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 Johnny May was inducted into the  
 Quebec Air and Space Hall of Fame  
 on November 23, 2010. This collage  
 of photos represents this historic and  
 special occasion.



© WILLIAM TAGOONA X5



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 Johnny May's family was with him on this special day of being inducted into the Quebec Air and Space Hall of Fame. (L-R): Sarah Tagooona (May's sister), Billy May (May's brother who is also a bush pilot), Mary Simon (May's sister), Louisa May (May's wife) and Johnny May. William Tagooona, Sarah Tagooona's husband was also present and took these photos.



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Completing Johnny May's (left) 50<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Candy Drop in Kuujuaq. Brian York and Bruce Turner (inside the aircraft) throw the goods outside of the aircraft while using safety harnesses attached to the airframe. They will do another Candy Drop this coming Christmas.



© ISABELLE DUBOIS

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# Federal Museum Celebrates Exceptional Bush Pilot By Linda Brand

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On December 15, bush pilot Johnny May was poised to complete his 50th annual Christmas Candy Drop from his airplane, affectionately called Pengo Pally, over Kuujuaq. However, due to weather, the Candy Drop was rescheduled for December 29, 2015. The Canada Aviation and Space Museum published and sent children's illustrated books of the story of Johnny to all the elementary classrooms in Nunavik. The book is in two versions; one in French and Inuktitut and one in English and Inuktitut. The project was accomplished with the help of collaborators: Air Inuit, Avataq Cultural Institute and the Nunavik Tourism Association.

As the Museum's interpretation officer, I develop educational programs for the general public visiting our collection. A significant portion of our audience are families with young children. With bush planes being my favourite airplanes, I began to learn more about the role of bush flying in Canada.



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Ida Saunders and Linda Brand looking on as  
legendary Johnny May autographs a copy of  
*The Kuujjuaq Christmas Candy Drop*.



I also gained a sense of awareness of northern communities and some of the things they care about.

While attending the 2010 northern lights trade show in Ottawa, a chance encounter with then serving president of Makivik, Pita Aatami (now president of Air Inuit), embarked me in an adventure I am not ready to forget. At the time I had just finished presenting a Museum young children's program based on the Ivakak dog sled races and Air Inuit's role in getting the dogs to the race. As I shared this with Pita, he suggested I should write a book about Kuujjuaq's Christmas Candy Drop, and so I did.

The following month of August, I flew to Kuujjuaq to meet Johnny and his wife Louisa. During my two-day stay, I interviewed them and peaked at family photo albums. It was great. When I got back I got to work and began writing the book. Illustrator François Gauvreau who had worked with me in the past on my first book, agreed to base the illustrations from scans of photos from Johnny's albums. Robert Fréchette and his team from Avataq helped by providing access to archival photos and helped validate the content for historical accuracy. He also recommended that the Inuktitut adaptation be done by Ida Saunders of Kuujjuaq. The French adaptation was done by a friend, former bush pilot and now editor Dider Feminier.

I had also developed a program based on his story that has now become a staple of the Museum's popular annual holiday programming line up. Kids learn about the importance of planes in the North, a bit about Inuit culture and about a boy called Johnny May who learned how to hunt with his grandma. The same Johnny May who would eventually become the legendary pilot that brings such joy to Nunavimmiut on Christmas day. Imagine all that plus a large model bush plane flying across the stage dropping candy over the children. Of course for this "flight" Transport Canada needs not issue a special permit. The kids love it.

The official book launch took place in Johnny's hometown of Kuujjuaq at the Pitakallak elementary school early on December 18, 2015. In

attendance were students from the French and English classes, Johnny May, Senator Charlie Watt, Kativik School Board President Annie Popert, translator Ida Saunders and myself as the author.

Ida Saunders read the book in Inuktitut. It was amazing. At times, it was emotional as the children were learning about the story of their hometown hero when he was a boy. I felt privileged to be there and realized just how important it was for these children to read about one of their own in their own language. You could have heard a pin drop. The children had wonder and pride in their eyes as they sat and looked at their hero when the story was over. It was very humbling.

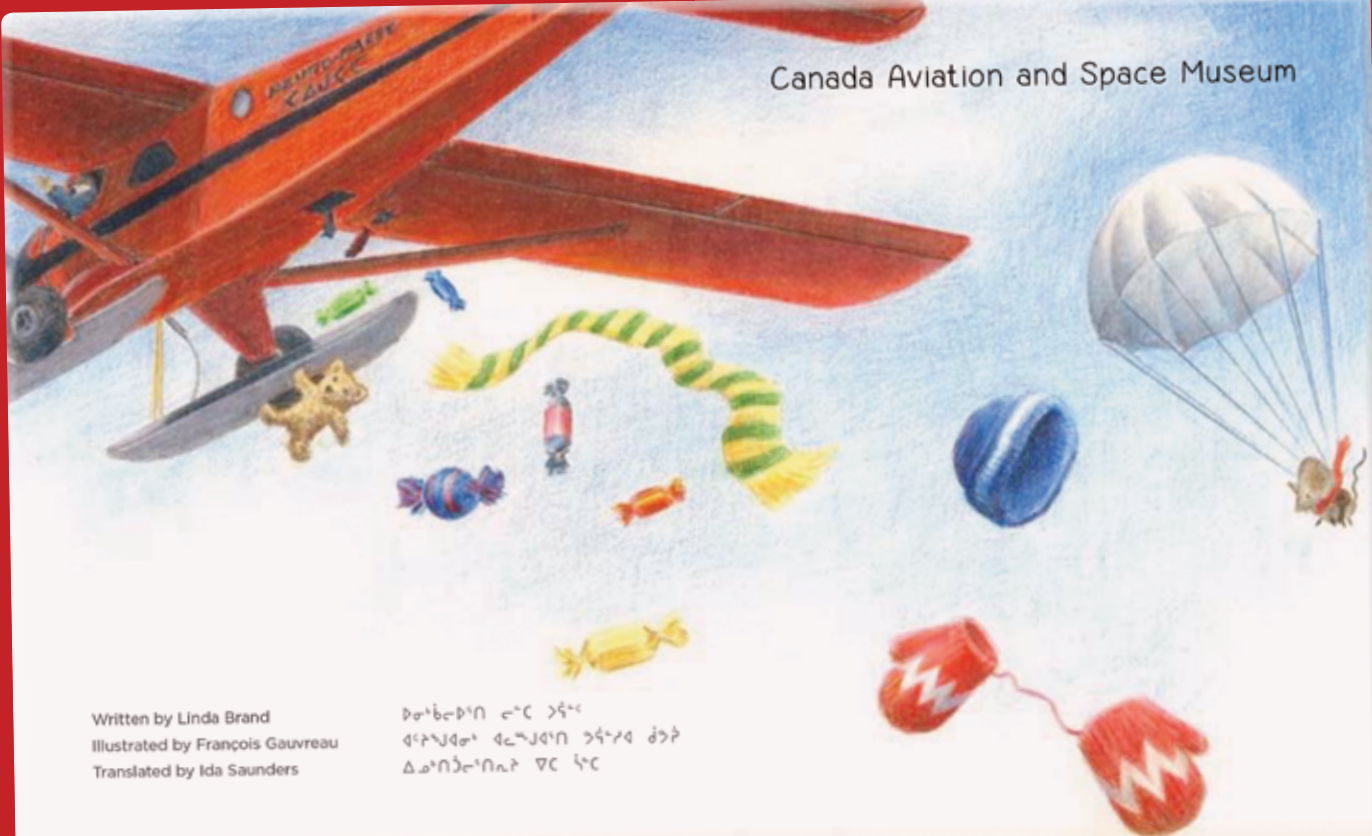
Phase one of my goal was accomplished. I am now dreaming of the second phase of this project, which is to find a sponsor who will help fund another print run. These books would then be sent to each elementary classroom in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Labrador.

During this project I have encountered many amazing heroes from Nunavik. People that are perhaps not well known in the Canadian South and because of the remote locations and generation gaps, not necessarily known by Inuit youth across Canada. In a land where things are not always candies and pretty sunsets, its important that children get to know their heroes as they forge their own future.

The Canada Aviation and Space Museum believes that pilot Johnny May's story is extraordinary and an important one to share with all Canadians. With over 35,000 hours of flight under his belt, at times in some of the harshest weather conditions in the land, his sense of community shines through.

From flying sick people to hospitals, search and rescue missions and everything in between, it was a delight to learn about Nunavik's Johnny May. I can only hope one day this story can be shared with all the Inuit children across Canada. ■





Written by Linda Brand  
Illustrated by François Gauvreau  
Translated by Ida Saunders

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# The Kuujuaq Christmas Candy Drop

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Food, music and laughter filled Johnny's cozy house.  
All sang and were happy, even a small mouse.  
Lots of sealskin parka and snowshoes lined the door,  
While family and guests tapped their toes on the floor.

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# THE RIGHT TO HARVEST BELUGA WHALES

BY MARK O'CONNOR, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR,  
MAKIVIK CORPORATION

Since time immemorial, beluga whales have been a key component of Nunavik Inuit society. Inuit relied on belugas for subsistence and as such developed an in-depth understanding and great level of respect for this animal. Through time, the nature of this relationship has changed but beluga whales remain central to the well-being and health of Nunavik Inuit.

Once home to large numbers of belugas, the waters along Nunavik's coast were hunted intensively by the Hudson's Bay Company and other commercial whalers during the 1850s to early 1900s. As a result, Nunavik's beluga stocks plummeted and to this day only a few thousand beluga whales occur in the estuaries of Ungava Bay and Eastern Hudson Bay during the summer season. When the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) recognized this fact during the 1980s, they responded by requesting that quotas be imposed on Nunavik Inuit harvesting to prevent further declines in these stocks.

Although DFO encouraged a collaborative approach and sought the input of Nunavik Inuit during beluga research and when making management decisions, the establishment of quotas has nonetheless burdened Nunavik Inuit ever since and has had detrimental impacts on beluga harvesting practices and values. The advent of firearms and motorized watercraft have without a doubt contributed to a transformation of hunting practices. However, the quota system has had profound impacts not only on the way belugas are hunted, but also on the transmission of knowledge to younger generations and, to some extent, on the cultural identity of Nunavik Inuit. Frustration about the quota system has thus grown over the years and has led to a deterioration in the relationship between Inuit and wildlife managers.

At the crux of the issue is a fundamental difference in the wildlife management approaches of Nunavik Inuit and those accepted by the Western world. For scientists and wildlife managers, assuring the well-being of animal populations begins first with studies on the animal's biology, reproduction rates, mortality rates, population size and structure, health, etc. Based on this information, they determine the maximum number of animals that can be harvested to attain a specific management objective. For Inuit wildlife management is achieved naturally by hunting only what is needed and by showing the utmost respect to the animals and their habitat; throughout history this has proven effective to ensure the survival of both beluga whale populations and Nunavik Inuit. Bringing these two visions together in order to create a single, effective beluga management system with structures that are based not only on scientific information, but also on the wealth of knowledge held by Inuit — this has become one of the biggest challenges faced by today's wildlife managers.

Since the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA)* came into effect in 2008, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) has become the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR) and is responsible for approving management plans, total allowable harvests (quotas) and other regulations related to beluga harvesting (although the DFO Minister ultimately retains the right to reject/vary decisions of the NMRWB). Although the first management plans approved by the NMRWB were quite similar to those previously adopted by DFO, in 2013























Development Department regularly attend UPCART technical meetings and have been involved in drafting the UPCART caribou management strategy; Adamie Delisle Alaku, Makivik's Executive Vice-President responsible for the Resource Development Department, is co-chair of the UPCART.

**Leaf River Herd Management Plan**

Having witnessed the drastic decline of the George River Herd, and since the previous plan had expired, all parties of the HFTCC agreed on the urgency to develop a new management plan for the Leaf River herd. Drafting is led by the Quebec government, but Makivik staff regularly provide input into the process. While Makivik's primary objective is making sure that there will be caribou for our future generations to hunt, we have maintained throughout the process that the harvesting rights of Inuit, Naskapi and Cree must be prioritized over the needs of non-beneficiaries. A new management plan is expected by 2018.

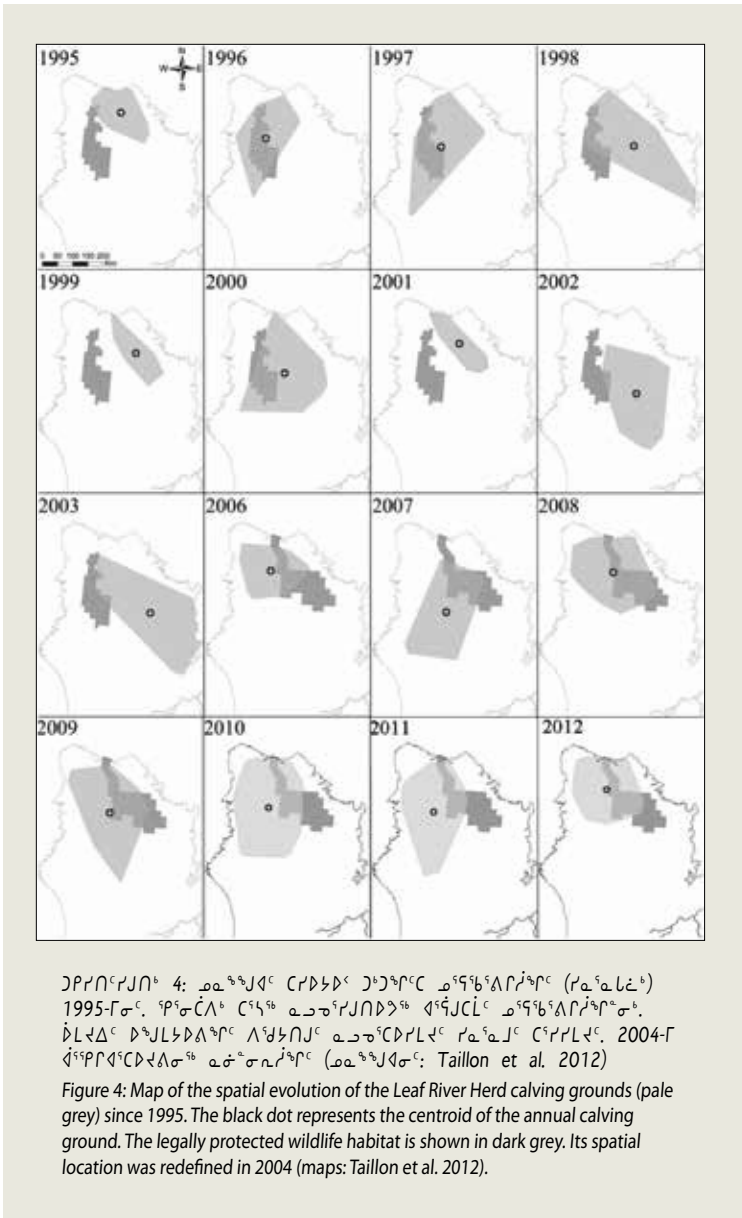
**Caribou Ungava**

Caribou Ungava is a large research program related to Nunavik's caribou herds, their habitats and the species they interact with (e.g., predators, muskox, etc.). Makivik has been a partner in this research program since it was originally established in 2009. Since then, the group has undertaken a number of research projects aimed at better understanding the population dynamics of Nunavik's caribou herds and the possible consequences of climate change and human disturbance on them. A new phase of the research program was initiated in 2015 and will run until 2020. During this second phase, the group will seek to understand the factors that drive the population dynamics of the Leaf River and George River herds. Their projects include studying the ecology of grey wolves and black bears, as well as the interactions between muskox and caribou (a concern that has been flagged by Inuit).

**Defending the Rights of Nunavik Inuit**

When it became apparent that the George River herd was undergoing a significant decline, Makivik undertook to close the sport hunt on this herd. These efforts included many tense discussions with government officials, and even a court case, in which the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi challenged the Minister's decision to issue sport hunting licenses for the George River herd. As the herd reached a critical level, it also became necessary for subsistence harvesters to limit their take of George River caribou. In many cases, such as Nunavik, this occurred simply because there was limited access to the herd. In other regions, (such as Nunatsiavut) governments imposed a complete closure on caribou hunting, although the Labrador Innu continue to harvest a few animals as part of a continued cultural hunt.

Given the trend we are seeing in the Leaf River herd, Makivik has again become adamant that the Quebec government must cease issuance of sport hunting licenses. An HFTCC request to that effect was sent earlier this year to the Quebec Minister of Wildlife, Forests and Parks, who unfortunately proceeded to authorize the sale of a combined 2,732 permits for the fall and winter sport hunts. Thankfully, the Minister has at least accepted to adopt a set of regulations, which seek to limit the number of large bulls killed by sport hunters and to prevent wastage events like those witnessed this past winter near Chisasibi, which also occur in Nunavik. Equally, the Minister has agreed to terminate the sport hunt in zone 22A (a provincial hunting zone to the East of Radisson in the Cree territory). Although these are steps in the right direction, Makivik continues to argue that a complete and immediate closure of the sport hunt is necessary to help protect the Leaf River herd from crashing.



A significant hurdle in Makivik's effort to defend Inuit harvesting rights is the Quebec government's interpretation of the JBNQA, insofar as it pertains to the Guaranteed Level of Harvest. The JBNQA explains that unless there is a conservation concern, the Guaranteed Level of Harvest must be maintained. If the herd is large enough to support hunting above this level, a portion is allocated to the Native Parties and another to non-beneficiaries. However, there is no defined process to determine the amount retained for subsistence harvesting, versus the amount allocated to sport hunters.

Considering the Guaranteed Level of Harvest was negotiated in the 1980s, the needs of today's growing Inuit population are not adequately reflected in this number. However, since there is no formal system to record the number of caribou needed by Nunavik Inuit, there is little information with which to convince the Quebec government that the needs of Inuit are higher than the original Guaranteed Level of Harvest. Obtaining up-to-date harvest statistics is essential to better define and protect Inuit harvesting rights; Makivik therefore intends to put in place a harvest-monitoring program in the coming year. The intent of this effort is to paint a clear picture of Inuit needs to ensure that they will be prioritized over the sport hunt, should the Leaf River herd continue to decline. ●























## First Air

Ce jour-là, nous avons eu le plaisir de vous accueillir à bord de nos avions pour vous présenter le Stanley Cup. C'est une grande fierté pour nous de vous offrir cette expérience unique. Nous sommes ravis de vous avoir rencontrés et de vous avoir servis. Nous espérons que vous avez apprécié votre voyage et que vous en avez profité pleinement. Nous vous remercions pour votre fidélité et votre confiance en nous. À bientôt !

En 2015, nous avons eu le plaisir de vous accueillir à bord de nos avions pour vous présenter le Stanley Cup. C'est une grande fierté pour nous de vous offrir cette expérience unique. Nous sommes ravis de vous avoir rencontrés et de vous avoir servis. Nous espérons que vous avez apprécié votre voyage et que vous en avez profité pleinement. Nous vous remercions pour votre fidélité et votre confiance en nous. À bientôt !

En 2016, nous avons eu le plaisir de vous accueillir à bord de nos avions pour vous présenter le Stanley Cup. C'est une grande fierté pour nous de vous offrir cette expérience unique. Nous sommes ravis de vous avoir rencontrés et de vous avoir servis. Nous espérons que vous avez apprécié votre voyage et que vous en avez profité pleinement. Nous vous remercions pour votre fidélité et votre confiance en nous. À bientôt !

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En 2018, nous avons eu le plaisir de vous accueillir à bord de nos avions pour vous présenter le Stanley Cup. C'est une grande fierté pour nous de vous offrir cette expérience unique. Nous sommes ravis de vous avoir rencontrés et de vous avoir servis. Nous espérons que vous avez apprécié votre voyage et que vous en avez profité pleinement. Nous vous remercions pour votre fidélité et votre confiance en nous. À bientôt !

## First Air

Once again this year, First Air proudly supported A Taste of the Arctic, a premiere event in Ottawa that showcases unique Arctic ingredients such as caribou, seal, arctic berries, arctic char, and muskox, among others. The event also features performances by talented Inuit artists. We were on hand to provide event-goers with our famous "special coffees," a popular after-dinner beverage served on our flights and arguably our 'taste of the Arctic.'

As you may recall, in 2015 First Air proudly carried the Stanley Cup to Kuujuaq and Iqaluit. We repeated last year's successful trip. This year, we brought the Stanley Cup to Yellowknife and seven Nunavut communities: Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet. As part of this partnership, we shipped 50 bags full of brand new hockey gear for Project North to distribute in two of the communities. The communities on this year's tour enjoyed taking photos of the iconic trophy and seeing it up-close-and-personal – for many individuals, this was the first time they were able to do so. The opportunity to bring the Stanley Cup to the people of Canada's North was an incredible chance for First Air to celebrate with friends and loyal customers in the Arctic. We were pleased to have an opportunity to, once again, demonstrate our commitment to the people and communities we serve.

In celebration of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, First Air partnered with the National Inuit Youth Council, Inuit Tapiirit Kanatami, the Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival, and the Economic Club of Canada to bring youth from First Air served communities to Ottawa to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Aboriginal Day. Youth were invited to apply for this unique opportunity to travel to Canada's capital, and those selected were provided with free-of-charge flights, meals, and accommodations. As part of the Summer Solstice Youth Exchange, participants were given exclusive opportunities to learn about their own culture and the cultures of others.

While in Ottawa the youth delegation, made up of representatives from Nunavik, Nunavut, and the NWT, attended the Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival (held June 17-19), where they had the opportunity to participate in various activities, such as the Grand Entrance and the Competition Pow-Wow, and to witness outstanding performances by artists such as Artcirc. "The Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival is an event that truly represents the cultural diversity of our urban Aboriginal community, with full participation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists." (source: <http://www.ottawasummersolstice.ca/>)

The Inuit Youth Financial Literacy Toolkit launched on June 20; youth delegates were in attendance alongside the president of the National Inuit Youth Council, Maatalii Okalik. Youth were able to participate in the inaugural workshop and to benefit from the knowledge and instruction first-hand.







**LP<sup>®</sup>Ab**  
Société Makivik  
Makivik Corporation

















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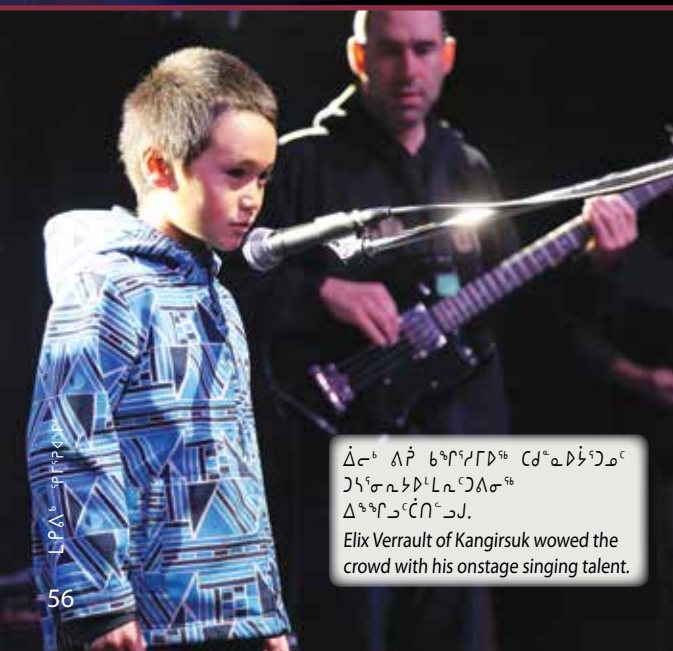
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The Twin Flames (front: Chelsea June and Jaaji Okpik) not only entertained the crowds, they also shared inspirational messages.

© CARSON TAGOONA

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Qatagiit band: (L-R) Allision Thomassie, Sevim Ilgun, Elizabeth Nassak and Matthew Ningiuruvik.



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Elix Verrault of Kangirsuk wowed the crowd with his onstage singing talent.



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(L-R) Jobie Cain, David Angutinguak  
and Moses Cain.



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During the Arctic Char Music  
Festival community feast.





# The Open Door: an oasis in downtown Montreal for Inuit

**About 40% of the shelter's 150 clients are Inuit, a percentage which staff there say is gradually rising.**

**T**he shelter provides basic services including breakfast, a hot lunch, a place to do their laundry or use the computer or telephone, nurse visits, referrals to social and medical services and a work training program.

In 2015, the Open Door served 55,000 meals, distributed more than 1,000 food baskets, washed and dried more than 3,000 loads of laundry and, once again, stayed open during the week of Christmas, when other Montreal drop-in centres were closed.

"It's a little different every day," said Caleb Clark, the Open Door's director. "Most of the action happens in the (church's) sanctuary. The shelter does not discriminate – clients do not need to have identification and they don't have to be sober to use its services."

A couple of years ago, the shelter was only open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday due to major lack of funding.

Annie Pisuktie, who used to work with Inuit women at the nearby Chez Doris women day shelter, connected Clark with Makivik Corporation, which funds a number of services to support homeless Inuit in Montreal. "Annie was seeing so many Inuit men that had nowhere to go on Wednesdays," Clark said.

With the support of Makivik and funds from the Ungaluk Program, the Open Door now stays open five days a week and is also helping to fund an assistant director position at the shelter.

The shelter has a music therapy program, which Clark says is popular with Inuit clients. "Through music, we see a lot of emotion and hardness come out," Clark says. Makivik advisor Sylvie Cornez visits the shelter on a regular basis and has distributed several copies of the Bible requested by Inuit clients.

In the nearby Cabot Square, there are no riches, no new land and no certainty. There are many Inuit who hang around there and in Westmount streets and parks: they are the orphans of the street. They are an underground culture of survivalists, modern-day city hunter-gatherers.

A couple of years ago, the Open Door started a transitional housing project for people who are ready, with constant support in a communal setting, to start changing their lives in a positive manner. This home is run by two dedicated live-in workers and allows up to three men at a time the opportunity to work through their issues and accomplish their set goals while living in a safe, healthy, substance-free environment. They are supported and encouraged in practical ways and spiritually and emotionally as well, through mentoring by live-in-workers, through the assistance of an intervention worker, and through the support of a community of volunteers.

Very recently, the Open Door has received funding from the federal government to place 16 Aboriginal people (mostly Inuit) in apartments. This Housing First project was developed by Dr. Eric Latimer, Professor at McGill University and researcher at Douglas Centre. Dr. Latimer is a board member of the Open Door. This is a major breakthrough that

goes beyond offering basic services. Sylvie Cornez is a member of the committee that will oversee the project.

In 2010, Makivik developed its own strategy and action plan on Inuit homelessness in Montreal. Although Inuit represent 10% of all Aboriginal people in Montreal, they count for 45% of homeless Aboriginal people. This is a major challenge.

The approach taken by Makivik was to develop a set of partnerships with organizations that have knowledge and experience in this field and very importantly are sensitive to Inuit culture, values, language and identity. The Open Door is one of the four partners of Makivik in Montreal. Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ), is another partner, who provides night shelter and culturally adapted social reinsertion services to Inuit. In July 2016, PAQ moved to a brand new building, which allowed the increase of the number of beds and more importantly the addition of 16 transitional rooms designed to prevent homelessness and help with social reinsertion.

The first partnership agreement was signed in April 2011 with the Chez Doris Women Centre, where Inuit women clientele is close to 20%. Makivik provides funds from the Ungaluk Program for the hiring of an Inuit case worker whose responsibilities are to conduct outreach activities to connect with Inuit women, intervene and manage emergency situations to ensure everyone's safety, encourage Inuit women to make use of Chez Doris's services. A year ago, Makivik and Chez Doris started a new project at the Leclerc Detention Centre to meet with incarcerated Inuit women and assist them in making exist plans aimed at creating healthy lifestyles, decreasing recidivism.

The Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM) is the fourth partner of Makivik. Its mission is to promote, develop and enhance the quality of life of the urban Aboriginal community of Montreal including Inuit. In NFCM premises, there is a carving room for Inuit. In collaboration between Makivik and NFCM, exhibits of Inuit carvings by Montreal Inuit called TAKU has taken place in the summers of 2015 and 2016. It is a major success.

All Canadian cities are seeing a major growth of Inuit population. The rapid population influx in Montreal is accompanied by a sharp increase of Inuit in difficulty facing economic and social problems including the justice system. There is presently a steady increase of homeless Inuit. The visibility of Inuit living on the streets downtown feed the commonly held view that Inuit have little or no historical attachment to the city, and perpetually live on the margins of social life.

The population of Inuit will continue to grow in Montreal in the future as long as the conditions in Nunavik do not improve. The housing crisis in Nunavik is the major factor of homelessness that entices Inuit to leave their home community in search of a better life hoping they will find a suitable place to stay.









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(L-R): Saniliayuk Baron (secretary), Ellasie Annanack (coordinator), Mary Imak (janitor), Anita Annanack (counselor) with her son on the porch of Qarmaapik family house.

© MAKIVIK CORPORATION X3



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Susie Morgan, elder of Kangiqsualujjuaq.



MAKIVIK magazine







# RETURN OF THE QAJAQ

BY TOMMY PALLISER

THE TRADITIONAL INUIT QAJAQ, ONCE USED BY MANY INUIT HUNTERS ARE NOT USED AS OFTEN AS THEY WERE IN THE PAST. INUIT INVENTED THE QAJAQ, MAKING THEM OUT OF DRIFTWOOD AND WHALEBONE FRAMES WITH A SEAL SKIN COVER. A HUNTER WOULD BE MEASURED TO ASSESS HOW MANY SEAL SKINS WOULD BE NEEDED TO COVER THE QAJAQ, DEPENDING ON THE HUNTERS' HEIGHT. WHEN THE QAJAQ WAS READY, IT WAS OFTEN USED TO HUNT FOR ANIMALS, WHICH WERE RICH IN FAT.

According to Joseph Nalukturuk, an elder of the community of Inukjuak, "hunters used to mostly go hunting for seals or walrus, animals which were rich in fat to keep them warm in the winter." The fat of the seal or walrus would be used to fuel a *qullik* (stone lamp) to keep them warm in their igloos over the long, cold winter months. The *qajaq* was also used during the winter to hunt for seals in the open sea waters. The late Danielli Inukpuk once told stories of fierce blizzards coming in while they were hunting and some did not make it back and were later found frozen in their *qajaq*. These stories resonate among the elders, telling stories of their past and how life was so challenging back then as they used nothing more than their own inventions, skills and knowledge of the land to survive.



















## Mary Simon appointed Minister's Special Representative

On Friday August 5, 2016 the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development announced the appointment of Mary Simon as the Minister's Special Representative (MSR) responsible for leading engagements and providing advice to the Canadian government on the development of a new "Shared Arctic Leadership Model."

Nunavimmiut know of Mary Simon's distinguished career as a journalist, Inuit leader, former President of Makivik, Inuit Circumpolar Council Chair, Ambassador to the Arctic and subsequently to Denmark, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President, and recipient of numerous awards and honorary university degrees.

This role will help implement the US-Canada Joint Statement on Climate, Energy and Arctic Leadership signed by Prime Minister Trudeau and American President Barak Obama in March 2016.

Mary Simon said in a press statement about the appointment, "I see it as an opportunity to give clear focus on the needs, realities, and deep

opportunities within northern communities when planning the future of the Arctic region."

The Shared Arctic Leadership Model is intended to reflect renewed Inuit-to-Crown and Nation-to-Nation relationships, and will be grounded in a vision of sustainable development of the Arctic region, taking into account engagement with other Arctic partners and informed by the best available evidence and scientific knowledge, traditional and non-traditional alike. This work will include reviewing Arctic policies and strategies and providing advice on potential new conservation goals for the Arctic.

There were six themes listed in the press statement announcing Mary Simon's appointment. They are: a vision for a sustainable Arctic; goals for Arctic conservation; sustainable development; implementation strategies; northern benefits and jobs; and the implementation of terrestrial and marine conservation goals in a manner consistent with land claim agreements. ♦

## 40¢ per litre Gas Subsidy Remains for 2016-2017

Makivik and the Kativik Regional Government agreed to keep the same 40 cents per litre gas subsidy for Inuit Beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) for 2016-2017. The rate remained unchanged from last year, and took effect on September 1, 2016.

On that date the annual price at the pump for Kuujuaq and Nunavik was also announced. The cost of fuel, which has been dropping across Canada, and around the world due to the fall in oil prices, was set at \$1.87 in Kuujuaq (versus \$2.03 the previous year), and \$1.74 in the rest of Nunavik (versus \$1.90 last year).

With the 40¢ fuel subsidy JBNQA beneficiaries will be paying \$1.47 in Kuujuaq, and \$1.34 in the rest of Nunavik by showing their JBNQA card. In comparison, according to Statistics Canada, the average price at the pump in Montreal in July 2016 was \$1.06 per liter, and \$1.27 in July 2015.

The high price of gasoline in Nunavik is due, in part, to additional costs incurred for the transportation of fuel from the South to Nunavik communities and, in part, to additional costs incurred for the financing of annual fuel stocks. Federal and provincial taxes are applied after transportation and financing costs have been added to the price paid for the gasoline by local distributors.

The Gasoline Program is one of six regional cost-of-living measures implemented since 2007. The other measures are the Food and Other Essentials Program, the Airfare Reduction Program, the Household Appliance and Harvesting Equipment Program, the Country Food Community Support Program and the Elders Assistance Program. ♦















The Cirqiniq Program is delivered by the Recreation Department of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) with advisory support provided by Cirque du Monde, the social outreach division of Cirque du Soleil. The Program targets all youth in the region, including those no longer attending school.

Months of practice in their respective communities earned the participants an opportunity to attend the 2016 Cirqiniq summer camp. The weeklong event fostered creativity and broadened the artistic skills of the participants. Integrating elements of traditional Inuit culture, the workshops and training taught a wide range of circus art disciplines, such as juggling, acrobatics, dance, music, clowning and set design. Additional evening activities included advanced skills development, throat singing, poetry creation, prop making, swimming, mural painting, movie making, Brazilian drumming and giant puppet making. The workshops and training were delivered by senior Cirque du Monde instructors in close collaboration with Nunavik junior instructors.

The 2016 Cirqiniq summer camp culminated in a grand finale performance open to all the community's residents. "Showcasing their progress live to two hundred Kangiqsujuaumiut was an excellent test for the camp's participants. It impelled them to strengthen their new learning and grow their self-esteem, and inspired the whole community of Kangiqsujuaq," explained the KRG Cirqiniq Program Coordinator, Willis Tagoona.

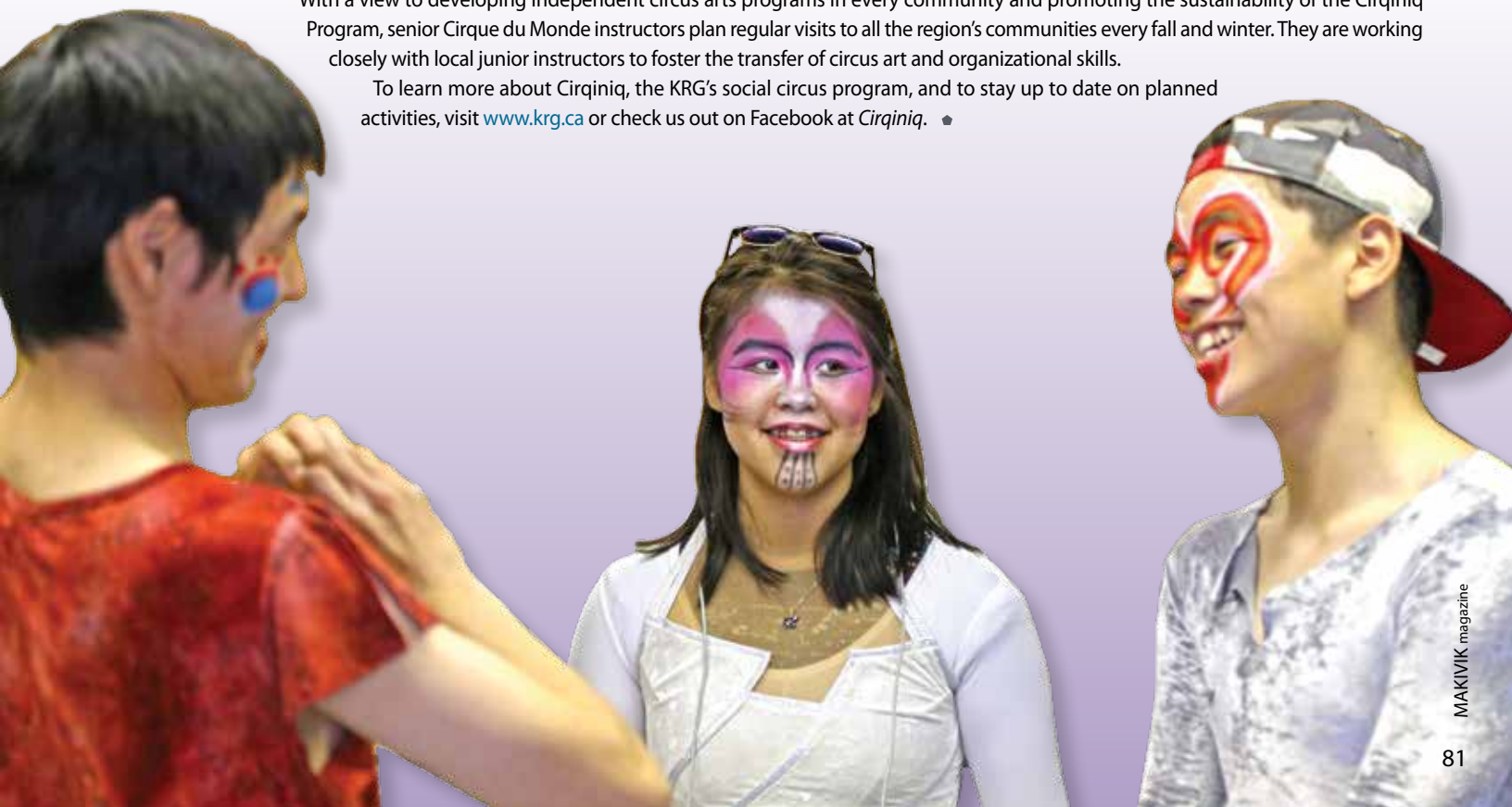
Countless sparkling eyes and shining smiles demonstrated the growing passion for circus arts in the region's communities. The Cirqiniq Program is an innovative approach that provides an invaluable artistic outlet and encourages youth to express themselves in their own way. An important focus of the program is the promotion of awareness of healthy living. Nutritional eating habits, regular physical activity and mental well-being are all covered. Through safe, collaborative and creative activities, the program teaches all these things as well as confidence to express one's feelings.

### **Cirqiniq's Social and Cultural Mission**

*Cirqiniq* is a combination of the English word *circus* and the Inuktitut word *siqiniq* (sun). The Cirqiniq Program gives youth an opportunity to express themselves and explore their boundaries. It appeals to a wide range of interests, teaching different forms of performance and visual arts. By combining Inuit culture, social issues, a sense of belonging, creative expression, perseverance and circus arts, the Cirqiniq Program promotes positive lifestyle choices among participants and meaningful contributions to their communities.

With a view to developing independent circus arts programs in every community and promoting the sustainability of the Cirqiniq Program, senior Cirque du Monde instructors plan regular visits to all the region's communities every fall and winter. They are working closely with local junior instructors to foster the transfer of circus art and organizational skills.

To learn more about Cirqiniq, the KRG's social circus program, and to stay up to date on planned activities, visit [www.krg.ca](http://www.krg.ca) or check us out on Facebook at *Cirqiniq*. ♦





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## The Entrepreneurial Photographer

By Katherine Daphne Calvin

I was born in 1993 and I'm Inuit and French, but I don't speak French whatsoever. I live in Kuujuaaraapik/Whapmagoostui, where the Cree and Inuit people are neighbors in this small split community. This for me is a bonus and I love this community.



© COURTESY OF KATHERINE DAPHNE CALVIN

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Katherine Daphne Calvin







© KATHERINE DAPHNE CALVIN

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Sarah Kitishimik and her daughter Jazlyn had the privilege of being photographed by Katherine Daphne Calvin.

Photography always intrigued me. The experience of using different cameras was a way of discovering that I had something special even though I had other interests and hobbies such as, baking, making things and more. School was never really an issue until I got pregnant twice while attending high school and because of this my dream of pursuing life as a photographer seemed to fade away. But, I never gave up on photography. It was always in my heart.

I made a proposal and kept re-editing it many times before actually submitting it. I needed to be confident with it and only felt content when I was ready to become my own boss. It's not an easy thing to achieve but I was, and still am, ready to do what I've always wanted to do. The process of submitting the proposal was quick and painless but the process of actually getting things started took a little while longer than I expected. After submitting the proposal, I waited about a year to get the green light. I was approved! This meant that I could finally start being really serious about embarking on this new scary journey.

Like many other things in my life, I taught myself how to be a photographer. As a young girl, my interest in photography developed and eventually bloomed into a strong and serious interest after the first time I played with a camera. It all started with the wind-up disposable cameras, film cameras, Polaroid cameras, which processed the images right away and you'd have to dry the picture by shaking it around until the final image settled onto the freshly printed photo.

I then learnt about these tiny digital cameras that that took a limited number of photos. The only way you were able to see the images was to send them out to camera shops to get developed. However, like most teenagers, I was unsure of what I'd do when I got older. One Christmas eve, at midnight (that's when we would always open our presents), I opened up a digital camera. My parents obviously knew I was into photography. I was ecstatic! It was a point and shoot camera, it had a screen and it was perfect! I always used it. My parents must have noticed my increasing passion.

By the time my birthday came around, which is in November, they got me this bigger camera and I loved it. I was always using it as much as I possibly could. I don't really remember the model, but it was similar to the old Samsung digital cameras; bigger than the point-n-shoot but not a DSLR. At that moment, I realized that this passion for photography needed to be my career choice. Although I had other interests like scuba diving, lifeguarding, and other art mediums, my heart always belonged to photography. The first real step into this field of work happened when I travelled to Montreal with my parents. They told me that a late Christmas gift was waiting for me.

They didn't want to tell me what it was, but could not resist. It was the Nikon D5000, the first DSLR camera I ever owned and it came with two different lenses. This is when things got real. I started taking landscape photography and people started showing real interest in my work.



I knew early on in high school that I wanted to be a photographer, but the first real obstacle from achieving this dream came when I got pregnant in high school. Being young and thinking about my child's future, I needed to get this done fast. I really started to think about writing a proposal. As mentioned before, I kept re-writing the proposal until it felt right. I've sought advice from other entrepreneurs, but it only took me so far.

I got help from Ben, the father of my children. He supported me through all this since 2011. As time passed, I felt stuck as if I hit a roadblock from making it a reality. I stopped working



on it, but it was always lingering in my mind. After the birth of my first born, we were expecting another one two years later. I was expecting a second child and the dream of owning my own photography business was fading. It felt impossible to achieve at the time being such a young mother. I couldn't let this stop me so I went back to the proposal and kept redoing it over and over until I had the confidence to submit it.

Even though I never got my high school diploma, I still went ahead to make my dreams come true. Although I dropped out of school, I do hope teenagers reading this make it a priority to get their high school diploma because it does open up many more career paths and opportunities.

Submitting the proposal was quite a long journey. I started doubting myself. I wasn't sure if they liked it or not and that kept me on edge. The waiting game began, so I kept myself busy by doing my own thing. I worked from one job to another, but never found anything that gave me the

spark that photography does. I was then hired to do wedding photography and photo-shoots locally. This was the first real experience I had in the field and it felt wonderful. A year had passed, and after all the waiting, I got the approval. It wasn't the full one hundred percent I had hoped for but it was a start. This also leaves it open to get more future funding and more opportunities.

Since I didn't finish high school, let alone post-secondary to get a sense of knowledge in accounting or being an entrepreneur, I was completely terrified. I was afraid of failing. I started doubting myself again. But being on edge, the fear encouraged and motivated me to keep moving forward.

Remember I'm self-taught in all this. I've learnt to do everything on my own and I've come a long way. I really prefer it that way and although I wouldn't mind going to college someday, that's just not for me at this very moment. Doing this profession seems too perfect for me as an entrepreneur. I will get to travel someday, work any hours of my choosing, create images people love, and I get to explore the outdoors using my camera. I plan to travel all over Nunavik and more to get my name out there. I hope to achieve big, not just for my own personal benefit, but to show inspiration and be a role model to kids out there. Perhaps this will also motivate any other aspiring entrepreneurs. I'm lucky I got the help I received. People who are struggling with anything need to realize that help is out there. All one has to do is ask for it. I'm still trying to get to my destination. My road, my journey, has just begun.

Becoming an entrepreneur was not the direct dream I was aiming for. It was specifically becoming a photographer because that's where my passion and heart belonged and always will. I just realized that I could do something I love and earn a living out of it. I had to work hard and learn everything as I went. I didn't get professional technical help on the technology that comes with the field, but I learned with a little exploration and trial and error. Also, being terrified about this made me stronger and wiser. I wanted to know everything and now realize that the learning will never stop. I'm ready to do what I love.

I haven't finished high school. I was so close on my last year. I would have graduated if I kept at it. I was only half a year away from it. I didn't let this stop me from reaching my photography dreams. My parents were my biggest support system until I met Ben. He helped me get this far and if it weren't for him I don't think I would have made it this far and I'll always be thankful for that. I love what I do and I sincerely hope people try to achieve their dreams as I have. It's not easy but it's all worth it rather than sticking to things I wasn't happy doing. I love photography. ♦



# My Mongolian Trip of a Lifetime

## PART I

My name is Piari Kauki Gentes. I am 19-years-old and I was born in Kuujjuaq where I graduated from Jaanimmarik high school in 2014. I am currently on a “no-return-date-trip” in Asia and I am also planning on getting a job in New Zealand when I run out of money. I first started travelling in 2013 on a school humanitarian trip in Haiti. I really loved it and travelling became my passion.











## Humble heart

By Jeannie Louisa Thomassie

*In previous years, in my line of work I used to monitor research projects in the region of Nunavik. As I was seeking an individual to hire a local person to use the iPad for a survey, this particular person I was seeking was hard to contact by email, fax and by phone. Finally when I tracked him down after attempting to speak to him for over three weeks, he inspired me to write this poem. There were more indirect statements as we spoke on the phone, which made me reflect on our people, I asked myself a question, "Are we forcing ourselves to adapt other lifestyles?"*

© JEANNIE LOUISA THOMASSIE

**B**eing out on the tundra, observing the environment, seeking the creator's dwelling on the soil I walk on. The wind blows from that direction, my human scent blows that way, is there an arctic beast that can smell me? This is where I know myself best, my current position, what happens next is weather permitting.

I bring the food home after a day of hunting; I know my family is secure. I sleep tonight without worry.

More and more my time on the tundra shortens, with the influence of urban culture. My family is no longer in tents and igloos. I have to be educated in the world of academia; I spent less time out in the tundra with my son, less time with my children. They are taught by their school teacher now. My father and mother taught me.

In order to put food on the table, I may have to start working in the office. And then passing resolutions in meetings on a committee I was elected to represent the Inuit organization, this is something our people did not need to do in order to govern them. Now we are seeking ways to preserve our Inuit culture.

The pacing is faster, there is less patience and most people want something in a touch of a button. Lack of patience provokes hot-tempered attitudes to justify themselves with no time for waiting.

There is a call from another community to schedule a workshop on how to use an iPad for a survey. I am new at my office job so I need to be able to meet the demands of my work. They ask for my email address, I don't know how to open one, but I manage to get a social network profile started.

My humble heart does not define me as someone with low self-esteem, it simply means not projecting my voice and respecting those in authority over me. My humbleness determines where my eternal life would take place after my flesh fades away as dust.

Does my humble spirit make me vulnerable against dictators? Does this mean I am a vulnerable person as manipulators approach me? What if that is the only way they know how to approach me. What if being around me would help them learn that being humble is actually a very strong characteristic we develop.

My humble heart is simply my nature, which was passed down to me by my ancestors. It is my generational blessing that cannot be stolen from me. ♦





## Studying Koroc River Arctic charr at Qamanialuk

**N**unavik Parks and the Nunavik Research Centre have partnered together to observe Koroc River Arctic charr in Kuururjuaq National Park.

Sampling was done at Qamanialuk in December 2015 by Kuururjuaq park wardens and a Nunavik Parks biologist during the winter fishing season. From the Arctic charr that were caught by local fishers, length, weight, and sex were recorded and charr heads were also collected. The data were obtained on a voluntary basis. This was done for a total of 200 fish. An additional 30 Arctic charr were fished and frozen whole by park wardens for more detailed contaminant analyses at the Nunavik Research Centre. All analyses from the data collected are currently being performed by the Nunavik Research Centre staff.



© NUNAVIK RESEARCH CENTRE

### What will the data tell us?

- Length, weight and sex – Arctic charr population structure
- Arctic charr head – age and mercury levels for each Arctic charr
- Additional 30 Arctic charr – various contaminant analyses (mercury, selenium, arsenic, cadmium, and lead)

### What are the biological results from the 200 Arctic charr so far?

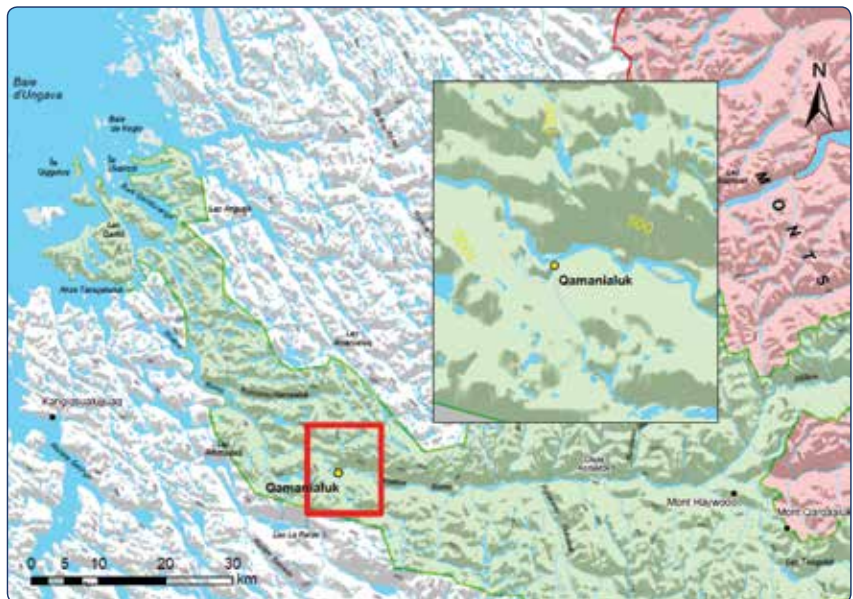
- The smallest charr was 29 cm and the largest charr was 69 cm
- The lightest charr weighed 0.4 pounds and the heaviest charr weighed 7.9 pounds
- The heaviest and largest charr was the same fish
- The youngest charr was three-years-old and the oldest charr was 10-years-old
- On average, the Koroc River Arctic charr were 43 cm long, six-years-old, and weighed 1.8 pounds
- 59% were male and 41% were female

### What are the metal contaminant results in charr?

- Very low concentrations of mercury in 80 charr analyzed (10-30 times below the Health Canada's mercury safety guideline of 0.5 µg/g wet weight for fish consumption)
  - Both cadmium and lead were not detected in the 30 Arctic charr analyzed
  - Total arsenic concentrations determined in the 30 charr are within the normal range reported in marine fish from an uncontaminated environment
  - Arsenic concentrations in the charr are between 7-33 times below the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) guideline of 3.5 µg/g wet weight for consumable fish
- Therefore, the Arctic charr collected from the

Koroc River poses no risk to human health due to metal contaminants. Arctic charr from the Koroc are a fairly good source of selenium – a trace element essential to good health.

All data collected from this work will provide a reference level that will allow us to monitor the health and status of the Arctic charr population and provide valuable information to better manage the population in the river. A report will be made and provided to Kangiqsualujjuaqmiut. ♦



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