



Many years prior to the JBNQA, governments and companies probably understood the potentials of our land. Should these potentials have been disclosed before we signed the agreement? Forty years after signing the JBNQA, many provisions have still not been implemented. Can we take the governments to court for their inaction? Agreements should aim to develop the region not just get things in exchange. Governments can no longer oblige Aboriginals to surrender their rights. Can we re-negotiate the JBNQA on this basis?

Who We Are

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

Those born within the last 50 years are living between two cultures, Inuit and non-Inuit.

Concerted efforts are needed to teach and encourage traditional practices. We need to focus on families and on parenting skills.

We have become disconnected from our old selves: people are arguing; gangs are appearing among young people; there is homicide; youth are no longer being taught how to hunt.

We are losing Inuktitut because we are not teaching it well. Inuktitut should be taught by Inuit in our community.



The constant integration of new words and new concepts in our lives will have lasting impacts on the way our society communicates and functions. An Inuktitut language department is needed to bring together all organizations and teaching.

Category II lands should be converted to Category I lands to support the increased harvesting of a larger population.

We need to acquire subsurface rights, as is the case under the NILCA.

Landholding corporations were established with no funding. They were supposed to fund themselves through land leases. This has not worked out.

The land has always allowed Inuit to survive. We therefore need to minimize the impacts of development on the land and wildlife.

Québec should hire Inuit conservation officers as they understand our way of harvesting.

Many Inuit cannot afford to buy harvesting equipment anymore. On the other hand, non-Inuit are able to afford the equipment and are all over our land.

We have the knowledge of our ancestors but we are using it less and less.

We should not leave garbage on the land when we are out camping. The changing climate is also impacting on our environment.

Our Communities

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

The pain of our past (dog slaughter, diversion of our river, etc.) is being passed from one generation to the next. We have only one treatment centre. Youth are dropping out of school. We will not solve our problems building group homes and detention facilities. We need to make changes in our lives.

If we can succeed in improving our overall well-being, our level of health and schooling, and our communities, will improve too. We need to become wiser.

Elders' pensions should be adjusted to the high cost of living.

It is difficult for single women to raise their children alone. We have to support them and include them in traditional activities.

There must be better coordination among the groups mandated to support youth and teach traditional skills, culture and language.

Concerted efforts are needed to ensure our youth pursue their education. More would continue their schooling if a post-secondary facility was available in Nunavik. The Ungava coast also needs a trade school.

Why are students behind in their schooling when they go to college in the south?

We may have given too many of our parenting responsibilities to social services.

Social services are not just taking children. They try to work with the parents. They transfer children to foster homes only as a last resort.

Funding and facilities are needed for the Qajaq Network, the Isuarsivik Treatment Centre, suicide prevention, as well as alcohol and drug abuse prevention. Program funding must be linked with our locally identified needs.

Inuit have made the jump from snow houses to modern homes. We need however to continue to be empowered to make our own decisions on issues. We know rent is too high and that evictions are harming Inuit.

Increasing the rent by 8% every year is like paying an entire additional month each year.

Home improvement programs are not working. Kuujuaq has the most homeowners but expenses are too high. Some homeowners now feel it was a mistake to build their own homes.

Food insecurity is a growing problem, especially due to alcoholism and drug addictions. Could a food kitchen be set up for those families most in need?



Also on community development issues, workshop participants noted that funding is needed for a sewing shop, vehicle repair garage, underground water and sewage infrastructure, as well as recreation programs, to name but a few.

Many of those incarcerated are young. We have to inform youth about the consequences of committing crimes.

The court system is too slow and many clients must pay \$500 unnecessarily due to repeated postponements.

Inuit returning from incarceration need healing and support to reintegrate the community.

Police work is very difficult. Officers witness injuries and death, and must deal with friends and family. If we want Inuit police officers, we must provide them with support to cope with these difficult situations.

There were more Inuit working in the 1970s. Today, non-Inuit have an education and we have equivalencies.

Inuit need a good work ethic, motivation and a good education to access the best jobs.

It is frustrating to train someone new from the south and then see that person become your boss.

50% of the jobs being created require post-secondary education. Who is going to get these jobs?

Issues of training and accreditation in the construction, social service and other fields must be addressed.





Minimum Inuit employment targets should be set in workplaces in existing sectors.

The regional organizations were created to provide services for Inuit by Inuit. We were led to believe that we would be responsible for making our own decisions. In reality, though Inuit are not accessing management positions. Why is this?

As more and more jobs are occupied by non-Inuit, Inuit workers have the impression that we are being assimilated in our workplaces.

Criminal records are a hindrance for those looking for work.

We should consider relocating one or two organizations to other communities to improve employment opportunities in those communities.

Inuit employees should receive the same benefits as non-Inuit employees in every sector.

Our Region

(Tourism • Mining • Energy • Transportation • Telecommunications)

Tourists and sport hunters must be accompanied by Inuit guides and Kuujjuaq should develop its own interpretation centre.

Mining and hunting do not mix. The same can be said about power generation. It is not enough to always look for compensation; we must also monitor industrial development closely. We need our own mining policy.

Because of the wind and rivers, it is not just a mining site that is affected; it is all the surroundings. There has to be a strong and clear understanding of impacts before any project starts.

Mining companies should contribute to community wellness, housing and other essential services.

Inuit do not want to keep working at the Raglan mine because of the discrimination and racism.

Even though we have been affected by the diversion of the Caniapiscou River, we are still not connected to the province's power grid.

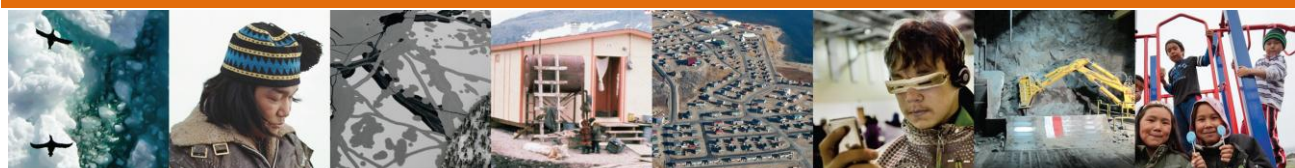
We must reconsider mini-dam projects. To date, projects proposed by Kuujjuaq, Puvirnituk and Inukjuak have all been refused because of Hydro-Québec.

Our communities should receive ferry transportation services like those that exist along the Lower North Shore and to the Magdalen Islands.

On the one hand, a land link might reduce the prices of goods but, on the other hand, it would impact on wildlife. A railroad link would be easier to control.

Québec should fund the making of snowmobile and ATV trails with the funds collected from vehicle registration, as they do in other regions.

Better internet services would allow more specialized health services and lead to fewer people needing to travel south for health care.



Our Vision of Development

Participants clearly stated their vision: We need more Category 1 lands and subsurface rights. Royalties should be directed to the collectivity instead of individuals. We need to deal with substance abuse and provide help to those incarcerated. We must be involved in youth protection issues. And our language remains the core of our identity.

Many people from the south are coming to work here. They lack understanding of Inuit. We have to find a way to reconcile with each other, Inuit and non-Inuit.



Considering the desolation we saw when we visited the iron ore mine site in Schefferville, we will need to be very wise about the use of our lands for mining and other development in the future.

For Inuit, the most important thing is who we are and our culture.

As I see it, Nunavik is a beautiful land with incredible mountains, lakes and rivers. It is the place where we live, where we hunt and where Inuit have survived for so many years. I don't want the lakes and rivers to be destroyed from mining. I want to continue to drink from them, to breathe pure air, to hunt and to not be worried about the level of mercury in fish and the poor health of caribou. I do not want to live between a mine and a hydroelectric dam. We are not just talking about money. We are talking about our future and our land. I know Nunavik needs money, but we don't have to see it destroyed just for the good of others.

This workshop has shown me something I have wanted to see for a very long time: all our organizations are here and working together.

The reports prepared by Inuit in the past must be considered when planning our future, like the 1992 Silatunirmut report on education, the 1993 Arqusiaqniq report on justice, and the 2001 Amirqaaluta report on self-government.

How will this process conclude? We will need to review the results.

Parnasimautik participants in Kuujjuaq were encouraged to continue working together locally on important issues. Parnasimautik information, including Inuktitut audio recordings on all the sectors discussed at the workshop, may be found at www.parnasimautik.com.

