

**SERVING NUNAVIK INUIT SINCE 1974**

# Banning Forever Chemicals Grace Emerges from Despair Nanook: 100 Years Later



**LP<sup>é</sup>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](mailto: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**

Eva Aloupa-Pilurtuut

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 129  
ISSN 2562-3206



## CONTENTS

04 Inuit Help Ban  
"Forever Chemicals"

08 Skin Diseases in  
Salmonids of the Koksoak:  
What is Happening?

10 Grace Emerges  
from Despair

14 Breaking  
Stereotypes

Cover photo: Makivik President Pita Aatami speaking at the opening ceremony for the KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples event in Quebec City on June 17. The public event celebrates the cultures, traditions and contemporary lives of First Nations and Inuit. Speaking initially in Inuktitut, President Aatami expressed the need for non-native Quebecers to learn more about the province's Indigenous groups and spoke of some of the injustices Nunavik Inuit have faced over the decades. He suggested people get to know their Indigenous neighbours to lead to healthier relationships and understanding. Photo by Carson Tagoona.



© CARSON TAGOONA

The KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples event in Quebec City this June included shows, talks, and workshops on traditional knowledge and craft demonstrations. Along with Inuit and Inuu, the cultural richness of Abenakis, Anishinabeg, Atikamekw, Cree, Huron Wendat, Mi'gmaq, Mohawk, Naskapi, and Wolastoquey Nations were celebrated. The event is held annually to bring Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples together and contribute to their reconciliation. As part of the Inuit contingent, a tupiq was set up with various activities held inside. Some of the events included storytelling, circus, throat singing, qajaq making, string games, music, Inuit games, basket making and qulliq lighting. Here, Joey Partridge is performing some of his original songs in the tupiq.

16 Sandy Suppa Retires

28 Canadian North

37 Nunavik Players

18 Nanook: 100 Years Later

30 Green Corner

20 Nunavik Notes

32 Legal Tips

26 Air Inuit

35 Nunavik Research  
Fact Sheet

Prefer a digital copy?  
Scan this QR code with  
your mobile device!



# INUIT HELP BAN “FOREVER CHEMICALS”

By Stephen Hendrie

During the last week of January, a team of Inuit and researchers participated virtually in a meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, reviewing a group of chemicals that cause harm to humans. Formally the event was the 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to the Stockholm Convention. It's known as POPRC-17.



The POPRC-17 meeting room in Geneva, Switzerland.

A photograph of two women smiling. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a blue jacket. The woman on the right has brown hair, wears glasses, and a black top.

© LUCY GREY X3

Early birds Lucy Grey and Mélanie Lemire were up at 3 am every day to attend the POPRC-17 meeting online.



On Tuesday, January 25, they held a virtual side event to explain how these “forever chemicals” affect Inuit. Lucy Grey said, “the most concerning for us Inuit are the human health effects. The global community can find innovative ways to replace these chemicals with safe ones and still produce consumer goods. We shouldn’t be having these effects.”

The key findings indicate that the blood levels of the forever chemicals are up to seven times higher in Inuit than in the general Canadian population. They are highest among elders, and this is true of the general Canadian population as well. While they are higher in Inuit who consume marine mammals, fish, and seafood, country foods remain the healthiest for Inuit to consume.

A woman with glasses and a brown shirt is sitting at a table, smiling at the camera. She is holding a smartphone in her hands. On the table in front of her is a laptop, a mouse, and a plate of fruit including an orange and grapes. In the background, a child is visible in a doorway, and there is a blue jacket on a couch.

Lucy's son Hautsiak is a future researcher! He wants to know what's happening at the POPRC-17 meeting in Geneva.

## TAQDIRALIK



**The POPRC-17 meeting room on the day of the Inuit side-event.**

Amira Aker says, “they affect the immune system, alter cholesterol levels, they’re linked to asthma and thyroid hormones.” Mélanie added, “they can unfortunately cross the placenta, and they can go to breast milk as well, so the prevention window is really during pregnancy, we don’t want these chemicals going to the baby.”

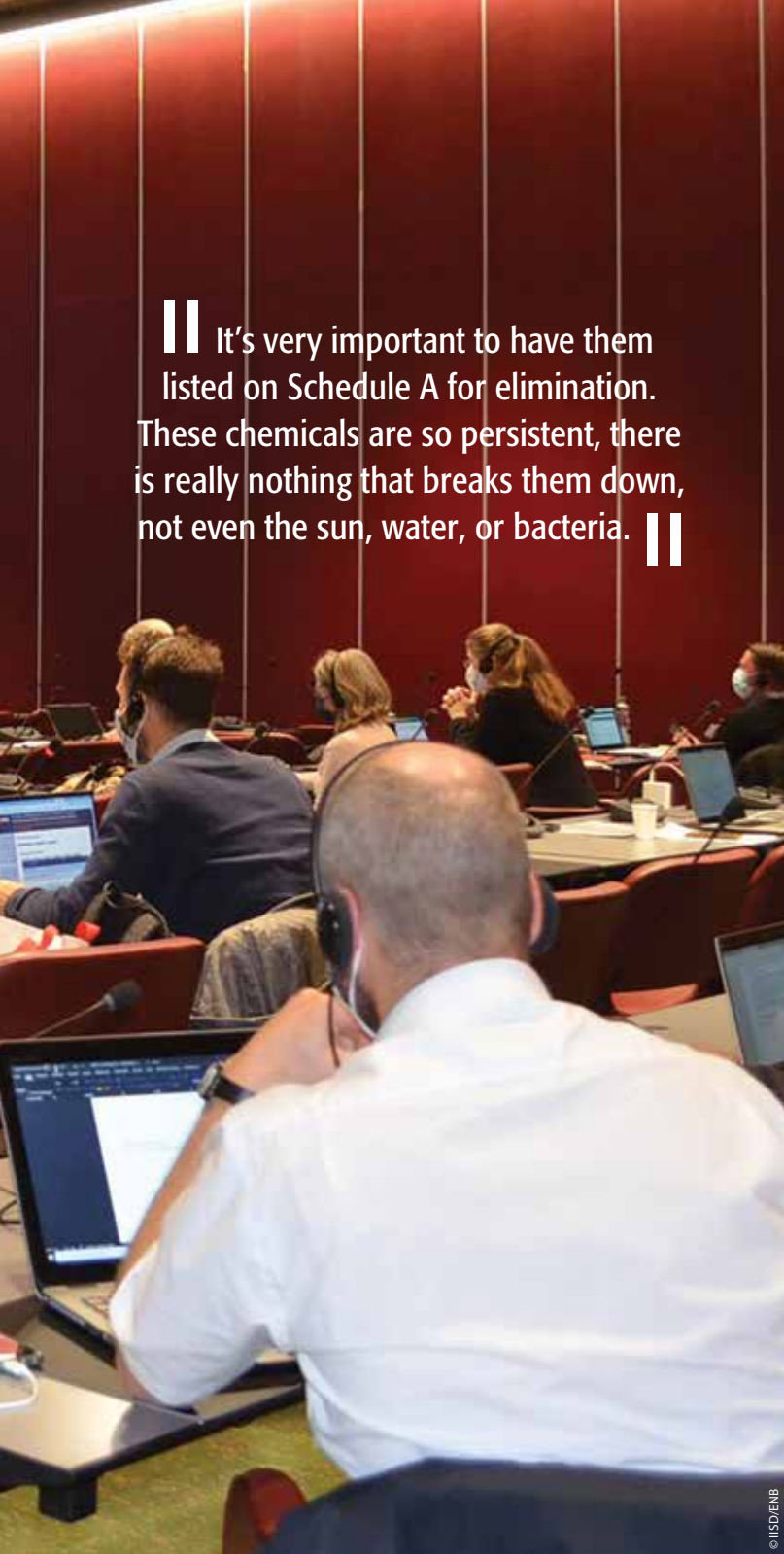
Mélanie credits Eva Krümmel from ICC for helping them. “She mentored us. She was saying it would be fantastic if Canada could nominate these chemicals, and your data will be very important. And so we worked to publish our data, and presented it at the side event.”

Kitty Gordon is the Assistant Director of Public Health for the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, and co-chair

of the Nunavik Nutrition Health Committee. She contributed to the PowerPoint presentation at the side event. “It was pretty important to have an Inuit perspective at POPRC-17,” she said. “I think the more people know what’s happening to our region, the better.”

“Working together to make this happen was a really organic process,” says Eva Krümmel. “It’s very important to have them listed on Schedule A for elimination. These chemicals are so persistent, there is really nothing that breaks them down, not even the sun, water, or bacteria.”

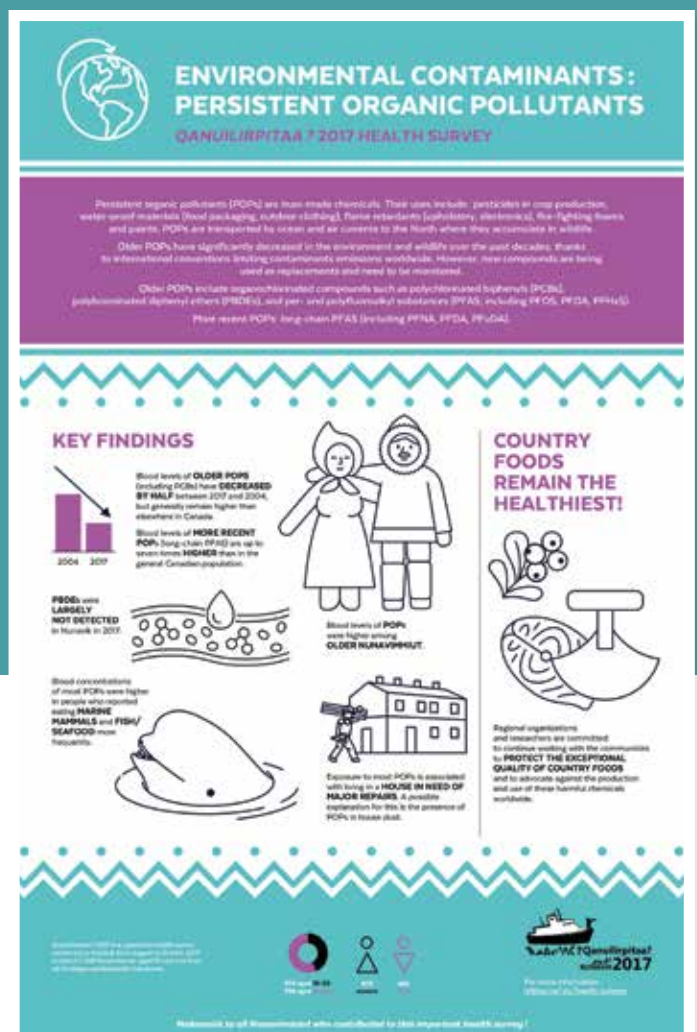
At the close of the week, ICC issued a press release noting that Inuit scored a victory in working with Canada to have the group



It's very important to have them listed on Schedule A for elimination. These chemicals are so persistent, there is really nothing that breaks them down, not even the sun, water, or bacteria.

# Here's the Data!

Results of the Qanuilirpitaa? 2017 study were published in December 2021. The report is available online at <https://nrbhss.ca/en/nrbhss/public-health/health-surveys/qanuilirpitaa-2017>



of “forever chemicals” treated all together using the precautionary principle. The formal submission by Canada was to regulate “long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds.” While it will take years to have the group of chemicals banned and replaced with safer ones, the process has begun.

Nunavik Inuit can be proud that the people who participated in the *Qanuilirpitaa?* research years ago have helped leaders make decisions which will have a beneficial effect for Inuit around the circumpolar regions, and for the rest of the planet, as these harmful chemicals are eliminated and eventually replaced. ●



# Skin Diseases in Salmonids of the Koksoak: What is Happening?

By Géraldine Gouin, wildlife disease specialist at the NRC and Benjamin Jakobek, resident in wildlife health management at the Université de Montréal

All photos ©Géraldine Gouin

The Nunavik Research Centre (NRC) receives roughly 20 animal tissue samples showing signs of disease annually from the Nunavimmiut. Upon receipt of these samples, the NRC performs its own diagnostic tests, and often sends samples to the *Centre québécois sur la santé des animaux sauvages* (CQSAS), a research centre specializing in wildlife diseases, for further analyses. Any reports that the NRC team receive from the CQSAS are sent directly to whomever submitted the case.

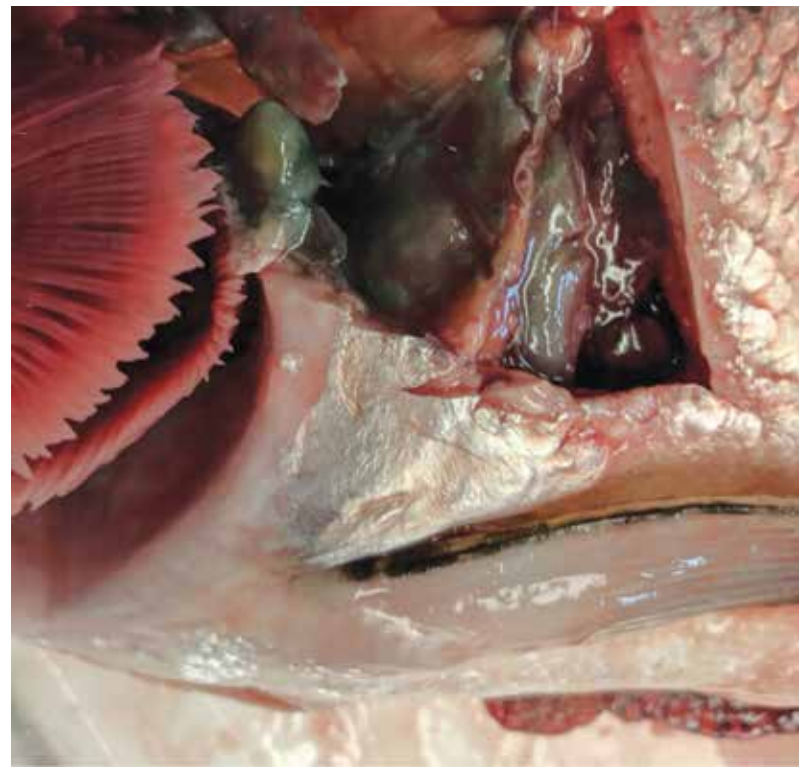
Since 2013, several fish caught in the Koksoak region have been submitted to the NRC. Of these submitted fish, 18 (which includes 15 Atlantic salmon, 2 whitefish and 1 Arctic charr) all had similar lesions: black-to-greenish lesions on the skin, often extending into the internal cavity of the fish. Two fish also had only internal lesions and no (externally visible) lesions on the skin.

This disease is called phaeohyphomycosis and is caused by a fungus which is abundant in the environment. This fungus usually does not cause health problems in fish, except when it opportunistically invades an already-present skin wound.

We think that several factors may explain certain cases of phaeohyphomycosis, including an increased risk of injury or an increase in water temperature. Despite this, infection of wild fish is still rare.

**|| This disease is called phaeohyphomycosis and is caused by a fungus which is abundant in the environment. This fungus usually does not cause health problems in fish, except when it opportunistically invades an already-present skin wound. ||**

The fact that fish caught in the Koksoak region have been diagnosed with phaeohyphomycosis is intriguing, and further study of this disease is needed. In order to better understand the disease, the NRC, in collaboration with the CQSAS, is seeking to conduct a study with the following objectives:



- 1) To determine the prevalence of the disease (the number of fish affected) by working with Kuujuaq fishermen and fishing guides. This would involve NRC staff, sometimes helped by CQSAS, checking their nets to see if any fish are affected by phaeohyphomycosis.
- 2) To provide training to interested fishermen to enable them to recognize the disease and sample the fish themselves, in order to support the work of the NRC and CQSAS.
- 3) To meet with fishermen to discuss their observations of the disease in recent years.
- 4) Since the risks in humans are undetermined at this time, it is not recommended to eat fish affected by phaeohyphomycosis. In order to verify the risks to human health, the CQSAS will check the growth temperatures of the fungus to try and better understand what risk this disease may pose to human health.

If you have any concerns, comments or would like to participate in this study, please do not hesitate to contact G  raldine-G. Gouin ([ggouin@makivik.org](mailto:ggouin@makivik.org)).

We would like to thank all Nunavimmiut who provided sick fishes, which has allowed us to follow the general health of this important population! ●





COURTESY MARTHA GREIG

Martha Greig receives a gift from Pope Francis following the private audience on Monday March 28, 2022.

# GRACE EMERGES FROM DESPAIR

By Stephen Hendrie

Martha Greig was taught growing up, "Whatever wrongdoing is done to me, I have to forgive for me to be OK, that I don't dwell with the hardship that I went through, for me to be OK mentally and spiritually, to still live and not have revenge, though you will not forget. So, in my life that's how I have done it, so I can cope."

She attended a residential school in Churchill, Manitoba in 1967-1968 and was sexually abused there. It is a remarkable story because she forgave, and says she gained experience on how to deal with it herself. She also became involved in the issue of mental wellness, and it developed into her career. Through the decades she has spoken on the issue and provided direct mental wellness support during extremely traumatic hearings for Inuit. Notable were the special hearings held by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples on the High Arctic Exiles in Ottawa in 1996. Martha was there to console Inuit giving testimony.

directly for five minutes – along with the other Inuit delegates – on Monday March 28.

She describes what that meeting was like. “Pope Francis was greeting us with the Bishops. We shook his hand. We sat down. We were on the right side of the room. The Bishops were on the left. The Pope was in front with his chair in a semi-circle. Rhoda Ungalaq lit the qulliq. We all spoke one by one. Natan (Obed) did the closing remarks. And then the Holy Father spoke. You could tell that he had listened to us. He had genuinely listened, that’s how I felt.”



*Delegates, Bishops and delegate travelling companions, from left: Archbishop Richard Gagnon, Louisa Natseck, Bishop Anthony Krotki, Rhoda Ungalaq, ITK President Natan Obed, Joan Malla, Martha Greig, Lizzie Angotealuk, Marty Angutialuk, William Angalik.*

Similarly, during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) national events, Martha provided counselling to victims who publicly gave testimony of their experiences at the schools. More recently during the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry, she did the same.

So, it was a blessing that she was invited to be on the Inuit delegation to the Vatican in late March and early April 2022, for an audience with Pope Francis. The visit by Inuit, Métis, and First Nations delegations had been postponed from December 2021 because of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Martha was invited to be a support worker to the Inuit delegation, but she also became a delegate, and in this way, she was able to speak to the Pope

Asked about what she said during her five minutes Martha says, “First of all I was very humbled and honoured to have the opportunity to meet with him. I told him I was a former residential school student,

and that I was a lay reader for the Anglican Church in Kuujjuaq. I told him about my involvement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, with all the former students. I said that people are hurting for too long, and they need an apology, and not just an apology, but they need resources, because there has to be healing, and there has to be forgiveness on both parts – the victims and the perpetrators – for people to heal.”

Asked if Inuit in all Nunavik communities were affected by the residential schools, Martha explained



*The medallion given to members of the Inuit delegation.*

© PATRICIA D'SOUZA / ITK

COURTESY MARTHA GREIG



© PATRICIA D'SOUZA / ITK X2

*Martha Greig speaking to media at the Vatican, with ITK President Natan Obed.*

the nature of the trauma. "Inuit are affected in many ways, such as losing their culture, loss of parental skills – they lack that when they are raising their kids. It's intergenerational trauma this is into our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. That's why I emphasize that there needs to be forgiveness on both parts, because it takes too long. As a frontline worker we have to have patience for the former students to start talking about this because it's too painful. Some of them are still not talking about it. Instead of talking, they're still doing addictive stuff, which further delays the healing process. So that's why I said there's a need for resources."

Media reports of the delegation to Rome indicated they were working on an apology on Canadian soil, and that the audience with the Pope was to allow for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations to tell the Pope directly what they had experienced, individually and collectively. Each group had a private audience with Pope Francis – Inuit and Métis on Monday, and the First Nations on Thursday.

On Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, all delegations met with the Pope together. In a ceremony punctuated by Inuit drum dancing by David Serkoak, Métis fiddlers, and First Nations dancing, Pope Francis delivered a lengthy reply to all delegations, which included a direct apology, unexpected at this time.

"It was very overwhelming to be in the room at that time," said Martha. "I couldn't help but think of the victims. A lot of people are hurting. Many who wanted to hear are no longer alive. That was



*Members of the Inuit delegation inside the Vatican.*

heavy and at the same time uplifting to hear. He didn't just say 'I am sorry,' he said, 'I am very, very sorry.' I myself, even as a support worker, I got emotional as well."

All members of the delegations were given copies of the speech. Martha read out the passage with the apology, "All these things are contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for the deplorable conduct of



© PATRICIA D'SOUZA / ITK

Members of the Inuit delegation, and Canadian Bishops, inside the Vatican.



© VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis with Inuit delegation and Canadian Bishops.



© PATRICIA D'SOUZA / ITK

Members of the Inuit delegation and Canadian Bishops in Vatican Square.

those members of the Catholic Church, I ask for God's forgiveness, and I want to say to you with all my heart: I am very sorry. And I join my brothers, the Canadian bishops in asking your pardon."

Martha says she would have the apology translated into Inuktitut and read it at the church in Kuujuaq. She granted a lengthy interview to *Taqralik Magazine* the week after returning from Rome. We

thank her for her story, allowing us to experience the trip to the Vatican through her eyes. Pope Francis is scheduled to visit Canada to apologize on Canadian soil from July 24 – 30, 2022. He will visit Iqaluit, Nunavut, during the visit. ♦



# BREAKING STEREOTYPES

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

Nunavik Police Service Cst. Ulaayu Dupuis-Miron says working as a police officer, a job traditionally thought of as for men, can be tough, but also very rewarding.

"Some might think that women aren't as strong, as tough, as good. We often need to prove our worth and break the typical men police officer stereotype," she says. "In the end, women are as much capable of being a police officer as men, and I believe that people have more knowledge of this nowadays."

Cst. Dupuis-Miron was born in Kuujuaq and moved south with her family for her education when she was between 7 and 8 years old. After finishing secondary school, she spent a few months of on-the-job training in Kuujuaq with a Prevention Officer, before going on to complete Basic Constable Training at the Ontario Police College. She graduated in November 2019 and a few weeks later moved to Kuujuaq to begin working on the road as a patrol officer. Since April 2021 she has worked as a constable on the Multidisciplinary Team alongside NPS and SQ investigators.

There is no question that men outnumber women in the field of public safety and security in this country. According to the Government of Canada's Department of Public Safety website, women make up about 50 per cent of employees in areas such as policy, intelligence, and corrections, but they occupy less than 25 per cent of front-line law enforcement positions. The statistic is even more dramatic in Nunavik where, as of May 1, 2022, the NPS reported just under 14 per cent of its officers are female (76 male officers and 12 female officers).

It was the multitasking nature of the job that attracted Cst. Dupuis-Miron. "Every day is different, you never know what will happen throughout the day," she explains. "Our role is to protect and serve the citizens. I wanted to help community members, victims who might not trust that they can get the help they deserve and to stop criminal (activity) within the community, to make it safer." Her role is to counter bootleggers and drug dealers in Nunavik, but she points out that they need community members' help and cooperation to accomplish their duty.



Cst. Ulaayu Dupuis-Miron with NPS Training Officer Pamela Stevenson's dog.

While the work can be challenging, Cst. Dupuis-Miron says, the rewards are substantial. Female victims are often more comfortable speaking about what they went through with other women, and a large part of the job is trying to deescalate situations, where women can tend to have a calming effect. Being able to get illegal drugs and alcohol off the streets is one of the best parts of her job, along with the diversity of tasks, and working as a team. Wanting to help victims who refuse to get the help needed, however, can be challenging, she admits, as can the long hours necessary. But, she says, it's all worth it.

She encourages other women interested in pursuing policing as a career to go for it.

"If this is really something that they want to do and are willing to work for it, it's worth it. I love my job and wouldn't want to do anything else." Cst. Dupuis-Miron is working toward becoming a Sergeant Investigator for the NPS. ♦

# SANDY SUPPA RETIRES

All photos ©Nunavik Research Centre



After a career with Makivik that began back in 1994, Sandy Suppa retired this past April.

## After 28 years with Makivik Corporation, Wildlife Technician Sandy Suppa retired from the Nunavik Research Centre in Kuujjuaq at the end of April.

Acting NRC Director Barrie Ford said that Sandy worked on a number of projects at the centre, with his primary focus being on wildlife disease. He was also actively involved with the Nunavik Trichinella Testing Program.

"He communicates well with hunters and was dedicated to getting results back to communities, often coming in on the weekend to perform analysis of walrus tongues," Barrie said. Sandy also banded



During his career with Makivik, Sandy Suppa worked on many projects, including the Nunavik Trichinella Testing Program.



Longtime Makivik Wildlife Technician Sandy Suppa banded Canada Geese every summer in the Kuujjuaq area, as well as in Aupaluk and Kangirsuk.

Canada Geese every summer in the Kuujjuaq area, as well as in Aupaluk and Kangirsuk. "Chances are if you have ever caught a goose with a band it was banded by Sandy!" Barrie said.

He described Sandy as a quiet and patient man who is very knowledgeable on the land. "I personally enjoyed setting nets and sampling fish with Sandy on the Kuujjuaq river. Once on a boat trip in Ungava Bay, a heavy fog rolled in. Sandy knew exactly what to do and I was very impressed when the shoreline came into view, and he knew precisely where we were. When boating, I still use the skills and techniques Sandy taught me."

Makivik's VP Department of Environment, Wildlife, and Research Aadmie Delisle Alaku said that in his time working with Sandy, he observed him to be a tremendously humble man of few words – a very quiet, great listener. He has been a great asset to the NRC, Adamie said, and will be greatly missed.

Sandy started working part-time with Makivik back in July 1994 and moved to full-time in November 1996. His last day was on April 30, 2022. Everyone at the Corporation wishes Sandy a happy and well-deserved retirement. ♦

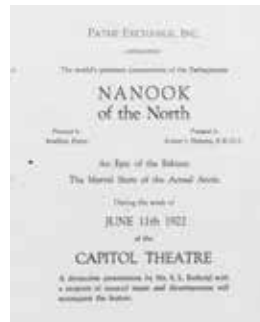
# NANOOK: 100 Years Later

A century after its initial release, *Nanook of the North* was celebrated in the community where it was filmed. From June 8-12 Inukjuak hosted activities marking the 100-year anniversary of the movie, one of the earliest documentaries ever made.

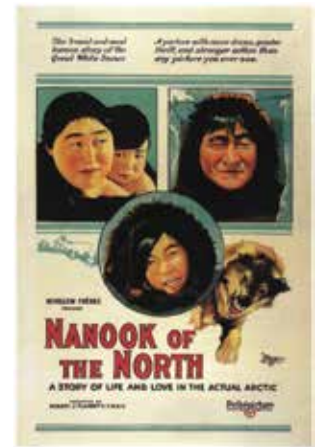
Filed by American Robert Flaherty between 1920 and 1921, *Nanook of the North* was released on June 11, 1922. It followed the life of Nanook, the name Flaherty used in the silent film for Alakkariallak, as he lived his traditional life on the land. Many of the scenes were staged for the filmmaker, but the product serves as a historical snapshot of what life was like for Inuit 100 years ago, from clothing, to dog teams, to the environment. As people in Inukjuak gathered June 11, 2022, for the screening of the movie, the degree of change was dramatic, as the community has grown from a population of about 300 to 1,900, now with houses, snowmobiles, and a warming climate.

The *Nanook of the North* 100 Year Anniversary Planning Committee worked hard to organize the festivities which included not only the screening, but evening activities at the recreation centre. There was a music festival featuring many musicians, such as Elisapie Isaac and the band Nanook from Greenland, a craft fair, and a community feast.

The band Nanook from Greenland taking a selfie with everyone at the music festival. They performed twice during the celebrations.



The handbill from the original premiere of *Nanook of the North*.



Original *Nanook of the North* film advertisement.



Planning Committee of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Nanook of the North*. From left to right, Sarah Lisa Kasudluak, Karin Kettler Kasudluak, Kirk French, Sarah Samisack, Charlie Nowkawalk, Shaomik Inukpuk, Rhoda Kokiapik, Janice Kasudluak, Caroline Oweetaluktuk, and Mayor Pauloosie Kasudluak.



Umiaq ride 100 years after  
*Nanook of the North*.



© CAILYM LEBLANC X5



Gathering at the Memorial to the early 1950s relocatees from Inukjuak.



Community feast after celebrating the anniversary, Inukjuak River.



Andrew and Mary Atagotaaluk playing accordion with the help of Charlie Iqaluk and Jobie Oweetaluktuk from Qimutjuit band.



Elisapie Isaac meeting children of Inukjuak during her performance.

According to the website, The Flaherty, in planning the celebration in Inukjuak, Avataq Cultural Institute requested copies of photographs taken by Robert Flaherty in Nunavik from the Vancouver Art Gallery. Scans of the original photographs were included in the Nanook Centennial Exhibition in Inukjuak, and the originals will be gifted to Avataq.

The Flaherty organization no longer collects royalties for *Nanook of the North*, which will be freely accessible to watch on its website in August. In lieu of screening fees, anyone screening the film is invited to make donations directly to Avataq. ♦

## MOU Signed to Establish Northern Quebec Forum

A Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Forum of Northern Quebec has been established after a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in April.

As parties to the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA)* signed in 1975 and the *Northeastern Quebec Agreement (NEQA)* of 1978, leaders of the Inuit of Nunavik, the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, and the Naskapis of Nuchimiyuschiyy met in Gatineau for a signing ceremony to commit to an ongoing effort to build and maintain relationships with one another.

According to a press release, the groups' collective challenges, although made distinct by their respective territories, politics, language, and customs, do hold similarities, especially when it comes to finding solutions in a reality that can only be truly understood by the inhabitants of Eeyou Istchee, Nunavik, and Nuchimiyuschiyy. It is

by sharing experiences and victories with one another that they can help one another succeed, the release stated.

This newly established permanent forum will promote cooperation and coordination on matters to advance Indigenous self-determination and aboriginal and treaty rights. Makivik President Pita Aatami said he is very proud of what Inuit have accomplished over the years on the Nunavik Territory.

"With our Indigenous Forum on Northern Quebec and our collective efforts with the Crees and the Naskapis our voice will even be louder and stronger," he said.

Discussions of the forum will be guided priorities that are deemed by each nation to be significant and relevant for the well-being of their communities and people and for the sustainability of their traditional territories. ♦

*Leaders of the three nations at the signing ceremony in April. Makivik President Pita Aatami stands fourth from left, with Vice President Department Environment, Wildlife and Research Adamie Delisle Alaku behind.*



# ORDER OF NUNAVIK Recipients Recognized

Johnny Peters and the late Peter Audlaluk have been honoured with the Order of Nunavik for their lifelong dedication to working for the betterment of their fellow Nunavik Inuit. Makivik executives recognized the two new Order of Nunavik recipients during Makivik's 2022 Annual General Meeting in Kangirsuk in April.



*Johnny Peters has a long history of representing Inuit both regionally and internationally.*

place. His wife, Eva Audlaluk was present at the AGM and accepted the award on his behalf.

Johnny Peters, who has a long history representing his fellow Inuit at both the international and regional levels, was also honoured. Johnny's involvement with politics began in the 1970s during which time he held many roles. He was a Co-op member and later manager before becoming a board member of the then newly created Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. He was also a member of the Northern Quebec Inuit Association and worked as a Field Worker for them. Johnny went on to become a Makivik executive during the corporation's formative years, and he held an executive role for a cumulative total of 23 years. As well, he played an instrumental role in the negotiation of the NILCA Agreement, and was Nunavimmiut's

Peter Audlaluk was lauded for his work as a strong advocate for Nunavik hunters. Peter was a long-time mayor of his hometown Ivujivik, as well as a culture teacher with a passion for showing Nunavik youth that it is possible to make a living off the land. Makivik hoped that Peter would be well enough to attend the AGM in person to accept the Order of Nunavik award, but sadly he passed away before it took



*The Order of Nunavik Program celebrates the accomplishments of Nunavik Inuit of all ages and inspires Nunavik beneficiaries to strive to reach their goals.*

Minister of Wildlife, always at the table during wildlife talks to protect Inuit interests.

Makivik President Pita Aatami spoke to the accomplishments of both Order of Nunavik recipients. "I'm very proud of the lifetime of work carried out by these two men. They are both individuals that looked at the Inuit way of life and said, 'this is something that needs to be protected.' I spent many years working alongside Johnny Peters, and his dedication to the various wildlife files that make up a big part of our culture is truly admirable," he said. "Peter Audlaluk also spent much of his lifetime protecting and promoting our way of life. I had hoped that we could have had Peter join us in person, but his sudden passing was something that we were sad to learn of. I wanted to ensure that the awarding of the Order of Nunavik in his name went forward during our AGM, as the work that he dedicated his life to had to be recognized."

The Order of Nunavik Program celebrates the accomplishments of Nunavik Inuit of all ages and inspires Nunavik beneficiaries to strive to reach their goals. Makivik is currently in the process of reworking the nomination process for the Order and will announce the updated nomination and awarding process later this year. •



*Eva Audlaluk and Johnny Peters at Makivik's AGM, where Johnny and Eva's husband the late Peter Audlaluk were recognized with the Order of Nunavik.*

© MAKIVIK X3

TAORALIK



# Bravery Awards Presented at AGM

**Eleven Nunavik Bravery Awards were presented at Makivik's AGM in Kangirsuk this April.**

*Nunavik Bravery Awards are awarded to individuals who risk their lives to save or protect another.*

The award recognizes Nunavimmiut who risk their lives to try to save or protect another. There are two crucial factors in the evaluation of a nominee: the degree of risk faced and the nominee's persistence despite the risk, and the perception of risk, such that people who try to help, even though they know they might be severely injured or killed.

Following are this year's award recipients and brief descriptions of their bravery.

## **Daniel Baron, Henry Ittulak, and Kitty Ittulak**

On their way back home to Kangiqsualujjuaq this winter, Moses and Margo Morgan's skidoo broke through the ice near Ammuumajulik. Daniel Baron, Henry Ittulak and Kitty Ittulak saw the event happen and moved quickly to help. Daniel worked with gear he had on hand and began to pull the two out of the water with a thin twine rope. The rope snapped, but while working around the dangerous open water, he threw the rope back and with the help of Henry and Kitty was able to pull Moses and Margo out of the freezing water back to safety.



*Jamie Annanack accepts a Nunavik Bravery Award from Makivik Corporate Secretary Alicia Aragutak on behalf of Adamie Etok and Jimmy Chevrier from Kangiqsualujjuaq.*

#### **David Annanack**

In the fall of 2021, David Annanack his Father Johnny Sam Annanack and two boys were coming back from a caribou hunting trip. Despite David's father Johnny being unable to walk from a past stroke, David brings him camping whenever he can because his father taught him to hunt. While returning that windy evening, the sun had set and the group was travelling in the dark when their boat suddenly hit land, breaking their outboard. The group ended up in the water and while the two boys managed to make their way onto the land, David knew that his father's disability wouldn't allow him to swim on his own. David swam out to his father in the treacherous conditions, saving his life.

#### **David Snowball, Etua Snowball, and Elijah Baron**

During the same event described previously, David Snowball, Etua Snowball, and Elijah Baron were aware of the accident that David and the group had just experienced. The rough water and darkness made it dangerous for the second boat to make it to the land where the first had struck ground. Knowing that that group was wet from falling into the water, David, Etua and Elijah had to save them from the freezing fall temperatures. Despite the possibility of running aground and sinking their own boat, they successfully picked up the four stranded individuals.

#### **Adamie Etok and Jimmy Chevrier**

In the early winter of 2021, Johnny Etok and Adamie Etok went fishing. While travelling in the lead across the thin ice Johnny broke through with his skidoo and fell into the water. Adamie tried to save him but was having difficulties as he, too, was in danger of falling into the water. Jimmy Chevrier was out fishing with his mother near by when he saw Johnny in the water and Adamie trying to save him. Jimmy acted fast, removing all his outerwear like his parka and snowpants. He took his chisel, tied a rope to it and made his way out to the two. Once he was able to make it close enough, he threw his

chisel out to Johnny, and with Adamie's help the two were able to pull Johnny out of the frigid water and up to safety.

#### **Sirqualuk Ainalik**

In March of 2010, Sirqualuk was on his way home when stopped by another individual who told him someone out by the point had fallen through the ice. Sirqualuk rushed there and saw the ice moving in the current. He turned his skidoo off and went out towards the open water but couldn't see anyone. He heard a person yelling, then noticed a little black spot which he thought was a bag. Once he got closer, he saw it was Charlie Panigajaq who was almost completely submerged in the water. He threw his *unaaq* at him to grab, but Charlie was too weak to hold on. While trying to get Charlie out, Sirqualuk fell into the water, but miraculously made it back on top of the ice, now closer to Charlie. From there he was able to pull Charlie from the water and save him from drowning.

#### **Willie Adams**

Willie Adams was out with his sister Laura Adams who was 2 years old at the time. Laura fell into the river, but thankfully her sweater caught on a piece of metal which stopping her from being swept away. Willie acted fast and was able to make it to Laura before she was swept away. ♦



*George Peters accepts a Nunavik Bravery Award from Makivik Corporate Secretary Alicia Aragutak on behalf of Willie Adams.*

# Inuit Nunangat Policy Endorsed

An historic new Inuit Nunangat Policy was endorsed at the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) meeting in Ottawa at the end of April. This is a ground-breaking federal policy that was co-developed between Inuit and the Government of Canada over three years. The policy adopts an over-arching whole-of-government approach with the goal of building prosperity and wellbeing throughout Inuit Nunangat.

In a press release, the government stated that the Inuit Nunangat Policy is an important step toward supporting Inuit self-determination and ensuring meaningful, Inuit-led solutions to the unique issues faced by Inuit. The endorsement was made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, alongside ITK President Natan Obed, and the elected Inuit leadership from Makivik Corporation, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Nunatsiavut Government.

The Inuit Nunangat Policy recognizes Inuit Nunangat as a distinct geographic, cultural, and political region, encompassing Nunavik, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, and Nunatsiavut. In the policy, Canada agrees to work in partnership with Inuit to address access to federal programs and services in Inuktitut in Inuit Nunangat.



© ADAM SCOTT/PMO X2

*Makivik President Pita Aatami, one of the ICPC members participating at the meeting in Ottawa at the end of April where the Inuit Nunangat Policy was officially endorsed.*

The policy is meant to guide the design, development, and delivery of all new or renewed federal policies, programs, services, and initiatives that apply in Inuit Nunangat, as well as for Inuit in urban areas.

Speaking at a press conference following the meeting, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said this policy will make sure Inuit priorities are incorporated into federal initiatives that impact Inuit and Inuit Nunangat.

"This announcement is about transforming the systemic inequities that happen with government where decisions are taken about the

*Indigenous Crown Relations Minister Marc Miller, left, ITK President Natan Obed, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the ICPC meeting in April.*



North without including Inuit in those decisions. This represents a change so that it's not just the ministries of Crown Indigenous Relations, or Northern Affairs, or Indigenous Services that engage with Inuit leadership, it will be every single department across the government when it wants to build a wharf in the North, put in a new airport, move forward on a new mental health policy, look to support something around fisheries, we'll do so in partnership, in consultation with Inuit."

Both Trudeau and ITK President Natan Obed described the policy during the press conference as "transformative." Obed said that in Inuit-Crown relations, there are days where there are funding announcements, there are days when there are apologies, and "there are days when we create systemic change across the bureaucracy and across federal departments and this policy allows for that to happen."

On any given day, he explained, the government makes a myriad of decisions in relation to Indigenous peoples. "This policy will now underpin all of those considerations that the government makes when considering how to involve Inuit and how to articulate Inuit Nunangat within the federal public service and within the decision-making"

The policy is intended to support Inuit self-determination and the implementation of Inuit-Crown treaties. It directs federal government departments and organizations to consider the unique rights, interests, and circumstances of Inuit. It also provides guidance on how to interact with Inuit and to respect the place Inuit have in the Canadian Constitution, and how to respect the way Inuit have chosen to mobilize politically.

Government departments must consider an Inuit-specific approach to directly fund Inuit Land Claims Organizations. As part of respecting Inuit self-determination, federal departments will work with Inuit organizations to see Inuit have greater control over the administration of federal programs and initiatives.

From an issues-based perspective, it will allow the federal government to make better decisions. "There will now be a foundation of knowledge that we will expect from federal departments and from those who have to work on Inuit issues or have Inuit considerations in their portfolios and we can work upon that foundation instead of starting anew across all federal departments," Obed said.

The Government of Canada is committing a total of \$25 million over five years for the implementation of the Inuit Nunangat Policy with the goal of promoting prosperity and supporting community and individual well-being throughout Inuit Nunangat.

During the ICPC meeting, proposed Budget 2022 investments and linkages to ICPC priority areas were also discussed, and several new priority areas of work were endorsed, including international Inuit priorities, sovereignty, defence, and security, as well as one dedicated to monitoring, evaluation, and learning for the ICPC process as a whole.

The ICPC was founded on the principle that an equal partnership between Inuit and the Crown is essential to the reconciliation process. The Committee meets three times a year. Once a year, it is co-chaired by the Prime Minister and the President of ITK. Co-developing and implementing an Inuit Nunangat Policy has been a priority of the ICPC since March 2020. ♦

# Inuit and Hydro-Québec Forge Partnership



COURTESY OF TARQUTI ENERGY

*Makivik President Pita Aatami speaking at the announcement of a partnership agreement between Tarquti Energy Inc. and Hydro-Québec in Montreal in June.*

Tarquti Energy Inc. and Hydro-Québec have reached a partnership agreement making Tarquti the preferred and exclusive partner for renewable energy projects in Nunavik. This will allow clean energy solutions to replace a significant proportion of the energy derived from fossil fuels in the region's off-grid system.

The partnership agreement was announced on June 6 in Montreal by Tarquti shareholder representatives Makivik President Pita Aatami, Ilagiisaq Vice-President Charlie Tukkiapik, as well as Hydro-Québec President and CEO Sophie Brochu and her team.

Pita Aatami said that this agreement is a reason for celebration. "The success of the energy transition depends on the involvement of all major players in the clean-energy sector as well as our local and regional organizations, including the landholding corporations. In fact, with our exclusive relationship with Hydro-Québec, Tarquti is in the best position to develop and share its expertise for the benefit of our communities."

Tarquti is a joint venture between la Fédération des Coopératives du Nouveau Québec (FCNQ), and Makivik Corporation and is a 100 per cent Inuit-owned company.

This new, unique partnership agreement is an important step for Nunavimmiut as they develop tools and capacity to design environmentally friendly clean energy products that reflect their values. It also is in line with Hydro-Québec's plan to convert its off-grid systems to attain an 80 per cent renewable supply by 2030. ♦

## Air Inuit's Sparrow pilot training Program: Encouraging Nunavik's Youth to Spread Their Wings and Fly

It has been said that many Inuit youth seek to connect their traditional and contemporary worlds when the time comes to pursue education and/or enter the workforce. Given a 44-year mission to connect northern communities and contribute to their socio-economic development, Air Inuit sought to assist said youth in their search and undertook co-management of a pilot-training program based in Kuujuaq in 2012. The aptly-named program, Sparrow, is offered fully subsidized and is accessible to Nunavik

beneficiaries who have a Secondary 5 diploma. Each cohort of up to five Inuit students have an essentially guaranteed job after graduation from the program – one that offers both a promising, technical career (contemporary world) and a connection to their respective homelands (traditional world).

The joint efforts of Air Inuit, the Kativik Regional Government and the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq School Board are fueled by the overarching desire to break the pattern of non-Inuit and Southerners filling





professional jobs in the region. The aforementioned team covers the non-negligible program costs and handles all logistics, which in turn encourages Inuit locals who would otherwise be deterred from applying to do so. Since 2012, Air Inuit has welcomed 23 students –



*Nicholas Genest returning from his first solo flight.*



*Zoe Kroonenburg and Félix Pita Blouin (of the class of 2017) pictured with Melissa Haney.*

many of whom now fly for the airline and three of whom will soon be joining the ranks post-graduation.

Although the current cohort is studying on site at the St-Hubert Cargair Flight Academy on the south shore of Montreal due to pandemic-induced barriers, Sparrow's aim is to continue to train future pilots, in their first phase of private licence in Kuujuaq. This location choice is multifaceted; it attracts and employs northerners

who, historically, are likely to stay in the North, it avoids students having to relocate and learn away from family, and it prepares them for the unique and challenging conditions that they will fly in once they graduate. Nicholas Genest, a 2014 Sparrow student and now captain on Air Inuit's Dash-8 aircraft, describes: "My favorite part of the Sparrow Program was accomplishing my private pilot's license in Kuujuaq, where I lived for the duration of my training. It's quite unusual for a student to do their pilot training right in Kuujuaq so it was a unique experience that I can look back on and be proud of. It's simply something I'll never forget," he says. "What I enjoy most about flying for Air Inuit is how stimulating it is to fly in an arctic climate with all its associated challenges." Nicholas' father was also an Air Inuit pilot, and he is grateful that the Sparrow program offered him an opportunity to follow in his father's footsteps.

Generally speaking, motivated students could graduate with their pilot's license within 12 to 18 months. However, current program coordinator Melissa Haney – the first Inuk woman to captain a Dash-8 – has implemented a new syllabus which combines pilot training and an Attestation of College Studies recognized by the Quebec Education Ministry. "While this program extends the learning period to 20 months," says Melissa, "the goal is that if ever students decide post-graduation not to go forward with a piloting career, they can pursue other higher-level employment opportunities and give back to their community," she concludes.

It is widely known that planes play a crucial role in Quebec's far north. If you or someone you know is seeking to contribute to this vital service and would like to take to the skies, consult the Air Inuit website for details. ♦

◀ 2019 cohort (Dorothy Andrusiak, Malina Berthe, John Roy Watt and Allen), pictured at the Kuujuaq airport with their instructor, Quentin.

## Investing in Nunavimmiut – How Canadian North Connects People in More Ways than One

At the heart of Canadian North's mission, people always come first. This is why sponsorships and community investment are key components to helping us improve the lives of our people, our customers, and the communities we serve.

Investing in Nunavimmiut is key to our mission. Investing in people is at the heart of what we do.

What is offered through our sponsorships is connection – whether connecting people through our passenger services, the shipments of goods from one person to another, or investing in events that bring a community together. Canadian North continues to sponsor and invest in organizations who work to support communities and to improve the lives of those we serve.

One of these organizations is the Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund (IPRF), a fund built and guided by Indigenous Peoples to support Indigenous communities and organizations through the current public health crisis. In order to offer the vast support to communities that IPRF oversees, regular meetings of the Advisory Council are integral.



© RYAN HENDERSON



© SAM WAUCHOPE

Knowing the importance of these meetings, Canadian North offers discounted flights for Advisory Council members travelling for the purpose of these meetings. These in-person discussions account for all governance, resilience fund projects, communications, and fund-raising strategies and recommendations related to the work of fulfilling the purpose of the IPRF. Thus, allowing them to help more communities and further the goal of IPRF.

At the end of December 2021, IPRF has approved support to 316 communities and organizations through 20 different intakes. When reading and reviewing the stories from communities and organizations, it is made perfectly clear why initiatives like this are so necessary.

Discounted rates for cargo services is another way that Canadian North offers support to organizations. Operation Life Preserver is an initiative developed to get kids excited about water safety while also providing these same kids with their own lifejacket to take home. To help increase the spread of this initiative to Nunavik and the Territories, organizers Stephanie Rankine and Cheryl Gallagher made



a call to Canadian North regarding a sponsorship. Now, four years later, Canadian North has sponsored the shipment for more than 5,000 lifejackets to more than 25 Northern communities, helping to complement the life-saving education on water safety.

When picturing how Canadian North connects people, most think of the many passenger flights connecting travellers across long distances. Though this connection is important as well, we

can't ignore the importance of fostering connection within our own communities through events, festivals, and conferences.

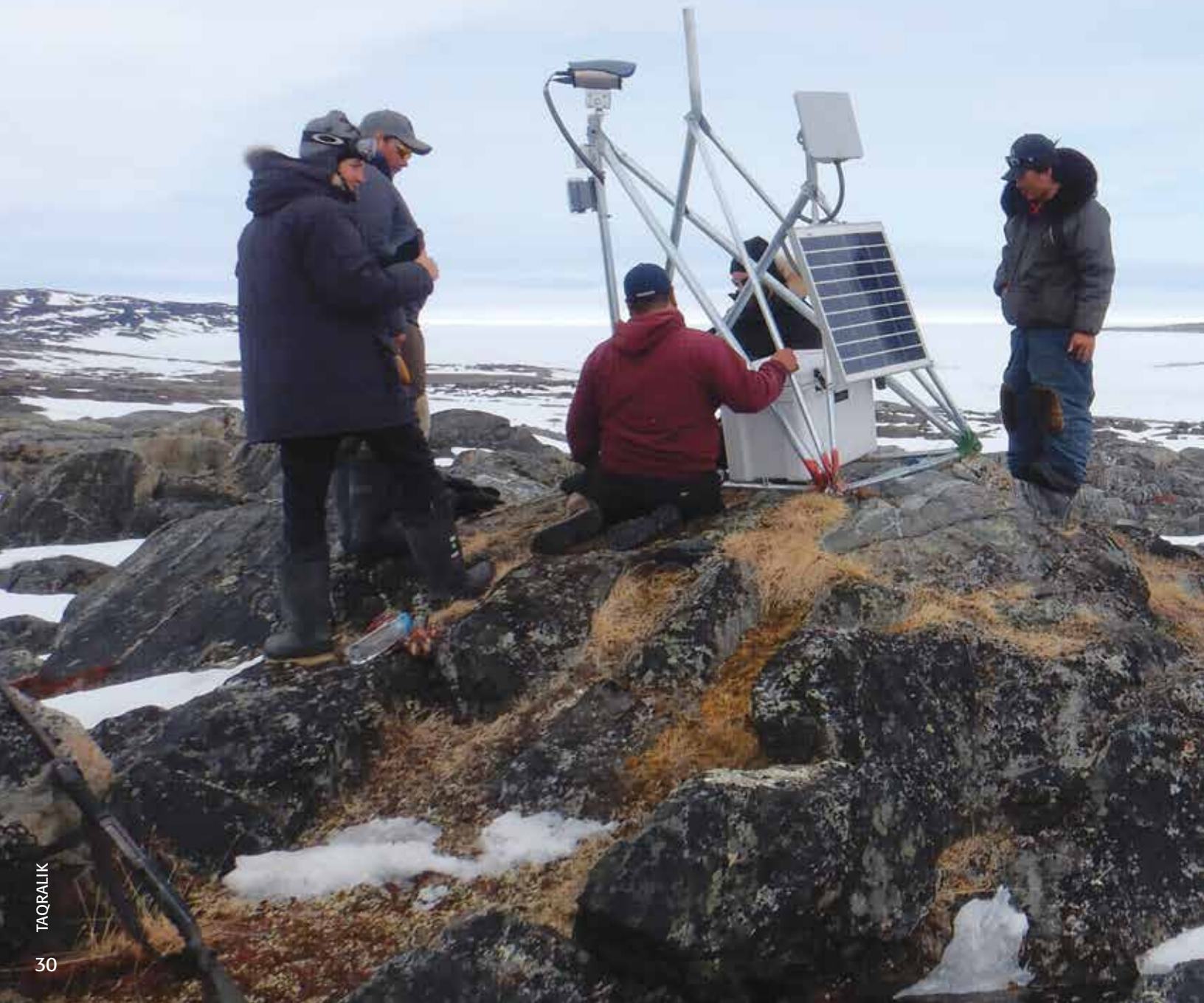
Through events like our Canadian North Toy Drive, we have brought together children, families, and community members through gift giving, and provide children across our network with a Christmas they will never forget. Other examples of our Community Investment initiatives include our support of the Aakuluk Clinic – a health care hub for children and youth from Nunavut, and the sponsorship of the Bike Rally to promote bicycle safety for the youths of Kuujuaq, Tasiujaq, Kangirsuk and Akulivik.

Our Supporting Community Initiative is an exciting new program we have launched to show support for the cultural festivals, events, and conferences held throughout the year. We highly encourage organizers of these functions to contact us through our main website, and provide the details pertaining to their events: <https://canadiannorth.com/about/sponsorships/>.

Our approach to any new or existing client with Canadian North is to ensure our initiatives are fully transparent with respect for the community we impact and that we excel in the services we offer. Our committee meets twice a month to review all submitted requests. ♦



Since 2015, various sea-ice monitoring strategies and equipment have been tested in Salluit, Kangiqsujaq, and Deception Bay as part of an ice monitoring research project. This work involves community members from Salluit and Kangiqsujaq in partnership with the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and external experts from Institut National de Recherche Scientifique (INRS).



Climate change affects snow and sea-ice conditions, making them unpredictable and creating safety issues for trail users. The Indigenous Community Based Climate Monitoring Program is providing support to develop and implement a community-based trail monitoring program for traditional access trails used by the communities of Salluit and Kangiqsujuaq. These trails may include

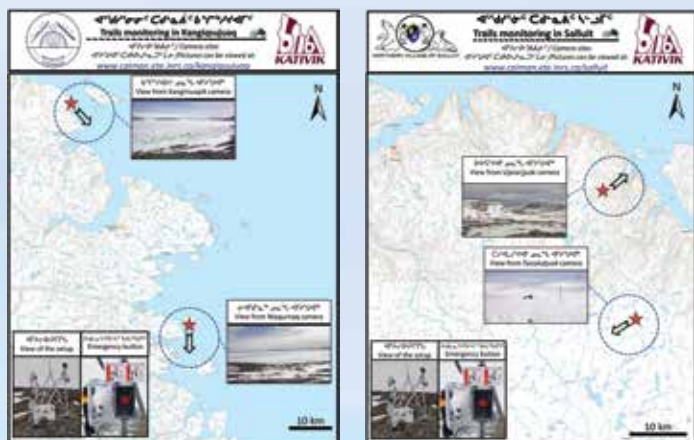
both in-land stretches where the nature and condition of the snow cover are essential as well as sea-ice sections where ice thickness and roughness are important factors.

The trail monitoring program includes two components: 1) remote weather observations made available in real-time to the communities through cameras and weather stations, and 2) recurrent monitoring of traditional trails by intergenerational teams of experienced Inuit land users and youth trainees.

As part of the program's first component, monitoring cameras and weather stations have been installed on sites identified by community members as being more hazardous due to climate change. These instruments send new real-time weather conditions every hour via the website <http://caiman.ete.inrs.ca/dashboard>. Information available includes visibility, precipitation, wind, snow on the ground, and sea-ice, and helps with decision making regarding safe transportation.

As part of the project's second component, traditional trails are monitored every year by intergenerational teams of experienced Inuit land users and youth trainees. This work involves georeferenced picture-taking and measuring ice and snow thickness in areas that present risky conditions. Observations of trail conditions are communicated to community members through a verbal report on the local FM radio and the sharing of pictures and details on the Trail Monitoring in Salluit, Deception Bay, and Kangiqsujuaq Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IceMonitoringNunavik>) and CAIMAN website.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please communicate with the Northern Village of Salluit, the Northern Village of Kangiqsujuaq, or directly with the KRG team at [enviro@krg.ca](mailto:enviro@krg.ca). •



## How Marriage Ceremonies Should be Validly Celebrated in Quebec



© ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/JANNA TKACHENKO

This is it. The big day. The long-time coming ceremony which was planned to every detail. Or the in-and-out Las-Vegas-type event. The Say-yes-to-the-Dress moment. Or the casual *"I was born for loving you, baby"* afternoon. One thing remains. It is for better or for worse. Thus, the importance of ensuring that no matter the format or number of guests, this marriage was validly entered into, no matter what may come!

Marriage is a formal event. In Quebec, it must be celebrated by an official, with at least two witnesses present. The official is referred to as the "officiant" or the "celebrant." It could be a member of a recognized church, or a person chosen by the couple as they may prefer. Yet, the law would set the rules and conditions under which this person could be authorized to celebrate the marriage, and what other formalities it should follow before and during the ceremony, so it be considered valid.

If the marriage is performed outside of Quebec, different rules will have to be followed so that the marriage is legal in the province or country where it takes place. More research and advice should be sought before setting foot on your wedding cruise, or jumping the wedding bungee.

### First choice in Marriage: its implicated couple

That is certainly the most important choice of all!

### Second choice in Marriage: its format

A marriage can be civil or religious.

#### Civil Marriage:

It is Quebec's Minister of Justice who allows the following people to perform a civil marriage:

- clerks and deputy clerks of the Superior Court
- notaries who are authorized by law to prepare notarial acts
- mayors, members of municipal or borough councils and municipal officers for marriages performed in the place authorized by Quebec's justice minister (usually their municipality)

- any other person who obtains permission from the justice minister, such as a friend or family member of the future spouses

A person who wants permission to perform the ceremony must meet the following conditions:

- must be 18 years or older and not under tutorship, curatorship, or any other form of protective supervision
- has not been found guilty of a criminal offence in the last three years (or of a summary conviction offence in the last year)
- is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Quebec
- can read the articles of the Civil Code of Quebec to the spouses in either French or English
- agrees to follow all formalities for performing the marriage

For more information, visit the website of Justice Quebec:

(<https://www.justice.gouv.qc.ca/en/couples-and-families/marriage-civil-union-and-de-facto-union/officiant>)

The officiant will have to complete a form called a Request for the Designation of an Officiant of a Marriage or Civil Union and send it to the Quebec's justice services section at least three months before the marriage. The officiant will then receive an information kit about the marriage ceremony, which shall be guiding the officiant throughout the steps leading to the event. It would be very important for the officiant to diligently follow all legal requirements for the couple to be considered legally married.

### **Religious Marriage:**

Priests and ministers authorized by a religion to perform marriages can perform religious marriage ceremonies. Yet the justice minister must also authorize them to perform marriages.

### **No choice in Marriage: its formalities**

#### **Formalities Before the Marriage**

The future spouses must meet with the officiant before the marriage. The officiant can ask them for all the information needed to perform the marriage, for example, the future spouses' names, addresses, age, and civil status. The officiant might also ask the future spouses to provide official documents proving their civil status. The officiant must ensure that both future spouses have given free and informed consent to the marriage. The officiant must also make sure that the future spouses meet all legal requirements, with respect to their age and civil status.

While you must be at least 18 years old to marry, the minimum age for getting married in Quebec is 16. Yet, 16- and 17-year-olds must obtain the court's permission to marry.

The officiant will have to apply to the Registrar of the Civil Status for publication of a notice of marriage. This notice needs to be published on the Directeur's website at least 20 days before the marriage. The notice will include the name, address, place, and year of birth of each future spouse, the date chosen for the ceremony and the name of the officiant. A witness, who doesn't have to be one of the witnesses to the marriage, will also confirm this information. The marriage will have to take place within three months following the publication of the notice, failing which, a new notice will have to be published.

The reason for the notice is to advise people of the upcoming marriage so they can inform the officiant if there is a reason the marriage should not take place. For example, the officiant can refuse to perform the marriage if the future spouses are too closely related according to the law, or if one of them is still legally married to another person.

In some serious cases, the officiant or the Registrar of the Civil Status can decide not to publish a notice, for example, if one of the future spouses is seriously ill and in danger of dying.

Lastly, if the spouses are planning to sign a marriage contract in the presence of a notary, this is often the right time to think about which matrimonial regime to choose. If they do not choose a regime, the spouses will automatically fall under the regime of partnership of acquests.

#### **Formalities Leading to the Marriage Ceremony**

The ceremony can take place almost anywhere as long as the location is accessible to the public and be any day of the year depending on when the officiant is available.

### **Formalities During the Ceremony**

The spouses can personalize the marriage ceremony according to their wishes and beliefs. For example, they can choose the music and readings, write their own vows, etc. The spouses are free to use their imaginations!

But some formalities must be followed. Again, the marriage must be performed by a person who is authorized to perform marriages. It must be performed in the presence of at least two witnesses. The officiant must read certain articles from the Civil Code of Quebec to the spouses that deal with their rights and obligations. They can be read in English or in French. If the spouses don't understand either language, they must hire an interpreter at their own expense. After reading the articles, the officiant asks each spouse to consent to the marriage and then declares them to be married.

Lastly, the officiant signs a declaration of marriage. The spouses and two witnesses must sign it as well. The declaration provides written proof of the marriage. The officiant must send the declaration to the Registrar of the Civil Status within 30 days of the marriage. The Directeur then prepares the official act of marriage, which is the official document proving the marriage. If the spouses want a copy of the official document, they must apply to the Registrar of the Civil Status.

And they shall live happily ever after, since the marriage is, indeed, valid!

*Legal tips aim at explaining to the Nunavik Inuit clientele in a general and broad manner some elements of the law applicable in Quebec and are not legal opinions nor legal advice which can be obtained by contacting private practitioners (lawyer or notary). Makivik Legal thanks [www.educaloi.qc.ca](http://www.educaloi.qc.ca) for its general input in the preparation of these Legal tips. ♦*



# Infrastructure Agreements Signed

Makivik President Pita Aatami along with Treasurer George Berthe joined members of Makivik's new Infrastructure Division at the Nunavik Landholding Corporation's AGM in Montreal on June 10 to sign multiple funding agreements for the Inuit Community Infrastructure Fund (ICIF). These represent the first funding agreements for community infrastructure projects in Nunavik.

The ICIF is a federal grant that has been provided to all of Inuit Nunangat to build infrastructure greatly needed in their communities. In the process to secure this funding from the Treasury Board of Canada, Makivik representatives worked with ITK and the other Inuit Nunangat Land Claims Organizations on a national Inuit report, bringing attention to the infrastructure that is lacking specifically in Nunavik.

In a letter sent out in January 2022 to Nunavik Mayors, Landholding Presidents, and Makivik Board Members, President Aatami explained that this funding allocation is important because it permits Inuit to identify their own priorities, and it allows them to decide themselves the projects they want to build and implement to close, or at least reduce, the gap between Southern and Northern communities on infrastructure.

"In our case," he wrote, "it is often what we call the 'social infrastructure' that is missing or inadequate." Social infrastructure

could be things like elders' homes and centres, youth centres, and various types of shelters that could benefit the community. There is also a need for basic equipment to support community infrastructure development, such as roads, for example.

Makivik has created a new Infrastructure Division under the responsibility of the President's Department to receive community applications for projects considered to be priority. Staff in this new division will also act as consultants to assist communities in finding professionals to help with the preliminary stages of each project and support community-based decisions. The Finance and Legal Departments of Makivik are also involved with the implementation of this fund.

The ICIF is a four-year fund representing \$129,201,172 for Nunavik, beginning in 2021-22 and ending in 2024-25. As Makivik anticipates receiving multiple project applications from the Nunavik villages and Landholding Corporations, the cashflow schedule will be determined according to the implementation schedules of the projects.

There is \$9,028,172 available per Nunavik community. In addition, Chisasibi has also been allocated \$2.8 million from the fund. ♦

## Retaking the Lead: Nunavik-led Research Governance Body established

With the announcement of a new research governance organization in Nunavik, the region is taking a major step toward ensuring the priorities, values, and knowledge of Nunavimmiut are at the heart of how research is done here.

Following years of planning and regional consultations, the initiative, led by a committee formed by representatives of seven partner organizations and an Inuit Research Advisor, issued a press release in early July stating that with the approvals from across the region, they are now officially entering the project's establishment phase. Work to decide on a meaningful Inuktitut name for the new organization is already underway and operations of the new organization are expected to start in 2024.

Over the past several decades there has been an increasing amount of research in Nunavik, led primarily from outside the region, which has strained local resources and capacity. In response to this, the new research governance body will be responsible for reviewing, approving, and overseeing research in or about Nunavik, which will

make sure that the research responds to Inuit priorities, values, and needs. In addition to approving and overseeing research through regional and community review committees, it will identify, gather, and communicate research priorities; manage and communicate research information; support community research needs; and support researchers.

Aleashia Echalook has been appointed Start-up Director and will guide the initiative for the next two years as it is established and prepares for its operational phase. She says that Nunavimmiut have been asking to be self-determining when it comes to research and this new body will offer that opportunity.

"This new organization will ensure that Inuit will be the decision-makers for research about us and our land, that research will be more informed by our Inuit culture and values, and that our traditional knowledge will be more recognized and used," she said. "I also hope to see more and more Inuit becoming researchers, so we are asking questions and seeking answers that will improve our society and working in true partnership with southern-based researchers."

This initiative was guided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from seven regional organizations – Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board, and Avataq Cultural Institute – as well as the Inuit Research Advisor for Nunavik. Further public communications will come as participation and support are sought and staff are recruited. For more information, please visit the organization's website at <https://nunavikresearch.ca/> ♦

## Identifying Groundwater Discharge in Tasiujaq's Berard River

By Emilie Reny-Nolin, MiraNor's coordinator

Photos courtesy of Markusie Annahatak, Milad Fakhari, Jasmin Raymond, and Richard Martel



Aerial view of Tasiujaq airport and the Berard River flowing into the Ungava Bay.

Markusie Annahatak, General Manager at the Arqivik Landholding Corporation, worked with MiraNor's team to organize a field campaign to study the environment of Arctic charr, a fish of great importance to Tasiujaq's community. The objective was to have a better understanding of the groundwater discharge in the Berard River.



Markusie Annahatak,  
General Manager at Arqivik  
Landholding Corporation.

### Why is groundwater so important for Arctic charr?

Arctic charr are temperature dependent fish. During extreme temperature events leading to high or low water temperature, they will shelter in zones with higher groundwater seepage in the river. They reach areas where groundwater resurfaces, called thermal refuges, because it has a more suitable temperature for their survival. As groundwater is not in direct contact with air temperature and solar radiation, its temperature is more constant throughout the year.

As extreme water temperatures in rivers are likely to occur more frequently in northern Quebec due to climate change, thermal refuges created by groundwater might be a life saver for Arctic charr, accessible country food for Tasiujaq's community.



**Professor Richard Martel with an Arctic charr.**



**PhD candidate Milad Fakhari installing a piezometer.**

Collaborators from Tasiujaq's community, along with researchers Jasmin Raymond, Richard Martel, and PhD student Milad Fakhari from MiraNor's team, installed piezometers in the riverbed and on the shore in the summer of 2019. These piezometers were necessary to identify zones with higher groundwater discharge in the Berard River.

Piezometers are stainless steel pipes with a screen at the bottom allowing water to circulate. Temperature sensors were then installed in the piezometers and in other pipes in the ground to collect groundwater and soil temperature data.

The data was collected during two years and recovered in 2021 allowing confirmation of the cold and warm areas observed on the aerial thermal imagery. In order to confirm that colder water (darker colour on the aerial thermal imagery) was actually groundwater, water samples were taken for radon analysis.

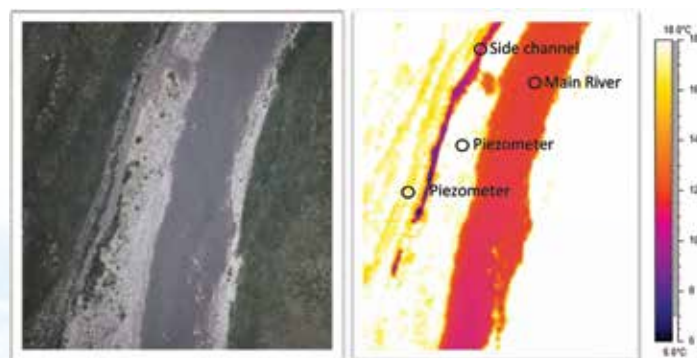
## Why is analyzing Radon-222 so useful to identify groundwater?

Radon-222 is a noble radioactive gas that naturally exists in soil, bedrock and groundwater. When groundwater is not in contact with soil for about 3.5 days, Radon-222 will disappear. Therefore, where radon concentrations are higher in the river, it confirms that groundwater seepage is higher in that area. Milad Fakhari will analyze these water samples along with the data from the Berard River and share the results with Markusie Annahatak from the Arqvik Landholding Corporation and Tasiujaq's community. The conclusions of this study will also be available on MiraNor's website [miranor.inrs.ca](http://miranor.inrs.ca).

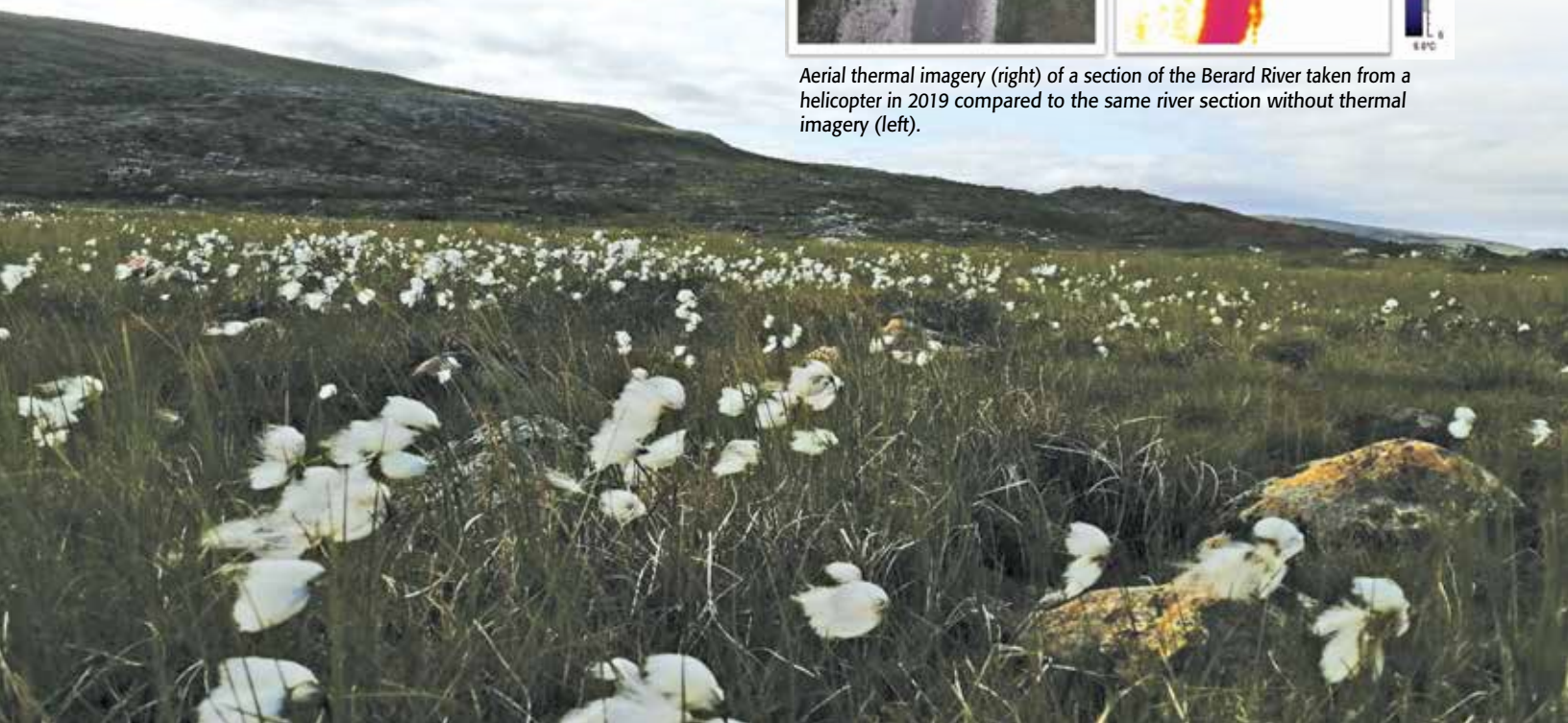
MiraNor's researchers Jasmin Raymond and Richard Martel along with PhD student Milad Fakhari are specialized in hydrogeology and geothermal energy. Their expertise allows them to answer many questions related to groundwater. MiraNor also includes researchers specializing in climate change, ecotoxicology, geomorphology and river habitat, environmental hydrology, and statistics. As a group of independent researchers, they can provide the scientific knowledge to contribute to the sustainable development of Northern Quebec.

To learn more about MiraNor's research projects visit [miranor.inrs.ca](http://miranor.inrs.ca)

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada. ●



**Aerial thermal imagery (right) of a section of the Berard River taken from a helicopter in 2019 compared to the same river section without thermal imagery (left).**



# NUNAVIK PLAYERS



SUSIE-ANNE KUDLUK



MCCOMBIE ANNANACK

**Full name:** Susie-Anne Kudluk  
**Birthday:** September 23, 1997  
**Place of birth:** Kuujjuaq  
**Home community:** Kangirsuk  
**Role model:** My grandmother Leah Kudluk  
**Favourite food:** Nikkuk (Dried Caribou)  
**Occupation:** Vice-President of Qarjuit Youth Council  
**Proudest moment:** Learning to drive a canoe, getting my gun license and meeting the Prime Minister  
**Future goal:** Becoming the Prime Minister of Canada  
**Best advice you can offer youth:** Learn as much as you can from our elders! Don't be afraid to ask questions!

**Full name:** McCombie Annanack  
**Birthday:** January 16, 1996  
**Place of birth:** Kuujjuaq  
**Home community:** Kangiqsualujjuaq  
**Role model:** My Arnaqutik Maggie Emudluk  
**Favourite food:** Arctic charr  
**Occupation:** Mayor of Kangiqsualujjuaq  
**Proudest moment:** When I became Mayor  
**Future goal:** Travel the world  
**Best advice you can offer youth:** The only way to get experience in life is to experience it, be open, willing to all successes and failures, those are the great learning experiences in life.

## 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](mailto:mdewar@makivik.org). The winner of this Mystery Photo Contest will be chosen on September 30, 2022.

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



WHAT IS THIS? ►

Their Excellencies the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, and Mr. Whit Fraser made an official trip to Nunavik, from May 9 to 13, visiting Kuujjuaq, Kangiqsualujjuaq, and Inukjuak. A planned stop in Kangiqsujuaq was cancelled due to poor flying conditions.

This photo from May 9, shows members of the Makivik Executive, along with representatives from Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, and the Qarjuit Youth Council who met with Her Excellency in Kuujjuaq.

During the official visit to the region, Her Excellency met with local leaders, and visited schools and wellness organizations. Their Excellencies also spent time at the Kuururjuaq National Park Interpretation Centre in Kangiqsualujjuaq and at the Avataq Cultural Institute in Inukjuak.

