



## ᐱᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ PARNASIMAUTIK

What Was Said  
**SALLUIT**  
October 29 to 31, 2013

*We are again seeing government and companies use their power to exploit Nunavik's natural resources. We must be equally determined to share in the development of our resources. We must make sure the JBNQA is implemented and demand compensation for what has not been done. We must move forward and get what we need, instead of waiting for the governments.*

### Who We Are

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

What we currently have in our region is only the tip of what we really need.

Our heritage and culture is not given enough recognition. Elders have this knowledge but are not recognized. Culture teachers are not even mentioned in *Plan Nunavik*.

We didn't use to need to buy gas or bullets, and what we harvested was shared. Today, we are still trying to be Inuit, except we need money to buy gas and food. But, when we share our harvest, we get no money to buy gas and food. We need to be able to get money for what we harvest.

When I was growing up, country food was essential. Today, seals are scarce in Ungava Bay, but caribou have returned and are easy to hunt. One day, they will leave again. We have to talk about animals because they are really part of us: they live in the wild, not on farms. They have cycles. The companies say mining will not affect wildlife. This is not true: it will be affected.

Our lands are now too small. Our lands must grow like Inuit have: Category II lands should become Category I.



In the JBNQA, there was nothing for landholding corporations. No funding for operations. We were supposed to get funding from land leases but it hasn't been true. Landholding corporations are abused by the government which only pays \$1 per year for the land leases for its buildings.

Québec says we only own the first six inches of the underground. This hurts when they say that.

Agreements are amendable. The Nastapoka River was reserved for hydroelectric development and is now protected. Premier Jean Charest used to say that a paper agreement can always be changed.

### Our Communities

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

Elders lost their voices when alcohol came to the community. We got scared to say what we had to say. It is a challenge now to speak up.

Many women are taking charge but men are less involved in activities. Men need to focus on their contributing to their families.

The education of youth once involved following hunters. It prepared them to grow and mature.

The priorities of youth are many: quality learning environments; activities in the community; parenting skills; as well as help to deal with drugs and alcohol abuse and hopelessness.

When we learned we would get a regional hospital, I thought that we would see Inuit personnel, like in Greenland. But our population does not yet have the skills needed.

If we want our students to do well in school, we parents hold the key. Children need to get good sleep, be well fed and learn respect for others. Many jobs require education and the lack of education is negatively affecting our communities.



Why can't the school work with the other organizations in town on a regular basis, so that interested students can get ideas about job avenues before they finish school.

Some people have nothing in their homes and there are no more coupons to help with food. The hunter support program should have meat for the less fortunate and there should be a place where we can drop off food and clothing.

It costs \$40 million a year just to send patients down south for health care. With this money, more services should be made available in Nunavik.

We have many children under the care of youth protection. When a foster home cannot be found in Salluit or other communities, children are sent to families in the south. Children should be taken care of at home, in our communities, not sent away where they will lose their culture.

We need psychologists and services like a crisis hotline in Nunavik to help deal with the issue of suicide. Our frontline workers get no support.

Being a homeowner is very hard. There are repairs and municipal taxes. The costs are too high for a person living in retirement.

We want to live in good houses so we have to do our part by paying the rent and taking care of our homes.

House rent is too expensive considering the high price of everything else.

I grew up when everyone was working. Inuit were always busy providing food for their families and the community.

I gave birth to a child at 18 and the father did not care for us. I had to work to earn a living. I did not have an education, but I had a drive in me to work. Even with no education, you can move forward.

Quality training could be a motivator for employee retention in childcare, social services, piloting, nursing and other jobs in our community. Training should be delivered in different communities.

Looking at the police force, I sometimes wonder what things would be like if Inuit held these jobs.

It's not only for the police to deal with alcohol and drug abuse. We have to see how we can help too. Alcohol and drugs lead many to jail. Many people in jail today need help with their addictions. We need to help people before people get into these situations.

Police officers have to get involved in community activities too.

The court takes too long to deal with cases. Delay after delay, cases drag on for years to a point where we can't remember why it all started in the first place.

Students in the south must pay taxes on the money they use to go to school while teachers from the south get a subsidy for their rent in the north.

Why can't we have underground water and sewage services like in Kuujjuarapik?



We are consuming more and more store-bought food. We can add vegetables to country food, but we should have green houses to produce these locally.

Like the Sami people, we could start herding caribou before it is affected by development.

We eat seafood, berries and other food from Deception Bay. An environmental study was carried out in the spring of this year, but we are still waiting for the results. We should have a centre in Salluit for this kind of research.

## Our Region

*(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)*

A major obstacle to tourism development is the expensive airfare.

It would be better if there was no mining here, so we could protect our way of life and wildlife. We still need country food.

Shipping is controlled in Deception Bay from March through May to protect birthing seal and pups.

Road and airport facilities should be built in existing communities for the use of Nunavimmiut too.

Our Raglan agreement was signed in 1995 and includes 4.5% profit sharing. Salluimiut are proud of this. All minerals should be included in new agreements, not just nickel.



A railway might affect wildlife. Longer airstrips and jet service would be better.

Until we have a road link, there should be discounted airfare.

A fibre optic connection would allow for videoconferencing and improve health care and even justice services.

Inuktitut programming is good for Inuit culturally. TNI radio and television broadcasting promotes Inuktitut. TNI is really necessary for Nunavik.

Wind turbines do not produce greenhouse gas emission, but they do affect wildlife. Salluimiut did not approve the construction of the wind turbines at Deception Bay.

Being a homeowner, I look for ways to reduce my use of electricity and other utilities.

We live close to the hydroelectric dams but the power is sent to Americans.

## Our Vision of Development

The JBNQA has hurt us and helped us. Normally, we should not have had to surrender our rights to get basic services.

Many Salluimiut were against the JBNQA. We only got the JBNQA because Québec wanted to build dams.

The JBNQA is helping us access education, health care and housing. Without it, these things would be very expensive.





Our region is of interest to southerners only because of its resources. Whatever projects take place in our region must include us.

Compared with other parts of the world, the services we get are poor. We want our concerns to be addressed.

We are in favour of our culture being preserved, but how will these activities be funded.

Youth must be allowed to become more visible. How do we encourage them to sit on our committees. Elders need opportunities to be more involved with youth. Culture is not only about sewing and building tools; it's about sharing stories and knowledge.

Salluit is very comfortable with the benefits of mining. Our 4.5% share in profits is however too small. In the future, we have to be tougher in negotiations.

We have to take charge of our destiny instead of relying on outside help. It is our right as an indigenous people. We can take back what we have lost.

What is being done about self-government since the last proposal was refused?

After these community consultations are all done, we want a summary of Nunavimmiut's vision for development to be reported back to us.



*The Parnasimautik workshop organized by the Northern Village of Salluit brought together the representatives of local organizations, residents and regional leaders to discuss multiple sectors of community life and the foundations of a comprehensive vision for regional development. Nunavimmiut at every Parnasimautik workshop have expressed with precision their vision for the future of the region. Visit [www.parnasimautik.com](http://www.parnasimautik.com) to view workshop and other related documentation, including Inuktitut audio recordings on sectors ranging from culture and identity, to education, health, housing, mining development, energy and transportation, to name but a few.*

