

く¹〜イL**P**∩^ト PARNASIMAUTIK

What Was Said KUUJJUARAPIK April 30 to May 1, 2013

"I am very passionate about changing Nunavik for the better on all kinds of issues like those we have been speaking about. I want to see all kinds of changes in the north so I can be proud to raise my children here. So here I ask now: Will there be changes? Will we leave this meeting and no changes will happen in the near future? Or will we succeed in making Nunavik an even better place to live?" – Youth Participant.

Who We Are

(Culture and Identity • Harvesting • Lands • Environmental and Regional Planning)

Our language has to be preserved. Nunavimmiut should read Illirijavut, the Avataq language report. The KSB, too, needs to receive better funding to develop Inuktitut teaching materials.

If clothes-making is also a part of our culture, material should be provided for the girls' culture class in our school?

There is a big gap between what we have and what we need in terms of land. Many people from Kuujjuarapik will never see their Category II lands which are far from the community, near Umiujaq. The issue has been discussed for many years and needs to be resolved.

Subsurface rights and category lands south of the 55th parallel: these are some of our other challenges. As well, the more mining and hydroelectric power development there is, the more we are losing our lands.

When the dams were built, we were told not to worry about contamination. Today, we know that our food is affected by mercury.

Hunting equipment and fuel is expensive. Money is now essential to eat and live in the north. We should look at alternatives to the hunter support program. The Cree have a program that lets them spend time on the land with their families.

When we consider the quantities of equipment that will be shipped to and from Nunavik, do we know if mining companies are prepared to deal with all the environmental issues?

Our Communities

(Elders, Women and Youth • Education • Health • Housing • Justice and Social Regulation • Community development • Biofood • Employment)

We need to talk about the issue of children in foster homes in the south and their return to their communities.



Nowadays, youth always seem to be on their ipods, and elders are not passing on their knowledge.

Young people should not have to see in their communities spray-painted graffiti on buildings, holes in facility walls and broken windows. I want to know why these problems are not being dealt with like they would be in southern Canada.

It is only with education that we will be able to change things. We have to encourage youth to stay in school. We have to explore their talents.

Young people who want to pursue their education cannot do it here; they have to go to south but only after completing an extra year in Kangiqsujuaq. The teachers in our schools change too often.

Many Inuit must travel elsewhere for medical treatment. The number of people needing professional care exceeds the number of professionals in the region. This has to change.

With rent increasing by 8% every year, it is becoming difficult for families. Everything costs a lot.

We have to make sure that Inuit can take advantage of the jobs that will be created from development. Education is needed for these jobs.

The court system is too slow. Cases are constantly postponed. Local justice committees and other solutions need to be explored instead of sending Inuit to detention centres in the south. Many detainees choose to finish their sentences in detention. But the Makitautik residential centre in Kangirsuk is an option; we should have a similar centre on the Hudson coast too.

Many of us are just able to pay for our rent and food. We have no money left over for anything else, not even new clothing.

Our Region

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

The royalties paid to the communities fluctuate according to the price of minerals on the world market, production risks and costs, and of course company profits.

Our share of the royalties should be increased. Mining companies should contribute to infrastructure development in those communities next to their mines, like Salluit and Aupaluk.

Forestry should have been considered under Parnasimautik.

Uranium mining is a sensitive issue. We need more information about how this mining affects the environment and how the mineral is used.

It is not acceptable that Kuujjuarapik is not connected to the electricity network, while electricity can be transported all the way to the United States.

Given the high cost of goods, a road is necessary to the south. But we have to think about how the road will change our lives, and not necessarily for the better when thinking about alcohol and drugs. Wildlife conservation monitoring will also be needed for hunters from the south.

Taqramiut Nipingat Inc. radio and television broadcasting is vital to protect our language.

Our telecommunications are not developing at the same pace as in other parts of Canada and Québec, and they are very expensive to use. Internet could be used to improve health and education delivery.



Our Vision of Development

In 2002, Inuit regained certain rights with the signing of the Sanarrutik Agreement, our partnership agreement with Québec. It is for us to decide how we want to improve our lives with all this development going on.

We have to think about the kind of development that we want and not let Québec dictate what will happen.

Even though we pay taxes, we still face a high cost of living. Nunavimmiut should have the same privileges as every other Canadian who pays taxes.

A lot of plans are being made for development in the future. It will be very important that the social impacts of this development be assessed properly. There should be hope and optimism for the future.

A lot of things have to change in the north, especially when it concerns our children and what they have to go through. We should not wait for someone to come to our community to fix these things. We should work at it in the community first.

Thinking up our own solutions and working together as one is self-government.

This issue of What Was Said is a summary account of remarks made during discussions on regional development held in Kuujjuarapik in April. Participants included the mayor, representatives of the landholding corporation and cultural, education, elders, youth, justice, church and recreation community committees, as well as local representatives of the Makivik Corporation, the KRG, the NRBHSS and the KSB.

