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What Was Said
KANGIRSUK
August 27 to 29, 2013

From February to June 2013, Parnasimautik workshops took place in the communities of Kangiqsualujuaq, Akulivik, Ivujivik, Tasiujaq, Kuujuarapik, Puvirnituaq and Kangiqsujaq. The workshop organized by the Northern Village of Kangirsuk in August was the first in the fall series of 2013 workshops. Nunavimmiut at every workshop have demonstrated strong support for the process and expressed with precision their vision for the future development of the region.

Who We Are

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

In the past, we never had to ask who we were. We already knew we were Inuit and what it meant to be Inuit. Now, we must learn to stand up and say that Inuit have been here for many, many years.

To reinforce our culture and language, we need a place where we can teach these things.

We have not stayed well informed about our rights on different category lands. Is there anything we can do now so our youth will have a say about development of the underground?

Kangirsuk, Aupaluk and Quaqtaq were not able to select the lands they wanted during the JBNQA land selection process.

Hunting equipment is harder and harder to get for those who are not working. The costs are too high and laws restrict access to guns and ammunition.

Can we negotiate compensation for animals we are no longer able to hunt because of new government regulations or development?



Wildlife populations (seal, eider duck, caribou, beluga, fish, etc.) are all declining. Maybe we need to start thinking about raising animals, and fish farming like they do in Kuujuaq.

Since there will eventually be large ships coming to our area, we need to protect the marine mammals that are our food. We will have to adopt measures concerning contaminants. At the same time, we should be concerned about the waste produced in our community. We need recycling.



Our Communities

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

The transition from childhood to adulthood is very different now. How will we be able to take advantage of the new opportunities in the region? Youth must get involved.

We have to make an effort to understand the younger generation. Many factors cause our children to be angry. We have to bring them along when we go camping. Until we address the personal issues affecting us, we will not move forward.

When I was young, there were no police officers, no social workers, and no government employees. Elders led the way and we listened to them. This has been lost. Young girls used to learn skills from their mothers and young boys from their fathers. Today, every week it seems there is a new incident involving guns and often suicides.



Elders are affected by today’s way of life. They do not receive services in their language. They have no one to turn to. Services must be adapted to their needs and we must find ways to get elders out on the land.

Women work to provide for their families and are often the only ones involved in their children’s education. Children and husbands must learn to contribute more to their families.

We are not getting the schooling we need and, because of that, students must go to Kangiqsujuaq for secondary 6. At the same time, we have our own education system. We must find ways to make it stronger.

Improvements in education might include: better instruction about the JBNQA, personal budgeting and saving, a Nunavik Sivunitsavut, trades training, support to prevent drop-outs, more access to Avataq resources and materials, etc.

Students must become engaged in their education, not just go to school with their heads

down. And all organizations should get involved in supporting community education orientations.

Healthcare delivery improvements should focus on placing a mental health worker in every community, prevention initiatives by local nurses over local FM radio airwaves, more services for the disabled, and enhanced strategizing on the part of the community well-being committee.

Because of alcohol and drug abuse, some people have no more money for food and rent. Whatever the causes, evictions affect families.

The Makitautik Community Residential Centre has a positive effect on its clients; however, too often we rely on outside resources to develop our programs, like Makitautik. We need to become more autonomous.

Local justice committees should be involved in social regulation projects.

How can the Ungaluk Program be used to help people that have relatives in detention: to pay for phone calls and country food, and then to help with reintegration into the community.

As a community we have to learn to work together. We are well intentioned at meetings, but need to learn to take action locally.

Community improvements might include: no alcohol shipments on Sunday, meeting space made available for local committees, better town planning, etc.

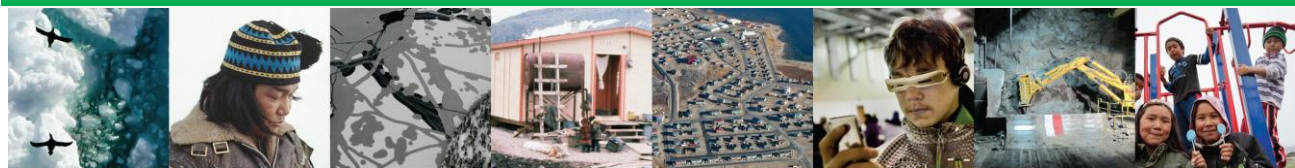
The food we buy is very expensive even though we own the cooperative.

Training is required to teach how to package and preserve food, prepare meals with seal meat, etc.

Research should be carried out to monitor the health of the wildlife we eat.

Inuit should be entitled to the same employment benefits as workers from the south.

Some find it difficult to get the work they want at the Raglan mining site, and there is discrimination there.



Our Region

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

Tourism must benefit local development. For example, the landholding corporation should receive priority contracting.

I was a child when prospectors first came to our region. We helped them out then, but they didn't share any information with us. How do we obtain information on Nunavik's mineral potential? Nunavik Inuit need a mining policy.

The allocation of royalties to individuals should be revised. We seem to like being handed money and not work.

If proper research on the potential impacts were done, I would agree with a road link to the south. There are always downsides to development, but we need to be connected.



When we negotiated the JBNQA, we didn't have this kind of Parnasimautik planning opportunity. We had to sign the JBNQA and surrender our rights to get basic services that other Québécois expect to receive as their just due. And yet today, we are still fighting to get those services properly delivered. Many adjustments to the JBNQA are needed. We must continue to work to get what we need. We cannot stop saying what we want. We cannot be scared because this is our land. If we are serious, the government will listen to us. The 1973 field trip report by the Northern Québec Inuit Association, the 1992 Silatunimut report on education, the 1993 Arqusiaqniq report on justice, the 2001 Amirqaaluta report on self-government, the 2010 Plan Nunavik and the 2012 Illirijavut report on language are all documents that can help make a good plan.

Or are we going to stay on the sidelines while development takes place around us?

I want to see my kids with their own school, with their own government, and be able to stand together. To see Inuit taking control.

Learning from the past can help us decide how we move forward together in the future, and determine what we need to improve our quality of living, our families, our communities and our region. This is what Parnasimautik is all about.

Our Vision of Development

Premier Charest in 2009, like Premier Bourassa in the 1970s, called for the development of our region to create infrastructure, jobs and revenue for Québec. In the same way, as Nunavik Inuit, we need to prepare for our future.

Nunavimmiut are invited to visit www.parnasimautik.com to view workshop and other related documentation, including Inuktitut audio recordings on sectors ranging from culture and identity, to education, health, housing, mining development, energy and transportation, to name but a few.

