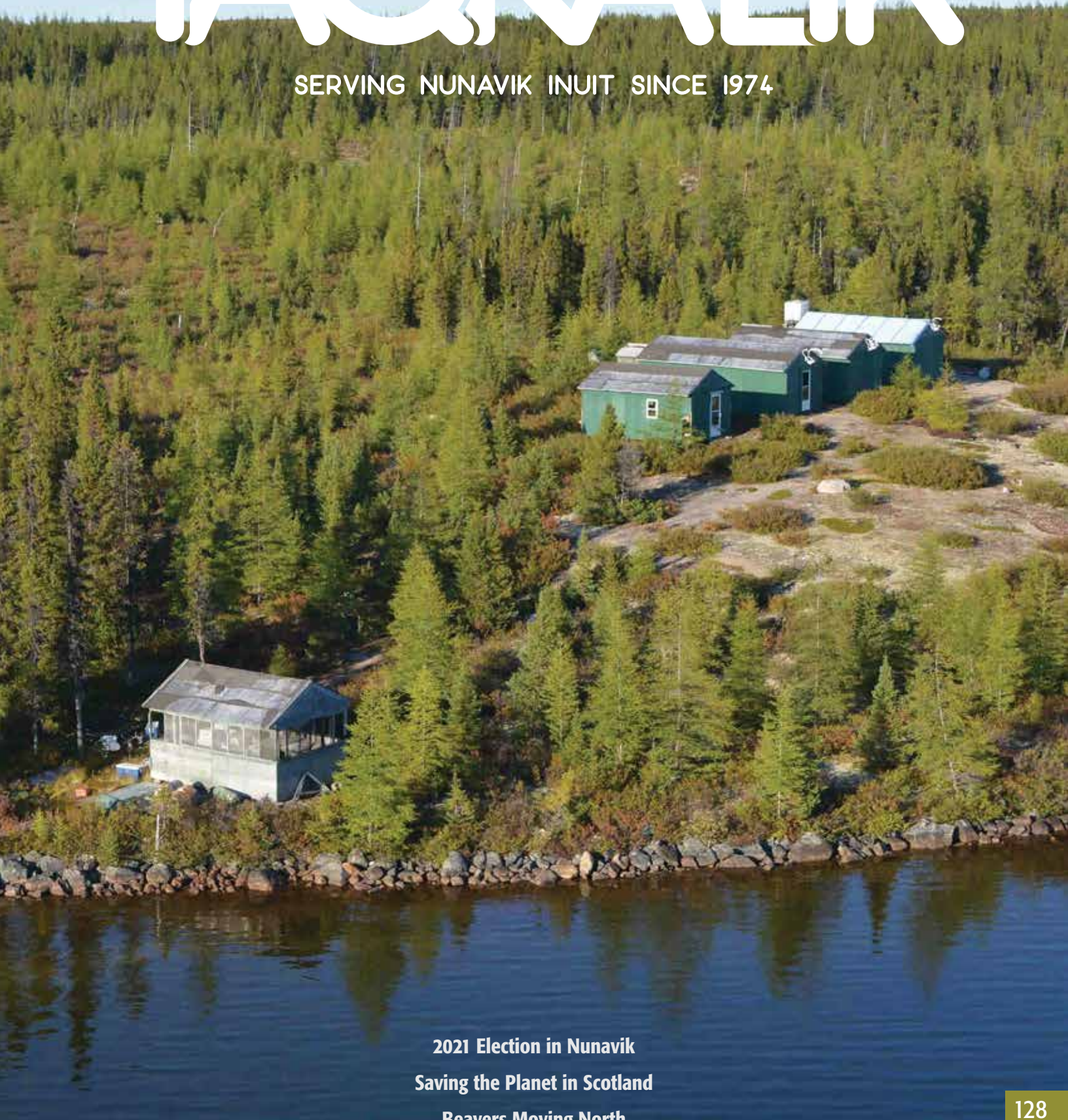


TAQRALIK

SERVING NUNAVIK INUIT SINCE 1974



2021 Election in Nunavik
Saving the Planet in Scotland
Beavers Moving North



LP[®]Ab
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

Taqralik is published by Makivik Corporation and distributed free of charge to Inuit beneficiaries of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Makivik Corporation or its Executive. We welcome letters to the editor and submissions of articles, artwork or photographs. Email mdewar@makivik.org or call 1-800-361-7052 for submissions or for more information.

Makivik Corporation Executives

Pita Aatami, President
Andy Moorhouse, Vice President, Economic Development
Adamie Delisle Alaku, Vice President, Environment, Wildlife and Research
George Berthe, Treasurer
Alicia Aragutak, Corporate Secretary

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all Makivik staff, as well as to all others who provided assistance and materials to make the production of this magazine possible.

Director of Communications

Carson Tagoona

Editor

Miriam Dewar

Translation/Proofreading

Minnie Amidlak
Eva Aloupa-Pilurtuut
Alasie Kenuajuak Hickey

Published by Makivik Corporation
P.O. Box 179, Kuujuaq (QC)
J0M 1C0 Canada
Telephone: 819-964-2925

*Contest participation in this magazine is limited to Inuit beneficiaries of the *JBNQA*.



Taqralik Issue 128
ISSN 2562-3206



CONTENTS

04 The 2021 Election
in Nunavik

12 Southern Companies
Help keep Nunavimmiut
Warm

08 A Tribute to a
Dedicated Career

15 Building Confidence
with Makivik
Construction

Cover photo: The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee has been closely monitoring the issue of remediation of abandoned sites in Nunavik. All the sites worked on this past summer were to the east of Umiujaq. This photo shows a site called 10515-13, which sits on a lake without an official name. To find out more about the remediation of abandoned sites in Nunavik, read this issue's Green Corner article on page 24. Photo by Nancy Dea.



© LANA ROBERTS X4

Makivik's Volunteer Tax Program got a boost in late February/early March with a training session held from February 27 – March 4, administered by Makivik's in-house trainer Gerry LaRocca. Our full-time income tax officers, Lucy Uqaituk and Ida Gordon coordinated the training, and Assistant to the Treasurer, Lana Roberts was there as a resource to answer technical questions. In total, more than 20 agents were trained in best practices and updates to income tax changes at both government levels. Makivik's tax program completed more than 5,900 income tax and benefit returns for Nunavik Beneficiaries, by helping them file and get the most back from their income tax returns. Last year over \$58 million in benefits were returned to Nunavik through Canada Child Benefits, GST Benefits, Quebec Child Allowance, and Solidarity Tax Credit.

16 Saving the Planet
in Scotland

24 Green Corner

30 Summer Literacy
Camps

19 Air Inuit

26 Legal Tips

33 Nunavik Research
Fact Sheet

22 Canadian North

28 Nunavik Notes

37 Nunavik Players

The 2021 Election IN NUNAVIK

By Stephen Hendrie

The summer of 2021 cannot be described as a quiet one politically. Despite the global pandemic continuing to hammer the country – each province trying hard to vaccinate their population and slowly reopen their economies – a federal election was called less than two years after the 2019 election. The result was virtually the same, with another minority Liberal government.

In the Nunavik region, the outcome was the re-election of Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament (MP) Sylvie Bérubé. It highlighted, again, how the “Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou” riding is so big it’s virtually impossible for candidates to visit Nunavik communities during the campaign. Inuit are left once again with an MP who cannot communicate with them in English or Inuktitut, and has never visited the region.

Unlike 2019, there were no Inuit candidates for this election. Bérubé won with 37.9 per cent of the votes. The next closest was the Liberal Party with 26 per cent of the vote, and the Conservatives were in third with 15.9 per cent. On the night of the election Bérubé was

at her campaign office in Val d’Or. “There was a great atmosphere there,” she said. “But I had to follow the COVID protocols, so it was a small group, just the key people who helped me with my campaign. My family was there via FaceTime.” She knew she had won by 10:20 pm.

A week following the election Bérubé acknowledged she had never visited the Nunavik communities during her first term, or during the election campaign. But she said that she supports the issues of the region. “I’m here to listen to you, to understand you, and to help you. I have enormous compassion for the Indigenous community, especially considering all the trauma the community has experienced over time. So I am here during this second term to work with the community, and I want to listen to your needs so I can bring them to Ottawa. That is my goal as your MP.”

Makivik President Pita Aatami was optimistic. In a press release he said, “I look forward to Sylvie Bérubé’s visit to Nunavik this time around. It’s very important to us that you visit the region that you



An Elections Canada charter
at the Val-d’Or airport.



Elections Canada Coordinator of electoral materials Denis Sénéchal with a wall of supplies from the 2021 election, in Val-d'Or.

represent and that we discuss how you can help us in our priorities. The reality of the communities across Nunavik is drastically different when compared to a city like Val d'Or, and the only way to truly understand the constituents that you serve in Nunavik is to come to the region and meet us in person. We look forward to your visit to Nunavik and the talks that follow."

During the election Makivik sent the same four questions to each candidate and received replies from everyone. The results are on the Makivik website. Bérubé's answers reveal her work on the Indigenous

and Northern Affairs Committee regarding the first two questions about permanent changes needed as a result of the pandemic, and the high cost of living in Nunavik. She supports Indigenous self-government, the topic of question three, and for the last question, the most important issues for her she said this: "I must continue to fight for the federal government to do everything in its power to improve the quality of life of the communities of Nunavik, whether at the level of food security, housing, access to safe drinking water, internet access, infrastructure development and many more."



Elections Canada officials with Propair pilots in Val-d'Or before heading to Nunavik.

[illegible]

©ELECTIONS CANADA

|| Makivik President Pita Aatami was optimistic. In a press release he said, I look forward to Sylvie Bérubé's visit to Nunavik this time around. It's very important to us that you visit the region that you represent and that we discuss how you can help us in our priorities. The reality of the communities across Nunavik is drastically different when compared to a city like Val d'Or, and the only way to truly understand the constituents that you serve in Nunavik is to come to the region and meet us in person. We look forward to your visit to Nunavik and the talks that follow. **||**



COURTESY OFFICE OF SYLVIE BÉRUBÉ X2

Sylvie Bérubé in Chibougamau at Centre Zéphyre, a place that helps with mental wellness.



Sylvie Bérubé during the election campaign in Val-d'Or.

Marie Poirier, the Liaison Officer for Elections Canada for the North and West Quebec Region says the pandemic meant extra measures during this election. Elections Canada used two Prop Air charters to send teams to all the Nunavik communities. They went in 10 days before the vote, and everyone had to pass a negative COVID test before the trip. They brought extra material this year such as Plexiglas shields for the voting stations, hand sanitizer, face shields, as well as all the regular equipment needed for the vote.

Because of the huge size of the riding, there is a main Elections Canada office in Val d'Or, and two satellite offices, one in Kuujuaq, and another in Senneterre. Poirier says the size of the riding is an issue. "There are major logistical challenges to ensure that everything is in place in time for the vote on election day. We have legal imperatives to get materials to the communities at specific times, so we don't have the choice, it has to be done!"

Asked what Inuit could do towards carving out a part of the immense riding to create one for Inuit, Cree, and Naskapi, Poirier gave a technical answer. "There is a revision of ridings every 10 years following every census. We just had a census held by Statistics Canada, so the revision is taking place between September 2021 and September 2023. There will be a process of redistribution and revision of the riding sizes throughout Canada."

Makivik is working on this issue. In Quebec City, Jean-François Arteau is Strategic Advisor to the president. He says there is a precedent on the provincial side for the Magdalen Islands. The population is about 18,000, but it does not make sense to lump them into a nearby riding such as Gaspé or the Lower North Shore. "The geographic, social, and economic situation in Nunavik is similar. Nunavik is like an island. There are no road links. It's so different from the rest of the riding that a new riding should be created for Nunavik."

Arteau says the legislation for redistribution includes a clause for "exceptional" circumstances, over and above the regulations based on population size. He says Makivik is already in discussions with the Cree on the issue.

Asked about creating a riding uniquely for Inuit, Cree, and Naskapis from the huge "Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou" riding, Sylvie Bérubé said, "We'll see what is possible and how we can do it. I'm very aware that one day we will really have to look at the riding, considering how huge it is. So we will look at it."

Public hearings will be held on the redistribution of the federal electoral districts from April to October 2022. Members of the public will be able to make presentations on this issue. ♦

A Tribute to a Dedicated Career

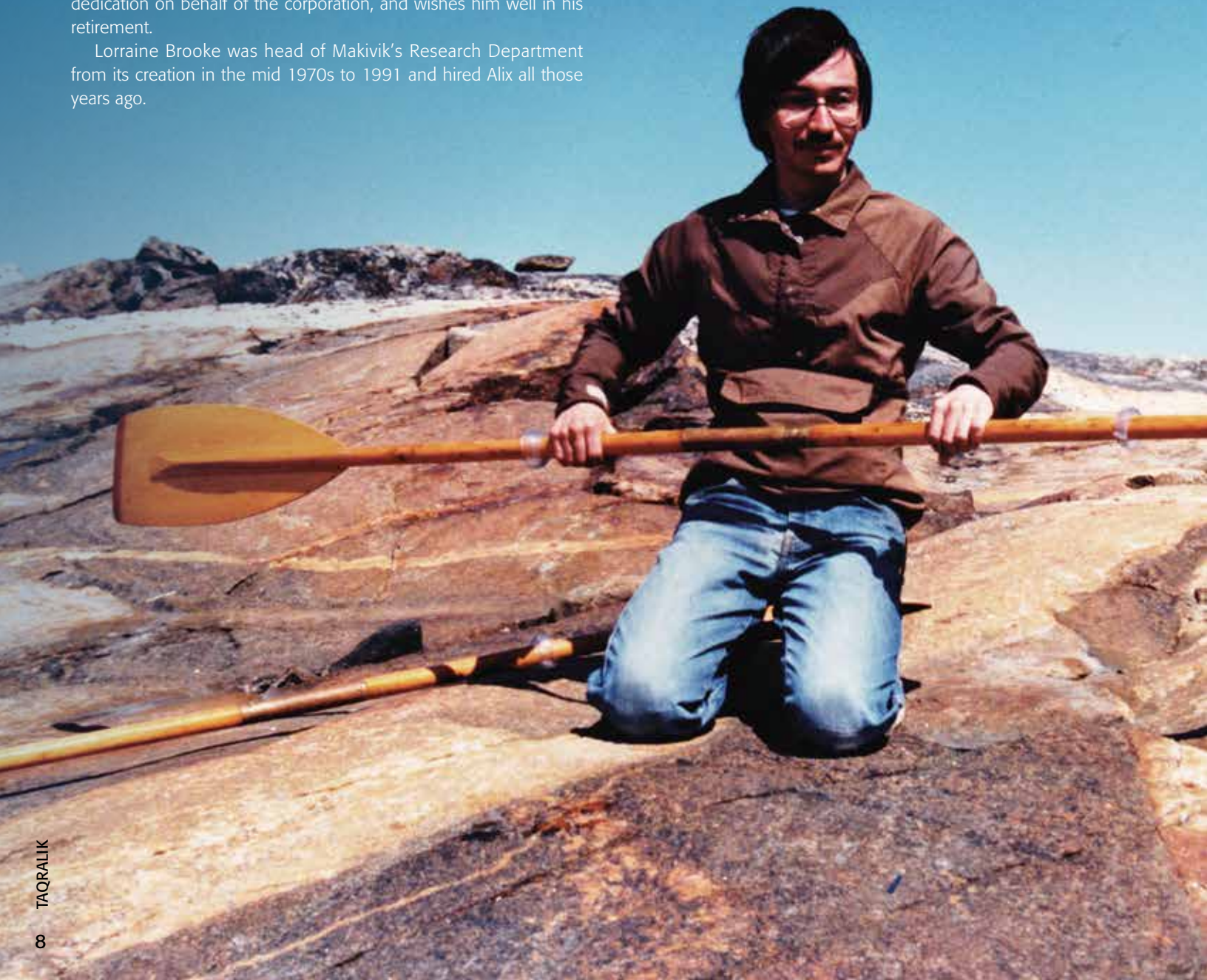
This fall Nunavik Research Centre Wildlife Technician Alix Gordon announced his retirement as of October 6, 2021. After nearly four decades of working for Makivik's Department of Environment, Wildlife and Research, he sent a heartfelt email to all staff thanking his colleagues and saying it was with a mixture of sadness and happiness that he was leaving after 38 years.

Alix's commitment to his job is commendable and Makivik President Pita Aatami characterized the work he did for Nunavimmiut as invaluable. In a phone interview, Pita said he thanks Alix for his dedication on behalf of the corporation, and wishes him well in his retirement.

Lorraine Brooke was head of Makivik's Research Department from its creation in the mid 1970s to 1991 and hired Alix all those years ago.

"He was always a very steady and conscientious employee who eagerly took up the challenges of learning scientific and research methods while educating and sensitizing his non-Inuit colleagues on how to work respectfully and learn from Inuit," she said.

What follows is a personal reflection written by Réjean Dumas. Réjean started working with Makivik as a student in 1980 and became a permanent employee in 1981, working as a biologist until 1990. He spent most of that time living in Kuujuaq and working alongside Alix Gordon.



|| He was always a very steady and conscientious employee who eagerly took up the challenges of learning scientific and research methods while educating and sensitizing his non-Inuit colleagues on how to work respectfully and learn from Inuit. ||

Alix Gordon's story at Makivik begins back to 1983, which were still the early days of the Nunavik Research Centre when it was hosted in the old Taqralik office. The centre's activities then revolved around the Kuujjuaq Fish Study, the Eider projects and Beluga studies. On a typical winter day, Alix and Moses¹ would be ageing salmon from their scales under a twin-headed microscope while arguing with Réjean about a certain check on a salmon scale: winter or spawning mark was the question! Peter, Etua and Douglas were pounding eider data or preparing a community presentation. Allen would come in late in the afternoon after school to work a couple of hours on his brook trout project.



The old Kuujjuaq Research Lab, which became the Nunavik Research Centre.



Photo taken during a trip to the Kuujjuaq estuary (around Pakkiviit) in June or July 1983. This is Alix, standing at the outboard, as he drives a freighter canoe. Réjean Dumas recalls they were accompanying three students to teach them how to simple fish for the Kuujjuaq Fish Study: George Peters (Johnny's son), Robbie Watt (Charlie's son) and Allen Gordon (Mark R. Viniq's brother). "They must have all been 14 at the time," Réjean says. "Kids then, community leaders now."

Alix working in the summer of 1987.

¹ The people mentioned in this paragraph by first name are Moses Koneak, Réjean Dumas, Peter May, Etua Tukkiapiq, Douglas Nakashima, and Allen Gordon.



COURTESY OF RÉJEAN DUMAS. X6



Salmon sampling on the Kuujjuaq River in 1984.



Sampling caribou from the massive drowning that occurred on the Caniapiscou in October 1984.



Alix had the ability to create a good fire, year-round.



Taken by Luc Gélinas in 2009 at the Nunavik Research Centre, this photo shows Alix, Réjean, Allen Gordon and Peter May.



Alix studying salmon scales in the early 1980s.

Team spirit, passion for wildlife, and humor were omnipresent. The then-called lab was one room with one big hand-crafted worktable. Around that table, all discussions were allowed: yesterday's white out, tomorrow's tide, the eider down quantity to make a quality vest...or the next prank on a designated victim. I remember that time when one of us was looking for his snowmobile which had been moved onto the roof of the lab: those were the days when snow would cover the entire back of the building. There was no limit to that team's imagination; Alix's knowledge, curiosity, capacity to analyze, and gentleness was a great part of it.

The fall of 1984 was marked by a major event that gathered journalists from around the world: the drowning of 12,000 caribou in the flooded Caniapiscou River. Alix was a key member of the team which sampled 250 of those caribou to assess their physical health. Half the salmon sample size (250) was examined annually and aged to characterize the harvest from the Kuujjuaq River and estuary. Alex was responsible for field operations, which involved several Kuujjuaq students. Little did we know that these students were emerging community leaders that would go on to occupy strategic positions in the Nunavik political landscape. Clearly, Alix has influenced and contributed to the path of several great Inuit leaders by his thinking and his wisdom. ♦



SOUTHERN COMPANIES HELP KEEP NUNAVIMMIUT WARM

It's hard to argue that Nunavik's talented seamstresses don't already produce the warmest clothing, perfectly adapted to the frigid winter environment, with carefully selected material from the south, handpicked down and furs from the animals plentiful in the region. One would be hard pressed to find outdoor clothing as warm as Nunavimmiut's handmade outerwear.

In Kangiqsujuaq, the donated clothing was distributed through the local NV office.

The problem that some people face is the cost. These materials don't necessarily come cheap and not all Nunavimmiut have the means to sew, or have another seamstress sew their outdoor clothing. This is where generous donations from some companies in the south have helped fill the gap. Late last fall Canada Goose, Moose Knuckles, and Zone Alpine Pro shipped winter and fall clothing to Nunavik through Makivik.

Getting the clothing to the north was a collective effort. With the help of Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (KI), Makivik was able to store all the incoming donations at the KI warehouse in Montreal. With the Logistical support of the KI warehouse staff, Makivik staff unpacked, sorted, and repackaged all the clothing for redistribution to Nunavik communities.

From there, with the support of both Air Inuit and Canadian North, the outdoor clothing made its way to Nunavik through Makivik board members. Distribution was handled differently in every community. For example, in Kangiqsualujjuaq the donations were given to the Qarmaapik House, a community lead initiative, which supports families in need. Through Qarmaapik clothing donations were distributed to community members who most need it. In Quaqtaq the clothing donations were distributed through the local social services office. Kangiqsujuaq distributed the clothing through the local NV office and people were invited to sort through the various sizes and pick clothing that would best fit their needs.



© HARVEY MESHER

Boxed Canada Goose clothing donations wait for distribution at Makivik's Kuujjuaq office.

Some of these donations have been recurring. Canada Goose, for example, has made four shipments of clothing which have now been distributed throughout the region. The shipment from Zone Alpine Pro (under their Full Social Jacket donation program) arrived in the region just before winter hit, and most recently a generous shipment from Mooseknuckles Canada is making its way into Nunavik.

In a region where costs for goods are disproportionately high when compared to the south, these kinds of donations make a huge difference to the families in communities who otherwise wouldn't have the means to either sew or purchase warm clothing for Nunavik's cold winters. ♦



Makivik staff processed donated clothing for redistribution to Nunavik communities with the logistical support of KI staff at the KI warehouse in Montreal.

© CARSON TAGOONA

New Executives Elected



Makivik Corporation has two new executives. Following elections ending on February 9, Andy Moorhouse was declared Vice-President of Economic Development and Alicia Aragutak was deemed the winner of the Corporate Secretary position.

Makivik President Pita Aatami congratulated the winning candidates and thanked the outgoing Makivik Executives for the term they served Nunavik's Beneficiaries.

"On behalf of the Makivik Board of Directors, my fellow Executives, and the Nunavik Governors, I welcome our new Executives to Makivik Corporation – Andy Moorhouse and Alicia Aragutak. As well, I extend thanks to Maggie Emudluk and Rita Novalinga for their years of service to Makivik and to Nunavik as Vice-President of Economic Development, and Corporate Secretary, respectively," Pita Aatami said.

Andy Moorhouse won the Vice-President position with 1,301 Votes, or 50.7% of the eligible votes cast. Alicia Aragutak won the Corporate Secretary position with 912 Votes, or 35.5% of eligible votes cast.

Andy Moorhouse returns to Makivik as the Vice-President of Economic Development, after previously holding this position between 2016 and 2019. Prior to being elected VP of Economic Development, he was elected as the Corporate Secretary in 2010 and served two terms in that capacity.

Alicia Aragutak was the founder and first President of the Qarjuut Youth Council, leading it through its early years between 2015 and 2018. She then went on to become Executive Director of the Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Center in Kuujuaq, steering the organization through its milestone phase of developing a new treatment center for all Nunavimmiut.

There are 8,728 beneficiaries eligible to vote in Nunavik. Of that number, 2,567 went to cast ballots, representing 29.40 percent of eligible voters.

Complete electoral results are available on the Makivik Corporation website at www.makivik.org. •

Building Confidence with Makivik Construction

This is the first in a series of articles in which Taqralik Magazine will highlight a woman working in what is considered a 'non-traditional' field.

Lydia Tayara has helped build a house. There aren't many women who can say that, but this Salluit resident is one of them. She has been doing construction work for six years, after making the decision to pursue what she felt would be a good job.

Lydia Etok is a Liaison for Inuit Employees with Makivik's Construction Division and says Lydia Tayara is one of only a handful of women working in the field, and they would like to see more.

"Most may see carpentry as a 'man's job,' but women can work just as good as men," she says, and the Construction Division encourages more female interest. While Makivik Construction don't necessarily have a skills training program in writing, it has a type of on-the-job training, for which they get some funding from KRG for skills development and to increase the employability of Inuit in the construction field. The Inuit women who work for Makivik Construction all took the carpentry and painter/plasterer course offered in Inukjuak.

Etok explains that some Inuit construction workers have taken a carpentry course, but many have not. To increase Inuit employability in Nunavik, Makivik Construction does not refuse any Inuk who wants to work, if they have taken a construction work site safety course, which is given by KRG. Some of those who *have* taken carpentry courses at Nunavimmi Pigiursavik in Inukjuak tend to become role models or guides to those who haven't taken a carpentry course...like Lydia Tayara. The division encourages and welcomes southern construction crews who are willing to help and transfer their knowledge and skills, where then an Inuk worker will be paired with a southern carpenter. They work alongside each other first and foremost as co-workers, Etok explains, but also at the same time as "teacher/student." There is a process by which training, or work time is equated to experience gained and after a certain number of hours the individual is eligible to write an exam to become a certified journeyman. Although Makivik Construction has yet to see their workers get their journeyman certification, it has been working with KRG and KI to try and facilitate the process and its accessibility. The work is on-going.

Lydia Tayara says she spent six months as the only female in a group of Inuit engaged in the "Maison école" program, which Lydia Etok explains is where the construction division allocates one social housing unit to be built by an entire team of Inuit workers. This team along with a worker/teacher build a house from the ground up to finish.

Tayara says the best part of the job for her is doing the roofing, while the most challenging is pouring cement. She really likes working in construction, says her friends and family are very proud of her for doing this, and she has recommended the training to other women.

"This has really helped in the confidence of our workers," Etok says. "Lydia is a prime example of that and she's really good in what she does." ♦



Lydia Tayara is one of a handful of women who work with Makivik Construction.

The inflatable igloo on loan from Tungasuvvingat Inuit in Ottawa was a big hit on Inuit Day.

Saving the Planet in Scotland

By Stephen Hendrie
Photos courtesy of ICC Canada

The stakes were high at the COP26 climate change meeting in November 2021 held in Glasgow, Scotland. In the months leading up to the conference, international media described this conference



ICC Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough, and ICC Canada Vice-President (International) Lisa Koperqualuk.

as the last chance to save the planet before climate change renders parts of the world uninhabitable. Extreme weather incidents such as the massive wildfires in British Columbia, which burned Lytton, B.C., to the ground, or the historic flooding in Europe, heightened the tension ahead of the COP26 meeting. In addition, the global coronavirus pandemic continued to rage, but the meeting went ahead in person.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) sent a substantial delegation to the meeting. ICC has attended the COP meetings since the original 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. From Nunavik, ICC Canada (International) Vice-President Lisa Koperqualuk attended. She said the planning that went into the ICC delegation made it a success for Inuit.

"We were really there as a team. It made all the difference in saying that we have the Inuit voice there," she said. "I found that it was more effective having that voice, and showing the world that we were a team. We were together in quite a few activities."

The team included ICC International Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough from Alaska as Head of Delegation. National Inuit Youth Council (NIYC) President Brian Pottle attended from Nunatsiavut. Victoria Buschman originally from Alaska, now living in Nuuk, Greenland, attended as a scientist and Inuit Knowledge Holder. Nunavut Elder



The ICC with Scottish hosts at Strathclyde University in Glasgow on International Inuit Day.

Piita Inniq was a dynamic cultural representative and Inuit Knowledge Holder. Jimmy Oleekatalik, the General Manager of the Spence Bay Hunter and Trappers Organization attended as an Inuit Knowledge Holder. Inuit Youth included one of the Emerging Leaders Adelaine “Addy” Ahmasuk from Alaska, and Tagalik Eccles from Nunavut. Organizers included Joanna MacDonald ICC Canada Climate Change Officer who was the delegation coordinator, and Crystal Martin-Lapenskie who provided delegation support and is the past NIYC President.

ICC issued a position paper outlining what they are asking from the nations who attended COP26. Dalee Sambo Dorough summed it up as follows: “Our statement emphasized the need for massive efforts by governments to cap global temperature rise, but also to value our Indigenous knowledge, and our leadership on climate action, and to support Inuit participation in climate governance. We also underscored the need to ensure that oceans and the coastal seas and the cryosphere are protected – these are critical ecosystems for Inuit across Inuit Nunaat.”

“We had an extraordinary impact,” says Sambo Dorough. “One of the first things was for ICC to represent the Arctic Region in the Facilitative Working Group Meeting which took place October 28-30. The Arctic Region consists of Inuit and Saami. Presently I’m the Arctic

Region Representative to this Facilitative Working Group, which is the newest constituted body of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, we had a dialogue with the COP Presidency of the UK. We also had a brief meeting with representatives from the Government of Greenland, Canada, and of course the United States, which has returned back to the UN Climate Change Convention.”

“We were really there as a team. It made all the difference in saying that we have the Inuit voice there,” she said. “I found that it was more effective having that voice, and showing the world that we were a team. We were together in quite a few activities.”



Lisa Koperqualuk spoke about Black Carbon in the Arctic at the Cryosphere Pavillion at COP26.

Lisa Koperqualuk met with Canada's new Environment Minister, Steven Guilbeault, at COP26. It was his 19th COP meeting. His previous times attending were as an environmental activist. Now, he was there as a government minister, while activists were inside, and protesting outside the venue. "That makes him really aware of the issues that go through the COP," says Koperqualuk. "We had a very

good exchange. I spoke about the main issues related to climate change, and the International Maritime Organization work that we are doing, related to Arctic shipping. He seemed to indicate a good level of support." Jimmy Oleekatalik and Brian Pottle also attended the meeting.

International Inuit Day is held each year on November 7. The Scottish Government hosted the ICC Delegation and commemorated the event with a full day of activities held at Strathclyde University. The day included talks, cultural performances, documentary film screenings, a supper, closing performances from a Scottish group, and throat singing by Lisa Koperqualuk and Crystal Martin-Lapenskie.

ICC produced two podcasts on COP26 – one in Inuktitut with Lisa, Piita, and Jimmy, and another in English with Dalee, Lisa, Crystal, and Victoria. Both were hosted by Madeline Allakariallak. The podcast is called "Unikkaat / Circumpolar Waves."

The next climate change meeting – COP27 – will work to implement the Glasgow Climate Pact. This includes strengthened efforts to build resilience to climate change, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance for both. Nations reaffirmed their duty to fulfill the pledge of providing \$100 billion annually from developed to developing countries. And they collectively agreed to reduce emissions, so that the rise in the global average temperature can be limited to 1.5°C. For the first time, nations are called upon to phase down coal power and inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels.

COP27 will be held November 7-18, 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt. •



The ICC delegation held an "Inuit Night" during COP26. Lisa Koperqualuk shows where she is from – Puvirnituq – on the map.

When passion, teamwork and innovation combine to create a World Premiere



© AIR INUIT

Air Inuit has made history with the creation of the world's first Large Freightier Door Dash 8-300 (C-GAIW). After more than three years of planning, engineering, and precise modification work, the modified cargo plane successfully completed its Transport Canada certification flights on November 28, 2021, and will soon begin moving large cargo to better serve the needs of Nunavik communities.

The historic achievement began with the determination that the Dash 8-300 was the most fitting option for the very particular characteristics of Nunavik's runways. The Dash 8's ability to perform on 3,500 feet gravel strips made it the best choice for cargo and passenger flights when compared to other types of aircraft.

However, their standard freight door made it difficult to carry large items such as snowmobiles, ATVs, construction materials, and large



mining equipment that are common for Air Inuit's cargo operations. As such, Air Inuit imagined the concept and teamed up with the Winnipeg-based Rockwell Collins engineering team to turn the idea into a reality that would improve large item transportation efficiency.

Bombardier Aerospace collaborated by supplying technical drawings and some engineering for the aircraft, Rockwell Collins provided engineering expertise and support, and the Air Inuit team executed the modifications at its Montreal facility.

As part of Air Inuit’s fleet modernization and standardization plan, the standard door (50 x 60 inches) was sizeably upgraded to measure 108 x 70 inches. From a safety and practicality standpoint, the large freighter door is manually activated. Given the remote nature of where Air Inuit flies, an electrically or hydraulically activated door is far from ideal when considering the level of risk associated to grounding an aircraft due to the door’s system malfunction when in a remote area. Once opened, the door is secured by two highly engineered hinges and complemented with a safety pole for backup protection.

Considering the complexity of the project and the worldwide realities of the past 20 months, completion timelines shifted from the original 24-month plan to a 36-month project. Let’s take a look at the timeline:

March 2019	June 2019	August 2021	November 2021	December 2021	To come:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dash-8 C-GAIW is removed from the line Structural work begins 	Fuselage is cut on June 12th	Successful fuselage pressure testing with Transport Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful first post-conversion test flight on Nov. 5th TC certification flights completed on Nov. 28th Load test Nov. 30th 	Painting of the door & final modifications	TC’s STC issuance

As we finalize this text, Dash 8-300 C-GAIW is entering its final phase of completion. Pending Transport Canada’s certification, the aircraft is estimated to be online by the end of January 2022. Our second large door aircraft will enter its modification sequence in July of 2022 for completion 18 months later.

Congratulations to the passionate maintenance team that worked extremely hard on this momentous feat! 🍀





©CANADIAN NORTH X4

Canadian North Sponsors Youth LGBTQ Comedy Show

In November, Canadian North had the privilege to help sponsor a youth gender and sexual diversity workshop followed by a youth LGBTQ comedy show in Iqaluit hosted by Positive Space Nunavut. Positive Space Nunavut is a non-profit organization in Iqaluit that supports 2SLGBTQ-identifying Nunavummiut, youth, and their families. Positive Space Nunavut branched out of a club at Inuksuk High School and was launched in Iqaluit in February 2021. The goal of this organization is to create inclusive spaces, culturally-relevant resources, and eventually jobs for sexually and gender-diverse Nunavummiut.

When they reached out to Canadian North to help sponsor their comedy show, Canadian North did not hesitate to say yes, flying non-binary comedian Deanne Smith and their assistant to Iqaluit to perform at the comedy show where all other performers at the event were Iqalummiut and queer-identified.

Dialogue for Life

Inuit Youth from Nunavik took a flight to Montreal to attend the Dialogue for Life Conference. Canadian North was approached this

year to help send six youth participants to the conference, providing workshops with topics on addiction, family violence, and Indigenous healing methods. The importance of this training and youth participating is very important and we thank both the organizers for their forethought and the participants for taking part in the conference addressing such important topics.

Relieving Stress through Laughter

Laughter is a wonderful way to relieve stress and talk about difficult topics. Canadian North applauds the organizers and performers of the 2021 Arctic Comedy Festival for finding a way to make this year's festival possible. This past October, Canadian North proudly served as the title sponsor of the Arctic Comedy Festival, held live in Iqaluit.

This event featured Nicole Eitiqu and Peter Autut both local comedians from Iqaluit.

All proceeds of the event went to Kamatsiaqtut Nunavut Helpline (www.nunavuthelpline.ca) which provides caring and confidential counselling to people in Nunavut, Nunavik as well as other remote regions. ♦



Map of the study area in the Beaufort Sea. The map shows the main camp sites (red) and the main area of interest (green). The map includes labels for Umanaq, Tasiqjaq, Kunguk, and Kungukq. A scale bar indicates distances up to 200 km. A legend in the top left corner identifies the symbols used.

These abandoned materials are potentially harmful to the health of Inuit, Naskapi, and Cree, as well as the wildlife and the environment. The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee has closely monitored this issue and made recommendations to governments to realize remediation work on these sites.

Unfortunately, the work planned for 2020 was restricted due to the pandemic and although it has also affected the work planned for 2021, DCUR activities have been completed on six sites and have been partially completed on one. This work includes dismantling buildings, collecting and identifying hazardous waste such as paints,





oils, batteries, propane tanks and cleaning products, as well as the collection and storage of residual materials. All of these will be transported south to a recycling facility, or if in good condition, be given to the community of Umiujaq.

The DCUR work is undertaken by the Makivik Project Manager and a team of workers from Umiujaq. A final phase of cleanup will require the team to burn the combustible materials on site. For this, they have received fire safety training from SOPFEU. The team has also received training on the management of hazardous waste and wilderness survival.

At present Makivik Corporation has requested a funding extension under the agreement to ensure a longer period of time to properly complete the work and so that none of these sites will continue to pose a risk to the environment. ♦



The New Kid in Town

“There’s a new kid in town. (...)
But after awhile you’re lookin’ the
other way”

-New Kid in Town, The Eagles (1976)

Since March 2020, there has been “a new player in town.” Its shifting shades and styles, myths and origins, prevalence and consequences, led it to become the unavoidable figure of our recent time: COVID-19. As uncertain months loom ahead, we may wish to reflect on the legal landscape irremediably shaped for and by it.

Two provincial laws may be of assistance whenever the Quebec Government considers that its population is facing a serious threat to its safety or health: the **Public Health Act** (PHA) and the **Civil Security Act** (CSA). Both Acts contain provisions that are to be implemented under very special circumstances.

When the National Assembly adopted the PHA in 2001, it was considered a turning point in public health policy in Quebec. The purpose of the law was to protect the health of the province’s inhabitants, and to create conditions conducive to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of the general population. The mandates of the National and Regional Directors of Public Health derive from this Act. It governs the work of public authorities while enacting under certain measures the right to have health watch undergone, or intervention conducted, even via coercive powers. These were used in 2009, for example, to order a mass vaccination campaign during the H1N1 pandemic.

On the other hand, the CSA, also adopted in 2001, gives broader powers to the Government of Quebec as far as security threats are concerned: it can lead up to a declaration of a national state of emergency. This state of emergency was never declared in Quebec, not even under the current pandemic situation. Under such, all authorities would be vested into the hand of the Prime Minister and other ministers, in accordance with the powers specified in the Act.

On March 13, 2020, the Quebec Government adopted an Order in Council under section 118 of the PHA, that declares a health emergency throughout Quebec’s territory. This exceptional measure empowers the government to implement an array of measures to protect the health of the population.

From the onset, the National Director of Public Health in Quebec used the powers conferred by the Act to prohibit gatherings according to certain maximum capacity, or to order the closure of public

spaces, such as schools, gymnasiums, karaoke, bars, cinemas, etc. As the situation evolved over minutes, weeks, and months, orders were adjusted, removed, or reinstated, throughout under March’s declaration.

Even without a declaration of a health emergency, Quebec’s public health authorities and the Directors of public health may exercise broad powers under the PHA. These powers also remain available after a health emergency has been declared. Specifically, where Director(s) of Public Health are of the opinion that there is a real threat to the health of the population, section 106 of the PHA provides authority for, among other things:

- Order the closure of a place (s. 106 (1));
- Order the disinfection, decontamination or cleaning of a place or certain things, and give specific instructions thereon (s. 106(3));
- Order the cessation of an activity or the taking of special security measures if the activity is a source of a threat to the health of the population (s. 106(5));
- Order a person not attend an educational institution, workplace, or other gathering place, if not immunized against a communicable disease that has been found to be outbreak in that environment (s. 106(6));
- Direct a person to follow specific instructions to avoid contagion or contamination (s. 106(8));
- Order any other action that the Minister considers necessary to prevent, reduce or eliminate a threat to the health of the population (s. 106(9)).

Once a health emergency has been declared under section 118 of the PHA, the provincial government can exercise a wide range of powers to respond to it. Under different sections of the PHA, the government or its health minister may, without delay and further formality:

- Order the compulsory vaccination of the whole or certain part of the population (s. 123(1));
- Order the closure of educational institutions or other gathering places (s. 123(2));
- Prohibit access to all or part of the territory concerned or allow access only to certain persons and only under certain conditions (s. 123(4));
- Or order the evacuation of persons from all or part of the territory or their confinement and, if the persons affected do not have other resources, their accommodation, their provisions and clothing, and their safety (s. 123(4));
- Order the construction of any work or the installation of facilities for the purpose of sanitation or the provision of health and social services (s. 123(5));
- Order any other measures necessary to protect the health of the population” (s. 123(8)).



© CARSON TAGOONA

Declarations of health emergency expire after 10 days, but they may be renewed indefinitely thereafter. They can be extended by the Cabinet, for 10 days at a time, or with the National Assembly's consent, by 30 days at a time (s. 119).

Directors of Public Health are appointed for each of the Quebec's 18 health regions and are responsible, in their respective region, for identifying situations that could endanger the health of the population and for ensuring that measures are in place to protect it. Health Region RSS-17 encompasses the Nunavik territory. Since March 2020, its Regional Director of Public Health has responded to the pandemic alongside the Nunavik Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (N-REPAC), and dedicated sub-committees overseeing set portfolios such as transport, tourism, food security, etc. In accordance with section 106 of the PHA, the Regional Director of Public Health enacted travel or activities restrictions, and other public measures so to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 amongst the Nunavik region and communities.

The provincial, territorial, and federal governments, in deploying their public health emergency measures have to consider various international instruments of application, such as the International Health Regulations (2005) which is binding on the World Health Organization and 196 countries, including Canada, and Quebec.

The fact that protective measures were taken by the Government of Quebec and the Directors of Public Health for the benefit of the group raised certain objections on the part of a minority. In some cases, these objections have been transcribed into judicial resources, which will be briefly discussed here.

In November 2021, Justice Nancy Bonsaint of the Quebec Superior Court dismissed a karaoke-loving notary and his lawyer who challenged the validity of the vaccination passport requirement. They were asking that the passport application be suspended on the grounds of an infringement of their fundamental rights and freedom. Soon after, Justice Michel Yergeau from the same court refused the request presented by more than 100 health care workers who were challenging the government order requiring them to be vaccinated to maintain their employment. Although Quebec has since then postponed the mandatory vaccination requirement for

workers employed in its health care system, the ruling remains of interest as far as fundamental rights are concerned. While Justice Yergeau did not have to rule on the merits of the case – does the government have the right to require immunization of health care workers? – he had to decide at that stage whether the order could be suspended as a matter of urgency. Yet, the decision states that, “there is no simple right not to be vaccinated,” revoking the argument that such is a fundamental right. This is the context of a “mandatory,” and not a “forced,” vaccination order, an important nuance in the circumstances.

In these legal proceedings, as in the other few dozen which were contesting the public health measures enacted by governments since the March 2020 declaration of health emergency, the job of the judges has not been to question the pertinence of each of these measures, but to check if they were in fact legal. Courts steadily stated that they are not there to rewrite public health orders - a prerogative of the relevant health and governmental authorities - unless there be threat of irreparable abuses which in these cases were not prevalent. That is why these court challenges resulted insofar in zero court victories for the antivax or the anti-health measures, to the exclusion of the case of the curfew for the homeless, a very important recourse which shall be differentiated here considering the distinctive arguments which were under consideration.

Whenever health emergencies are declared, Public Health Directors and governmental authorities enjoy broad discretionary powers so to combat the threats at play. While making the orders deemed necessary to deal with each crisis, these must be proportionate and limited to the risks to public health posed by said threats. While the progression of the contamination to the COVID-19 and its new variants continues to pose a serious public health risk across the province, restrictions and other public measures are to be expected now and again. Until we could all be, safe and sound, and *“lookin’ the other way.”*

We take this opportunity to salute the efforts and dedication of the Nunavik Public Health agents and NRBHSS network workers – *nakurmiikmarialuk.* ♦

Notable Nunavimmiut Receive ITK Awards

The annual Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Awards, given to outstanding individuals throughout Inuit Nunangat, were presented during ITK's Annual General Meeting in Iqaluit in September. The awards are traditionally presented by the region that is hosting the AGM, which was originally scheduled to be in Nunavik. This year, the Inuit Cultural Repatriation Award was also presented to Nunavik's Avataq Cultural Institute to recognize its work to overcome the legacy of misappropriation of Inuit culture and cultural artifacts.

Makivik President Pita Aatami presented the following awards: ITK Advancement of Inuit Culture Award to Johnny May Jr., ITK Advancement of Inuit Language Award to Mary Joanne Kauki, ITK Advancement of Inuit Knowledge Awards to Elder Joseph Nassak and Paulusie Novalinga, ITK Advancement of Regional Issues Awards to the late Putulik Papigatuk, Josepi Padlayat, and to the late Noah Qumak.

Junior (Johnny) May was nominated by Makivik Board Member Elijah Ningiuruvik for his dedication to the way of life that is required when raising and running a dog team. He was one of the original nine racers in the Ivakkak dog sled race when it began more than 20 years ago and is an excellent ambassador for the continued cultural relevance of this Inuit tradition.

Makivik Board Member Vinnie Baron nominated Mary Joanne Kauki to acknowledge her long-time work as an educator. She has dedicated her life to teaching young people our language and is also an advocate for equality in the workplace, as well as teaching organizations about colonization and giving presentations on the subject of decolonization.

Elder Joseph Nassak was nominated by Makivik Board Member Etua Kaukai and Kangirsuk Mayor Noah Eetook in recognition of his work teaching Kangirsuk youth cultural and traditional values. Joseph Nassak has been involved with the Aulasivik youth summer camp for years as an educator, has also gone on the radio to teach Inuit values, and is involved with Inuit traditional Christmas Games in the community.

Makivik Board Member Kulu Tukulak nominated Paulusie Novalinga for his long-time promotion of the traditional ways of life. He played an important role in getting the Junior Rangers program

running in Nunavik and has run a land-based youth summer camp for more than 20 years. He also has run survival training programs for Inuit men and played an integral role in reviving the Inuit sled dog and dog teams.

The late Putulik Papigatuk was nominated by Makivik Board Member Adamie Alaku in honour of his lifelong work and legacy. Putulik Papigatuk was a signatory of both the *JBNQA* and *NILCA*, and was a life-long political figure, advocating for traditional and cultural issues and activities, both locally and regionally. He was very active initially with the landholdings and presently still with hunting and trapping organizations, including environmental groups.

Also nominated by Makivik Board Member Adamie Alaku for his service to Nunavik and Nunavimmiut, is Josepi Padlayat. Josepi was a pioneer in communications strategy in Nunavik, including the inception of TNI. He was involved in the birth of radio communications with FM stations and regional radio broadcasts, and the improvements to HF radio communications in Nunavik. Josepi has held leadership roles at both the Avataq Cultural Institute and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

The late Noah Qumak was nominated by Salluit Mayor Paulusie Papigatuk and Makivik Board Member Adamie Alaku for his contribution to the political structure that exists today in Nunavik. He was one of the first Inuit to step forward at the local, regional, and then national level to bring Inuit into modern day politics. Noah was instrumental in the creation of Inuit Tapisat Canada (which went on to become Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami).

The Inuit Cultural Repatriation Award, presented by ITK President Natan Obed, was earned by the Avataq Cultural Institute for its role in repatriating and preserving Nunavik Inuit culture regionally and nationally. Examples include its work to repatriate human remains taken by archeologists in 1967 from Inuit gravesites between present-day Umiujaq and Kuujjuarapik. Avataq has also played an important role in salvaging historical artifacts in Nunavik communities, and among many other active projects, Avataq continues to lobby for the classification of the Qajartalik rock carvings near Kangirsujuaq as a protected world heritage site. •

IVAKKAK 2022 Cancelled



The 21st edition of the Ivakkak dog sled race has been postponed until 2023.

Makivik leadership along with the Ivakkak organizing team made the decision in late February after considering many factors, including pandemic outbreaks in some communities as well as an indication of many rabid foxes reported in the region. Also, as community stop-overs could pose an issue in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, there would be no way to guarantee adequate safe accommodations for both Ivakkak participants and ground support crew.

The 2022 race was set to begin in Kangiqsujuaq on March 21, consisting of about a two-week journey to the community of Aupaluk with stops in Quaqtaq and Kangirsuk. In a typical year, Ivakkak sees about 40 people participating in the event, including mushers and

risks, these issues could result in unforeseen expenses that could not only drastically increase the overall cost of the event, but also cause extra hardship for the teams, staff, and community members. Because of COVID unknowns and obstacles, the event and this route will now be pushed to the winter of 2023.

Andy Moorhouse, Makivik's recently elected Vice-President of Economic Development, said he has always been a big supporter of the event.

"The return of the Inuit Sled Dog and the preservation of *Qimutsiit* is an important file both now, and in my previous terms at Makivik. I intend to support the work that is needed for Ivakkak to run smoothly for all Nunavimmiut to enjoy," he said. "Making the decision to cancel the 2022 edition of Ivakkak wasn't an easy call to make, but with the



This is a scene from Ivakkak 2021. Makivik leadership and the sled dog race staff say this year's cancellation will be used as an opportunity for a maintenance year to look at the operation of the event and suggest possible improvements for the future.



© MAKIVIK X3

support staff, travelling along the proposed race route. As the race progresses, community stop-overs are scheduled for resupply, rest, and community activities.

During these community stops, mushers and staff require boarding. Due to the current pandemic situation, and the real possibility of communities along the route having outbreaks of COVID infections, there is a chance that adequate accommodations for the teams would not be available. Given the number of participants, Makivik leadership also decided the risk of transmitting the virus between communities was too high. Along with the potential health

uncertain time we find ourselves in, and the unpredictability of the COVID-19 virus, we as the Executive committee unanimously felt that postponing the event for this year was the best way to protect the *Qimmiit*, the teams, Ivakkak staff, and our communities."

Makivik and the Ivakkak coordinating staff will use this cancellation as an opportunity to hold a maintenance year to analyze the operation of the event and propose changes to improve the event in the future. ♦

SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS:

An essential response to the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic

All photos courtesy of Frontier College

With the pandemic entering its second summer, it has become clear that COVID-19 has dramatically affected learning routines for kids in Nunavik, Canada, and across the world. School closures, parents working from home, and libraries closing for long periods of time has been the reality for the past 20 months. These compounding factors have created multiple challenges, notably widening the gap for those children with learning difficulties and putting tremendous pressure on educators and families to adapt to online learning. Communities, in turn, have shown tremendous resilience and creativity, and have put incredible efforts towards the well-being of their younger members.

To ensure continued access to learning and literacy supports for children, Frontier College, in close collaboration Makivik Corporation and Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, organized camps and literacy activities for an eighth consecutive year in the summer of 2021. Programming reached 100 children across five communities: Aupaluk, Inukjuak, Ivujivik, Kuujuaq and Tasiujaq.

Whereas last summer the only realistic option was distance learning, this year was slightly more varied: while there were more possibilities for in-person activities, the challenges created by the

*Campers enjoy an afternoon
reading on the land.*







pandemic were certainly still present. In this light, Frontier College collaborated with local community members to best decide which type of programming suited their needs.

A total of 15 staff were hired to deliver a variety of literacy activities. In some communities, the counsellors organized full or partial day camps. In others, activities were held online, or they brought literacy and learning to existing community spaces, such as sports camps or at the youth center, with guided reading sessions, word games, STEM activities, and arts and crafts. As always, the activities ensured that learning went hand in hand with culture and language by including visits from elders, as well trips on the land.

Here's what a parent in Tasiujaq had to say about this past summer: "My daughters love the camp. Whenever they go, they come home really happy."

Frontier College and its partners remain committed to the well-being of the children of Nunavik. While no one holds an answer for the future, the parents and community members have expressed a desire to return to regular literacy camps in 2022, with the hope that full day camps can continue providing children with a wide range of exciting and stimulating activities and keep them engaged in their learning journey. ♦

Two young girls play a memory game together at camp.



The campers are learning about forces by making pom-pom launchers.

BEAVER EXPANSION in Nunavik

Usually thought of as forest dwellers,
why are these rodents moving north
and what does it mean for the region?

By Mikhaela Neelin and Mathilde Lapointe St-Pierre,
in collaboration with community members



© MIKHAELA NEELIN

A young beaver (about 1 year old) near Tasiujaq.

Arctic landscapes are being transformed by climate change, including through the increased appearance of new wildlife species. Beavers are well known for the dams that they create, which dramatically alter ecosystems by converting rivers and streams into wetlands. They are found throughout nearly all North American forests and have only recently begun expanding their distribution above the treeline. Although the impacts of beavers in the south are well studied, their increased presence in the tundra causes concerns because there are many unknowns about their effect on rivers, fish, and harvested species.

In areas such as Alaska and the Northwest Territories, beavers have been observed to speed up permafrost melt and decrease the quality of freshwater for drinking. Beavers are also known to improve habitat for species such as salmon and moose, which are already beginning to expand northwards themselves. It is important to study beaver expansion in Nunavik to learn more about these interactions, especially to understand their impacts on harvested species and on human health.



Norman Tukkiapik trapping beavers near Kuujjuaq.



A family of albino beavers caught near Kuujjuaq by Norman Tukkiapik.

SUBMITTED BY NORMAN TUKKIPIK X3

Context: what's going on in Nunavik?

Nunavimmiut have been observing more beavers over the years, living farther north than ever before. Although some hunters in Kuujjuaq and Kuujjuarapik have been trapping beavers for many decades, beavers have only been spotted near communities such as Tasiujaq, Aupaluk, and even Kangirsuk more recently. "The elders say they didn't used to have beavers here, a long time ago. I guess they're coming North from South," explained Willie Cain Jr. of Tasiujaq. "We're not used to beaver trapping. That's why they're starting to increase."

Recently, the Tasiujaq Nanuapiit Board (the Hunting Fishing Trapping Association) identified beavers as a concern for Arctic char migration to lakes and have been coordinating projects to clear dams, trap beavers, and monitor beaver activity. Mikhaela Neelin was a researcher at McGill University before she began working for the Nunavik Hunting Fishing Trapping Association, and she studied the expansion of beavers along Ungava Bay communities by incorporating both Inuit knowledge and scientific approaches. She worked with Makivik Corporation and the Tasiujaq Nanuapiit Board to find out where beavers are, why they are there, and what their impacts are.

The fact that beavers can be found in the tundra comes as a surprise to many people, since beavers usually fell trees for food or for building their dams and lodges. Researchers believe that the main cause of beaver populations expanding north is "shrubification" in the tundra, which is the increase in size of shrubs such as willow due to climate change. Interviews with Nunavimmiut revealed other possible



A beaver lodge in Finger Lake near Tasiujaq.

© MIKHAELA NEELIN X2



A beaver dam in the tundra, between Tasiujaq and Aupaluk near to Mannic lake. Photo taken from a helicopter.



A beaver lodge near Tasiujaq.



Lodge near Leaf River, Tasiujaq. Photo taken by drone.



A young beaver (about 1 year old) near Tasiujaq.

reasons for beaver expansion, including the decreased harvesting of beavers when Cree and Naskapi trappers were relocated to villages, and hydroelectric dam construction farther south that forced beavers to find new streams to inhabit. Some harvesters involved in this project noted observations of beavers swimming along Ungava Bay, in saltwater. Although this is uncommon for beavers, which are freshwater animals, the marine coast might offer them an easy travel route to reach new areas quickly.

These projects have been uncovering more information about beavers in Nunavik and discussing potential management strategies, but there are still lots of questions to answer. Other Inuit and First Nations groups across the Arctic have similar concerns, so collaborations are being sparked across the circumpolar North to share research results and management ideas with each other.

Future: what are the next steps?

Use of satellite imagery for rapid identification of beaver dams is something that is now being explored by a team of researchers including Oumer Ahmed (Makivik Corporation), Mathilde Lapointe St-Pierre (Nunavik Research Centre), Mikhaela Neelin (Nunavik Hunting Fishing Trapping Association), and Patricia Sung (McGill University). The information from this rapid detection could direct community management action when and where it's needed the most. A few local Hunting Fishing Trapping Associations have also been interested in monitoring water quality of beaver-dammed streams, which will be incorporated into this project. Depending on community interest, there is also the possibility of doing further research on direct impacts of dams on Arctic char abundance and spawning, as well as a study on the shrub growth that helps to explain beaver distribution in the region. There will also be opportunities for follow-up interviews about observations of beavers and interactions with Arctic char, which will build on conversations that happened in 2018 on this topic.

Observations and knowledge shared by Nunavimmiut, as well as helicopter surveys and research approaches, are offering a clearer understanding of this phenomenon so that communities can make informed management decisions.

If you would like to know more, get involved, share observations, or request assistance with beaver management, you can email Mikhaela Neelin at MNeelin@rnuk.ca or Mathilde Lapointe St-Pierre at MLapointeSt-Pierre@makivik.org. 🌱



Mikhaela Neelin taking vegetation measurements next to a beaver lodge near Tasiujaq.

Albino beavers!

There have been some unique beaver observations in Nunavik, including observations of albino beavers. Norman Tukkiapik and his nephew, Sakaliasie, trapped these white beavers southwest of Kuujjuaq along the Koksoak River. In Kuujjuaq, there are an increasing number of trappers who have been catching beavers, but few have had such a special catch!

Do you have observations? We'd love to hear from you!
Send photos/stories to mneelin@rnuk.ca.



Norman Tukkiapik and his nephew, Sakaliasie, with an albino beaver they caught near Kuujjuaq.

NUNAVIK PLAYERS



ALEC JOHNNY AUPALUK

Full name: Alec Johnny Aupaluk
Birthday: January 5, 2000
Place of birth: Kuujjuaq
Home community: Kangiqsujuaq
Role model: Harry Okpik
Favourite food: County foods are the best they can let you have more energy than fast food
Occupation: Kangiqsujuaq municipality council
Proudest moment: My son give me a bright life
Future goal: To be a dog sledder as a young man and council young man. My future goals are on the way and I'm proud of myself.
Best advice you can offer youth: If you have a hard time, hunting is a beautiful thing always. Sometimes it's not good to be in town all the time. *Innunivut asiujittaililavut uqausivullu!*



ELISABETH NASSAK

Full name: Elisabeth Nassak
Birthday: July 6, 1991
Place of birth: Kuujjuaq
Home community: Quaqtaq
Role model: My mother in-law (Daisy Angnatuk)
Favourite food: Frozen Arctic char fish from Kangirsuk
Occupation: Mother, Kindergarten teacher, Singer in a band called *Qatagiit*, involved in community as an KMHB board of director, Wellness committee and volunteer recreational purposes
Proudest moment: Sobering up and dedicating myself to God. I was able to sober up even if I felt like I had little to no support. I did it even if I felt alone.
Future goal: To continue my sobriety and support others that choose to sober up. It isn't easy to go on that journey, but I was able to do it.
Best advice you can offer youth: "You must tell yourself, no matter how hard it is, or how hard it gets, I'm going to make it"
 – Les Brown

MYSTERY PHOTO CONTEST

Congratulations to Joadamie Inukpuk who correctly answered the Mystery Photo Contest from *Taqralik* Issue 127! 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 May 27, 2022.

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

WHAT IS THIS? ►



A group of pedestrians stopped to watch *Three Thousand*, a short 14-minute film by Inukjuak born, now Montreal based, artist and filmmaker Assinajaq. The film was part of *qaummatitsiniq nunarjuamit qaujimajakkanik, Lighting Up the World with my Knowledge*, a selection of five short films made by Inuk filmmakers from across Inuit Nunangat and curated by Assinajaq.

The series was broadcast on the outside of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa for free public viewing from March 16 to 20. A panel discussion between two of the filmmakers and the films themselves can be viewed online at: <https://nac-cna.ca/en/video/series/inuit-film-festival-2022>.

