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What Was Said **MONTREAL**

December 3, 2013

This issue of What Was Said summarizes feedback received from Nunavik Inuit on December 3 in Montreal. Parnasimautik information was delivered to various groups and individuals on November 25 and 26.

Who We Are

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

The need to protect and promote Inuit language, culture and identity has been identified at every Parnasimautik workshop in 2013. Nonetheless, so material, historical photographs thousands of hours of oral histories just sit in Avatag's archives because there is no money to hire people to process and distribute our knowledge.

The work of those dedicated to preserving Inuit culture, language and identity needs to be more highly valued.

Our life has changed rapidly. It has been affected by many different factors that are not all documented. There should be a research centre devoted to carrying out qualitative and quantitative surveys of what has affected and is affecting the lives of Nunavik Inuit. This could have a positive effect on our lives.

What can we do to support the Inuit living in Montreal or elsewhere in Québec and Canada? They are there for a reason (prison, health, education, work, etc.). Culturally speaking, urban Inuit all have something in common: we are all struggling to adapt to life outside of the north.

We have to discuss the reality of the Inuit living on the street in Montreal: lack of housing, personal issues, addictions. There should be resources to help them.





Nunavik Inuit need to acknowledge that Inuit living in Montreal must pay for many medical services, school supplies, as well as sport activities and equipment for our children.

Our Communities

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

When I am an elder, I hope I will be able to return to my community in Nunavik and live in an elders' home that promotes Inuit cultural activities.

Health officials need to improve awareness of reproductive rights and responsibilities. The housing crisis in our communities will only continue to get worse as the birth rate remains high, and women and children will continue to suffer the consequences of poverty, poor health conditions, lack of education, violence and abuse.

If we want to move back to Nunavik, we cannot because there is no housing. We should not be misunderstood as runaways.

In the past, there used to be a three-week preparation for the students entering college in the south. Now students are sent to Kangigsujuag for a year for secondary 6. College preparations should go back to what they were before.

Because many management positions in Inuit organizations require formal education, they are occupied by non-Inuit. There are not enough students pursuing their education. My own schooling

discouraged me more than it empowered me. The fact that I had to go away from my family was as well a factor. We need a college in Nunavik.



Inuit would be empowered if we had a program like Nunavut Sivunitsavut.

Education and training play a vital role in capacity building. They represent a step towards autonomy.

The cooperatives are the biggest employer of Inuit in Nunavik communities. Cooperative development is important to the creation of jobs. As new projects arise, so do the number of Inuit employed. Training has always been important to cooperative development.

Subsidies are supposed to provide support for the most disadvantaged among us. However, many people who are doing well are also receiving the same benefits.

In Kangiqsujuaq, we have tried to find a balance between the payment of royalties to individuals and to the community. With their payments, many residents were able to pay their rent arrears, buy essential goods or even buy equipment for subsistence harvesting activities that they would have not been able to afford otherwise.

The Nunavik Financial Services Cooperative (NFSC) is delivering essential banking services in all the communities. The business of a larger number of regional and local organizations is however

required to maintain the viability of the NFSC and eventually help the region to become more financially autonomous.

Every job created in a small community makes a big difference to the local economy. It can even help those people qualify for employment insurance.

Our Region

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

We have to wonder how much power a future selfgovernment will have over mining in Nunavik.

The effects of ballast water on ecosystems needs to be addressed and information needs to be shared with the population. This should happen before any new deep-sea port is built in Nunavik.

Nunavik should have conditions that are strict enough that no development projects can get around the environmental assessment and review procedures in place.

Our Vision of Development

From the FCNQ's standpoint, Parnasimautik must include another sector that is crucial and undeniable for the empowerment of Nunavimmiut: a financial institution belonging to Nunavimmiut.

We must continue to work together to provide all the services needed by Nunavimmiut and, ultimately, financial empowerment will give us more autonomy and sustainable development.

If the Québec government's Nord pour tous is really intended to help northerners, before anything else it must propose resources that will allow residents to exercise control over their communities and their lives. In this manner, Inuit will truly be empowered to take advantage of the development of our region.

Parnasimautik workshops held throughout 2013 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.

