A Canadian Network of Centres of Excellence) is funding the project.

If you have any question about this research project and the implications for your community, please contact:

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Karina in Old Fort Chimo

Karina Gordon-Dorais is six years old in grade one. Her teacher is Annie Kudluk and her best friend is Jasmin. Karina went to Old Fort Chimo in a boat with her father and she was carrying his black camera and playing on the playground there. Karina likes taking pictures and she has her own camera too. She also went to other places for holidays such as Florida, Los Angeles, Martinique, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas. Karina loves the beach, going in the water, and snorkelling.

Kid’s Mystery Photo Contest

Can you tell us what this picture is?

6 chances to win a prize!
Sarah Kulula of Quaqtaq practices her act on a small accordion during an elders’ talent show rehearsal — one of the fun events held in Iqaluit during the elder’s gathering throughout the final week of August 2007.