

TAQRALIK

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Her Excellency Mary Simon
Female Inuit Fly High
Kuujjuaq's Barbershop

SUMMER 2021

127



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Taqralik

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Cover: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon, Governor General of Canada, conducting her first inspection of the guards outside of Rideau Hall in Ottawa.
Cover photo: Photo by Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall, OSGG



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE GRENIER

A close-up image of the beadwork on the dress worn by Canada's newly installed governor general. Read about the design and work that went into the garment on Page 10.

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Her Excellency Mary Simon GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

By Stephen Hendrie

On Sunday evening July 25, 2021, it poured rain in Ottawa. The kind of rain that drenches you from head to toe in an instant. The kind of rain that gave the city a good scrubbing, as if it was put through a car wash. But by the time Monday morning rolled around the rain had left, the sun was shining, and it was a bright new day, in more ways than one.



July 26, 2021, will go down in Canadian history as the day our first Indigenous governor general – Her Excellency Mary Simon – was sworn in during an installation ceremony that reflected Mary Simon’s language and culture from the Nunavik region. It was also a socially-distanced ceremony as it took place, hopefully, in the waning months of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Inuit from across Nunavik watched and listened to the ceremony, as did Inuit across the Arctic, First Nations in remote reserves, Métis in Manitoba and across the country, with fellow Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

National media arrived early to set up in front of the Senate of Canada building on Wellington Street. The temporary Senate building is the former Government of Canada Conference Centre, and originally the Ottawa train station. A crowd of well wishers had gathered in front of the historic Chateau Laurier hotel across the street, waiting for the prime minister and his wife, and Governor General Designate Mary Simon, and her husband Whit Fraser to arrive, shortly before 11 am.

When Mary Simon and Whit Fraser stepped out of the large black government vehicle a huge cheer emerged from the crowd, with shouts of “Congratulations Mary!” clearly audible. It was a beautiful moment in our history as a nation. Mary and Whit casually spoke with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Grégoire, and then turned towards four First Nations drummers from the Ottawa River Singers.

In Kuujuaq that morning, Mayor Sammy Koneak was on the radio letting people know there would be a watching party at the Katittavik Town Hall Theatre, and if anyone needed rides to call in. Minnie Grey, Executive Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services went to Katittavik to watch along with other residents from Kuujuaq. “Everybody was very proud. We were cheering. We were standing up when they were asked to stand up. We followed the ceremony like we were there! We’re very happy for Mary and for Whit, and I know she’ll do a fine job, like she has done in any of her capacities.”

Watching from home in Kuujuaq, Makivik President Pita Aatami had been fielding many media calls leading up to the ceremony. “We’re getting very good exposure, and people are understanding a lot more about Inuit than they ever have. People never really took notice of us before this actually happened, to have an Inuk as Governor General of Canada.”

In Kangisqualujuaq Makivik Vice-President, Economic Development, Maggie Emudluk was catching a plane. She said she had to check in before 11 am, but listened to the first part on the radio. Her flight was delayed until 1:30, so she could watch it on TV. “It was a very special connection. Knowing Mary is from our part of the world. We were both born at the old Hudson’s Bay Post – *Illutaliviniq* – so that is extra special for me. She was so calm and natural, and that’s kind of who Inuit are.”

Maggie noted that there is a strong family bond. “My parents and her parents were very close, because my father also had an outfitting camp in the 1960s where the May family used to visit.” While watching the ceremony Maggie imagined her mother and Mary’s mother watching from above. “I was almost listening to them

Governor General Designate Mary May Simon and her husband, Mr. Whit Fraser, made their way from Rideau Hall to the Senate for the installation ceremony.



Their Excellencies arriving at their new home following the installation ceremony in Ottawa.



Sally Webster and Tooneejoulee Kootoo-Chiarelo tend the qulliq.

chatting, looking at TV, it would have been nice if they could have seen it, maybe they were watching too.”

They would have seen an historic installation ceremony marked with traditional and contemporary Inuit, First Nations, Métis, and Canadian cultural elements. A traditional *qulliq* lamp was lit and attended to by Inuit elder Sally Webster and was assisted by Tooneejoulee Kootoo-Chiarelo. David Serkoak drummed them into the Senate chamber. Opening remarks were made by elder Claudette Commanda from the Algonquin Nation. The first song, *Arnaq*, was by Inuit singer Elisapie.

“I’m saying ‘I’m a little girl, I’m a mother, I’m a grandmother,’” said Elisapie. “It’s pretty much saying that we have more than just one personality as women – we are many things, and we are very maternal.” Her presentation was contemporary, accompanied on guitar by Jean-Sebastien Williams.

There were other inspiring performances as well. Franco-Manitoban Métis singer-songwriter Andrina Turenne sang *En Plein Coeur Mai (In the Heart of May)*. Tim Baker from St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, sang *Songbird*. Quebecer Lunou Zucchini sang *Hymne à l’espoir (Hymn to Hope)*. Marie-Josée Lord, a Quebecer born in Haiti, sang the National Anthem.



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Signing of the Oath Registry following the swearing of the three Oaths to become Governor General of Canada.

At 11:20, inside the Senate, Mary Simon said, “I do - Oui, je le jure” to the three oaths required to become the Governor General of Canada. They are: the Oath of Allegiance, the Oath of the Office of the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, and the Oath of the Keeper of the Great Seal of Canada. She then signed the Oath Registry, followed by the Chief Justice, Prime Minister, and Interim Clerk of the Privy Council. At that point the Governor General’s flag was raised to full mast on the Peace Tower, and a 21-gun salute rang out from Parliament Hill.

In his address, Prime Minister Trudeau said, “true leadership is based on what you do for those around you. In this moment of unprecedented change, fighting the climate crisis, and the end of the pandemic, we need your vision of a stronger Canada, which will help build a more just and equitable society.”

Then our newly sworn in Governor General, Her Excellency Mary Simon gave her inaugural address. She said how honoured she is to take on this position. She spoke about growing up in Kangisualujjuaq and Kuujjuaq, both in Inuktitut and English. She spoke about overcoming fear as a youth. “It took time before I gained the self-confidence to assert myself and my beliefs in the non-Indigenous world. But when I came to understand that my voice had power and that others were looking to me to be their voice, I was able to let go of my fear.”

She covered important themes in her speech, directly addressing the major issue of the day – climate change – noting the Arctic is warming faster than almost anywhere else on the planet. She noted

the importance of the Arctic Council, which she worked to create in 1996 in Ottawa.

As a longtime champion of mental health, Mary Simon stated, “As governor general I am committed to using this moment in our country’s history to build on the work of de-stigmatizing mental health so it is viewed through the same lens as physical ailments, and receives the same attention, compassion and understanding.”

She also spoke French and again vowed to learn the language, and thanked Canadians who have reached out to offer support in learning it.

As our first Indigenous governor general, she also addressed the importance of reconciliation for Canada. She said, “My view is that reconciliation is a way of life and requires work every day. Reconciliation is getting to know one another.”

She closed by saying, “I pledge to meet Canadians in all provinces and territories to learn first-hand what people are facing, and what could be done to make their lives better,” and noted that she is honoured that Rideau Hall will be the family home, with her husband Whit, and dog Neva. They also plan to live and work at the Citadelle in Quebec City.

The Governor General of Canada has considerable responsibility. Canada is a constitutional monarchy. There is a clear division between the head of state – the governor general, and the head of government – the prime minister. The governor general acts as the representative of the Crown – Elizabeth II – in Canada.

As the Queen’s representative, the governor general summons, prorogues, and dissolves Parliament; authorizes treaties; receives



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Governor General Mary Simon thanks performers following the installation ceremony in the Senate foyer.

and sends ambassadors; commissions officers in the armed forces; and gives royal assent to bills that have passed both the House of Commons and the Senate.

Based on constitutional convention, the governor general exercises these actions with advice from the prime minister. The governor general retains special personal authority in times of emergency or exceptional circumstances, which includes the power to appoint or dismiss a prime minister, or dissolve Parliament. In Canadian history it has only happened twice (in 1891 and 1893) when a governor general has had to designate a prime minister. In 1926 Governor General Viscount Byng refused Prime Minister King's request to dissolve Parliament. This became known as the King-Byng affair.

The governor general also holds the constitutional rights of the head of state, which include: the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, and the right to warn. As a result, the governor general receives cabinet minutes, regular visits from the prime minister, senior government officials, and Privy Council Office.

The governor general is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, and swears in cabinet ministers. The Canadian system of honours is administered by the governor general, including the Order of Canada, and the Order of Military Merit. The governor general is official host to visiting heads of state and can represent Canada abroad.

Reaction to the appointment of Mary Simon as Canada's first Indigenous governor general was extremely positive. The Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) – a position Mary Simon held in the

past – was jubilant at the news of Mary's appointment. Dalee Sambo Dorrough, based in Anchorage, Alaska, also thought that as governor general, Mary Simon could have unique influence on government policy.

"I think that given the current conditions, and the present political climate in Canada, especially with the uncovering of the graves of the Indigenous children at the various residential schools, and the very recent history of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," said Dalee, "and then layer on all the other challenges facing our people and facing the planet, and think about the role of Inuit, and the role of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, in relation to all these challenges swirling around us. So, it's my hope that in terms of policy, in terms of appointments, in terms of providing council to Prime Minister Trudeau and future prime ministers that that space is taken up in an active way and also one rooted with the cultural integrity that I know runs through her blood, but also the blood of all Inuit, and all Indigenous peoples. So my strong hope is that the position is not only carried with its pomp and circumstance, but also more significantly, with substance and action."

Similarly, Brad Morse, Professor of Law at Thompson River University in Kamloops, B.C., and international scholar on Indigenous rights, shared the opinion that, "Clearly, they will have private conversations, in which I would expect that Mary would not only "advise," but "encourage" the prime minister to pay attention to particular concerns, especially in northern Canada, obviously in the four Inuit regions. I suspect she will do it perhaps more generally, on



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Governor General Simon inspecting the guard at the Cenotaph in Ottawa.

issues around climate change, and transformation of the Arctic Ocean and open water, and all of those factors, of permafrost, melting, and on the environmental side, on the impact of traditional harvesting, for Inuit and for other Indigenous peoples."

Back in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Maggie Emudluk also hopes Mary Simon will be able to make a difference on this front. "I truly believe that, not just for Inuit but for the Arctic. Our realities get lost in the machine, with bureaucrats," she said, noting this appointment will shine a light on Nunavik and the Arctic reality in Canada. "We don't want to just watch the train go by, we want to be part of the steering of this train. I think Indigenous issues as a whole, this has never been

in the history books before. The southern part of the world did not get to learn the reality of the Indigenous world."

Makivik President Pita Aatami also sees it as an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about the history of Nunavik. "What is Kuujuaq, how was it created? How was Kangiqsualujjuaq created? What did they go through these people? It's important for people to understand that we don't have a very rosy relationship with the non-natives since they came into the region many, many years ago. I want them to understand what they put us through."

Mary Simon's appointment to governor general meant that she had to step down from her role at Makivik as Chief Negotiator of the Nunavik Government Self-Determination file. Pita says he received a letter from her confirming that before she was announced as Governor General Designate in early July.

"What I'm more focused on is getting the exposure that we need so that people understand what we're living through," said Pita. "I also mentioned that we're one of the highest tax paying citizens in this country and not a lot of Canadians are aware of this."

Minnie Grey was proud to say that she had worked with Mary for many years. "I was her assistant in the 1980s when she was Makivik President. I've been with her throughout most of her journey. I was part of her council members when she was representing Canada when she was ICC President. I've been involved in a



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His Excellency congratulates Her Excellency on becoming governor general.



Governor General Simon laying flowers on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa.

lot of the committee work that she has done. It's like this is just an amazing time for all of us, because it's our accomplishment. Mary's accomplishment is our accomplishment. Canada couldn't have found a better representative for the Queen, it was mentioned, and I feel the same way."

Minnie is a member of the advisory committee on the Order of Canada and was excited to be heading to Rideau Hall soon for a meeting. "I messaged Mary this morning saying, 'I wonder if I'm allowed to bring you a little piece of *pitsik*?' When I mentioned to people here, they said, 'Oh, just put it in your purse. Somehow you'll get it to her.'"

Mary has become Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada. She has already given us, as a nation, a sense of her personal style when she injected a moment of levity into her Installation Speech in explaining her Inuit name – *Ningiukudluk*. "Prime Minister," she said looking straight at Justin Trudeau, "It means 'bossy little old lady!'"

ICC Chair Dalee Sambo Dorrough enjoyed this as well. "There's always a bit of truth in humour," she said, admitting that she is also a bossy little old lady. "But I have another line that I think is even more substantial, and that is that my bossiness leads to goodness!"

As for Elisapie Issac she said, "I loved her joke. It's funny because all the Elisapies I know are really bossy, we were told as kids, 'Queen Elisapie... Queen Elisapie'. I'm sure she kept it for Trudeau!"

Within a few weeks of the Installation Ceremony, Governor General Simon received Prime Minister Trudeau at Rideau Hall for one of her first official duties, which was to grant him a Dissolution of Parliament. A general election was called for September 20, 2021. Governor General Simon could have her hands full with the results of the election! ♦



After the installation ceremony, the viceregal couple made their way to the foyer to thank the performers.



The Story Behind the Navy Blue Dress

By Stephen Hendrie

All photos courtesy of Julie Grenier

Vickie Okpik's Facebook Messenger buzzed on July 5. It was Mary Simon asking Vickie for photos of dresses she had designed in the past. Vickie was at work at Makivik in the Justice Department, and unfortunately forgot about the message. The next morning all staff were asked to watch a special broadcast in the Makivik board room at 10 am. Mary Simon was announced as the Governor General Designate. Vickie said to herself, "Freeeeeek! She asked me to send her photos and I completely forgot about it!"

But Mary sent another Facebook message, formally asking Vickie to design a dress for her installation ceremony. Vickie responded that she would be honoured to do it, and started by sending three drawings to work from. The project just took off from there.

Carole Simon, Mary's daughter, works in Ottawa at the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC). Carole was instrumental in liaising with Vickie to have the dress created in time for the installation ceremony on July 26, less than three weeks away!

"The main thing for me with my mother's dress is that Vickie really knew how to capture what it was we were looking for, with her and I working together. My mother and I talked about the dress many times," said Carole. We did a lot of research, viewing photos of what members of the royal family wear at ceremonies, paying attention to colours and style.

"The colour was one of the hardest decisions to make," said Carole. "There's politics involved, so we had to stay away from



Julie's hand drawn design for the beadwork.



Beading begins on the dress



certain blues, and red." While she's a big fan of fuchsia, off-white was considered – though Vickie said it didn't work well on TV. Eventually it came down to a strong navy blue, which was Mary's original choice.

The next crucial decision related to beadwork. Discussions revolved around a separate beaded necklace sculpture to complement the dress, or incorporating beadwork into the dress itself. They decided to embroider beadwork directly into the dress.

Enter Julie Grenier, from Kuujuaq, who Vickie described as an expert beader. "I bead in all kinds of different forms and styles," said Julie, who has been beading since she was seven years old, and has a huge collection of beads from around the world at home. "I was

really given carte blanche. I was able to design the flowers and the leaves, in the style that I like to work in. They just really trusted me to do what I do, which was amazing."

With those decisions made, it allowed Vickie to move ahead with obtaining the rich navy blue fabric the dress and jacket were made from. Colonel Sanders doesn't give away his secret chicken recipe, and Vickie doesn't give away her fashion secrets either! Suffice to say the material was "crepe," and sourced in Montreal. Asked if the colour had a name, such as "Koksoak River Deep Marine Blue," Vickie said, "No, that's nerdy." So, it was just, "navy blue."



Julie added some Swarovski crystal beads to the finished design.



Julie received the piece of fabric for the collar of the dress for her beadwork on the afternoon of Saturday, July 17, where she lives just off the island of Montreal. Her deadline was Thursday, July 22. She said the crepe fabric was very unforgiving. "It stretches in a diagonal sense. It's very slick and shiny, slippery on the backside, and more matte on the front. Any tiny nick frays this fabric. So placing the needle was critical, and making sure my needles were sharp. I had to iron a backing to it to make sure it wouldn't move, and make ripples, or bend the fabric."

Talking about her design, Julie said, "I like to include a lot of little tiny details that you don't necessarily see from afar, but when you look closer at the flowers you see there's a lot more to it, and it's how I see the tundra, how I see the land, the lichen, the greenery, the rocks. And of course there's the purple bell flowers that we find a lot in Kuujuaq. It represents where Mary is from, and to tie in the



Beading artist Julie Grenier, Governor General Mary Simon, and fashion designer Vickie Okpik.

other Indigenous populations across Canada – you know the land and nature is something that ties us all together."

Julie said she was beading well into the evenings, sometimes until 3 am, and needed more time, delivering the final product to Vickie on the evening of Friday, July 23.

In the meantime, Vickie was cutting fabric, sewing the dress and the jacket, liaising with Carole Simon, and Rideau Hall for the first fitting, originally planned for Friday night, but rescheduled to early Saturday morning, July 24. Vickie finished the dress on Friday night at 10 pm.

Her brother George lives in Ottawa, and said to Vickie, 'make sure you bring your sewing machine in case you have to redo the dress,' as he didn't have one and she was going to stay at his place. At the first fitting at Rideau Hall on Saturday morning, Vickie said the dress was fine. "The jacket, on the other hand, needed a lot of adjustments, so I go to my brother's house, and I start ripping it apart and redoing everything, for the final fitting on Sunday evening at 6 pm." At that point, it was fine, even though Vickie said, "I had to do a little more tacking on the dress and the jacket. It was dark when I left."

Shortly after 10:30 am on Monday, July 26, the world saw Governor General Designate Mary Simon, and Whit Fraser step onto the red carpet in front of the Senate of Canada building. The site is across the street from the stately Chateau Laurier Hotel on Wellington Street, where Mary and Whit were married.

It was also the moment that the world first got a close up look at the navy blue dress and jacket, and the fabulous beadwork. Media management of the installation was handled by Heritage Canada, and the Parliamentary Press Gallery. Among the media documents issued was a note about the designer, Victoria Okpik, and bead artist Julie Grenier.

Carole, Julie, and Vickie experienced the event at a watching party held at Rideau Hall. A large screen was set up in a ballroom. "It turned out gorgeous," said Carole, "It was such an emotional moment when she stepped onto that red carpet."

Julie said, "It wasn't just the fact that we took a part in creating what she was wearing, but just the fact that it was Mary that was there, and now all of the sudden it's Mary Simon, Her Excellency, know you, it's a lot of emotions, but a lot of pride too. Proud of myself, proud of Vickie too, and proud of Mary, of course."

Vickie was in her car on the way to Rideau Hall from Montreal when the ceremony began. She started listening to it on the radio. "The drummers started drumming, you know during the opening ceremony, oh my goodness, I was alone in my car and I was filled with emotion. The gravity of this was hitting me," she laughed. "But when I got to the watch party, everybody's sitting down, and I'm there, and I'm going, 'OK, is the dress OK, is the jacket OK?'"

It was very definitely OK. The navy blue dress with the *akuk*-style hemline inspired by the traditional *amautik*, and custom beaded collar won wide praise. Vickie and Julie were soon featured on the cover of Toronto's *Fashion Magazine*, and interviewed by local and international media about their creation.

It was an historic dress for the installation of Canada's first Indigenous governor general. "It was one-of-a-kind," concluded Vickie. "I'm not making that for the public," she said laughing. ♦





Installation Speech from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, 30th Governor General of Canada

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Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon delivered her first address as the new governor general.

With great respect, I would like to acknowledge that today we are standing on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe people, who have lived and cared for this part of the world for thousands of years.

To Prime Minister Trudeau, thank you for your faith in me and for your commitment to reconciliation. I am honoured, humbled and ready to be Canada's first Indigenous governor general.

Where we gather today is of enormous significance to me. Thirty-nine years ago, when this was the Government Conference Centre, I worked with other Indigenous leaders and First Ministers to have our rights affirmed in the Constitution of Canada. That moment made this one possible.

I also want to offer my heartfelt gratitude to Her Majesty The Queen for placing her trust and confidence in me. I know she has an abiding love for this magnificent country.

And to my family: thank you to my husband, Whit, to my children, Richard, Louis, and Carole, to my step-children, Rhonda, Dianne and Whitney, to my siblings, and, of course, to my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All of you have given me strength, purpose, love and inspiration over the course of my life.

To the Canadian Armed Forces, I am honoured to be taking on the role as Commander-in-chief of Canada. Thank you for embodying the meaning of sacrifice, valour and service on behalf of all Canadians. Your conviction and courage is of the highest order and represents the very best of all of us. I'm looking forward to meeting those serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Canadian Rangers and other Reserve units in the days ahead.

Since the announcement of my appointment, I have been deeply touched by the responses from Canadians who have reached out to me.

- I have heard from Canadians who describe a renewed sense of possibility for our country and hope that I can bring people together.
- I have heard from Canadians who have challenged me to bring a new and renewed purpose to the office of the governor general to help Canadians deal with the issues they are facing.
- I have heard from Canadians who have expressed their support in my commitment to learn French, and have even offered to assist me in my training!
- And I have heard from Canadians who see Rideau Hall as the people's hall—reflecting the values, aspirations and diversity of our great Canadian family.

I am truly grateful for these words of support and guidance.

As governor general, I am fully committed to setting and maintaining the highest possible standard of work and ethics in all aspects of my duties.

Today is an important and historic day for Canada. But my story, to these chambers, began very far from here.

I was born Mary Jeannie May in Arctic Quebec, now known as Nunavik. My Inuk name is Ningiukudluk.

I spent my adolescence in Nunavik, living a traditional lifestyle with my parents. My mom, Nancy, was Inuk. My father, Bob, who was from the south, managed our local Hudson's Bay Company post.

Many months out of the year we lived on the land—travelling by dog team or boat ... hunting, fishing and gathering food.

Over the years I have exchanged stories with Canadians about favourite childhood memories. This is mine: lying in our family's tent along the George River, on a bed of spruce boughs and caribou skins, listening to the early morning sound of birds, and the crunch of snow under the feet of our dog team.

What I valued most about my upbringing was my parents teaching my siblings and I how to live in two worlds—the Inuit world and the non-Inuit southern world.

This foundation of core values has both served and shaped me throughout my life, and I believe helped me get to an important turning point as a young girl, when I stopped being afraid.

It took time before I gained the self-confidence to assert myself and my beliefs in the non-Indigenous world. But when I came to understand that my voice had power and that others were looking to me to be their voice, I was able to let go of my fear.

My first language—Inuktitut—is the language that defines Inuit as a people, and is the foundation of our very survival.

My second language—English—became a gateway to the world beyond.

And now, I am committed to adding Canada's other official language, French.

At this point in our shared history it is clear that many languages are part of the fabric of our nation, as are the stories of those who have come to Canada in search of a new life.

Later, in my early 20s living in Montreal, I worked for the CBC, and found myself sight translating the news and explaining to Inuit listeners across the Arctic the news stories from around the world.

But there has always been another guiding force in my life—the importance of promoting healing and wellness through all forms

of education, from creating public policy, to legislative reform, to improving school curricula, to advocating for human rights.

I have had the privilege in my career of travelling extensively to all provinces and territories. What I remember most is not the meetings or conferences, but the mix of cultures and heritage that make Canada a beacon to the world.

I will never forget the selfless work of Canadians in every corner of this country. Every day, inside small community halls, school gyms, Royal Canadian Legions, places of worship, and in thousands of community service organizations, there are ordinary Canadians doing extraordinary things.

As governor general I will never lose sight of this—that our selflessness is one of our great strengths as a nation.

I pledge to be there for all Canadians.

Canada is an Arctic nation. Our Arctic is one of the most unique places on the planet—from spring geese to winter darkness, to some of the largest wildlife migrations anywhere on earth. Our North is also a well-lived and lived-in homeland for Inuit, First Nations and Métis people.

The Arctic matters a lot to Canada and to the world. Canada has championed the creation of the Arctic Council and the Central Arctic Ocean Fishing Agreement. We have settled modern treaties with Inuit. We have passed the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act to assure sovereignty over the Northwest Passage, and developed a circumpolar dimension to its foreign policy, which recognized that human security must include environmental security.

For many years, Canada has experienced a disproportionate level of impact from climate change because the Arctic is warming faster than almost anywhere else on the planet. The Arctic represents nearly 40 per cent of our landmass, and may be free of summer sea ice in the coming decades.

The twin global crises of nature destruction and climate change are undoubtedly the challenge of our time. For evidence, we need only look at the Arctic, and what has happened this past month across the country: the devastating impacts of forest fires, prolonged droughts, record heat waves.

I believe that in order to have a healthy future, we must reset our thinking to understand that nature contains and creates our climate. Our climate allows society to be possible, and within our society is our economy.

As governor general, I will promote and recognize leading examples of community and Indigenous-driven conservation and of climate action that are making a real difference and can inspire other Canadians to do the same. I hope to promote these examples of Canadian leadership nationally and around the world.

I have always viewed Canada as a metaphor for family.

As members of our large and diverse Canadian family, we have to replace the hurt with hope and find the grace and humility to stand together and move towards a more just and equitable future.

Addressing mental health and wellness within our families, our schools, our work places and our front-line services is hard and necessary work, but think of the possibilities for stronger, healthier and more prosperous communities.

I would like to acknowledge all Canadians who have sacrificed their own safety by providing essential services during the pandemic so that the rest of us could stay safe. You stepped up when the rest of us were told to stay home. Thank you.

As governor general I am committed to using this moment in our country's history to build on the work of de-stigmatizing mental

health so it is viewed through the same lens as physical ailments, and receives the same attention, compassion and understanding.

Since the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation report six years ago, we have learned as a country that we need to learn the real history of Canada. Embracing this truth makes us stronger as a nation, unites Canadian society and teaches our kids that we must always do our best, especially when it's hard.

The discoveries of unmarked graves on the grounds of residential schools in recent weeks has horrified me, along with all Canadians.

A lot of people think that reconciliation will be completed through projects and services. All Canadians deserve access to services.

My view is that reconciliation is a way of life and requires work every day.

Reconciliation is getting to know one another.

As stated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report:

"Reconciliation must support Aboriginal peoples as they heal from the destructive legacies of colonization that have wreaked such havoc in their lives."

We are reminded daily that even though diversity is a core Canadian value, our country must do more to respect all languages, cultures, ethnicities, religions and ways of living.

As governor general, I will embody our nation's commitment to diversity and acceptance. I've always believed the Right Honourable Kim Campbell held the country up to the correct standard when she said, "Canada is the homeland of equality, justice and tolerance." Recognizing that one fifth of all Canadians were born somewhere else, it is more important than ever to make sure we live up to this commitment.

To meet this moment as governor general, I will strive to hold together the tension of the past with the promise of the future, in a wise and thoughtful way.

Our society must recognize together our moments of regret, alongside those that give us pride, because it creates space for healing, acceptance and the rebuilding of trust. I will strive to build bridges across the diverse backgrounds and cultures that reflect our great country's uniqueness and promise.

I pledge to meet Canadians in all provinces and territories to learn first-hand what people are facing, and what could be done to make their lives better.

On the strength of those governors general who served before me, I commit to Canadians that I will move forward with humility and purpose to meet this moment in our shared history.

Whit and I, and our dog, Neva, are excited and honoured that Rideau Hall will be our family home. We also plan to spend time living and working at the Citadelle in the City of Québec.

I am truly honoured by this call to service and I will do my best each and every day to be worthy of it.

Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch. Nakurmiik •





Kuuĵuaq's NEW BARBERSHOP

All photos courtesy of Johnny Saunders

Johnny Saunders says cutting hair is kind of like carving, so it comes naturally to him.

“When you’re shaping at the end of the haircut you’ve got to look at all the hair that’s sticking up and you have to figure out where to cut, and how to cut it,” he explains. “There are angles to hair, there’s thickness, there’s length. Some hair is soft, some hair is really thick. You can really tell by cutting different people that it’s not always going to be the same haircut.”

Johnny has been honing his craft for the last 25 years, starting back when he and a friend began cutting each other’s hair when they were about 15 years old. Now, he uses mostly clippers after falling in love with a technique he saw a barber in Montreal use, where he “freestyled” with a comb and shaver.

This spring Johnny opened his own barbershop in Kuujuaq, complete with a barber pole sign on the outside. He called it Qatak’s Barbershop (because everyone has a cousin, he says) and created a Facebook page. The striped barber sign was a gift from his girlfriend, but much of the shop’s creation came from Johnny’s own hands. He painted the interior white, hung some mirrors and installed an LED overhead light for brightness, run by a generator from the hardware store. He also managed to source a hydraulic-run barber’s chair through a buy, sell, and swap site, which he refurbished, and he has plans for further improvements as well.

“I’m still doing work on the shop. I need to put siding on the outside, make it look nicer, and I want to make the inside look nicer, too. I’m going to slowly make it nicer for guys to come in,” he says.

There aren’t many options for getting a haircut in the community, and before deciding to open the shop, Johnny had been trying to keep up with the demand by cutting hair at his house. But trying to find mutually agreeable appointment times and having to clean up after each client, just got to be too much. “It was a lot easier to have a separate building just for that,” he says.

He officially opened for business in May, setting his hours from 9-5. After a few weeks he realized that most people wanted to book in the evenings, so he changed his schedule to open at 5 pm. He has four good quality Wahl clippers, that run both on battery and electricity.

Asked if he faced any COVID concerns or challenges, Johnny says that it really isn’t a problem. A typical cut takes between 20 and 30 minutes, and he leaves enough time between appointments for him to thoroughly clean. He averages between two and three haircuts a

day, at \$35 each. Some people leave tips, he says, for which he is grateful, but it doesn’t bother him if they don’t.

And while some people want to sit and have their haircut in silence, most like to talk. “I try to bring up important topics or things that are happening in town, or just something that’s on their mind. I ask them how they’re doing and see where the conversation goes.”

For now, Johnny is hopeful about the business. He works alone and plans to continue that way for a year or two, but isn’t against the idea of eventually partnering with someone or having another employee. “I have no boss, it’s on my own time. It’s a good feeling to have.” He works always by appointment, and while many people book via Facebook Messenger, he can also be reached at 514-815-1240. ♦

Johnny Saunders decided to open his own business after he realized the demand for haircuts in the community.



Qatak's Barbershop opened in the spring and is offering evening appointments.



Anthony Kauki, one of the barbershop clients, after a haircut by Johnny Saunders.



Johnny refurbished a barber's chair he purchased secondhand and is planning more improvements to his shop.

NUNAVIK LEADERS Integral to ITC Success

By William Tagoona

The 50th anniversary of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) would probably have never happened if not for the colonial abusive attitude of governments and clergy. The need for an Eskimo Brotherhood probably would have never been thought of if not for the residential schools, particularly in Churchill, Manitoba, and Chesterfield Inlet, NWT. Much of the groundwork to form the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) was organized by leaders who attended these schools.



Charlie Watt, second from left, was central to the creation of the ITC in 1971 and 1972. This photo is the first ever ITC AGM in Baker Lake. A young Johnny Peters was at the heart and soul as well.

© WILLIAM TAGOONA

Nunavik has much to boast about and be proud of in the influences its Inuk leaders have contributed to ITC and eventually the ITK in the last 50 years. Nunavik leaders are without a doubt a major element and major players in the nation-building we see today. Prior to the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, a true nation-building in Canada would probably not have happened. The forming of the ITC in 1972 and the organizing of the other National Indigenous

Organizations was the missing piece of the puzzle to create the Canada we see today. This was not a gift from governments but a brainchild of the Inuit, First Nations and Métis, and Canada should be thankful for it.

From that historic first meeting of Inuit from the NWT, Northern Quebec, and Labrador in 1971 in Pangnirtung that addressed the need to establish a brotherhood to give Canadian Inuit one voice,



Mary Simon speaking to Inuit students in Ottawa to help them connect to the past so they can have a better view of the future.



Pita Aatami and the late Jose Kusugak in front of the Parliament Buildings where they spent a lot of time together representing Inuit through the work of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.



Zebedee Nungak with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and First Ministers during a coffee break in difficult negotiations.

to today's meetings with the prime minister through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, Nunavik has been in the forefront of decision making. From the recognition of Aboriginal rights in Canada's constitution to the installment of Mary Simon as Canada's first Indigenous governor general, this all happened because of the hard work Nunavimmiut have done on the national scene.

So, as we celebrate the anniversary of our national Inuit organization, let us Nunavimmiut also congratulate ourselves for its success.

William Tagoona was at the 1971 historic first meeting of Inuit in Pangnirtung, Nunavut, and the 1972 founding AGM conference of the Inuit Tapirisat Of Canada (ITC) in Baker Lake, Nunavut, as a young journalist. •

FEMALE INUIT Fly High

January of 2021 was a special month for Inuvialuk Captain Dawn Macfarlane.

It was then that she became first Inuk woman to captain a Canadian North 737. It would seem aviation milestones run in her blood, as Captain Macfarlane is the daughter of retired Captain Cecil Hansen, an Inuvialuk pilot who became the first Inuk jet captain in Canada in 1980.

Captain Macfarlane's first flight in the 737-200 was in April of 2008 as a First Officer. The following month she flew Canadian North's scheduled service 5T444 from Edmonton to Inuvik with her father.

"It was our first flight together as Captain and First Officer, father and daughter. It was one of the more special days in my career, to fly home, with family onboard, with my dad. Not many people get to say that," she recalled. Captain Macfarlane was given the opportunity to become captain at Canadian North on the 737-200 and 737-300 in October of 2020, and after her training was completed, she flew her first flight as a captain in January.

"I feel a sense of pride, to be honest," she said of being the first Inuk woman to fly a Canadian North jet. "In our current world where so many sad and untold stories are finally surfacing, I feel it is more important than ever to be a positive voice and a successful Aboriginal example."

She would like the youth of the North to know that if you are willing to leave home to gain your education, and then work hard on your career, you can return and contribute to your community and people in a rewarding way.

"I have always been honoured to work for an Aboriginal owned airline, and to be a beneficiary of that makes me feel like I am a part of the greater good for the Inuvialuit," she said.

Also setting aviation milestones is Air Inuit Captain Melissa Haney. Social media was buzzing in early September as Captain Haney, the first Inuk woman to captain an Air Inuit Dash-8, again made history as she took off for the first time as captain of an Air Inuit Boeing 737-200 for a commercial flight from Montreal to La Grande, then to Puvirnituk, and back.

Photographer and self-proclaimed "aviation freak" Jean-Pierre Bonin was at the airport in Montreal that day and took photos which he then posted to Facebook. The post received more than 700 "likes" and even more "shares."

Captain Haney said that being the first Inuk woman to captain an Air Inuit Boeing 737-200 was not a goal she was aiming for when she started her pilot license,

but she would like to use the recognition she has been afforded to bring awareness to young women and Indigenous youth that they can have amazing careers and to set goals for themselves that they can achieve.

Captain Macfarlane echoed the encouragement that Captain Haney offers to youth.

"The educational options for Aboriginal youth are incredible, all they need is the courage to seize the opportunity and gain the education. Any female interested in becoming a pilot has every opportunity to do so," she said. ●

■ The educational options for Aboriginal youth are incredible, all they need is the courage to seize the opportunity and gain the education. Any female interested in becoming a pilot has every opportunity to do so... ■

Air Inuit Captain Melissa Haney rides the yellow line back in Montreal as she completes her first day of work as captain on an Air Inuit Boeing 737-200.





Captain Dawn Macfarlane with her daughter Paige at a retirement party for her father, retired Captain Cecil Hansen.



Captain Dawn Macfarlane with her father, retired Captain Cecil Hansen, who was the first Inuk jet captain in Canada in 1980.



Jean-Pierre Bonin saw Captain Melissa Haney for the first time in 2016 at the Lachute Airport. She was one of three female pilot guest speakers at a "Girls Discover Aviation" event. He was struck by what a great role model she was and her ability to be a great aviation ambassador. In this photo from August 2021, Melissa and her children greet 19-year-old Zara Rutherford at her Montreal/Saint-Hubert stop on her quest to become the youngest woman to do a solo flight around the world.

WATT SHINES on Pitch

LUCAS WATT KNOWS THE BENEFITS OF BEING UNCOMFORTABLE.



The teenaged soccer phenom has had his share of adversity over the past year, but it has only made him stronger. Born in Repentigny, Quebec, to parents Ben and Dolaine, Lucas went to preschool and daycare in Kuujuaq, before moving to Pierrefonds in southern Quebec. He returns often though as his father and his side of the family are in Kuujuaq.

Speaking on the phone from his home outside of Montreal in July, Lucas was late because he lost track of time. He had headed out for a short run but ended up going much longer than he planned – he was pushing himself – something not at all out of character for him.

Recently back from a year at Montverde Academy in Montverde, Florida, a prestigious boarding school known for its athletics, Lucas was continuing to train. After completing his final year of high school in Quebec in 2020, he was recruited and did a senior year in Florida in 2020-21, where he was captain of his soccer team and named 2021 Most Valuable Player.

Lucas started playing soccer in an organized league when he was about 4.

"As soon as I was put on the field, I loved it," he said. But it wasn't the first sport he tried. He says he was a sore loser as a kid and would give up on anything he tried that he wasn't instantly good at. "The first time my parents and grandparents put me on skates, I fell flat on my face, and I never wanted to skate again," he said, laughing.

That attitude obviously changed. Although used to being in Quebec leagues with older players, when Lucas arrived at Montverde, he realized that the athletic component of soccer in the States was promoted at a different level. He saw the abilities of other students

recruited from places like Ghana, Thailand, and Brazil, and he knew he wasn't going to be the most talented player. He was OK with that. "That to me was something I hadn't felt before. But I grew to love it."

The challenges didn't stop there. In late October Lucas contracted a harsh case of COVID. He said it was the worst fatigue he'd ever felt. "I didn't get much sleep at night, but pretty much all I could do during the day was nap. I spent a couple of nights in the washroom because I couldn't keep anything down."

Lucas' father Ben Watt said while he wasn't overly worried about complications from Lucas contracting the virus, his concern was for his son's emotional wellbeing and mental health when he had to isolate, but he had full confidence in the academy's medical team.

"They kept us updated on his vitals and they checked in on him three times a day; twice by video and once in person. I'd Facetime with him on the regular and could tell that he was handling it well," Ben said. Lucas was out of commission for 22 days. But he came back with a vengeance, only to be hit with another obstacle.

Montverde Academy has a stellar history of placing its students into American colleges and universities, but COVID changed the rules. Travel by NCAA recruiters and coaches was restricted because of the pandemic and there were fewer matches being played overall. Highlight videos had to be created for players, and mechanical issues meant they had to be shot manually. A further wrinkle was created when the NCAA issued a policy stating any senior in college or university could have an extra year of eligibility because their senior year had been cancelled. That meant that not only were recruiters not allowed to visit and see recruits, but they were also able to keep their



seniors another year, which meant they didn't need any new players. By the end of the school year, only three students had been placed.

Lucas consulted with his coaches, and while they all agreed athletically and talent-wise he was a Division 1 soccer player, the problem was whether they could get colleges interested. But Lucas had learned from his time at Montverde that not necessarily being the star and not getting all the game time right away actually forced him to work harder and resulted in him becoming a stronger player.

"I told them that I'm OK with not playing on the 1st team. If there's a reserve team, I'm OK with that and they took that as a really good sign," he said. In early May he received a call from the coach at the University of Albany, in New York. The phone call ended up taking 1.5 hours, and ultimately led to Lucas accepting the offer.

His father Ben said he was most proud of Lucas for insisting to his Montverde coaches that he wouldn't settle for less than a Division 1 NCAA university.

"Some assumed that he would be content with Division 2 or 3, because they get more field time right off the bat. He's blazing a trail where he'll have to earn field time," he said, and training and practicing at UAlbany will challenge him and further push his development.

"He works hard, believes in himself and that makes me very proud," Ben said.

On the University of Albany's website, freshman Great Danes defenseman Lucas Watt lists his hometown as Kuujjuaq, Quebec, Canada. Lucas said the past year, chock full of adversity, is what has propelled him to where he is now. To young Inuit he offered these



Lucas Watt with his father, Ben Watt.

words of advice: "Realize that it's OK to not feel comfortable. Getting used to that uncomfortable zone is the only way we can really see a lot of growth in whatever field that may be. It's about being OK with not being OK." ♦

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN WATT

CARGO SERVICES – an important part of the lifeline for our communities



Air Inuit's cargo network plays an essential role in the well-being of our people and communities. To ensure all communities in Nunavik are provisioned with perishables, food goods, medical supplies and many other important goods pertaining to the day to day life of Nunavimmiut, we make it a priority to operate an efficient and optimized cargo network in a very challenging environment. To achieve this mission, we operate different aircraft types ranging from the Twin Otter to the B737 and this, in various environment.

The pandemic has contributed to a considerable increase in cargo volumes, not only across our network, but all over the world. This increase should stabilize in the coming years as we continue to adapt our fleet to the changing needs.

We are now operating a fleet of five Boeing 737, 13 years after the launch of the jet operation. The newest addition is a full freighter

737-200 that will be dedicated to cargo operations, allowing us to move up to 30,000 pounds of cargo out of Montreal and La Grande to our key cargo hubs in Puvirnituk, Kuujuaq and Kuujuarapik.

The smaller communities are serviced by both our Dash8 freighter and Twin Otter fleet. With its 12,000 pounds of payload, the Dash8 allows us to service mainly our 3,500 feet runway communities. With its 3,300 pounds payload, the versatile Twin Operation complements the network where needed. Adapted to off-strip operation, it can fly into many camps and remote locations to facilitate essential urgent needs.

In order to accommodate bigger items and to improve loading and de-loading efficiency, Air Inuit decided, nearly three years ago, to invest in the world's first Large Freighter Door Dash8-300. This innovation is planned for certification in the fall of 2021.



Information technologies are also key to the movement of cargo. As we move forward, improved cargo tracking, self-service waybill production, and expanded online services will allow for a new online experience that will speed up service points across the network.

Increasing cargo volumes requires additional logistics and calls for additional space and manpower. We have therefore invested in the opening of our own Montreal cargo facility in March of 2020 as a first step to modernizing our services. The next steps consist of extending our LaGrande hub cargo warehouse which will be completed by the fall of 2021, building a new cargo warehouse in Kuujuaq for inauguration in 2022, and expanding our Puvirnituk cargo warehouse in 2022 as well. These infrastructure improvements are part of our overall plan to improve and modernize our services.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of our cargo employees across the network who have been busy in managing millions of kilograms of freight over the past months. Thank you for your great work.

As we continue to evolve, we thank our customers for their business and look forward in continuing to serve them in the future. ♦



Canadian North Employees Recognized – Top 40 under 40

Canadian North is extremely proud to share that **WINGS** Magazine has recognized two of our team members in the **Top 40 under 40** list for 2021. This is a prestigious honour within the Canadian aviation industry, with inspiring young leaders chosen each year for their leadership, innovation, influence, achievements and dedication.

Shelly De Caria, Senior Director, Sales and Community Investments (originally from Kuujuaq and now based in Ottawa) and Megan Evers, Manager, Charter Operations (based in Calgary), have both been selected for this year's list.

Shelly and Megan are both integral members of the Canadian North team and have taken on important leadership responsibilities.

- Shelly leads our Sales and Community Investments team and has been working to redefine how we serve our northern corporate customers through the development of new passenger and cargo programs. She and her team also manage all of our community investment initiatives that support the well-being of the communities we serve. She provides invaluable knowledge and insight to us through her lived experience as an Inuit Beneficiary and connections to family, friends and our customers in Nunavik.
- As leader of our Charters account management group, Megan and her team play a key role in helping our day-to-day charter operations to run smoothly, while ensuring the needs of our clients are always met. She has also helped to harmonize our charter processes and procedures during our integration.



Shelly De Caria, Senior Director, Sales and Community Investments, originally from Kuujuaq and now based in Ottawa, was selected for WINGS Magazine's 2021 40 under 40 list.



Megan Evers, Canadian North's Manager, Charter Operations, is based in Calgary and was also selected for WINGS Magazine's 2021 40 under 40 list.

Shelly and Megan are also valued members of the Canadian North Women in Leadership group and are strong role models for women and youth considering roles in the aviation industry. They exemplify the values—**Safety, Integrity, Teamwork, Innovation, Service Excellence, Community and Respect**—in everything they do and are huge contributors to the success of our scheduled and charter operations.

Congratulations to Shelly and Megan for this wonderful achievement. You can view the full **Top 40 under 40** list in the July/August 2021 issue of WINGS Magazine at wingsmagazine.com/digital-edition. ♦

About The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee



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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

Since 2008, the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) has been providing content for *Taqralik's* Green Corner column. In this issue, we thought it might be time to re-introduce ourselves to Nunavimmiut. For those who are unfamiliar with the KEAC, it serves as an advisory body to responsible governments charged with overseeing Nunavik's environmental and social protection regime established under Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*. The KEAC is composed of nine members, with the Kativik Regional Government, the Government of Quebec, and the Government of Canada each appointing three members. Throughout its 40-year history, the KEAC has included members from many of the Nunavik communities.

As part of its mandate, the KEAC also makes recommendations concerning laws, regulations and other measures related to environmental and social protection in Nunavik. The committee also examines environmental and social impact assessment and review mechanisms and procedures.

The KEAC meets four times annually and our agenda items include such topics as waste management, public participation in the assessment of development projects in Nunavik, the closure and restoration of Mid-Canada Line radar sites and the Asbestos Hill mine site, the creation of parks and protected areas, the review of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the *JBNQA*, the rehabilitation of abandoned mineral exploration sites, renewable energy and mining projects, as well as drinking water quality.

In order to be more responsive to environmental and social protection issues in Nunavik, the KEAC 2020-2025 action plan strives to respond to concerns regarding sustainable development, the safeguard of biodiversity, climate change and the quality of life of the residents of Nunavik.

More information about our committee and the work we do can be found at www.keac-ccek.org.



FEDERAL (INDIAN) DAY SCHOOLS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

PREPARED FOR THE MAKIVIK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (APRIL 2021)

FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE, WHO WAS AWARDED BY COURT A MANDATE OF SUPPORT IN EXCLUSIVITY?

Based on the court approved order, the Class Council Gowling Law Firm is the exclusive assistance resource for all former day school students from coast to coast. You can contact the Class Council at **1-844-539-3815** or dayschools@gowlingwlg.com. Support and assistance are made available to you free of charge throughout the process. Note that, as they are receiving a large amount of calls, we were informed that wait time may be important. You can also consult the official website at www.indiandayschools.com.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AND THE 2007 RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS CLASS ACTION?

The Day Schools Class Action is called the McLean Class Action, for Mr. Garry McLean, the Indian Day School advocate from Manitoba Ojibway First Nation who acted as representative plaintiff to it. He passed away in February 2019 before seeing all outcomes of his 2009 initiated lawsuit, which was brought forward for the people who attended Indian Day Schools, or Federal Day Schools, funded, controlled and managed by the Government of Canada throughout Indigenous communities in Canada. They differ from the residential schools, which were accommodating the students after school hours, in residences or hostels. Day Schools were attended only during the day by students. In Nunavik, schools operated first as Day Schools, then as residential schools – for a few years in four communities (Kuujuarapik, Inukjuak, Kangirsuk, Kangisualujjuaq) – and then reverted to Day Schools operations only. Schools funded, operated or managed by the Province, or by private organizations, are not covered by the Day Schools Class Action. Likewise, students who went to Ottawa to further their education are also not eligible under this Day Schools Class Action. The Residential Schools Class Action was settled in 2007 by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The Day Schools Class Action was settled through a Settlement Agreement on August 19, 2019.

WHAT WAS THIS DAY SCHOOLS CLASS ACTION PURPOSE?

The Day Schools Class Action intended to see compensation offered to all Inuit, First Nations and Métis students who attended

the various Federal and Indian Day Schools for the harm they have suffered while at school.

WHAT IS THE FEDERAL DAY SCHOOLS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

On August 19, 2019, the Class Action saw its resolves by way of a Winnipeg Federal Court approved Settlement Agreement. Following this court approval, former students had 90 days, or until November 18th, 2019, to decide if they wanted to be part of the Agreement (opt out), i.e., not to be bound by the Settlement Agreement and rather pursue their own personal compensation for harm while retaining their right to bring an individual claim against Canada. Since fewer than 10,000 former students did decide to opt-out from the Agreement, Canada didn't have to assess the possible cancellation, or renegotiation, of the Agreement. Implementation commenced 120 days from approval date, or **on January 13, 2020**.

FOR HOW LONG SHOULD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT RUNS?

Applications could from January 13, 2020 be forwarded to the Claims Administrator. The Application process will run for two years and a half (2Y 1/2) **or until July 13, 2022**, with a possible six months extension. The Company "Deloitte" acts as Claims Administrator to this claims process.

IS THE DOCUMENT THAT I HAVE SENT TO CLASS COUNSEL WAY BACK THEN AN "APPLICATION"?

The document you have sent to Class Counsel before settlement approval is not your Application. It was rather a "notice of interest" which will not be considered as a formal claim application. We cannot emphasize enough the need for you to apply for compensation using an Application Form. If contacted by the Class Counsel on this, it will be very important to act positively in the Application process so not to miss this compensation and remediation opportunity. You can at any time have confirmed reception of your Application Form with the Claims Administrator's Call Center: **1-888-221-2898**.

IS COMPENSATION ATTACHED TO THE NUMBER OF YEARS SPENT IN FEDERAL DAY SCHOOLS?

No, it is not. Any former student who suffered harm at a Federal Day School may qualify for compensation. The amount of compensation will depend on the kind of harm experienced notwithstanding the number of years spent in Federal Day School(s). Compensation will range from Level 1 to Level 5. Level 1 compensation should be awarded if you suffered abuse like mocking or humiliation because of your culture, language or identity, threats of violence, sexual comments or some kind of physical abuse. In turn, Level 5 compensation will be awarded for the most serious physical or sexual harm suffered while attending Federal Day School(s). Since most former students who attended a Federal Day School experienced harm emotionally, physically, or both, it is expected that eligible former students be eligible for at least the base 1 level of compensation set at \$10,000.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR COMPENSATION?

Any former student who suffered harm at a Federal Day School may qualify for compensation. The amount of compensation will depend on the kind of harm experienced. It will not be attached to the number of years of attendance at Federal Day School(s). Former students will get the same amount of compensation if they suffered the same kind of harm, notwithstanding their number of years in schools. Compensation will range from Level 1 to Level 5. Level 1 compensation should be awarded if you suffered abuse like mocking or humiliation because of your culture, language or identity, threats of violence, sexual comments or some kind of physical abuse. Level 5 compensation will be awarded for the most serious physical or sexual harm suffered while attending Federal Day School(s). All former students who attended a Federal Day School experienced harm emotionally, physically, or both. It is foreseen that all eligible former students should be eligible for at least the base level of compensation set at \$10,000.

IS THIS COMPENSATION TAXABLE?

No, compensation is not taxable as being not recognized as “income” by the Canadian Revenue Agency.

HOW WILL I QUALIFY FOR COMPENSATION?

To obtain compensation you will have to fill out and submit the required Application Form within the prescribed 2 years and 6 months deadline, **or until July 13, 2022**. If the claim is not submitted before then, you will not be able to present an application afterwards and will lose all your rights to sue Canada for any harm relating to these Federal Day Schools. You can get assistance with your Application by contacting the Claims Help Line: **1-888-221-2898**.

HOW ABOUT FORMER STUDENTS WHO PASSED AWAY?

If a former student died or dies **on or after July 31, 2007**, the estate will be entitled to present an application **before July 13, 2022**. Otherwise, if one former student submits an application before his or her death under said time period of reference, the application will be considered valid. Makivik is recommending that you contact its Nunavik Community Justice Centre in order to obtain the required assistance on all intricate estate aspects: notary@makivik.org; 418-318-1656.

WILL I HAVE NECESSARILY TO APPEND EVIDENCE OR DOCUMENTS, OR TO APPEAR IN SUPPORT OF MY APPLICATION?

Although suggested in the Application Form, the fact that you may not have at hand any of the “required” documents – such as report card(s), photo(s), letter(s), etc. – would not affect your submission. You will have the possibility to replace these with a **Sworn Declaration** made by a guarantor who may be (1) a commissioner of oaths such as the NV Secretary-Treasurers (2) an elected official such as Mayors or LHC Presidents (3) other professionals such as lawyers, doctors, police officers. This declaration will be found on Page 12 of the Application Form. The Guarantor will not have to see the rest of your Application Form. He/She will only have to see you signing the upper part of Page 12, and then will act upon such signature. Your Application Form and the information it contains belong to you, and the Guarantor will act for the only purpose of the Sworn Declaration on Page 12. Furthermore, unlike the Residential School process, no one will have to appear before assessors to share their story of harm. Applications are to rely solely on written format, where a narrative of the events should be inscribed. These, unless contrary evidence is produced, are to be believed and trusted at their face value.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBLE FEDERAL DAY SCHOOLS FROM A NUNAVIK STANDPOINT?

The Settlement Agreement recognizes 11 Federal Day Schools in Nunavik. They are listed at the Schedule K to the Agreement (<https://indiandayschools.com/en/wp-content/uploads/schedule-k.pdf>). Through requests for correction/modification/addition, Makivik secured, as part of the Schedule K eligible schools and dates, 1978 as the main date of transfer of the Federal Day Schools in existence. Some schools also operated as Residential Schools. Former students living in hostels or school residences should not see their claim positively received. Former students who attended these schools as Day Students can still forward an Application. Years of operations as Residential Schools have been assessed as follows:

- In Kangiqsualujuaq, in 1960.
- In Kuujjuarapik, from 1960 to 1970.
- In Kangirsuk, from 1960 to 1962.
- In Inukjuak, from 1960 to 1971.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS INVOLVED?

A total amount of **\$1.4 billion** is made available by Canada for Level 1 compensation (\$10,000 per person). This is based on the estimate of the numbers of former students in Canada which may be from 120,000 and 200,000. An **unlimited amount** of money will be made available by Canada for all other levels of compensation. An amount of **\$200 million** for legacy projects is set aside, to be administrated by the McLean Day Schools Settlement Corporation (MDSSC), a not-for-profit body created for such purpose. Projects relating to healing, wellness, culture, language, identity, commemoration, etc. would by it be assessed for financial contribution. The MDSSC will be consulting with survivors and their families on what their expectations are when it comes to operation and administration of the Legacy Fund. The MDSSC is for the time-being hosting virtual meetings and email notification and can be contacted at: info@mcleandayschoolssettlementcorporation.ca. Under an expected “first come, first served approach,” it is recommended that communities get prepared in advance to take advantage of

this funding in order to respond to their members' needs. Next, the Class Council Toronto Law Firm Gowling received **\$55 million** as the exclusive body mandated towards the administration and implementation of the Agreement, plus a **\$7 million** retainer to accompany the claimants throughout the process. No former student is going to have to pay for these services, the fees being assumed by Canada outside of the compensation envelopes.

CAN I ASK THE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION ABOUT MY CLAIM?

If you have received a decision from the Claims Administrator in which your claim was leveled down, you are able to apply for a Reconsideration through the Claims Administrator: **1-888-221-2898**. And although receiving this decision might have taken a long time, timelines for Reconsideration responses are generally much shorter. Hence, you should swiftly act upon this Reconsideration process. If you accept a Level Down assessment, Claims Administrators is indicating that it should take approximately 10-12 weeks to receive your cheque. A request for Reconsideration should in turn

take approximately 12-14 weeks to receive a decision letter. You should at any moment discuss your case and receive advice on Reconsideration by contacting the Class Counsel: **1-844-539-3815**.

IS THIS AGREEMENT, OR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, PROVIDING EMOTIONAL HEALTH SUPPORT?

No, neither the Settlement Agreement nor the Government of Canada are providing specific emotional health support. This important matter was of course raised by the three Inuit Nunangat Land Claims Organizations (Makivik, IRC and NTI). Yet, you should at any time reach the general assistance lines if needed, such as:

- Your Community CLSC: #9090
- The Traditional Health Support Workers (Monday-Friday 9h-17h) 1-877-686-2845
- The Kamatsiaqtut Help Line 1-800-265-3333
- Class Counsel: 1-844-539-3815.



WHERE AND HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION OR GET SUPPORT WITH MY APPLICATION?

You can receive assistance on how to fill your application by checking the Class Counsel Website (www.indiandayschools.com) or by contacting the Claims Help Line: 1-888-221-2898, or the Class Council for one-on-one assistance (dayschools@gowlingwlg.com; 1-844-539-3815). The Class Council is also organizing Community Assistance Sessions through various means (mainly online at the current time considering the pandemic circumstances).

WHAT IS MAKIVIK'S ROLE IN THIS PROCESS?

Unlike the Residential School process, Makivik and other Land Claims Organizations were not awarded any role in the process. Makivik along with NTI and IRC have been advocating the specific needs of the Inuit Nunangat former students. It went from requesting an extension of the originally intended one-year deadline for

application, to requesting emotional health support, to assessing the accuracy of the eligible Inuit Federal Day Schools listing, and more. We notably contracted the National Library and Archives Canada to collect relevant information on the various Inuit Day Schools. We answer questions on a regular basis from individuals, community meetings and groups, and liaise information regarding the process. As one caller pointed out: *"we do not know that council firm, but we know Makivik and we trust it will help us."* Hence, Makivik intends to continue to inform members as much as it is allowed to do so without breaching the Agreement and orders. You can contact Mylène Larivière at our Legal Department (mlariviere@makivik.org). •



Q and A with **ALEASHIA ECHALOOK**

Aleashia Echalook was elected President of the Qarjuit Youth Council in 2019 and since then has been active working with and for youth in the region. As her term ended on August 31, *Taqralik* magazine asked her some questions about her time leading the organization.

Aleashia Echalook, past President of the Qarjuit Youth Council, urges youth to get involved in Nunavik by applying for positions and taking the initiative to speak out about issues and the needs of people in Nunavik.

What are some of the Youth Council's successes of which you are most proud?

The proudest moment I had was when we found a solution for office space in Kuujuaq when QYC was losing hope in finding a secure space to work from. I am still very thankful for the Berthe family and Adel Yaasa at KRG who was very supportive in making the office building renovation possible.

What, if anything, did you learn anything from being President of the Council?

Being President of Qarjuit Youth Council has taught me so many things. I learned to lead an organization and a team, I learned about the different organizations here in Nunavik, I also learned that if you put your mind into something, you can achieve anything you want. It has been such a rewarding experience to lead a beautiful young organization.

What were some of the challenges you faced as QYC President?

The most challenging thing was that Qarjuit Youth Council did not have an office space available anywhere in Kuujuaq after the demolishing of the old Makivik building that was rented out to the youth council.

When were you first elected President of Qarjuit, and how did that feel?

I was elected as President of Qarjuit Youth Council on February 12, 2019, and I was very excited yet nervous but was ready for a new challenge in my life.

How can youth make a difference in Nunavik?

Youth can make a difference if they start working together. Join youth groups, taking chances, continuing education and getting involved in your communities.

What advice would you offer the incoming President?

Being President of an organization is a big responsibility, it is also a lot of fun and you'll have to be very open minded and be ready for some challenges.

Did you accomplish all of what you hoped to as President? If not, what remains?

I accomplished most of the things I wished to do as QYC president such as: Securing an office space for the next eight years, creating a solid team, held Nunavik youth consultations, negotiating new funding agreements with both federal and provincial governments, signing an MOU with Makivik Corporation, and receiving a voting right as well. I would've loved to work on a partnership with other organizations such as KRG, but was not able to succeed, but I hope QYC will be able to accomplish that with the new leadership.

What advice would you offer Youth in general?

I would like to start by saying, I would love to see more youth getting involved, applying to positions and start taking the initiative to voice their issues and needs in Nunavik, we need you to take part, we need youth to be the voice and decision makers. On a more personal note, I would like to say that nothing is permanent, don't stress too much, no matter the situation, it will change... have hope 😊.



Inuit leader and signatory of the *JBNQA*, Putulik Papigatuk passed in August.

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Remembering Putulik Papigatuk

Putulik Papigatuk, a tireless advocate for Inuit rights in Nunavik, died in his hometown of Salluit in early August.

A community leader, he was born in an igloo, and lived his entire life in Salluit, formerly known as Sugluk. He was 69. Putulik attended the Federal Day School in Sugluk until Grade 5, and then attended Residential School in Churchill, Manitoba, from 1965-66. From 1969 to 1973 he worked for the Falconbridge Nickel Mine and Asbestos Corporation. But it was as a Northern Quebec Inuit Association board member during the 1975 *James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement* negotiations that he made his greatest mark on Nunavik history.

"Putulik was an important figure in the development of today's Nunavik," said Pita Aatami, President of Makivik Corporation. "The *JBNQA* was the first comprehensive land claim agreement signed

in modern times and could not have been realized without the leadership of the Northern Quebec Inuit Association, of which Putulik was a member. The agreement ultimately led to the 1978 creation of Makivik to administer the funds from the *JBNQA*. Putulik's role and contribution was invaluable. We will miss him very much and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family."

In recognition for his important role in the development of the *JBNQA*, he and his fellow signatories were awarded the Order of Nunavik in 2015. Putulik Papigatuk was also a member of the negotiating team for the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (*NILCA*). ♦

Tagging Arctic char in Tasirjuarusik, Kangirsuk

By Véronique Dubos

Photos courtesy of Véronique Dubos

Fish tagging

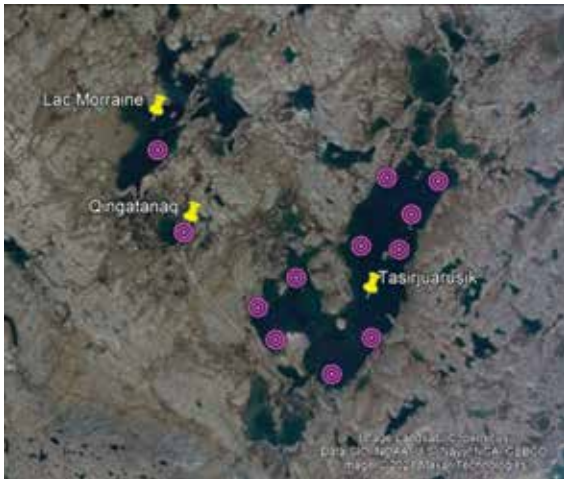
At the end of summer, numerous Arctic char enter the large lake Tasirjuarusik (Virgin Lake), located close to the community of Kangirsuk. However, over the winter Inuit fishers barely found them once they reached the lake. The char reappear in late spring. To understand Arctic char overwintering habits, eight fish entering the Tasirjuarusik system were tagged in August 2021.

The fish were caught using dip nets in a pool, located downstream from a waterfall. At each high tide, an arrival of fish was observed. When no more fish could be seen in the pool, they were pushed towards the pool, by agitating the water surface with rocks attached on a rope crossing the river.



Once caught, each fish was placed in a bin filled with an anesthetic solution (clove oil mixed in water) for a few minutes, until they fell asleep. It was necessary to do surgery to implant the acoustic tag. The surgery was conducted within two to four minutes, by implanting the acoustic tag and administering two stitches. During the surgery, the fish gills were constantly provided with liquid (anesthetic or water). Once the surgery was completed, the tagged fish was released in a recovery basin, located upstream from the waterfall. It was monitored regularly for about an hour or until it was ready to swim back in the river.

Information was transmitted to the local fishers not to fish in the area during the tagging activity to avoid catching one of the tagged fish and give them more chance to reach their overwintering lake.



Acoustic receiver installation

To record the fish location in the Tasirjuarusik system, 11 acoustic receivers were installed in the main lake. Two other receivers will be installed next winter, while access to the upstream lakes will be easier. Each receiver was fixed on a rope, anchored on the bottom of the lake, and attached to a buoy. The GPS location was recorded to be able to find them again.

The receivers will be retrieved at the end of the summer 2022 to download the potential detection of a tagged fish.



The team

Noah Eetook, Saomie Thomassie, Véronique Dubos, Carole-Anne Gillis, Aina Igiyok, Silasie Alaku, Jaiku Airo, William Eetook, Victoria Airo, Tommy Kudluk, and with the help and participation of Jaani Nassak, Leo Nassak and Zebedee Annahatak.

This project is funded by the Inuit Nunangat Research Program, supported by ArcticNet/Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. ●





CHRISTINA S. SAVIAKJUK

Full name:

Christina S. Saviakjuk

Birthday:

August 21, 1994

Place of birth:

Kuujuaq

Home community:

Salluit

Role model:

Mary-Kaye May

Favourite food:

Caribou

Occupation:

Student midwife

Proudest moment:

Becoming a mother

Future goal:

Grow old with my husband and kids

Best advice you can offer youth:

This world is already in great pain. Please be kind to one another and offer a helping hand. There is love. Everything is possible with God.

MYSTERY PHOTO CONTEST

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. The winner of this Mystery Photo Contest will be chosen on December 3, 2021.

Mystery Photo Contest
Makivik Corporation
P.O. Box 179
Kuujuaq (QC)
J0M 1C0

WHAT IS THIS? ►



We at Makivik are very proud to be a part of your continued success.

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