

#### ୕ୣୢ୶୵Lହ∩<sup>ୢ</sup> PARNASIMAUTIK

What Was Said KANGIQSUJUAQ

June 4 to 6, 2013

For participants at the Parnasimautik workshop held in Kangiqsujuaq, Nunavik Inuit must be fully involved in the development of their region: through direct investments, by making sure local businesses get contracts and by helping residents to access jobs.

### Who We Are

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

Our language is eroding. Avataq needs the human and financial resources to develop and implement solutions. Since everyone has computers these days, maybe new applications and language programs could be created to reinforce the use of Inuktitut.

More recognition must be given to our culture to preserve our tradition of being on the land and making *kamiks*, skin ropes, tents, clothing and other things.

It is important for young people to follow their parents to summer camps, so they will learn how to skin the seals they harvest. When we do not bring our children along, we lose an opportunity to teach them about our culture.

Category I lands are no longer sufficient. In 1975 we were 4,000 Inuit. Today, we are about 12,000. We need to expand category I and II lands.

Overharvesting can have repercussions on wildlife. Walruses used to come to Aippanganni and Tutjaat, near Salluit. Now they can not be found between Salluit and Ivujivik. As Inuit, we have to be careful about our harvesting.

Kangiqsujuammiut must provide a week's notice if they want to hunt in the area around the mine. It wasn't like that before. Mining development has affected our country food.

# **Our Communities**

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

Services for elders need to be improved and elders must be enabled to share their knowledge. We have to be proud of what they've gone through.

Many elders do not have bank accounts and can not receive their government allowances through direct deposit. This is one reason, they have a difficult time paying their bills on time. Elders and youth no longer seem to understand one another.

Women go through a lot: childbirth, making sure their children have food, are clean, and learning the right things. Women are also involved in healing and the development of their communities through the church, for example. It would be good to teach family planning and parenting skills.

Feotal alcohol spectrum disorder among some of our children is very worrisome. What is being done for their future and the future of those children sent away from their homes? Something must also be done about suicides. I encourage youth to get involved in their communities and to stay in school.

Students who go hunting with their families should not be penalized for missing school. The Cree have found a way to adapt the school calendar to their traditional activities.



Jaaka Jaaka's program targets young people who drop out of school: camping, hunting and focus on Inuit culture. The young people are doing things that are useful. This would be a good school program.

There are many services the KSB does not have funding to deliver and this affects students' ability to learn. There is not enough science being taught to become nurses, for example.

Students going to the south to pursue their education are confronted with cultural differences.

Why can't the housing shortage be fixed once and for all? The lack of housing affects tremendously

Inuit health. Students don't have space at home to study and do homework.

We have to learn to save and spend our money wisely for food, rent and the other things we need. People that are evicted from social housing should have a place to go.

Home ownership is expensive for many reasons, such as municipal taxes and insurance. Still homeownership is a good way to reduce the housing shortage. Education is needed and existing homeowners should share their experiences.

Taking care of children the Inuit way has to come back. We depend too much on youth protection to ensure children's safety. In the past, we did not want to be separated from our parents, but we had to go to school. The solutions must come from within the community.

There should be a place in the community for couples to talk and receive counselling.

For first responders and police, it's really hard to deal with death, injuries and the stress of their work.

The community needs to support the coop more. The Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec has been absorbing lost revenues since Nutrition North Canada was introduced.



The high cost of harvesting equipment and gas, and merchandise in general, is insurmountable for the unemployed.

Those returning from detention centres often go back to the same conditions. There is no help for them.

We need to be more involved with the court system and make efforts to prevent people from going to jail for minor offences. Some minor crimes could be dealt with through the justice committee and more serious crimes left to the court.

Lawyers should come to the community a day early to meet with those concerned by court cases.

Many problems generated by alcohol and drug abuse could be resolved in the community. We need healing. The program offered by Eva Deer in Quagtag should be considered.

Sobering-up centres should be set up instead of putting people in jail.

We have to provide support to offenders in detention centres in Montreal.

In the 1990s, Makivik organized an inter-community country food pilot project with four communities. The products were well packaged and sold in stores. The project created jobs. The sale of seal and caribou meat should be considered. We should also consider keeping muskox in captivity, chicken farming and commercial fishing. Inuit will need to be trained to carry out food inspections.

Jobs have to be created to pay for the things we need from stores.

We need to find out why Inuit do not stay on the job, and why non-Inuit are not staying in the community longer.

Jobs in the mining sector for Nunavimmiut are low level and often related to kitchen and janitorial duties.

#### **Our Region**

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

The landholding corporations in Kangiqsujuaq and Salluit own companies that deliver services to the mining companies. We have been a part of the development since 1985, acquiring knowledge and experience.

I have experience working at the mine and didn't like leaving my family. The mining company should build a road between the mine and the communities.



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The first park was created near Kangiqsujuaq. The government should provide more funding to develop more activities. Parks provide employment and help us preserve our culture.

Since diesel-powered generators are expensive to operate, Xstrata is considering building wind turbines. We do not agree with this solution as it poses a threat to migrating geese.



Even though our rivers are generating electricity for others, our communities are not connected to the Hydro-Québec network. We can't even heat our homes and water with electricity.

We have to consider the experiences of Cree with road links to the south. The impacts seem to be more positive than negative.

# **Our Vision of Development**

Nunavik Inuit are a unique people. We must work to preserve our culture and language, and improve our way of life, not just by getting more things from the south but by doing more things on our own.

We must ensure that mining and energy development will translate into new and better services for Nunavimmiut.

We can use these development opportunities to create new businesses that benefit our economy. Mining will continue. We have to be realistic and see the good sides of it.

To build on the Inuit way of life, we need strength and unity. We need a goal to work towards.

As older people, we sometimes do not understand our youth. We have brought them into this world, but are shy to make them understand our responsibilities. We need to be committed to raising our children.

We do not want southern culture to leave Inuit behind as it moves forward. At the same time, we do not want to leave behind the Inuit way of life.

We have to voice our concerns and then support our leaders. United, we can have a positive impact on development and maybe get back what we lost.

We tend too much to look for others to find solutions for us. We are in the process of rising up. What we have heard in Kangiqsujuaq shows that Nunavik Inuit want to be in charge of their lives. We need more lands, better profit-sharing agreements and royalties. The inclusion of the Nastapoka River in the Tursujuq park shows us what we can do when we are united. If Parnasimautik is supported by Nunavimmiut, it will be very strong too.



Parnasimautik participants in Kangiqsujuaq were reminded that this workshop is just the beginning and encouraged to continue working together on all the important issues for them. Parnasimautik workshop information, including a community workshop schedule, may be found at: www.parnasimautik.com.



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