



We have to focus on the future and not on the mistakes of the past. The JBNQA is not as strong as it should have been, but we must at least make sure it is fully implemented. As a society, we will be able to move forward if we can do the jobs in our communities and we have proper infrastructure.



Who We Are

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

We are less and less living according to Inuit culture. We have come to feel oppressed and have abandoned our traditional practices and discipline.

Although we are hungry to learn about our history, we don't really understand where we come from. How then can we know where we are going? Most importantly, I want my children to learn self-esteem and self-confidence.

We have to find that missing link and ensure that traditional knowledge is passed on from elders to youth.

Nowadays, many people in our community speak a mix of Inuktitut and English.

Our language is eroding. We need to correct this. But are we doing anything about it? We need a secretariat to oversee the preservation and enhancement of Inuktitut.

It is wrong that our category I lands have become too small and that we have no sub-surface rights.

The hunter support program is very beneficial to Inuit, but we still have to find a way for hunters to earn an income from hunting. Can we get subsidies for our harvesting the way that farmers do in the south?

Can the hunter support program purchase a snowmobile for those who cannot afford to buy their own equipment?

We should have opportunities to learn how to make igloos, parkas and winter pants with caribou skin, and kamiks and kayaks with sealskin. Experience of these things will help us remember them more. With these land skills, everyone will know how to survive.

If we open our land to mining, caribou and other wildlife will need to move elsewhere. We should say no to mining and keep our language and culture.

Inuit have survived many dramatic experiences (such as residential schools, disease, the dog slaughters and many changes) but we still have strength. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

Our Communities

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

Funding is needed to hire elders who can teach youth how to live on the land, as well as about Inuit culture and Inuktitut.

As youth, we need to commit to learning about Inuit traditional practices, but we also need recreational activities in town that will help us grow and infrastructure like a youth centre, swimming pool, and so on.



The wrongs committed against those taken away to residential schools and those who were relocated to the High Arctic have been recognized. But what about Inuit who have been victimized by Inuit? There are many and some feel suicide is the only escape.

As elders, we don't know how to deal with suicide. There were no suicides when we were growing up. It's a tough subject, but we must find ways to stop it.

We are not sharing enough information about the professions that can be practised in our community. We want our youth to be competent and have a bright future.

In our regional organizations, the hiring of Inuit still does not seem to be prioritized.

Our health is changing now because of fast food, drugs and other things we consume from the south.

Too many children are being taken away from their parents.

The CLSC needs to be supplied with better medical equipment so Inuit will no longer have to travel by airplane to another community for basic care, such as x-rays.

Likewise, Umiujammiut are required to travel to another community for court cases. A court house should be established here.

Police officers should be able to speak Inuktitut.

Community development projects include a bridge over the creek, an elders' home, a sports and cultural centre, and sidewalks where residents can walk safely.



We need housing services that are better adapted to the north. The way things are now, it is impossible for us to help our own people.

Many were expected to become homeowners, but we are only three in Umiujaq. Municipal taxes and home repairs are expensive.

The increasing rent is contributing to arrears.

Umiujammiut need help with food. A lot of people suffer from hunger.

I would like to see more teaching done in Inuktitut instead of English. In secondary 5, we have only three Inuktitut periods and two culture classes a week. This is not enough. I speak more English now, but I don't know my Inuktitut.

Our children graduate from high school but then have to leave home to complete secondary 6 in Kangiqsujuaq. Later, they graduate from college and come back to Umiujaq but cannot get work. We have to fix this problem no matter what the cost.

Why is it not possible to have a unilingual Inuk teacher in the school?

I feel a lot of compassion for school drop-outs. How can we reach drop-outs? Can we offer them an alternative to the regular school curriculum?

We have a lot of women teachers. But as men, where are we in the community? Women are very competent and taking all the pressure while we are hanging back wondering what to do.

Why are students dropping-out and diverting from their goal? Students have to be better prepared to enter the job market. Higher education should be made available in every community.



