



Many years prior to the JBNQA, governments and companies probably understood the potentials of our land. Should these potentials have been disclosed before we signed the agreement? Forty years after signing the JBNQA, many provisions have still not been implemented. Can we take the governments to court for their inaction? Agreements should aim to develop the region not just get things in exchange. Governments can no longer oblige Aboriginals to surrender their rights. Can we re-negotiate the JBNQA on this basis?

Who We Are

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

Those born within the last 50 years are living between two cultures, Inuit and non-Inuit.

Concerted efforts are needed to teach and encourage traditional practices. We need to focus on families and on parenting skills.

We have become disconnected from our old selves: people are arguing; gangs are appearing among young people; there is homicide; youth are no longer being taught how to hunt.

We are losing Inuktitut because we are not teaching it well. Inuktitut should be taught by Inuit in our community.



The constant integration of new words and new concepts in our lives will have lasting impacts on the way our society communicates and functions. An Inuktitut language department is needed to bring together all organizations and teaching.

Category II lands should be converted to Category I lands to support the increased harvesting of a larger population.

We need to acquire subsurface rights, as is the case under the NILCA.

Landholding corporations were established with no funding. They were supposed to fund themselves through land leases. This has not worked out.

The land has always allowed Inuit to survive. We therefore need to minimize the impacts of development on the land and wildlife.

Québec should hire Inuit conservation officers as they understand our way of harvesting.

Many Inuit cannot afford to buy harvesting equipment anymore. On the other hand, non-Inuit are able to afford the equipment and are all over our land.

We have the knowledge of our ancestors but we are using it less and less.

We should not leave garbage on the land when we are out camping. The changing climate is also impacting on our environment.

Our Communities

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

The pain of our past (dog slaughter, diversion of our river, etc.) is being passed from one generation to the next. We have only one treatment centre. Youth are dropping out of school. We will not solve our problems building group homes and detention facilities. We need to make changes in our lives.

If we can succeed in improving our overall well-being, our level of health and schooling, and our communities, will improve too. We need to become wiser.

Elders' pensions should be adjusted to the high cost of living.

It is difficult for single women to raise their children alone. We have to support them and include them in traditional activities.

There must be better coordination among the groups mandated to support youth and teach traditional skills, culture and language.

Our Vision of Development

Participants clearly stated their vision: We need more Category 1 lands and subsurface rights. Royalties should be directed to the collectivity instead of individuals. We need to deal with substance abuse and provide help to those incarcerated. We must be involved in youth protection issues. And our language remains the core of our identity.

Many people from the south are coming to work here. They lack understanding of Inuit. We have to find a way to reconcile with each other, Inuit and non-Inuit.



As I see it, Nunavik is a beautiful land with incredible mountains, lakes and rivers. It is the place where we live, where we hunt and where Inuit have survived for so many years. I don't want the lakes and rivers to be destroyed from mining. I want to continue to drink from them, to breathe pure air, to hunt and to not be worried about the level of mercury in fish and the poor health of caribou. I do not want to live between a mine and a hydroelectric dam. We are not just talking about money. We are talking about our future and our land. I know Nunavik needs money, but we don't have to see it destroyed just for the good of others.

Considering the desolation we saw when we visited the iron ore mine site in Schefferville, we will need to be very wise about the use of our lands for mining and other development in the future.

This workshop has shown me something I have wanted to see for a very long time: all our organizations are here and working together.

For Inuit, the most important thing is who we are and our culture.

The reports prepared by Inuit in the past must be considered when planning our future, like the 1992 Silatunirmut report on education, the 1993 Arqusiaqniq report on justice, and the 2001 Amirqaaluta report on self-government.

How will this process conclude? We will need to review the results.

Parnasimautik participants in Kuujuaq were encouraged to continue working together locally on important issues. Parnasimautik information, including Inuktitut audio recordings on all the sectors discussed at the workshop, may be found at www.parnasimautik.com.

