



**Public Inquiry Commission on relations between
Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec:
listening, reconciliation and progress**

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Purpose of this Presentation

- Introduction to Nunavik and the Nunavik Inuit and provide some basic information about the work Makivik has been doing related to the mandate of the Commission and talk about some continuing needs.
- More specific information will be provided during the work of the Commission.



The Nunavik Region

- As seen on the map, Nunavik is a vast region north of the 55th parallel comprising almost one third of Québec and a large offshore area.
- The boundaries of Nunavik are defined by our 2 lands claims agreements – the 1975 James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) -mainland and the 2007 Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA) - offshore.
- These 2 agreements provide Nunavik Inuit with constitutionally protected treaty rights to lands, harvesting rights and co-management boards for wildlife management, land use planning and environmental review.
- NILCA also contains important overlap agreements with our indigenous neighbors – Nunavut Inuit, Labrador Inuit and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee.

The Nunavik Region (*continued*)

- Under the JBNQA Nunavik Inuit collectively have ownership of 3,130 sq. miles of Category I lands.
- In addition the JBNQA provides for 33,400 sq. miles of Category II lands where we have exclusive harvesting rights. These lands can be expropriated with replacement or compensation.
- The balance of lands are called Category III and are public lands. Inuit have priority harvesting rights on those lands but share access to wildlife with non-native sport hunters and fishers.
- Under NILCA Nunavik Inuit collectively own in full fee simple, 7,000 sq. km. of islands. This represents approximately 80% of islands in the offshore portion of Nunavik.
- In the offshore, Nunavik Inuit have priority access to all wildlife and exclusivity to certain species, such as beluga whales and polar bear.

The Nunavik Region *(continued)*

- Nunavik is the homeland for 11,000 Inuit who live in 14 communities. We make up 91% of the total population. There are also Nunavik Inuit living in Chisasibi (a Cree community) and in Montreal.
- Kuujuaq is the largest community (with close to 2,300 residents) and is the administrative center. Aupaluk the smallest (with less than 200 residents).
- There are no road links between the region's communities or with southern Québec. Air transportation keeps the communities connected year-round. The summer sealift ensures the delivery of necessary non-perishable foods and supplies.
- Locally, Inuit depend on snowmobiles, ATVs and motor boats for subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping activities which remain a very important part of our culture and daily lives.

Some Basic Facts

(based on the Nunivaat-Nunavik Statistics Program results, universit  Laval)

- Inuktitut is the mother tongue of 97% of Nunavik Inuit.
- 66% are under the age of 30 – a very young population.
- Life expectancy is 66 years – elsewhere in Qu bec it is 81.
- The cost of food is 48% higher than in Qu bec City.
- Households with the lowest incomes devote 70% of their expenses to food and shelter.



Some Basic Facts (*continued*)

- Housing overcrowding has reached an alarming rate of 68%.
- The majority of the Inuit live in social housing.
- 68% of households earn less than \$32,480 annually.
- 37% of households live in poverty.
- Nunavik Inuit pay all Québec and Canadian taxes, including sales tax and GST.



Some Basic Facts *(continued)*

- Family violence is 10 times higher in Nunavik than the Canadian average.
- The 2007 report from the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse investigation into youth protection services in Nunavik concluded ... *“As a result of its investigation, the Commission declares that the rights of the Inuit children and young people of Nunavik, as recognized in the Youth Protection Act and the Youth Criminal Justice Act, have been infringed.”* (pg.59)
- Nunavik has one of the highest suicide rates in Canada.
- Nunavik Inuit hold only 51% of regional wage-earning jobs
- The school drop out rate between kindergarten and high school is an alarming 90%.

Makivik Corporation



- Makivik Corporation was established in 1978, following the signing of the JBNQA by virtue of *An Act Respecting the Makivik Corporation*, CQLR c S-18.1.
- It is the ‘birthright’ corporation representing all beneficiaries of the JBNQA and the NILCA.

The mandate of Makivik is:

- To receive, administer, distribute and invest the compensation money payable to Nunavik Inuit, as provided for in the JBNQA and NILCA;
- To relieve poverty, to promote the welfare, advancement, and education of the Inuit;
- To foster, promote, protect and assist in preserving the Inuit way of life, values and traditions;
- To exercise the functions vested in it by other Acts or the Agreement; and
- To develop and improve the Inuit communities and to improve their means of actions.

Makivik Corporation (*continued*)

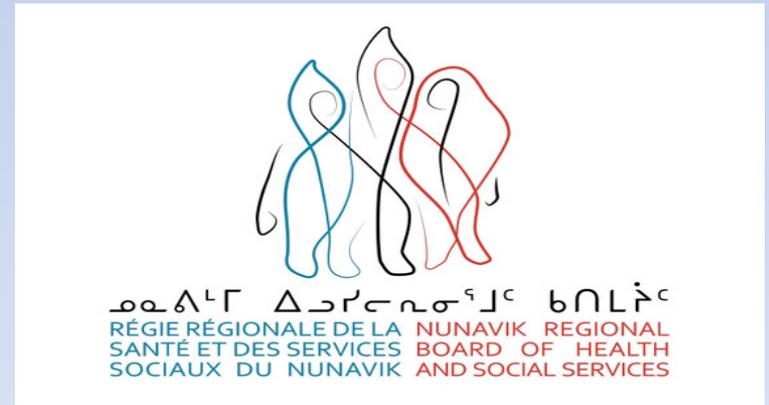
- An important role in the economic and social development of Nunavik, especially through subsidiaries in essential sectors such as air and marine transport, fisheries and construction
- Developed an effective working relationship with the government of Québec, with whom numerous agreements have been signed. This includes the *Sanarrutik* partnership agreement on economic and community development signed along with the Kativik Regional Government in 2002 regarding hydroelectric, mining, tourism development and crime prevention.
- At the federal level Makivik participates in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee to find Inuit-specific solutions to the unique social, cultural, economic, and environmental issues that Inuit face.



Regional Organizations

The JBNQA created several public organizations with special mandates in Nunavik.

- The Kativik Regional Government(KRG)
- The Kativik School Board (KSB)
- The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS)



The Kativik Regional Government

- The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) was created in 1978 pursuant to the JBNQA to deliver public services to all Nunavimmiut.
- Many of the KRG's responsibilities are stipulated in the *Act respecting Northern villages and the Kativik Regional Government* (CQLR, c. V-6.1). Others come from specific delegations by government.
- It provides technical assistance in various sectors to the 14 Northern Villages which have the same status as municipalities elsewhere in Québec (without a tax base).



Kativik Regional Government (*continued*)

The KRG currently delivers services for:

- Airport management and marine infrastructure maintenance.
- Regional and local economic development and business development.
- Policing and civil security, Crime victims assistance.
- Inuit hunting, fishing and trapping support, and wildlife conservation.
- Environment, climate change, Park development and management.
- Employment, training and income support and Childcare services.
- Municipal infrastructure development and drinking water.
- Internet access.
- Sports and recreation.



The Kativik School Board

- The Kativik School Board (KSB) was created by the JBNQA to serve the people living in Nunavik, and to empower the Inuit to take control over their own education.
- The KSB is governed by The Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons (CQLR, c.I-14).
- It has exclusive jurisdiction in Nunavik to provide pre-school, elementary, secondary and adult education, and to develop programs and teaching materials in Inuktitut, English and French; train Inuit teachers to meet provincial standards; and encourage, arrange and supervise post-secondary education.



The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

- The mandate of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is to organize health and social service programs in all communities and adapt them to the populations' needs and to the region's realities.
- Nunavik's health and social services network includes the Inuulitsivik Health Centre in Puvirnituq servicing Hudson Bay and the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre in Kuujjuaq.



Other Regional Organizations

There are other regional organizations that also provide services and support to Inuit. These include:

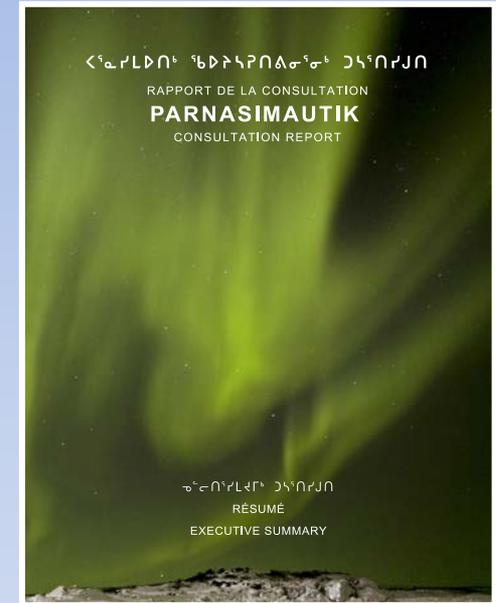
- The Avataq Cultural Institute which protects and promotes Nunavik Inuit language and culture.
- The Qarjuit Youth Council which gives a voice to Nunavik Inuit youth.
- The Nunavik Inuit Land Holding Corporations Association which assists the community land holding corporations.
- La Fédération des Coopératives du Nouveau-Québec dating back to 1967 which promotes local development through social and economic activities that are financially sustainable.
- Anguvigaq which represents the interests of Nunavik Inuit hunters, fishers and trappers locally and regionally.
- The Nunavik Tourism Association develops and promotes regional tourism.
- Saturviit Inuit Women's Association is the voice for women of Nunavik.
- The Nunavik Elders' Committee promotes services and programs for Nunavik elders.
- Taqramiut Nipingat Inc. is the radio and television network for Nunavik and provides communication services to strengthen the Inuktitut language and promote Inuit culture.

Our Vision for the Future

- In 2013, leaders of seven Nunavik organizations participated in consultation workshops in all the communities, as well with Nunavik Inuit in Chisasibi and Montreal, and Naskapi in Kawawachikamach.
- At the workshops, local group and committee representatives discussed the fundamental issues affecting their day-to-day lives.
- Residents were welcome to attend the workshops and whole communities listened on the local radio.
- A regional youth conference was organized in March 2014.
- The 2014 *Parnasimautik Consultation Report* was produced following this consultation.

Our Vision for the Future

- The *Parnasimautik Consultation Report* presents a comprehensive vision for the future of Nunavik Inuit, families and communities, as well as for the renewal of the relationship with regional organizations, the governments of Québec and Canada, and industrial developers.
- It defines a vision of the future that includes greater control of planning and governance for Nunavik Inuit in every aspect of our lives, our communities and our region.



www.parnasimautik.com

Correctional Services

- There is an over-representation of Nunavik Inuit in Québec's correctional system.
- Makivik has been advocating for improvements in detention conditions and rehabilitation programs for Inuit offenders.
- In 2016 the Québec Ombudsman released a special report concluding that detention conditions in Nunavik are substandard.
- Nunavik Inuit offenders and detainees are incarcerated in several different institutions, which makes it difficult to develop and implement programs and services.
- The programs and services are limited and rarely available in Inuktitut, which does nothing to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.



Health and Social Services

- Makivik has actively participated in consultations focusing on health and social services in Nunavik, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.
- The *Parnasimautik Consultation Report* describes wide-ranging psychosocial and health problems experienced by Nunavik Inuit including mental health, addictions, youth in difficulty and family violence.
- The *Parnasimautik Consultation Report* also made recommendations for the problems that Inuit face in obtaining health and social services, such as: overcrowding in residential housing; difficulties in accessing health services locally; aging infrastructure and hospital equipment; and the high turnover of employees in Nunavik's health and social services network; and lack of Inuit staff.



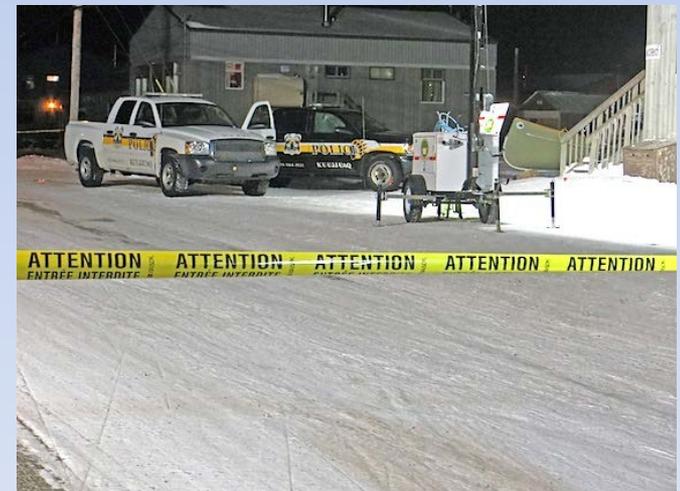
Youth Protection

- Youth protection (or child welfare) is a crucial issue for Nunavik Inuit.
- The *Parnasimautik Consultation Report* noted the negative impact of the large number of youth protection interventions in our communities, children being placed in foster care, and the need to increasingly adapt the youth protection process to Nunavik's social and cultural realities. (374 children in 2015-2016)
- Foster care and youth protection interventions and the removal of children from families and communities are the new 'residential school' experience.
- Makivik supports projects such as the Qarmaapik Family House intended to be an alternative to the Québec youth protection system for Nunavik Inuit.



Policing

- Policing in Nunavik is the subject of Section 21 of the JBNQA, which provides for the creation of the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPf). The KRPf is under the responsibility of the KRG.
- Since 2008, Makivik has become involved in policing issues in urban areas, mainly Montreal. Makivik developed its own strategy and action plan to help low-income and homeless Inuit in Montreal.
- Since 2010, Makivik has established a successful working relationship with the Montreal Police Department (SPVM) in the context of the urban strategy.



Moving Forward

- We insist on an Inuit-specific approach for Nunavik. Issues and solutions may be different from other Aboriginal Nations.
- The justice system and legal services, correctional services, health and social services, youth protection and policing, all require focused attention.
- We need to fully adapt all these services to the realities and needs of the region and Nunavik Inuit.
- Immediate needs include training in cultural competency for all service providers and professional interpreters to facilitate access and confidence in services.
- The *Parnasimautik Consultation Report* contains many recommendations to guide us. We know the problems – now we need solutions.
- We have our specialists and we have participated in many credible research projects and investigations.
- We are now ready to work with you to close the gaps, improve services, remove discriminatory practices and differential treatment in Nunavik and in urban centers.