

What Was Said INUKJUAK October 15 to 17, 2013

Our parents thought they owned the land because our ancestors had been here for thousands of years. The signing of the JBNQA divided Inuit. We have to stop saying the agreement is not good and, instead, get together to try to improve our lives, communities and region. As Inuit, we want to be able to self-govern. To do this, we must be able to use our language, eat the food we hunt and practise our culture.

Who We Are

(Culture and Identity • Harvesting • Lands • Environmental and Regional Planning)

Traditionally, children learned by observing and then doing. The teaching of culture and traditional skills cannot be taught properly inside a school from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There should be a centre with adequate funding to teach about language and culture. The people who promote culture should be recognized as qualified people and be given jobs to teach youth.

Hunters traditionally went to Patirtuuq to harvest beluga. These days regulations oblige them to travel north to Ivujivik or south to Long Island. Mining projects in our hunting territories will create damage and force us to travel further and further from Inukjuak to hunt.

Hunting equipment is so expensive, we are no longer able to practise our culture.

The hunters who have jobs have only one day in a week to go out on the land. We need to change this in order to balance employer work schedules and subsistence hunting.

Hunters who have lost their firearms because of criminal offences should nonetheless be allowed to use them to go hunting.



Category I and II lands must be extended to protect our wildlife resources from mining. Annual cash payments by mining companies do not compensate for the damage done to our harvesting areas.



Our Communities

(Elders, Women and Youth • Education • Health • Housing • Justice and Social Regulation • Community development • Biofood • Employment)

When the elders have passed away the next generation will need to live off the land too. They should be taught about the names of lakes, sites and what type of fish inhabit which lakes and rivers.

The cooperative has always made an effort to help elders but, more and more, we are hearing elders on the FM radio asking for food and money. The elders worked hard to raise their families and deserve our support now.

There is a need for elders and youth to work together, to voice their concerns, and to plan for a better future.

The Unaaq Men's Association promotes culture and has a mandate to support men. It needs financial assistance to create jobs in the community. We have to stop relying on outside services and develop our own initiatives.

There is too much gap between parents and their children. In some families the children and parents don't even understand each other anymore.

There should be a way to manage drugs and alcohol without just trying to stop their delivery into the community. When drugs are unavailable, people turn to other things, like alcohol. That is not solving the problem.

We need to find a way to get over the injustices done in the past and deal with the issues of our future.

Some health care is provided in Nunavik but there is a lack of equipment and a lot of people still need to go somewhere else for these services.

We hear bad things about the patients' transit in Montreal. As well, the flight to and from Montreal is long.



Some children are being taken away from their parents and sent to live with non-Inuit couples in the south. What can we do about this?

The education difficulties affecting us today are keeping Inuit from working in our community and for regional organizations. We have to understand what these difficulties are and fix them.

Teacher training has been carried out for 34 years and many have graduated, but we still need more Inuit teachers.

There should be more opportunities for continuing education, not just in Montreal. Students should be encouraged to finish their education. We want to see Inuit x-ray technicians and Inuit staff in other specialized fields through training.

Traditional practices should be taught and used at the CLSC and with youth protection services.

The Ungaluk Program could be put to better use teaching young people about Inuit culture, funding women's shelters and supporting the reintegration of offenders into community life.

A court case can become a very long process and expensive due to court postponements and a \$500 lawyer fee each time.

There is concern for people who have been evicted from their dwellings. They end up at their parents' homes. Some elders whose children have been evicted are finding it very hard to manage financially, especially those who have retired or have no jobs. Evicted people have nowhere to go.

Lack of housing is still a big problem for our growing population. A home ownership program is offered but the people can still not afford to build their own homes. Even residents with good jobs who should be able to afford their own houses end up in debt.

When family members end up in prison, a lot of hardships are created: young children and grandchildren must be looked after; collect calls from detainees are expensive; etc.

The KRPF and residents should work together to improve understanding between them.

Our communities need the same level of infrastructure (education, health, sports, cultural, justice, etc.) as communities in the south.

There are a lot of office jobs and employed people in Kuujjuaq, while there are few opportunities in Inukjuak.

Non-Inuit hold so many jobs in our community even while there are so many Inuit unemployed.

The development of Inukjuak is lagging behind other communities, and yet we agreed with the signing of the JBNQA.

We need to find ways to develop our community and have Inukjuamiut benefit from this development.

Inuit are starving for caribou meat, while sport hunters come to the region for trophy hunting.

Hunters are noticing that all kinds of wildlife are becoming scarcer. Actions to raise fish and livestock must be considered.



Is there a way to get more country food in Inukjuak; it contains so much nutritional value.

Our Region

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

Tourism is a good way to protect the land and generate local jobs.

Mining exploration is happening today just as fast as at the time of the JBNQA in the early 1970s.

A mine like the one proposed for Aupaluk will affect the entire region. Why haven't Inukjuamiut been consulted.

On one hand, there is a worldwide demand for minerals and we need to create work for ourselves. On the other hand, we want to prevent our land from being damaged and protect our sources of food. This is difficult: we have to plan for the future.

Environmental impact assessments will be carried out when there are development projects and we will have to be consulted and listened to.

It is frustrating to see mining companies making big profits while individual Nunavimmiut get small cash payments.

The electricity produced in Nunavik should benefit Nunavik Inuit first.

The Innavik power generating project was planned locally by focusing on the needs of Inukjuamiut. Their expectations must be taken into account. But there were problems with Hydro-Québec. This project should be considered by all stakeholders as a priority for this community.

Internet, cell phone and FM radio broadcasting must be improved.

Our Vision of Development

The government rushed Nunavimmiut into signing the JBNQA since they had plans for our land. It was

very hard for the negotiators who did not have adequate funding and were far from their homes. They hoped for the best but we have since started to see social issues like suicide and school dropout.



It is important for us to know that, through these Parnasimautik workshops, all Nunavimmiut are joining together and will now be working as partners towards the same objectives.

It is like we will need to start over. Our community problems have to be solved. We need to bring back happiness into our lives. We have been unhappy for so long, there needs to be healing and getting on with future issues.

Communities must be encouraged to start their own projects and they must be provided support to implement them.

My vision is to leave our problems behind, start over and move forward, standing for our people and working with our leaders. We want our children to be educated. I feel the JBNQA has helped tremendously. We must have hope. When we only talk about struggling, it affects our youth negatively. Let's build strength and move forward.

This is just a beginning for the committees and organizations in Inukjuak to sit down together, decide on local priorities that can be achieved together, and make projects happen.

Regional leaders ended the Parnasimautik workshop by thanking local representatives and residents for speaking up on the development issues facing Inukjuak and the entire region. Inukjuamiut were encouraged to continue this important reflection process to identify actions that can be taken locally now by the community. Visit www.parnasimautik.com for more information.

