

# C¹╾┤┖▷U≀ PARNASIMAUTIK

### What Was Said AUPALUK September 3 to 5, 2013

Looking to our past, it seems like this is the first time we are talking about and planning for our future. During the negotiation of the JBNQA, our young Inuit representatives (which is to say those who could understood English best) were given responsibility for negotiating with the government far away from our homes. They had to understand, translate and transfer the information to those who were unilingual Inuit. All that, with no funding, with very little time and according to someone else's agenda. Aupaluk was already targeted for development at that time.



#### Who We Are

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

We lack funding to preserve and save our culture. Many aspects of our culture are disappearing, like igloo building skills, drum dancing and so on. Young people no longer follow their families to spring and summer camps which help us stay in touch with our identity.

When change comes, we sometimes tend to forget what is essential. The transfer of knowledge is important. We need to teach our culture.

Aupalummiut had no say in the selection of their lands. We were not involved in defining and mapping our Category I and II lands. We have to find a way to get back to that.

Sampling, research and analysis of the impacts of development on wildlife resources is paramount.

Every day when I leave my house, it makes me feel like I want to go berry picking. If the land is damaged by development, that will affect us. Nature calls for us to go on the land. The construction of a port and mine nearby would have a huge impact on our harvesting of beluga and seal.

The Anniturvik Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee does not have enough power. It should have more say on sport hunting carried out in the region.

For many years, we have known that there will be development. Inuit will one day need to travel far to harvest wildlife because this development will have destroyed the areas we use now. This loss will need to be compensated. This is the challenge we face: to negotiate with governments and industry.

Aupalummiut feel like we are alone because the proposed mine project is so close to our community. But we have the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission to safeguard the land and our way of life. We have the KRG, Makivik and the Sanarrutik Agreement to support us. We only need to work together.

### **Our Communities**

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

In Greenland, they pay elders to come to cultural centres and do traditional activities such as sewing.

Aupaluk needs a new school or the existing school and gymnasium must be extended and renovated.

Something must be done for those parents whose children are being placed in foster homes. They need help to get their lives back in order. They need to be helped to get their children back.

Elders should be taken care of in their homes in their communities, not sent to elders' residences in another community.



The rent for social housing is too high. It is difficult for families to pay the rent and buy food. The rent is getting higher while the houses are old and deteriorating.

The community needs resources to help those that are incarcerated in prisons and, on their release, to re-integrate into their communities.

When court sittings are postponed, individuals are being required to repeatedly pay the \$500 lawyer fees. Why can't the system be adapted to accommodate community concerns.

Through our hunter support program, we are able to send country food to the detention centre. Detainees need to receive calling cards to be able to stay in touch with families.

The Northern Village of Aupaluk would like to be able to deliver the same municipal services that are delivered in other Nunavik communities.

Inuit working at the Raglan mine should have opportunities to advance and be promoted to positions with more responsibilities.



There are only a few jobs available in Aupaluk. And alcohol and drug abuse is a problem that keeps some people from being effective employees.

Are we sure that there will be enough country food to feed future generations.

# Our Region

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

Kangiqsujuaq and Salluit have not been affected from mining development as we will be here in Aupaluk. Residents in those communities do not see and hear mining activities from their homes. Aupalummiut will.

What will happen to our community if we say no to the proposed mine project? What will our community be like in 20 years if we say yes to it. We will not know what to do after our environment, our land and our wildlife have been damaged. We will probably have to relocate with the money we receive from the mine.

If people were healthy in their personal life, they could benefit from development and this growth would be positive. The government should live up to its responsibilities and force developers to address the wellness of the people of Aupaluk, by contributing to wellness activities, cultural centres, etc.

Here in Aupaluk, we are faced with a mining project that will impact on the whole region. Yet, we have no young people with diplomas to work at the mine.

# **Our Vision of Development**

We need self-government before mining development starts.

We should know more about our options. We need funding to help solve our problems. Oceanic Iron Ore knows what it will gain from the proposed mine project. Québec knows as well for itself. But we don't, and we want our lands to be protected.

We have to have one voice.

Parnasimautik community workshops are creating the building blocks of a comprehensive vision of regional development according to Inuit culture, identity, language and traditional way of life so as to protect them now and enhance them for the future. Visit: www.parnasimautik.com for more information.

