

# TAQRALIK

SERVING NUNAVIK INUIT



Ivakkak 2019

Self-Determination Moves Forward  
Federal Apology for TB Mismanagement

Spring 2019

118





**LPĕᐱᐅ**  
Société Makivik  
Makivik Corporation

#### **Makivik Corporation**

Makivik is the ethnic organization mandated to represent and promote the interests of Nunavik. Its membership is composed of the Inuit beneficiaries of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA)*. Makivik's responsibility is to ensure the proper implementation of the political, social, and cultural benefits of the Agreement, and to manage and invest the monetary compensation so as to enable the Inuit to become an integral part of the Northern economy.

#### **Taqralik**

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Cover Photo: Jackusie Amamatuak loosens up for his third day on the Ivakkak trail.  
Photo by Robert Mesher.



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ROBERT MESHER

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# Nunavik Self-Determination Moves Steadily Forward

By Stephen Hendrie

Very swiftly during the first hour of a three-day Nunavik All Organizations meeting on the morning of Tuesday, February 5, 2019, it became clear this gathering would be different.

Photos by Carson Tagoona

Following the introductions of the Inuit leaders around the table, key staff, and the morning prayer, Makivik President Charlie Watt Sr. made the following statement:

"We're going to have a very important meeting which is going to change our lives."

The scope of that comment was fleshed out over the next two days, as presentations were made by the team from Hutchins Legal Inc., Makivik's in-house lawyer, and Makivik negotiators.

Listening to the presentations and discussions inside Kuujuaq's Katittavik Town Hall were more than 55 participants from the following organizations, groups, and invited guests: Makivik Corporation, Avataq Cultural Institute, Anguvigak, Fédération des Coopératives du Nouveau Québec (FCNQ), Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Taqramiut Nipingat Incorporated (TNI), Qarjuit Youth Council, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (KI), Nunalitugait Ikajuqatigiittut, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Service (NRBHSS), Nunavik Elders, Saturviit, Isuarsivik Board, and the Nunavik Landholding Corporation Association (NLHCA).

Five of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA)* signatories were also at the meeting, in addition to Charlie Watt Sr.: Charlie Arngak, Peter Inukpuk, Zebedee Nungak, Putulik Papigatuk, and Sarollie Weetaluktuk. Johnny Peters was an invited guest.

Given the history of the *JBNQA* negotiations in the mid 1970s, *JBNQA* signatory Zebedee Nungak spoke out early to ensure that no

organization was missing. The meeting was also broadcast over TNI Radio for the entire Nunavik region to hear.

What Inuit heard was remarkable. On the first day, lawyer Peter Hutchins spent more than two hours detailing historical and contemporary Canadian and international legal developments since the signing of the *JBNQA*.

These included the repatriation of Canada's Constitution in 1982, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms with Section 35 protecting Aboriginal Rights, and numerous Supreme Court decisions advancing the human rights of Indigenous Peoples of Canada. On the international level he highlighted the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007, which Canada finally signed on to in 2016.

Canada also held the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in the mid 1990s, and more recently the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, of which Canada agreed to adopt all 94 recommendations.

Hutchins argued that based on these collective developments over the decades, Nunavik Inuit are in a very strong position moving forward in negotiating self-determination with the Crown.

He urged Nunavik Inuit to "Just do it! Set up your government, set up your laws, and control over your lands." He noted that Indigenous groups that succeeded have taken this approach. "It takes courage."





Zebedee Nungak spoke about the need to heal the divisions caused by the JBNQA. "I think that should be dealt with first. It will be very helpful in our discussions on self-determination," he said.

He also provided an opinion that the extinguishment clause contained in the JBNQA was an attack on human rights. "You cannot be asked to surrender your human rights. In this project to develop self-determination in Nunavik, the battle will be over the extinguishment clause."

In response to this, Nungak stated, "I'm very happy we can contest the extinguishment clause because it was the most painful aspect of the JBNQA."

Two other members of the legal team, Robin Campbell and Katie Tucker, made presentations on the negotiation strategy with the federal government, and the draft Nunavik Constitution.

Campbell outlined that fact that self-determination is recognized as the highest human rights instrument at the international level. It is recognized in the UNDRIP. The legal team is taking the approach that Nunavik Inuit have these rights, and we are exercising them.

Tucker made a presentation on the typical elements to be found in a constitution, as well as the common structures of government.



Katie Tucker, a member of the legal team from Hutchins Legal Inc., gave a presentation on the typical elements to be found in a constitution, as well as the common structures of government. A draft Nunavik Constitution was included in the documents to all participants.



A draft Nunavik Constitution was included in the documents to all participants. As the Nunavik Government would be an ethnic government, it would be based on Inuit values, principles and customs. These would be expressed in various places in the Constitution such as the Preamble, Objectives, Citizenship, and Rights and Freedoms. Nunavik Inuit would also be protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and Quebec's Charter.

"The Constitution is an assertion of nationhood," said Tucker. "It's the supreme law. It should be inspirational. As Zebedee said, 'it should make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up!' so, no pressure."

Makivik's in-house lawyer François Dorval, described the work done since the May 2018 All Organizations Meeting. At that time the "2018 Nunavik Declaration" was passed providing Makivik with the mandate to engage with the Government of Canada on self-determination.

Dorval reported that a letter was sent to the federal government in August 2018, and it was replied to in October 2018. The government agreed to set up a negotiating table on Nunavik self-determination. Meetings were held in November 2018 and a Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed.

The main objective of the draft MOU covers the governance of the Inuit of Nunavik, updating the treaty relationship resulting from the *JBNQA* and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA)* via amendments through the self-determination process. The draft MOU also addresses areas such as third parties, notably Quebec, Nunavut, and the Crees.

The presentation by the legal team prompted considerable discussion. This is a small sample of the comments made.

*JBNQA* signatory Sarollie Weetaluktuk said, "In 1912 our land was just given away! We were not even consulted. Today, we need to stand up. Look at the Greenlanders. They have their own economy. That's what we want to see in the future."

Sarah Aloupa, from the Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik stated, "The government says they own the land, but I'd like to bring them on the land in Nunavik to see if they can survive. I want to make sure we have complete use of our lands, and complete use of our oceans." This brought a round of applause.

The discussion raised issues about aspects of the *JBNQA* that were lacking. Anthony Ittoshat, from Kuujjuaraapik noted, "The land issue is not settled in Kuujjuaraapik. Inuit rights south of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel are not even recognized. We'd like that to be settled."

Zebedee Nungak spoke on the need to engage in healing resulting from the divisions caused by the *JBNQA*. "I think that should be dealt with first. It will be very helpful in our discussions on self-determination."

The feeling of Nunavik being run by outsiders was pervasive during the meeting. Charlie Watt Sr. said, "We need to make our own decisions. Until we get our government going and run our own affairs things are not going to change. There's a brick wall blocking us. We have to break down the wall. This project has to be recognized internationally. We have to rise up as Inuit!"

There were also observers coming in to the meeting to listen, and they were given opportunities to speak. Elder Abellie Napartuk

|| The government says they own the land, but I'd like to bring them on the land in Nunavik to see if they can survive. I want to make sure we have complete use of our lands, and complete use of our oceans. ||

— Sarah Aloupa







*JBNQA signatory Sarollie Weetaluktuk said, "In 1912 our land was just given away! We were not even consulted. Today, we need to stand up. Look at the Greenlanders. They have their own economy. That's what we want to see in the future."*

brought up a point about the huge Abitibi riding and how he felt Nunavik is left aside after elections. "It's very difficult to be represented in the Abitibi riding because of our low population. We need to have a seat in the Quebec assembly. It should be separate from the Abitibi region. It should be part of the negotiations."

Annie Popert, spoke late on the afternoon of the second day. "I am in favour of the presentation by Peter Hutchins. Yesterday, our strength and power was there! I think we can come up with something very strong. I don't want you to rush this project."

Makivik's newly elected executives were at this meeting, both Vice-President of Economic Development Maggie Emudluk, and Corporate Secretary Rita Novalinga.

Emudluk said, "I know the work we are planning will fit like a glove when we're done with it."

Rita Novalinga commented, "I'm very grateful to be part of this. Greenland has a university. If we want to strengthen Inuktitut, let's look at the Greenland model. As Inuit we have the most knowledge about the Arctic."

Many spoke in support of Inuit youth being involved in the process. Youth were represented by the Qarjuut Youth Council. Aleashia Echalook said, "Thank you for respecting the youth. These documents are very interesting to read, especially the draft Constitution. The transition period will be very important."

There was plenty of humour at the meeting. Nungak joked during the discussion on Nunavik's Constitution that there should be a \$25 fine whenever someone uses English words while speaking Inuktitut. He frequently intervened to assess instant \$50 or \$75 or \$150 fines on speakers who broke the rule, to the delight of participants and onlookers.

There were also tears. Bringing up the deep emotional wounds associated with the negotiations related to the *JBNQA* brought back painful memories. Discussions on the final day also brought heartfelt testimonials about abusive social situations, openly shared with everyone present, and listeners across Nunavik.

In the closing hour of the meeting on February 7, participants passed a resolution giving Makivik the mandate to appoint members of a "Nunavik Constitution Task Force," which will prepare a draft constitution that reflects Nunavik Inuit values, identity, culture and language for an Indigenous government in Nunavik.

The next Nunavik All Organization Meeting is expected in the fall of 2019.



# PM Apologizes for Mismanagement of TB in the Arctic

By Miriam Dewar

**“To Inuit, and the families and communities of Inuit Nunangat who were wronged by the federal government’s management of the tuberculosis epidemic – we are sorry.”**

— *The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada*

While Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in Iqaluit at the beginning of March to deliver an official apology to Inuit on behalf of the federal government for its management of tuberculosis in the Arctic, delegations from across Inuit Nunangat were there, too, sharing stories and histories, some for the first time, about what happened and its effects.

The Frobisher Inn in Iqaluit buzzed with activity and chatter in the lead up to the apology, as people from Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut and the Inuvialuit region ate meals together and discovered previously unknown connections. The prevailing feeling

was more one of relief than celebration however, because of the reason for the gathering.

Many Inuit died during the TB epidemic from the 1940s to the 1960s after being taken from their communities, screened without consent, and sent for treatment at sanatoriums in the south. Many of those who were able to return had lost their language. Families of those who passed away were left not knowing what happened to them, or where they were buried. Finally, this mistreatment was being officially acknowledged.



The Nunavik delegation, from left to right: Lizzie Epoo York, Kuujjuaq, (elder and ceremony qulliq caregiver); Mary Angiyu, Puvirnituq; Nancy White, Makivik; Louisa Oovault, Quataq; Elena Labranche, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services; Eva Lapage, health support worker; Dora Oweetaluktuk, Inukjuak; Lali Annahatak Bentley, Kangirsuk; Lizzie Putulik, Kangirsuk; Annie Kokiapik, Inukjuak; Margaret Oweetaluktuk, Inukjuak; behind, Mylène Larivière, Makivik. Absent from the photo, Makivik Treasurer Andy Pirti.

MIRIAM DEWAR

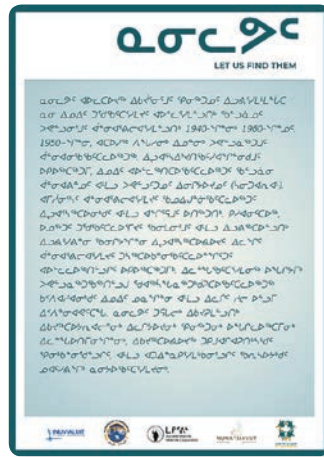


In his speech to the packed room in Iqaluit, the Prime Minister acknowledged the pain and trauma the federal government's actions had and the intergenerational impact still being felt in Nunangat communities.



"We apologize to those who were forced to leave, those left behind, the families without knowledge of the fate of their loved ones, and the communities that continue to feel the impacts today." —The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada





As part of the official apology, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also announced the Nanilavut (Let's Find Them) Initiative. Through this project, he explained, people will have access to information about what happened to their family members, and the government is providing funding for the four regional land claim organizations to support travel for some families who have found where their loved ones are buried. The government is also providing money to mark graves, create plaques and supporting community-led events, memorials, and public education campaigns.

Lizzie Putulik sat in an Iqaluit hotel room the night before the apology, poring over an issue of *Makivik Magazine* from 2003.

"In this picture we see little Maggie," she said, pointing to a black and white image of a young girl lying on her stomach and reading in bed, a huge smile on her face. "I think it's her first year in Toronto."

Putulik, part of the Nunavik delegation, brought the cherished magazine with her from Kangirsuk because it contains an article written by her cousin Minnie Grey, detailing the process the women went through to find their aunt, Maggie Qaki Annahatak.

In September 1943, eight-year-old Maggie travelled from Kangirsuk by boat with her family to Kuujuaq before being taken to Montreal by a US Armed Forces airplane and ultimately to Toronto for TB treatment.

The family were finally told by Indian Affairs that Maggie would be staying longer in the south. Months later, the HBC manager in Kangirsuk received word that she was doing better, going to school, and recovering well. But the family couldn't visit. There was no scheduled airline service in Nunavik in 1944.

Unbeknownst to her family, after two years in Toronto, Maggie had been taken in by a doctor living in Maxville, Ontario, and grew up there. She studied to become a nurse's aide, and even worked with Inuit at the sanatorium in Hamilton. There is a picture in the collection of Maggie standing with her niece, Lali Annahatak Bentley, Putulik's cousin, who had been sent to the hospital for an eye condition. Bentley was also a member of the Nunavik delegation in Iqaluit, and while doesn't remember meeting Maggie, recalled that seeing the photo while she still had sight, was extremely comforting.

When Maggie was about 24 years old, she came home for a couple of months, but it was too hard on her body because of the damage she had sustained from her experience with TB, and she had to return south. That damage resulted in her dying while in surgery for TB-related complications at 29.

Putulik remembers being about 8 or 9 herself when her grandmother received a letter translated to Inuktitut, which had been written by Dr. Mutch, the man who took Maggie in, informing her of Maggie's death. Later, Putulik was told of the death of her mother's sister.



Lizzie Putulik holds the magazine detailing the process she and her cousin Minnie Grey went through to find the resting place of their aunt sent south for TB treatment in 1943.



Makivik's Andy Pirti and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meet after the official apology in Iqaluit.





© PMO/ADAM SCOTTIE

*Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets elders Lizzie Epoo York of Kuujuaq and Alacie Joamie of Iqaluit after delivering an official apology to Inuit on behalf of the federal government for its management of tuberculosis in the Arctic in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

"Back then I didn't know anything about TB. Only in 2002 Minnie and I started thinking, 'we should look for her grave. It must be somewhere.'"

And the search began. When Maggie's belongings were returned to her mother, they included a pile of black and white photos. Many of them had place names written on the back, clues for Putulik and Grey to follow. Grey saw the name Maxville appearing many times on the photos and so after an Internet search, she phoned the small community's church and discovered that she was, indeed, buried there.

Along with their aunt and two uncles, the women travelled to Maxville, and lay fresh flowers on Maggie's grave. The trip also gave them the opportunity to meet others touched by Maggie's life, including her step-sister and former teacher, who helped them fill out memories of Maggie and who she was.

But not all families of TB patients are able to put the pieces of the puzzle together. Part of the Prime Minister's apology was the announcement of the Nanilavut Initiative, a program which was developed in partnership with Inuit, to help families and communities heal. The program aims to help families find information on loved ones sent away during the epidemic and will also provide other

support, including mental health assistance and commemoration activities.

Putulik believes the apology and the Nanilavut Initiative are a step in the right direction for survivors and families looking for loved ones.

"It means a lot. Because during that time Minnie and I were looking for Maggie's grave, where she was, we didn't know who to turn to," she said. The Department of Indian Affairs had ceased to be and the Nunavik Health Board and Kativik Regional Government had taken over assisting Inuit.

"I think they were the ones, Indian Affairs, they were the ones who were responsible, and they never told us," she said. "It's a good thing Maggie had pictures from Maxville. She left the clues."

In his speech to the packed room in Iqaluit, the Prime Minister acknowledged the pain and trauma the federal government's actions had and the intergenerational impact still being felt in Nunangat communities.

The apology and the Nanilavut Initiative are the result of a collaborative effort between the Government of Canada, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.



# Arctic Agriculture in Kuujjuaq

By Stephen Hendrie

The planets were definitely aligned when Makivik discovered “The Growcer” through a CBC North online news article in early 2018. The story was about a shipping container being used to grow fresh vegetables in Churchill, Manitoba. Makivik’s Economic Development Department had been looking at getting into greenhouses or hydroponic growing systems for the Arctic. They saw it as a way to provide economic development, lower the cost of food, and ensure fresh produce on Nunavik store shelves.

During the Nunavik Mining Symposium held in Kuujjuaq in April 2018, Branathan Tharmarajah from The Growcer, an Ottawa based start-up company, made a presentation on their hydroponics growing system. Makivik’s Economic Development Department staff met with him and an official from Société du Plan Nord (SPN). It was a win-win-win arrangement, as Plan Nord would provide 100% of the funding (\$350,000), Makivik would manage the project, and Kuujjuaq’s Newwîq’vi general store would operate the unit.



Hydroponics is a subset of hydroculture, which is a method of growing plants without soil by using mineral nutrient solutions in a water solvent.

As it turns out, The Growcer has a northern soul. It’s the brainchild of University of Ottawa business students Corey Ellis and Alida Burke. They were working in Iqaluit, Nunavut, during their school breaks from 2016 to 2017 on projects related to providing nutritional food to students and the community. The concept for their small enterprise started from there.





The Growcer Co-Founder Corey Ellis with Branathan Tharmarajah

STEPHEN HENDRIE

**The \$350,000 funding from Société du Plan Nord includes:**

\$240,000	Growcer Container, and shipping
\$35,000	Heating oil system
\$25,000	Land preparation, and training
\$30,000	Contingency fund
\$20,000	Food to donate

The Growcer container in Kuujjuaq.

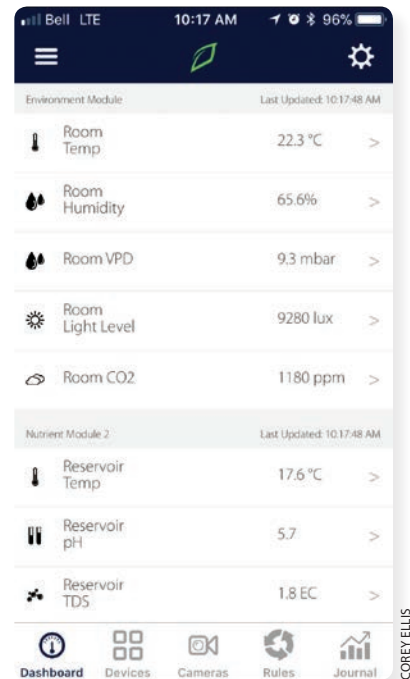


TAORALIK  
CHARLIE GORDON





CHARLIE GORDON



COREY ELLIS

The first harvest.

Smartphone app showing remote monitoring of a Growcer Container.

Co-Founder Ellis says they were members of an international student organization called Enactus, which supports the idea that you can create businesses that also have a social purpose beyond the bottom line.

"The nice thing that we designed was something that can be shipped up in one container. Everything you need is inside, including materials for a year. You just plug it in as soon as it shows up."

Ellis acknowledged that diet and behavioural change around nutrition happens over generations. He says, "If we can start with availability and always have a supply that's fresh and edible, and generally affordable, then you can start working on the other pieces, like nutrition and getting the food in the hands of people who actually need it."

The Growcer really took off after appearing on *Dragon's Den* on CBC TV. Ellis and Burke started their pitch asking the Dragons if they would pay \$6 for a head of lettuce, \$7 for bok choy, or \$9 a kilogram for tomatoes? "No way!" they said. It was a great way to let them know what more than 300 northern Canadian communities pay for vegetables and talk about the issue of food insecurity.

Ellis said, "One Growcer container will feed 110 people every day for a year." They had four Dragons bidding to invest. In the end they took a deal for \$250,000 from Arlene Dickinson and Lane Merrifield for 30% of the company.

Makivik was impressed with the concept, and the fact it was working in Churchill, Manitoba, as well as six remote communities in



CBCTV X2

The Growcer Co-Founders Corey Ellis and Alida Burke on CBC's *Dragon's Den*.







James Dumont setting up the container in the fall of 2018.

James Dumont harvesting lettuce.

Alaska. The unit for Newwiq'vi was shipped up in September 2018, and training took place soon afterwards.

Nathan Cohen-Fournier from Makivik's Economic Development Department, said three people were trained on the system, as well as Makivik's maintenance person in Kuujuaq to make sure if anything breaks down it can be fixed. He said the goal was to train the Newwiq'vi employees so they can in turn train others in the community.

Tharmarajah from The Growcer returned to Kuujuaq to help train the Newwiq'vi workers.

"When the container arrives, it takes about a day to set it up," he said. "Then we run through the system with the community partner, teach them how to use it, help them harvest, and demonstrate the seeding procedure."

The unit is high tech. It can be remotely monitored using a smartphone app. Ellis in Ottawa demonstrated the information instantly available to him from the unit in Kuujuaq. It includes room temperature, humidity, and light level. He also gets readings for the reservoir temperature and the pH level of the reservoir.

To start with, the unit in Kuujuaq planted kale, Boston lettuce, qumulik (mountain sorrel), bok choy, and basil. James Dumont ran the unit with some help from Marc-Antoine Fortin-Robitaille from SPN. Dumont said, "The growing went well. The pH level was down at the start, so we ordered some 'pH Plus' and we finally got the pH perfect, and then the plants were growing perfectly."

On February 28, 2019 Newwiq'vi held a promotional day to raise awareness of their first harvest. They gave away samples in the store and Dumont was able to see for the first time how customers reacted to the vegetables he grew over the past few months. "It's pretty exciting to have something like this," he said. "People were kind of hesitating because it was free, and they're not used to getting free stuff from the

store." Fortin-Robitaille was also there and handed out some recipes for kale chips.

Makivik's Economic Development Department sees this as a year-long pilot project. Cohen-Fournier says, "We have to cover the costs of operating the container, the labour and fixed cost, the heating and the lights, and all of the raw materials. Secondly is there a demand for these products in the community? And third, are we able to operate it with local labour?"

As for the future, newly elected Makivik Vice-President of Economic Development Maggie Emudluk says, "We have to take it one step at a time, carefully, to make sure the system works well in Kuujuaq before expanding it to other communities in Nunavik. The first harvest looks very good."

Checking out the free samples at Newwiq'vi.

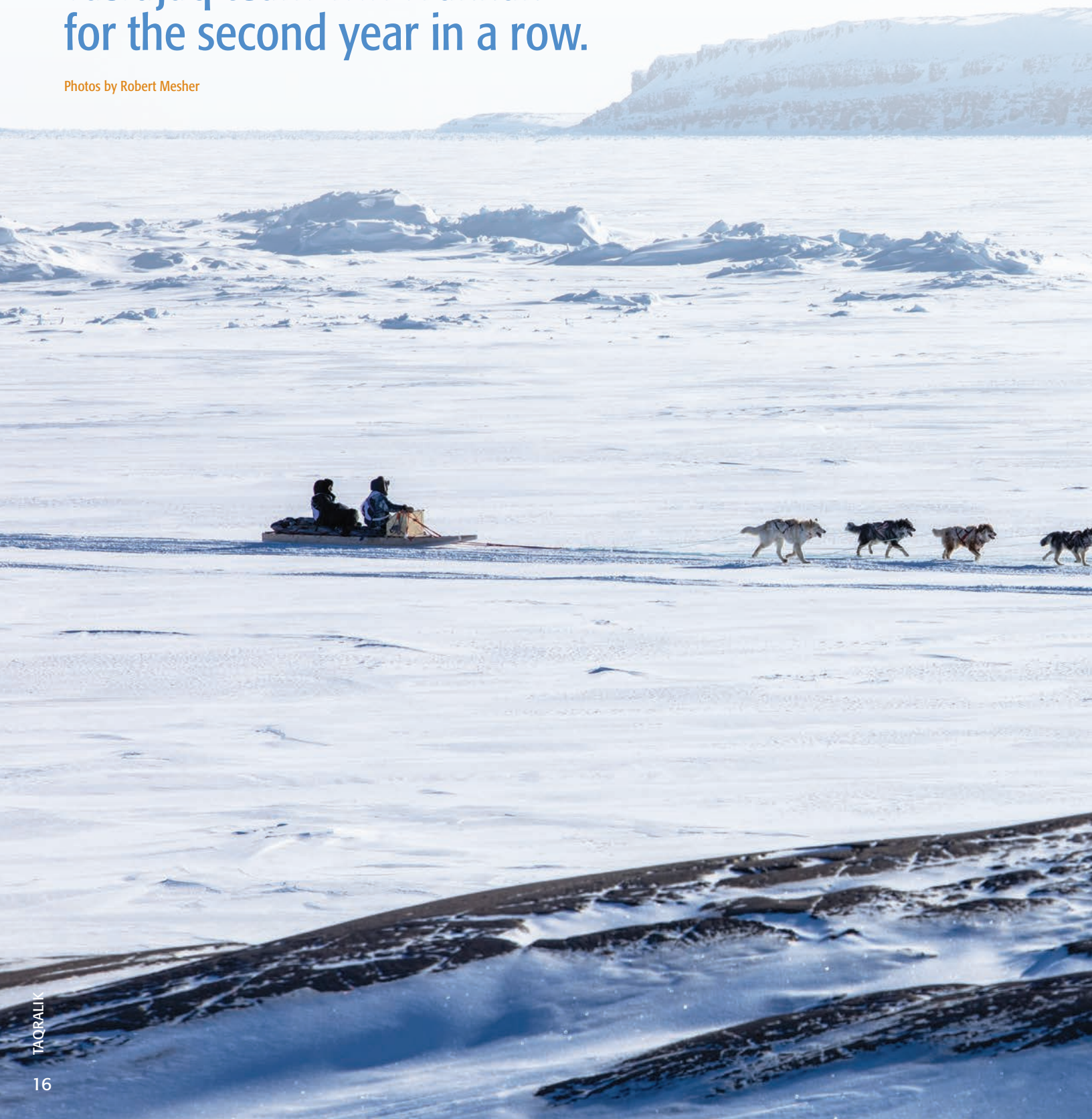




# FAMILIAR FACES DOMINATE IVAKKAK

Tasiujaq team win Ivakkak  
for the second year in a row.

Photos by Robert Mesher





Willie Cain Jr. and Ken Labbe finished the 2019 Ivakkak dogsled race with a time of 57:41:21, coming in just ahead of Aisa Surusilak and Carlos Surusilak from Puvirnituk, who had a time of 59:43:20. Third place went to Peter Boy Ittukallak and Eric Ittukallak from Puvirnituk who clocked in with a finishing time of 63:14:11. Cain Jr. and Labbe also won last year's race, which spanned between Tasiujaq and Kangiqsujuaq.

Beginning earlier in the season and farther south than ever in its 18-year history, Nunavik's 2019 Ivakkak began in Chisasibi on February 26 and had mushers guiding their dogs north through Kuujjuarapik and Umiujaq before racing to the finish line in Inukjuak on March 10.

Nine teams registered for the race, but two were not able to finish. Johnny May Jr. and his partner Jacob Cain Snowball decided to pull out of the event in Kuujjuarapik because three dogs were injured earlier in the race, and they wanted to avoid further injury and exhaustion to the rest of the team. Matthew Arngak and his partner Michael Qisiq also had canine problems and had to have their dog team transported to Inukjuak by skidoo.

Each community along the route hosted to activities to celebrate the mushers, including events and feasts in Chisasibi, Kuujjuarapik, Umiujaq, and the final community of Inukjuak.

This year Makivik's race was coordinated by Akinisie Sivuarapik, Nathan Cohen-Fournier and Samantha David. Juani Beaulne was the Trail Coordinator and Johnny Oovaut was the Race Marshal. Billy Palliser and Alec Nivaxie were officials, Charlie Kumarluk and Charlie Elijassiapik were scouts, while Davide Mina, Arthur Elijassiapik, Johnny Kasudluak, Jaji Ituk Nartairaaluk, and Billy Brian Kasudluak were support crew. Caroline Fortin was this year's veterinarian, supported by vet assistant Adamie Novalinga, then Samson Tooktoo, then James Anowalk.

The first Ivakkak race was organized by Makivik in 2001 to help promote the Inuit tradition of dog sledding in Nunavik. This year, Makivik invested more than \$500,000 in the race, and more than \$300,000 was raised from sponsors.







Nine teams registered for the 2019 Ivakkak race: Team 1 – Jani-Marik Beaulne and Peter Novalinga, Puvirnituk; Team 2 – Juani Uqaituk and Jackusie Amamatuak, Puvirnituk; Team 3 – Sandy Jaaka Annahatak and Elijah Qisiq, Kangiqsujuak; Team 4 – Johnny May Jr. and Jacob Cain Snowball, Kuujuaq; Team 5 – Aisa Surusilak and Carlos Surusilak, Puvirnituk; Team 6 – Matthew Arngak and Michael Qisiq, Kangiqsujuak; Team 7 – Peter Boy Ittukallak and Eric Ittukallak, Puvirnituk; Team 8 – Aloupa Kauki and Nicolas Watt, Kuujuaq; Team 9 – Willie Cain Jr. and Ken Labbe, Tasiujaq.

Willie Cain Jr. and Ken Labbe from Tasiujaq celebrate their first-place arrival at the finish line. ►

▼  
Air Inuit brought the dogs in on charters with specially built containers for transporting husky teams.









# AIR INUIT

## Air Inuit Propwash – Spring 2019

Photos: ©Air Inuit



### HISTORY IN THE MAKING

#### Farewell to the HS748 aircraft type

Hawker Siddeley 748 serial number 1749 known as C-FDOX (DOX) at Air Inuit was manufactured in October of 1977. In total, around 400 HS748 aircrafts were officially produced during the time of production – up to 1988. DOX arrived at Air Inuit on January 13, 1989 with 5,398 hours (6,776 cycles) and it has served Air Inuit in

several different missions by flying an approximate 37,826 hours (33,678 cycles) over the past 30 years. DOX has left Air Inuit officially on March 27, 2019 by operating its last flight segment in Air Inuit colours from the La Grande base to Bar River airport.

We therefore take this opportunity to thank the aircraft for its services as well as all Air Inuit staff that operated it and we encourage all employees, passengers and owners to remember the past 30 years of history contributed by the HS748 aircraft.





## The Dash8-300 Freighter with Large Freight Door

As the HS748 retires, Air Inuit has been proactive over the past few years in creating the world's first Dash8-300 freighter with a Large Freight Door. This innovation created by Nunavik for Nunavik should be operational near the end of Quarter 3 of 2019 pending Transport Canada's approval. This will, once again, confirm Air Inuit as a leader of the industry – something to be proud of!



▲ Future door on the Dash8-300 freighter.

Work in progress on the large freight door. ►



## FIELD TRIP

### Air Inuit's President Tours the Communities

During the weeks of February 25 and March 4, 2019, President of Air Inuit Pita Aatami, accompanied by Yves Pelletier, Director of Ground Operations, and by the northern employee committee, completed a Nunavik-wide (including Chisasibi) tour to get feedback from all communities on Air Inuit's performance. In almost every community, Aatami hosted a question and answer period over the local FM stations, met with the CNV representatives, customers and owners in the different communities, and updated the population on Air Inuit's

progress and projects. This was, once again, a great forum to receive constructive suggestions from our owners and customers.

During the field trip, Air Inuit's Kuujuaapik, Inukjuak and Salluit warehouses were inaugurated.

Inukjuak



Salluit



Kuujuaapik





# GREEN CORNER

## Non-toxic Alternatives to Lead Encouraged

Lead is a naturally occurring heavy metal which is highly abundant on Earth and is easy and inexpensive to mine. Lead's properties like its softness, density and malleability, as well as its low reactivity and melting point, have resulted in its widespread use since ancient times. The downside to lead is that it is a neurotoxin which accumulates in the soft tissues and bones of animals and people and can irreversibly damage the nervous system and cause blood, as well as developmental disorders. Further information on lead and human health can be found on the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services website at: <https://nrbhss.ca/en/nrbhss/public-health/environmental-health#lead>.

Today, lead is still widely used in the manufacturing of construction materials, batteries, specialized paints, bullets, lead shot and a wide variety of fishing tackle, including sinkers and jigs. The problems associated with using lead bullets and shot are generally well known but did you also know that in Canada we buy over 500 tonnes of lead sinkers and jigs each year? Most of these are to replace the millions lost in our lakes and rivers each fishing season. Water birds like ducks, geese, swans and loons can accidentally ingest lead sinkers and jigs when they feed. In fact, studies have shown that lethal concentrations of lead have been found in the systems of some water birds due to ingesting lost or discarded fishing tackle which get ground up in their gizzards. Furthermore, for the birds that survive, the concentrations of lead in their systems are passed on to their offspring and can cause a whole host of developmental defects.

With this in mind, non-toxic alternatives to lead fishing tackle are commonly available on the Canadian market and include materials such as tin, glass, bismuth, antimony, steel, brass, tungsten, terpene resin putty and polypropylene. These days more and more anglers

are opting for fishing tackle made from these materials, and as a result they are becoming easier to find. The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee would like to encourage the wide-spread use of fishing tackle made of these materials and that Nunavik retailers do their part by making fishing tackle made from lead alternatives available to the public.

*Source: Study to Gather Use Pattern Information on Lead Sinkers and Jigs and their Non-Lead Alternatives in Canada, Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee*



© ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/JENNIFER MIRANDA

**Studies have shown that lethal concentrations of lead have been found in the systems of some water birds due to the ingestion of lost or discarded fishing tackle.**

## COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Soon it will be time again for annual community cleanups throughout Nunavik. This is a great opportunity for Nunavimmiut, both young and old to take pride in their community. The KEAC would like to take this opportunity to honour those who make an extra effort to keep their community beautiful all year round.

Sandy Gordon, Kuujjuaq  
Uttuqie Arnaituk, Kangiqsujuaq  
And many others in Nunavik!

These superstar volunteers will be entered to win a pair of tickets from Air Inuit. And you can win too! Have someone nominate you by sending us your name and the story of how you help keep your community clean to [keac-ccek@krg.ca](mailto:keac-ccek@krg.ca). Make a difference and win big!





## A Time of Growth and Rebirth



*First Air partnered with Canada Goose as they launched Project Atigi in February. Winifred Nunagak from Kangirsuk, and Jennifer Munick and Martha Munick from Kuujuaq, were three of 14 seamstresses from across Inuit Nunangat selected to handcraft one-of-a-kind parkas.*

Spring, a time of growth and rebirth is on the horizon and it's easy to draw a parallel between spring and the merger between First Air and Canadian North. The merger will bring a growth of benefits and synergies between both airlines that will allow us to build a strong and sustainable airline dedicated to serving the North.

As much as the merger is top of mind for all of us, we remain firmly committed to investing in the communities we serve. As such, we are investing in bringing partnerships, sponsorships and events that bring value to the communities while ensuring that they are in perfect balance with the unique nature of the Inuit culture.

This past February we were incredibly honoured to partner with Canada Goose as they launched Project Atigi. The project saw 14 seamstresses from Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, Nunavut and Inuvialuit handcraft one-of-a-kind parkas showcasing true Inuit culture. The designs were unveiled at an event in New York City. The project celebrates the expertise and the rich heritage of the North. It was truly a pleasure for us to be able to be involved in showcasing the talent and culture of the North in this way. Proceeds from the sale of this unique collection of parkas will go to the communities through Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

High fashion isn't the only recent project we've been involved with. On February 12, we were proud to be a lead sponsor of the Arctic Inspiration Prize, held this year in Whitehorse, Yukon. We have been partners of the Arctic Inspiration Prize since its inception. The prize, which recognizes innovation, excellence and teamwork for issues that affect the Arctic and its people, has provided tremendous benefits to the communities. We would like to send heartfelt congratulations to all nominees and recipients of this year's awards.

Sports are an important element of life in the North, and we are always happy to be involved with sports teams of Northern communities whether they are attending tournaments, the Arctic Winter Games, or the recently completed Canada Games. It brings a sense of pride to the families and friends of the athletes participating and we feel part of the team as we cheer them on. We would like to send special congratulations to the Iqaluit Blizzard Novices team (ages 7-8) that brought back the gold medal from their recent tournament in Ottawa. It is moments like these that bring pride to an entire community!



## The Quebec Firearms Registration Act

On January 29, 2019, the Quebec Firearms Registration Act (CQLR, c. I-0.01) came into effect. It calls for the registering of all non-restricted firearms present on Quebec territory, i.e. of all “shoulder arms” or rifles, shotguns and long guns. All registrations are free of charge. The responsibility for registering lies in the hands of the firearm owner and applies to all firearms, even those that were previously registered with the former Canadian gun registry. More detailed information on the registry and registration forms, in their online or printed formats, can be found at the Registration of Firearms Service or SIAF ([www.siaf.gouv.qc.ca/accueil.html?L=1](http://www.siaf.gouv.qc.ca/accueil.html?L=1)). You can apply online or download and mail the forms. For more information, please contact the SIAF by email at [info@siaf.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:info@siaf.gouv.qc.ca), or by phone 1-888-335-9997 (toll free). The main components of the newly established process are summarized here to help with your application.

The Quebec Act differs in scope and objective from Canada’s Firearms Act, under which a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) is your authorization to possess or acquire firearms or ammunitions. The PAL is renewable every five years and as a general rule, applicants must have passed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course. It qualifies the holder of the PAL as being fit to possess or acquire firearms or ammunitions and regulate the safety, training and safe storage aspects.

The Quebec Firearms Registration Act was established to legislate the process for registering firearms, while enabling public authorities, such as peace officers, to acquire supportive knowledge on the presence and location of firearms.

It acts upon the piece of equipment that is the firearm, without qualifying the owner. Some exemptions apply depending on such pieces of equipment, notably antique firearms manufactured before 1898, signaling and distress devices, animal control-designed shooting devices, and low velocity-barreled weapons.

Non-restricted firearms or shoulder arms account for roughly 95% of the firearms found in Quebec. Other types of firearms, i.e. prohibited firearms and restricted firearms, are not covered by the Quebec Act, but are subject to the federal registration system.

You will need to collect some information to register your firearms such as:

- The brand
- The model
- The length of the barrel
- The mechanism
- The type
- The calibre
- The serial number of the firearm or:
  - If the firearm does not have a serial number, you can use any other number affixed to or placed on the firearm for the purpose of identifying it, e.g. the number of the self-adhesive label provided by the federal government at the time of the Canadian firearms registry and still affixed to the firearm or:
  - If the firearm has already been registered, its unique firearm number (UFAN)
- The place where the firearm is kept, which does not need to have a precise municipal address, and geolocation coordinates can be provided as well as information on the closest northern village.

You will need to establish and validate your identity as the owner of the firearm. As such, you will need to provide:

- Your contact information
- Your date of birth
- Your PAL number **OR**
- Your registration number in the register of civil status **OR**
- A photocopy or scanned copy of your:
  - Driver’s license
  - Health insurance card with photo
  - Canadian passport

**NOTE:** you do not need a PAL to register your firearms under the Quebec Act, as this document is strictly used for validating your identity, which in turn can be validated through other means and documents.



**NOTE:** Makivik is currently collaborating with the KRG and the Minister of Public Security to have the Makivik Beneficiary Card with picture recognized as a valid identity validation document.

You will be receiving a Unique Firearm Number (UFAN) and will have to affix such number in an indelible, legible manner to your corresponding firearm within 90 days.

This UFAN will be linked to your firearm and will never change. In most cases, the UFAN will be your firearm's serial number. Therefore, if the UFAN is identical to the serial number already affixed to your firearm, no action is required from the owner. In other cases, you will have to affix the UFAN in a visible location, on the frame or the receiver of the firearm, in the means you consider best so it cannot be erased and remains readable. Engraving is thus not mandatory, and the usage of a bold permanent marker will be considered sufficient. Your UFAN and a firearm registration number (FARN) will be transmitted to your attention once you have submitted your application for registration to the SIAF. You should verify this confirmation of registration to ensure that it contains no error. Notify the SIAF promptly of any error.

The Quebec Act introduces new obligations for firearms owners in the case any information provided at the time of registration change. It could concern a change in the place where the firearm is kept, or any other information provided for at the initial registration.

**NOTE:** Quebec has announced modifications of the obligations respecting a change in the place where the firearm is kept, which now applies whenever the change is for a period of more than 15 days. Makivik will make representations regarding this aspect, which is very important from an Inuit harvesting perspective, where firearms are constantly changing location in the exercise of the harvesting rights, in the pursuit of the food security, or for personal/family security considerations.

The transfer of a firearm also has to be notified to the SIAF, whereby the new owner will have to promptly register the firearm. The online service is available to new owners in such instances and facilitate the registration at the time of the transfer.

The Quebec Firearms Registration Act is applicable throughout the province. However, Makivik has officially and consistently put on record the issues raised by such application for the Nunavik Territory and the James Bay and Northern Quebec beneficiaries. While important communication and implementation challenges were observed at the community level from inception, Makivik, the KRG and the RNUK have approached the Minister for Public Security, so accommodation measures, culturally adapted means, and changes to the Act and regulation, be proposed in the respect of the rights of the beneficiaries and of the region's specificities. It is expected that a working table will be created to tackle such elements.





# NUNAVIK NOTES

## A Remarkable Northern Memoir

### Book Review

By Stephen Hendrie

*True North Rising* demonstrates Whit Fraser's natural storytelling gift in book form. Fraser spent a large part of his life as a broadcaster, first on radio and then television, mostly for the CBC. He hails from Stellarton, Nova Scotia, however has become a northerner first through his work, and then through his marriage to Inuit leader Mary Simon. Fraser truly did fall in the love with the North.

Hopefully it's the first book of many because his writing style is full of hilarious anecdotes that make reading this series of mostly political stories a real pleasure.

He covers a lot of ground in the development of the North, from the days when the NWT was administered by remote control from Ottawa, to the creation of Nunavut, to the current day, and the political work in between. The book shines in the details over the coverage of the Berger Inquiry, which Fraser was heavily involved with at the CBC, ensuring that northern listeners were well served in seven Indigenous languages and English.

Interviewed about the book, Fraser says there's a lesson from the Berger Inquiry for current governments trying to build a pipeline.

"Governments are missing an opportunity. Maybe there's no one like Berger. But he got people with very strong views on every side talking to one another."

He says he wrote the book because he's a reporter and it's a good story, for all Canadians.

"I felt there were good stories that needed to be retold and told for the first time."

It's a personal memoir as well. He shares his years growing up in Nova Scotia, his early military career, diving into reporting



# -TRUE- NORTH RISING

Whit Fraser

© BURNSTOWN PUBLISHING HOUSE



Whit Fraser in Arctic Bay in July 2005 during a visit of the former Auditor General to the Arctic. This photo was taken by the late Jose Kusugak.

JOSE KUSUGAK

duties at CBC Frobisher Bay in 1967, and his post-broadcasting career as an advocate at Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Canadian Polar Commission, and now as a semi-retired author. As he says, "I'm still a reporter."

The value in this book is not only in the scope of the material covered, but also in its observations about evolving relations between North and South, and how politics change gradually over time, hopefully for the better.

But Fraser is realistic. In his postscript he writes that there continues to be tremendous work to do.

"Poor housing, overcrowding and poverty are as prevalent today as fifty years ago." He writes that the strength is in the communities themselves to overcome the terrible tide of social destruction. He is encouraged to see increasing numbers of Inuit youth graduate, determined to bring about change.

This book is anything but a dry academic treatment of northern development. Instead, it's laced with juicy insider details, brutal honesty, integrity, and plenty of TLC.

More details are available at [whitfraser.ca](http://whitfraser.ca) and the book is available online at [burnstownpublishing.com](http://burnstownpublishing.com)



## Kuujjuaq Sports Pavilion Wins National Design Award

A recycled playground structure straddling the outdoor hockey rink and baseball diamond in the middle of Kuujjuaq has won a National Urban Design Award. Even more remarkable, the pieces of the structure come from the town dump.

On January 7, the former Mayor of Kuujjuaq, Tunu Napartuk, and McGill student David Harlander, accepted the award from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. They called the project "The Kuujjuaq Hackathon 2017: Reassembling the North."

The team retrieved an old shipping container, sewage pipes, heavy equipment tires, wooden beams from the old municipal office, and a culvert from the dump. This was transformed into a shelter for putting on skates, a performance stage area, and bleacher-style sitting space (on the tires) to watch a baseball game.

An interdisciplinary student design team from southern Quebec, working with locals, spent five months on developing the concept for the project, following a first trip to the Kuujjuaq dump, and the actual construction took five days, completed with the assistance of 60 community members and staff from the housing office.

In accepting the award at a ceremony held at the Ottawa Art Gallery, Napartuk spoke about the importance of reusing and recycling materials, even from the dump.

"I think that's one of the reasons why this project resonated with the jury members, it's not just in Kuujjuaq, it can happen anywhere. Reduce, reuse, recycle, it has to be a way of life now. It's a friendly reminder to everyone out there that we can reuse our resources."



The Kuujjuaq Hackathon 2017: Reassembling the North, received a National Urban Design Award in Ottawa in January.



STEPHEN HENDRIE

TAORALIK  
SUSANE HAVELKA



## Makivik Election Results

**T**wo new Makivik executives and five directors were elected this winter.

Following a vote held January 17, Maggie Emudluk was elected Vice-President of Economic Development. Emudluk has a long history in politics. In 1986 she was elected as a municipal councillor in her community of Kangirsualujjuaq, and in 1993 was elected mayor and held the position until 2001. During this period Emudluk also held various roles with the Kativik Regional Government, ranging from a regional councillor, to serving as the vice chairperson. In 2006 she became the chairperson for KRG until 2015.

Rita Novalinga, elected to the Corporate Secretary position, has held management roles at Kativik Ilisarniliriniq and the FCNQ,

where most recently she held the position of Assistant Director General at Kativik Ilisarniliriniq.

The executives were sworn in at Makivik's Board of Directors meeting in Puvirnituq.

Further elections were held February in three communities to elect local representatives to the Board of Directors of Makivik Corporation. Maggie Akpahatak was re-elected in Aupaluk, Adamie Alaku re-elected in Salluit, and Rhoda Kokiapik was re-elected in Inukjuak.

In Quaqtaq, Noah Ningiuruvik was elected by acclamation, meaning there were no other candidates, and Charlie Fleming was elected by acclamation in Chisasibi.



*Makivik's newly-elected Vice-President of Economic Development Maggie Emudluk.*



*Rita Novalinga was recently sworn in as Makivik's Corporate Secretary.*

## Notary Pilot Project Launched

**M**akivik has implemented a notary services pilot project following the adoption of a 2018 AGM resolution formally expressing the need for such a service in Nunavik.

Notary Eva Langlois is based in the south but will travel frequently to Nunavik. She is working closely with the Nunavik Community Justice Center established by Makivik in Inukjuak on a guide to inform beneficiaries about wills and estates. There are plans to bring workshops to various communities to share the guide with beneficiaries.

The notary will also support beneficiaries in managing the estates of close relatives who have passed away, as there can be many forms to fill out and other papers required. For example, she will advise beneficiaries of their responsibilities and can walk people through the steps required to receive money from life insurance companies, from banks, or from governments.

Notary Eva Langlois can be contacted at: [notary@makivik.org](mailto:notary@makivik.org).



## Simon Appointed Chief Negotiator

A resolution supporting negotiations towards self-determination for Nunavik was passed March 21, and Mary Simon was appointed Chief Negotiator of Nunavik Self-Determination and Inuit Government.

At Makivik's Annual General Meeting in Aupaluk, the 64 Inuit delegates representing all communities in Nunavik, the Makivik Board of Directors, and Landholding Corporations were informed of the work done over the past year to prepare for the self-determination negotiations.

Since its last AGM in Puvirnituq, Makivik has held two major Nunavik All Organization Meetings, one in May 2018, and another in February 2019, bringing together Inuit representing many sectors of society. The 2018 Nunavik Inuit Declaration was passed at the May 2018 meeting, providing Makivik Corporation with the mandate to establish an Indigenous government based on Inuit values, heritage, identity, culture and language.

The participants at the February 2019 Nunavik All Organizations Meeting gave Makivik the mandate to establish a Nunavik Constitutional Task Force. The task force will develop a Nunavik Constitution in consultation with Nunavik Inuit.

Newly appointed Chief Negotiator Mary Simon is from Kuujuaq, and is well-known in Nunavik, across the Inuit homeland and the circumpolar world. She is former President of Makivik Corporation, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), and Canada's first Ambassador to the Arctic. She was also Ambassador to Denmark. Simon contributed to the drafting of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and was also instrumental in the creation of the Arctic Council in 1996.

Inuit self-determination is recognized in the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982, as follows: "The inherent right to self-government is recognized as an existing Aboriginal right," under section 35. In addition, self-determination is recognized in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which Canada adopted in 2016.

During the AGM, Mary Simon reported on and discussed the status of the project. Since October 2018, the Government of Canada has been negotiating with Makivik on a draft Memorandum of Understanding that will guide the negotiations.

Makivik President Charlie Watt Sr. said he was proud to be working with Simon on this again.

"We have been engaged in this process for decades, and it has gained tremendous momentum in the last year," he said. "The legal framework that has evolved over the years, notably our Aboriginal rights in the Canadian Constitution, and more recently the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are the foundation on which we are building our self-determination. We are working towards governing our own affairs based on Inuit values, heritage, identity, culture, and language."

The delegates at the Makivik AGM: "Support the establishment of a process for Makivik to engage in negotiations regarding self-determination for the Nunavik Inuit;" and that "Makivik will keep Nunavik Inuit and Nunavik organizations informed and involved in the progress and status of the negotiations."

All meetings since the 2018 Makivik AGM have been broadcast live on Taqramiut Nipingat Incorporated (TNI) Radio to the entire Nunavik region, and via the Internet to Inuit living outside of Nunavik.



During Makivik's AGM in March, Mary Simon was appointed Chief Negotiator of Nunavik Self-Determination and Inuit Government. As well as being past President of Makivik Corporation, ICC and ITK, Simon also contributed to the drafting of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and was instrumental in the creation of the Arctic Council in 1996.



# Nunavik Volleyball Program Aims for Equality of Opportunity

Three Nunavik communities had week-long volleyball workshops this February, led by Team Canada's starting setter, TJ Sanders, thanks to Nunavik Volleyball.

Sanders isn't the first elite volleyball athlete to come north and help develop local skills with the program. Among previous visitors, Jordhynn Guy, who played professional volleyball in Sweden and Israel was also in Umiujaq and Ivujivik in January for week-long training camps.

From its humble beginning as a fledgling idea in Salluit back in 2009, Nunavik Volleyball has grown and evolved into a non-profit organization that not only brings elite athletes to the North to offer training, but also is dedicated to the development of volleyball in Nunavik and the use of sport as a psychosocial intervention tool.

Philippe Paradis says when he arrived as a social worker in Salluit 10 years ago, he had no plans to use his skills as a volleyball coach. But that quickly changed.

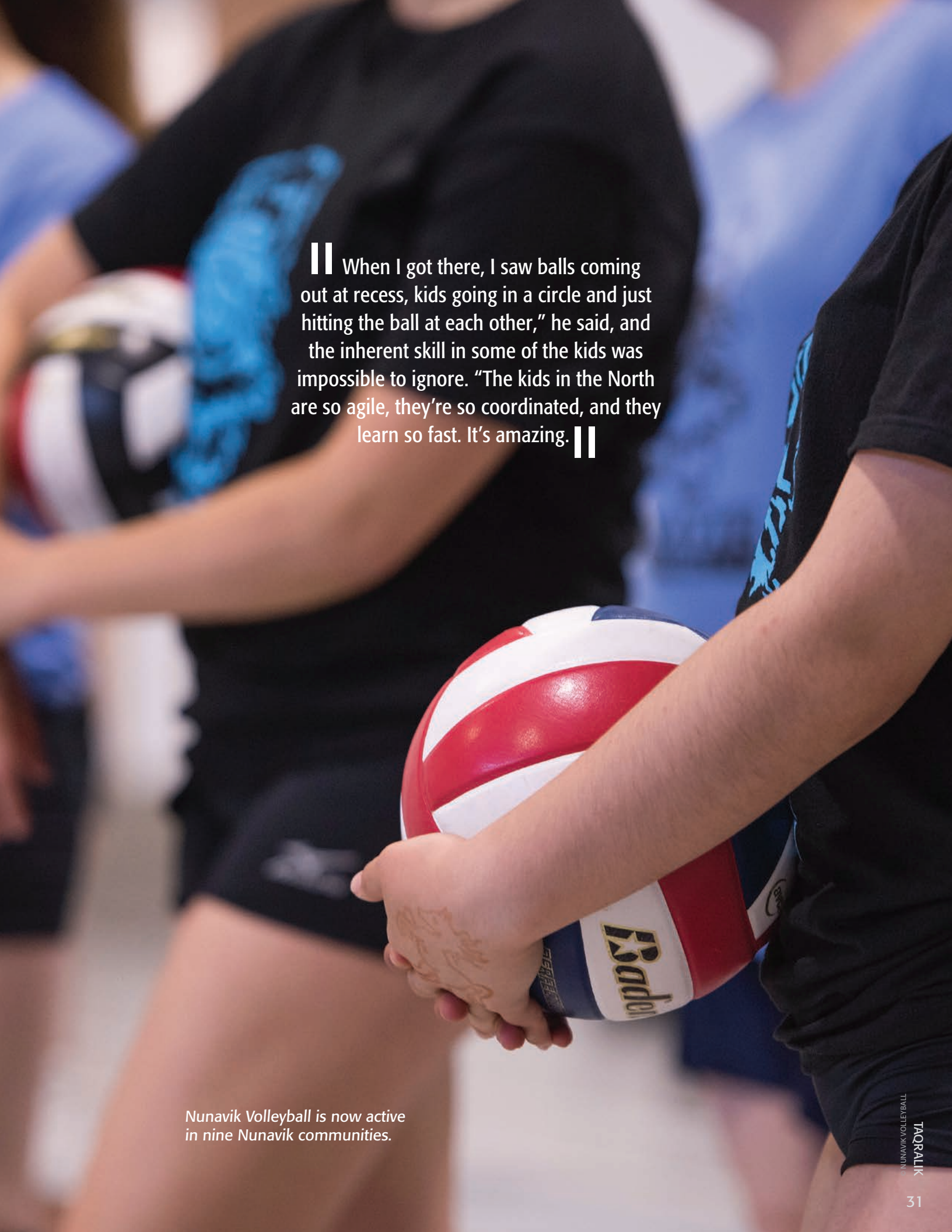
"When I got there, I saw balls coming out at recess, kids going in a circle and just hitting the ball at each other," he said, and the inherent skill in some of the kids was impossible to ignore. "The kids in the north are so agile, they're so coordinated, and they learn so fast. It's amazing."

He said volleyball players are typically taller athletes, but because there aren't as many tall people in the north, they compensate by just jumping really high, being really fast, "and their athletic abilities are off the chart, like it's really, really interesting."

Paradis started some tournaments in the region back then to give his kids a chance to use the skills they were mastering, then other communities showed interest in training camps as well. Kangiqsualujjuaq and Kuujuaq were the next communities to get involved and in 2016 the regional program, Nunavik Volleyball, was created.

"The sole purpose of this program, yes, it's volleyball," he said, but there's also a psychosocial aspect to it. Paradis explained that while it is clear many young people in the north are struggling with a variety of issues, he and other sports organizations are trying to lobby





|| When I got there, I saw balls coming out at recess, kids going in a circle and just hitting the ball at each other,” he said, and the inherent skill in some of the kids was impossible to ignore. “The kids in the North are so agile, they’re so coordinated, and they learn so fast. It’s amazing. ||

*Nunavik Volleyball is now active in nine Nunavik communities.*





© NUNAVIK VOLLEYBALL

*During the volleyball camps, younger kids focused on basic skills, while older participants worked on team play and strategy.*



the government for more funding and more sports opportunities in general. Youth in Nunavik should have the same access and secure the same benefits as those in the south.

"We have access to the kids and there are already local people there who are positive with the kids and can help them out," he said. "That's prevention. We're trying to get that point across."

Now active in nine communities, the program has proven its success, with the Nunavik girls team competing in the Quebec Games last summer and the boys team slated to compete in the under-18 provincial championships in April.

While Nunavik Volleyball strives for at least two regional tournaments a year, the local community development camps are just as important.

Sanders, who participated in the 2016 Summer Olympics, explained that his goal for the camps in February was to share some skills, but also to have fun. At the camps held in Kangiqsujuaq, Salluit, and Kuujuaq, the younger kids generally worked on the basics of bumping, volleying and spiking, and the older groups worked on team play and strategy. Sanders also spoke with a couple of local hockey teams about commitment and sacrifice.

While he was able to leave behind some knowledge and advice, Sanders, too, was able to benefit from the experience. He and his girlfriend were most grateful for the warm reception they were given in the communities and they plan to return in the future.

"The kids could laugh for hours!" he said. "I loved it."

**Team Canada's starting setter TJ Sanders led a camp in at Jaaimmarik School in Kuujuaq in February.**



|| The kids could laugh  
for hours!" he said.  
"I loved it. ||



TJ Sanders, who participated in the 2016 Summer Olympics, said he wanted to share some skills at the volleyball camps, but also to have fun.



# SPIRITS AROUND US

By Fabienne Joliet, Thora Herrmann, and Laine Chanteloup

Photos by Rebecca Lessard

From February 17 to 22, 2019, secondary students from the Kiluutaq School in Umiujaq participated in a video workshop to create a short film about their territory and the contemporary meaning of 'Nuna' to them. The students chose to illustrate 'Nuna' by talking about the world of the spirits that they meet on the land. *Spirits Around Us*, their 10-minute short film, presents different spirits such as Tuurngak, Tarriasuq and Inuarulik. The students constructed the script of their short film around shared stories. Starting from their own testimonies, to the stories of the elders they went to meet and interview, the filmmaking process allowed them to share experiences and strengthen intergenerational links.

The week-long video workshop included different stages. A presentation of short films directed by young Indigenous Peoples from different nations and territories (Sami, Mapuce, etc.) opened a collective discussion on how to represent oneself in one's territory in order to exchange and share with youth from other cultures. Once the subject of the film was collectively chosen, the students were trained in different cinematographic techniques (e.g., camera, sound recording, composition of film music, narration, editing etc.) on the iPads made available by the school. Then the filming started.

Working in small groups, the students chose to film different places that inspired them, both in the community and on the land. They included the caves located halfway between Umiujaq and Tasiujaq (Richmond Gulf) in the film, which created an opportunity for the Kiluutaq School to organize an excursion on the land with a local guide and the Youth Fusion media coordinator. The students were also accompanied by a young Inuk photographer from Kangiqsujuaq, Jamie Yaaka, a former participant of the video workshop held at Arsaniq School in 2017, and who received an artist grant from the Avataq Cultural Institute.

The 10-minute collective short film was shown to all students and staff of the Kiluutaq school on the morning of February 22, and to the Umiujaq community at 5 pm. Each youth participant received a copy of the film on a specially designed USB key, and also given a training certificate.

The young Inuit participants of Umiujaq were guided and supervised through the video workshop by three geography professors from France and the University of Montreal (the authors of the article), with the collaboration of Jamie Yaaka of Kangiqsujuaq (artist grant from Avataq Cultural Institute) and Rebecca Lessard (Youth Fusion). Students were also accompanied by secondary school teachers from Kiluutaq School, including Patrick Maltais and the school's principal, Matthew Bryan.

Their short film shows the revitalization of traditional Inuit beliefs, and through the film the students wished to testify their belonging to their territory and their own way of living linked to the land.



**The filmmaking process allowed the students to share experiences and strengthen intergenerational links.**

This short film is part of a series of three short films on 'nuna,' created by youth in Nunavik from the communities of Kuujjuarapik, Kangiqsujuaq and Whapmagoostui. Each video is a contemporary portrait of a "living" Nunavik that belongs to the youth, and of which they are proud.

The video *Spirits Around Us*, made by Umiujaq youth Nunavimmiut, is available at Kiluutaq School as well as at the Umiujaq NV office and Parcs Nunavik.





Working in small groups, the students chose to film different places that inspired them, including the caves located halfway between Umiujaq and Tasiujaq.





## NUNAVIK PLAYERS



**RYAN ANGATOOKALOOK**



**SHEILA NINGIURUVIK**

**Full name:** Ryan Angatookalook  
**Birthday:** August 24, 1990  
**Place of birth:** Puvirnituq  
**Home community:** Kuujjuaraapik  
**Role model:** Aliva Tookalook  
**Favourite food:** Mattak, caribou  
**Occupation:** Recreation Coordinator  
**Most proud moment:** When my son was born  
**Future goals:** Teaching others to respect each other  
**Best advice you can offer youth:** Stay sober... you can get whatever you want, and your life will be a lot easier

**Full name:** Sheila Ningiuruvik  
**Birthday:** September 10, 1979  
**Place of birth:** Kuujjuaq (Fort Chimo)  
**Home community:** Quaqtaq  
**Role model:** My late grandmother Susie Aloupa  
**Favourite food:** Sushi  
**Occupation:** Secretary  
**Most proud moment:** The day I adopted my son Gary and the day my son Aggaajuk was born.  
**Future goals:** To live a debt free life  
**Best advice you can offer youth:** Chase your dreams

Congratulations to Annie Stone of Kuujjuaraapik who won the Mystery Photo Contest in issue 117 of Taqralik! The winner of this Mystery Photo Contest will be chosen on June 30, 2019. The prize is \$100.

You could win \$100 if you correctly guess what this mystery photo is. Mail your answer to the address below, or you can email your answer to [mdewar@makivik.org](mailto:mdewar@makivik.org).

Mystery Photo Contest  
 Makivik Corporation  
 P.O. Box 179  
 Kuujjuaq, QC  
 J0M 1C0



**WHAT IS THIS ? ►**

## DID YOU KNOW ?



ROBERT MIESHER

Fan hitching is used for dog teams for Ivakkak. In Kuujjuarapik on March 4, the dog traces were prepared before the start of a new day on the trail.



## Chasing the Seasons

### Weather conditions and timing of caribou migration in Nunavik and Nunatsiavut

By Mael Le Corre, Christian Dussault and Steeve D. Côté, Caribou Ungava

Long-distance migration is one of the most fascinating phenomena observed in ecology, allowing animals to follow seasonal changes in food availability and reducing predation risk. Timing of departure and arrival is an essential component of the migrations. However, migrant species actually undergo the effect of climate changes with, notably, a change in the timing of natural processes. The synchrony between the arrival on the breeding ground and the onset of emergence of food resources is crucial to provide females the energy needed to rear their offspring. Due to early spring weather conditions, the emergence of food resources occurs earlier and a mismatch with the arrival on breeding ground has been observed for numerous species, leading to a higher mortality of the offspring. For animals such as caribou, early spring conditions could also directly affect the conditions under which they migrate if the individuals have to travel on melting snow. Similarly, a change in the timing of ice formation and thawing of lakes and rivers may impede caribou migration if individuals have to travel on thin ice.

This project, led by Caribou Ungava and the MFFP (Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs), aimed to evaluate the changes in the timing of migration of the migratory caribou from the Leaf-River and the George-River herds, between January 2000 and December 2011, and to understand the role of climate on these changes. We followed 236 females equipped with ARGOS tracking collars, which provided us the location of each caribou every five days. From these locations, we identified the migratory movements in spring and fall, and we assessed departure and arrival dates. We then looked at the influence of the local weather on these dates, using data from the Canadian Regional Climate Model produced by the Ouranos Consortium.

From 2000 to 2011, caribou advanced their departure in spring by 14 days. In the meantime, the timing of arrival on the calving ground did not change. We observed delayed arrival dates when caribou encountered early spring conditions with mild



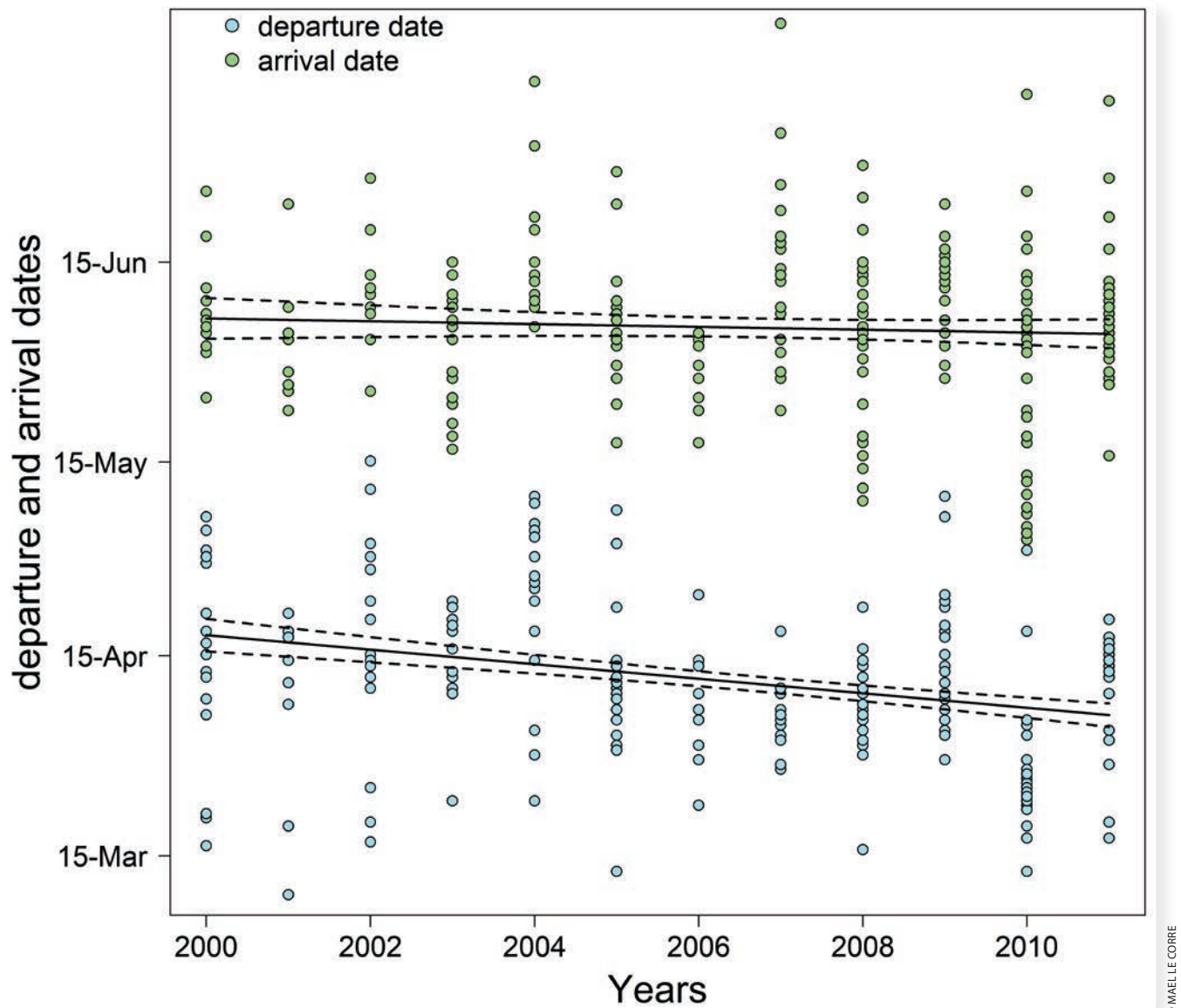
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temperatures and abundant precipitation during migration. Long migrations require lots of energy, and caribou use frozen lakes and rivers and trails of packed snow to ease their movements. Moving through deep, soft snow or through melting snow increases the energy expenditures and then could slow down the migration. However, caribou could use environmental clues on the winter range to anticipate adverse conditions and arrive on time on calving ground, as we observed early departures the year females experienced mild winter temperatures.



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In the fall, from 2000 to 2011, both departure and arrival dates of the migration advanced by 6 days. Contrary to spring, arrival on the winter range occurred earlier when caribou encountered mild temperatures and abundant snow. Crossing lakes during ice formation can be particularly dangerous for caribou if they break through the ice, increasing the risk of injuries and drowning. Mild temperatures in fall can induce a delay in lake freeze-up. By migrating earlier, caribou could travel before ice formation and limit the energetic cost of moving through abundant fresh snow. Besides, such as in spring, caribou seemed to use local weather conditions as a clue for the forthcoming snow conditions as they started migrating earlier during years in which they experienced abundant precipitation before departing.

In the context of climate changes, we expect early snowmelt in spring and delayed freeze-up in fall with, in both seasons, more

precipitation. Our work shows that changes in temperature and snow conditions affect the timing of migration. It also suggests that caribou have more difficulties coping with changes in spring than in fall. In spring, females have to arrive on time for calving whereas in fall, they do not have such a strong biological constraint. Movements and timing in fall are then more flexible, allowing individuals to adjust their migration more easily to environmental changes. However, we do not know yet if these changes have a real impact on caribou survival and reproduction. One of the main objectives of the ongoing research conducted by Caribou Ungava and the MFFP is to answer this question and to evaluate the potential effect of expected climate changes on the Leaf-River and George-River caribou herds.



