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What Was Said KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ

February 19 to 21, 2013

The Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq and regional organizations conducted a community workshop on multiple sectors. Participants included the mayor, landholding corporation and cooperative association representatives, as well as local representatives of many other organizations (including the cultural, education, elders, youth, justice, well-being, childcare, church and recreation community committees, and the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and the Kativik School Board). Below is a summary account of What Was Said.

Who We Are

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

Kangiqsualujjuamiut spoke strongly about their ties to Inuit tradition, and identified culture and language as clear priorities.

Our ancestors were knowledgeable and capable. Today though, we are surrounded by outside elements that impact on our culture.

We have to encourage young people to learn traditional skills and to become harvesters. Maybe we could combine cultural and youth committees, creating opportunities to share. How to make clothes or survive on the land used to be taught to children by their parents.

Language must come from home and from the community. We have to teach it properly and we have to use it.

Anguvigaapik must be involved in wildlife management in Kangiqsualujjuaq, the community should have its own Uumajuit warden and the George River caribou herd must be protected.

A lack of funding limits what the landholding corporation can do. Discussion must take place, for example, about overlapping park territories and category II lands.



Our Communities

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

Today, elders are confined to the community with no jobs, no money, no activities, and very limited means to get out on the land.

It is a challenge for single mothers to feed their children with healthy traditional foods. Improved community support is needed to get out of poverty.

We know education has to improve, and that the improvements must come from ourselves with the financial support of Québec.

Alternative pathways must be developed to prepare students with the skills required to compete in region's job market in mineral exploration, mining, tourism, accounting and policing.

The certification of Inuit teachers must speed up so our culture is reinforced in the school. A way must also be found to formally recognize individuals who have expertise on the land, hunting and camping.

The need for other higher education services in the region was also raised.

We have to focus more on prevention to reduce the number of accidents and injuries that can be avoided, We need homes where children who require placement will be taken care of. There should be no more tolerance for negligence.

We know that people are breaking the laws and we remain silent. Drug, alcohol and sexual abuse are problems that need to stop.

Frequent court cancellations have an impact on victims and their families.

Traditional hunting could help reduce our dependency on southern foods. Initiatives, such as arctic char stream enhancement and vegetable production in greenhouses, could also help us to reach that objective.

Our Region

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

Since the park project started, the harmonization committee with community representation has been able to bring about many positive changes to the park. How do we make sure that those with the most knowledge of the land and our culture can gain access to guide positions.

Our culture and way of life should be more visible to tourists.

Our harvesting activities are being disturbed by small airplane traffic and increasing numbers of other visitors and mineral prospectors.

We don't want our wildlife to be affected by mining. Québec is supporting exploration and mining development, but we have some environmental tools to protect certain areas.

Money from mining companies should be directed to community projects not to individuals. Let's make mining companies contribute to community needs.

Royalty payments paid to individuals have both positive and negative implications. On the one hand, the payments give people money to buy food, clothing, gasoline, and so on. On the other hand, some local workers are less motivated to show up for work.

Mining is going to happen, the question is what do we want out of it. How do we draw benefits for the communities in the end?

Connection to the Hydro-Québec grid will affect wildlife. Wind turbines produce green energy, but how will they affect wildlife. And what impact will decreased sales by local fuel distributors have on the community?

More information is needed for the community to decide if it prefers a road or railway link with the rest of Nunavik and with the south.

Marine access to the community at low tide still needs to be improved.



Our Vision of Development

Youth need an education and certification if we want to get jobs. At the same time, we want to contribute to strengthening our culture. Computers, movies and the Internet are having impacts and taking over who we are.

We are losing some of our most important knowledge. Youth need to be provided with information on our history and our traditions.

As a community, we have to find solutions and connect elders and youth, and we need to ask ourselves questions about where we are going.

We know many that have alcohol and drug problems. They are a reality. We need to find help, find ways to overcome the problems.

The government has a significant interest in our territory. This gives us power to negotiate, to make heard our vision of development.

We have to move forward and have our own government. There will always be barriers, but we can overcome them. As Kangiqsualujjuamiut, we do not want to be pushed aside.

Kangiqsualujjuamiut intend to continue local discussions on development. Parnasimautik workshop information, including a community workshop schedule, may be found at: www.parnasimautik.com. A second community workshop was organized in Akulivik from March 5 to 7, 2013.

