



Context

Nunavik's population is very young. Sixty-three percent of Nunavimmiut (compared with 35.9% of Québécois) are aged less than 30. Ten years from now, many of these young people will be part of the labour market and many will have dependants. Notwithstanding, 93.4% of students do not finish their secondary education.

A lack of job opportunities, low levels of education, loss of identity, social problems at home, mental health issues and suicide call for actions that are adapted to Inuit youth and will provide the perspective of a better future.

A Few of the Challenges

As part of the Québec government's Public Talks carried out in 2004 and its youth strategy, Nunavik youth, other community members and elected representatives made known the important issues and challenges posed by development of the north.

Poverty and malnutrition have direct impacts on the physical and mental health of youth.

The school drop-out rate is too high. Youth require better support to integrate society, i.e. move out of family homes, get jobs and build autonomous lives.

Children with special needs mixed with regular students diminishes the quality of education for both groups of students.

Nunavik lacks higher learning opportunities (such as a college), while certain training programs (ex. for wildlife conservation officers) are only delivered in French.

Subsistence hunters do not receive adequate recognition for the important work they do.

Youth centres and activities do not meet needs.

Solutions and Priorities

Develop initiatives that help young people to know their culture and who they are.

Promote healthy living, citizenship and family well-being, and provide online services to combat suicide.

Increase Inuit language and cultural teaching-time in schools through practical instruction and more time spent on the land.

