

Anijaarniq Strategy

AN INUIT APPROACH TO ADDRESSING
CLIMATE CHANGE IN NUNAVUT

APRIL 2026





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Foreword

Climate change is reshaping Nunavut at a pace felt nowhere else. The effects are visible every day in travel safety, wildlife patterns, community infrastructure, and the well-being of our people. The Anijaarniq Strategy responds to this reality with one clear message: Inuit must lead climate action in our homeland, guided by our knowledge, culture, rights, and responsibilities to future generations.

Anijaarniq Strategy reflects the collective vision of Inuit across all three regions through the leadership of our communities and the participation of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA), the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) in the development of the Anijaarniq Strategy. The insights shared through community engagement, with Elders, hunters, youth, and regional leaders are the foundation of this Plan and Process.

Across the Kitikmeot, Inuit describe rapid changes in sea ice, caribou health, and safe travel. They emphasize the need for monitoring, community-led decision-making, and strong supports that keep people safe on the land.

In the Kivalliq, concerns about permafrost, extreme weather, and economic opportunities sit alongside opportunities for energy transition and community resilience. Inuit call for practical measures that protect families, infrastructure, and harvesting traditions while supporting locally driven solutions.

From the Qikiqtani region, Inuit highlight shifting wildlife, unpredictable weather, and the need for safe and sustainable access to land and ocean. Their message underscores holistic action: strengthening mental health, supporting harvesters, and protecting ecosystems that sustain communities.

The direction is clear: climate action must advance Inuit self-determination, sovereignty, security, resilience and prosperity. The Anijaarniq Strategy provides a coordinated path forward by strengthening governance, aligning investments with Inuit priorities, and ensuring programs, research, and partnerships deliver real benefits for Inuit.

Further, these regional voices form a single commitment: to safeguard our land, culture, and communities through an implementation process that remains an ongoing invitation, is unified, yet regionally specific. The Anijaarniq Strategy is both a roadmap to continue the work we are doing, and build on this foundation for a resilient, safe, and secure future for Nunavut Inuit. It will evolve with changing conditions and continue to draw strength from Inuit leadership across Nunavut.

On behalf of NTI, I am pleased to release this Plan and Process. It reflects the wisdom of our people and a shared responsibility to protect our homeland for generations to come.



Gloria Uluqsi
President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.



Acknowledgments

The Anijaarniq Strategy was shaped by the voices of Inuit across our territory. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of community members, Elders, youth, hunters, Search and Rescue, knowledge holders, and local organizations from every region of Nunavut. Your experiences, wisdom, and stories guided every step of this work.

We also acknowledge the leadership and participation of the Regional Inuit Associations – Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtani – whose valuable collaboration made this process possible.

To all others who engaged in this process, thank you for your contributions and dedication.

The Anijaarniq Strategy reflects the strength and knowledge of Inuit across our homeland. It is a collective effort grounded in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and it stands as a testament to what can be achieved when we work together for future generations.

Executive Summary

Climate change is reshaping the Arctic more than any other region on Earth. To respond, the Anijaarniq Strategy was developed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, with the collaboration of the three Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs) to guide and accelerate Inuit-led climate action across Nunavut.

It brings together what Inuit have said matters most and is intended to help turn those ideas into real action through a process built on Inuit knowledge, rights, and self-determination.

The Plan and Our Goals



The Natural World

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1A. | Develop programs and resources for on-the-land, sea-ice, and wildlife monitoring to identify and manage human and climate impacts. |
| 1B. | Enhance advocacy, communication, and collaboration between communities, Inuit organizations, and government on climate change and impacts. |
| 1C. | Create Inuit-led climate research and adaptation programs. |
| 1D. | Enhance local awareness, knowledge, and co-ordination of climate science and research. |



Culture and Language

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2A. | Protect, strengthen, and grow Inuit culture to ensure it continues to thrive. |
| 2B. | Create inclusive spaces for current and future leaders to take part in climate action. |
| 2C. | Ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit guides all climate change plans and actions at local, regional and territorial levels. |
| 2D. | Invest in local education and training focused on enhancing capacity to address climate change. |



Health and Well-Being

- 3A. Understand, monitor, raise awareness of, and respond to climate change impacts on health and well-being.
- 3B. Strengthen food security and connections to the land through hunting, harvesting, cultural practices, innovation, and knowledge exchange and transfer.
- 3C. Develop self-sufficient, culturally grounded public health systems while advocating for policies that reflect community needs, opportunities, and aspirations.



Communities and Homes

- 4A. Build sustainable, climate-resilient, culturally relevant housing and infrastructure while advocating for and developing policies that reflect community needs, priorities, and aspirations.
- 4B. Strengthen community capacity to build and maintain infrastructure, respond to emergencies, and support Arctic sovereignty and security.
- 4C. Transition to affordable, renewable, and self-determined energy systems.
- 4D. Advance self-determined, innovative, and diverse local economies.

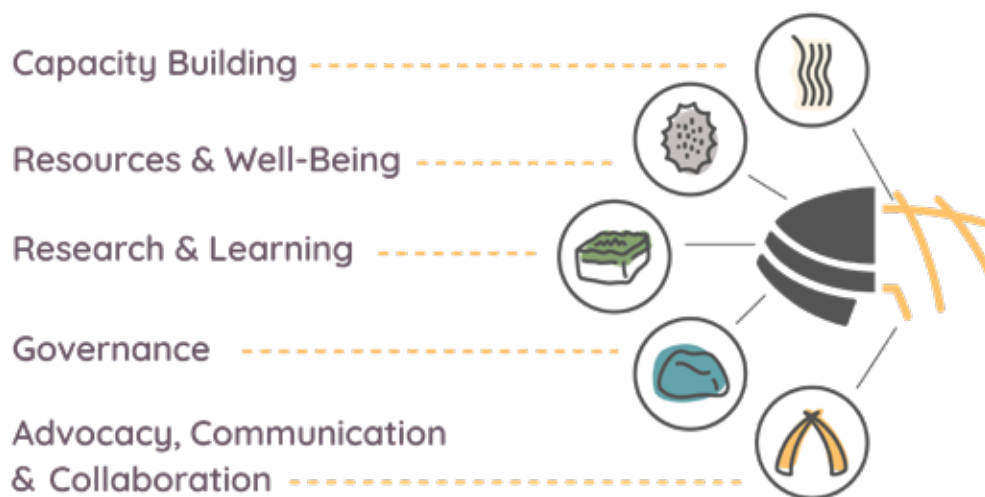


The Process: The Qarmait Model

The Anijaarniq Strategy uses the Qarmait Model to move from planning to action and is inspired by the traditional livelihoods of our ancestors.

Each Qarmaq: Qarmaq Nunarjuami (*Natural World*), Qarmaq Iliqqusirmut Uqausirmullu (*Culture & Language*), Qarmaq Qanuinnngittiarnirmut Inuuttiarnirmullu (*Health & Well-Being*), and Qarmaq Nunalingni Angirrarijaujunilu (*Communities & Homes*) will serve as shared spaces where NTI and participating Inuit organizations can come together to plan actions that aim to achieve our Goals in regionally specific ways.

Within the Qarmait, Inuit organizations regionally identify Action Routes (projects or initiatives). These actions are supported by five Materials, including **Capacity Building, Governance, Research & Learning, Resources & Well-Being, and Advocacy, Communication & Collaboration**. The Qarmait Model is an ongoing invitation for RIAs to join NTI in building and returning to the Qarmait to reflect, plan, and renew to keep the process continuous and responsive.



Together, the Plan and the Process aims to form one living system for Inuit-led climate action. The Anijaarniq Strategy connects knowledge, culture, and governance to guide how Inuit will protect what is strong, repair what is at risk, and build thriving communities for generations to come. It invites all partners – governments, industry, civil society and communities – to work alongside Inuit in advancing climate solutions that honour the land, respect Inuit self-determination, and secure a sustainable Arctic future for all.

PART 1

Introduction

The world Inuit have always known is cold. The ice, snow, wind, and land of Nunavut have shaped our language, culture, and ways of life. These relationships have been carried through generations and continue to connect us to the natural world that sustains us.

That world is changing. Ice that once stayed firm now breaks early; snow is arriving later; the permafrost is shifting beneath our homes. The glaciers are retreating while migration routes are changing, and the stronger storms tell us the seasons we once knew are changing. As the Northwest Passage opens and global attention turns north, new questions of sovereignty and security emerge. What happens in the Arctic now affects the balance of the entire planet.

Yet, Inuit have always adapted. Our strength has come from learning with the land, not working against it. Protecting the land, water, and ice is simply the continuation of who we are.

The Anijaarniq Strategy is our response. Developed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) with the participation of the three Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs) – the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtani – it is both a Plan for Action and a Process for Implementation – all grounded in Inuit rights, knowledge, and governance.

Between 2024 and 2025, Inuit from all 25 communities shared priorities, challenges, and visions for climate action. Their contributions (over 1,000 ideas and

goals) helped create this plan. (A summary of the engagement process is provided in Methodology – Appendix B).

For Inuit, climate action is inseparable from rights, responsibilities, and leadership. The Nunavut Agreement affirms Inuit ownership and decision-making authority over our territory. The Anijaarniq Strategy aims to extend these rights in ways that will help us respond to climate change through Inuit governance. Moreover, the Nunavut Agreement affirms Inuit rights and responsibilities across the territory, and climate change cuts directly across its provisions, including land, wildlife, water, Inuit harvesting rights, and the conditions that make self-determination meaningful. NTI and the RIAs have obligations to respond. But the goals set out in the Anijaarniq Strategy are not solely Inuit goals: housing, infrastructure, energy, health systems, and emergency preparedness in Nunavut are areas where the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada hold primary delivery responsibility, and where federal and territorial action will determine whether Inuit priorities are achieved in practice. NTI established the Anijaarniq Strategy as a platform for collective action and is intended to serve as a shared reference



point that asks all parties who have responsibilities in Nunavut to align their programs, investments, and policies with what Inuit have identified as necessary. The Anijaarniq Strategy is Inuit-led, but its success depends on whether governments address the goals and actions we have identified and treat it as their agenda too.

Canada's implementation of the Inuit Nunangat Policy and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples reaffirms that Indigenous peoples must lead in shaping the futures of their territories and environments. The Anijaarniq Strategy embodies that principle in Nunavut: an Inuit-designed, Inuit-led process grounded in regional self-determination.

But rights without resources cannot deliver results. Inuit have called for predictable, distinctions-based climate funding that matches the urgency of change in Nunavut. Current programs remain short-term and fragmented, leaving communities to bear the costs of inaction. While billions have been spent nationally each year, only a fraction reaches Inuit regions. As global attention shifts north and more investments are made in defence and security, we must recognize that Inuit well-being in a warming world is intrinsically

linked to such security. Failure to respond to our well-being and resilience, undermines both the spirit of the Nunavut Agreement and the continued need for effective national adaptation efforts.

Despite this, Inuit are not waiting. Communities are advancing renewable energy, food security, language revitalization, and cultural resilience. The Anijaarniq Strategy aims to bring these efforts closer together under one shared framework for climate action.

Climate change in Nunavut is not a future concern. It is a present reality, affecting our culture, health, infrastructure, and the land itself. The cost of delay grows every year and compound the pre-existing gaps in infrastructure and services that Inuit communities continue to endure. Investing in Inuit-led action is an effective, just and essential way forward.

As a Plan and a Process, the Anijaarniq Strategy links a plan to implementation through a living system of governance known as the Qarmait Model. Through this process, NTI and participating RIAs will plan, renew, and act together. We will protect what is strong, repair what is impacted and build thriving communities for generations to come.

PART 2

The Plan

The strength of the Anijaarniq Strategy lies in uplifting regional self-determination while aligning knowledge, culture, and governance around a shared territorial vision for the future.

NTI has defined clear positions to guide decisions and our work at every level. They express our rights and responsibilities in the face of the climate crisis.



2.1 Inuit Climate Positions



Inuit Position on Protecting the Natural World in the Face of Climate Change

The natural world is at the heart of Inuit identity and survival. As climate change rapidly transforms our environment, we must take action that is rooted in Inuit knowledge, perspectives and leadership. We support the creation of new programs and tools to mitigate environmental impacts while monitoring land, sea ice, and wildlife, ensuring that we can detect and respond to changes early. By working together, locally, nationally and globally, we can share knowledge and build resilience. Inuit-led climate research and planning must guide our path forward, empowering communities to prepare for the future while honouring our deep connection to the land and waters.





Inuit Position on Sustaining Our Culture & Language in a Warming World

Climate change threatens not only our environment but also our cultural heritage. We believe that protecting and revitalizing Inuit culture and language is essential to climate resilience. We support equitable, community-led approaches to climate action that ensure Inuit voices are central in all decisions. Local leadership and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit must guide every step of climate planning – from local to territorial levels. By supporting schools and programs that teach climate knowledge through Inuit perspectives, we can ensure that our culture not only survives but thrives in a warming world.





Inuit Position on Supporting Our Health & Well-Being Given Climate Impacts

Climate change is already affecting our health, safety, food, water, and mental health. We must act now to understand these impacts and respond with solutions grounded in Inuit knowledge. We support efforts to track, monitor, and share information about climate-related health risks, and to build public health systems that are culturally connected and community-driven. Ensuring food security through Inuit practices, knowledge sharing, and innovation is vital. Equal access to high-quality drinking water across Nunavut is essential. Our well-being depends on systems that reflect who we are and what we need to thrive in a changing world.



Inuit Position on Strengthening Our Homes & Communities in a Changing Arctic

Our homes and infrastructure must be strong enough to face the challenges of climate change while reflecting Inuit culture and values. We need the significant infrastructure gaps closed in the territory and we support the development of climate-resilient housing, renewable energy systems, and emergency preparedness rooted in local knowledge. Communities must be empowered to lead, maintain our infrastructure, and innovate. By supporting Arctic sovereignty, Inuit-led economies and sustainable energy solutions, we can build a future that is both self-sufficient and culturally grounded. Climate action begins at home, and our communities must lead the way.



Together, these positions guide us and our advocacy for of Inuit-led climate action in Nunavut. They express not only what we stand for, but what we will support in the years ahead. Each position connects to the next, reflecting the unity between land, culture, health, and community.

We invite the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, communities, industry, civil society and all other key partners to walk with us and to align actions, resources, and commitments with our Positions so that, together, we can protect what is strong and build what we need today and beyond.

Building on this, the following section outlines Goals that guide us from aspirations to taking coordinated, measurable action.

2.2 Our Goals

The 15 Goals of the Anijaarniq Strategy are organized under 4 key thematic areas and shift our positions toward action.



Goals for the Natural World

Protecting the natural world is the first thematic area for the Anijaarniq Strategy goals. All aspects of the natural world form one integrated system that sustains all life and shapes Inuit identity.

Climate change is transforming this system faster than ever before by disrupting ecosystems, food sources, and the balance that Inuit have long depended on. Protecting the environment means safeguarding the relationships that sustain both people and the planet.

Through the Anijaarniq Strategy, Inuit reaffirm our commitment to care for the natural world as one interconnected whole. By protecting all aspects of the natural world, we protect the future of Nunavut and contribute to the global effort to restore balance to the Earth.

As such, we intend to:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1A. | Develop programs and resources for on-the-land, sea ice, and wildlife monitoring to identify and manage human and climate impacts. |
| 1B. | Enhance advocacy, communication and collaboration between communities, Inuit organizations, and government on climate change and impacts. |
| 1C. | Create Inuit-led climate research and adaptation programs. |
| 1D. | Enhance local awareness, knowledge, and co-ordination of climate science and research. |





Goals for Culture & Language

Emerging from our relationship with the natural world, our second thematic area focuses on Sustaining Our Culture & Language. Inuit culture and language is essential to resilience. Our identity, values, and leadership come from the land and the way culture supports our relationships and community bonds. Inuktut, storytelling, and knowledge sharing connect generations and strengthen our ability to adapt to change.

Climate change threatens these connections. As the environment shifts, so too do the traditions, knowledge, and practices rooted in it. Protecting culture therefore means ensuring that Inuit ways of knowing, being, and leading remain strong in a warming world.

Through the Anijaarniq Strategy, Inuit affirm that climate action must also be cultural action. This includes creating opportunities for leadership, embedding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in all levels of planning and action, and investing in the arts, education, training, and our language to prepare communities to face the challenges ahead.

As such, we intend to:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 2A. | Protect, strengthen, and grow Inuit culture to ensure it continues to thrive. |
| 2B. | Create inclusive spaces for current and future leaders to take part in climate action. |
| 2C. | Ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit guides all climate change plans and actions at local, regional, and territorial levels. |
| 2D. | Invest in local education and training focused on enhancing capacity to address climate change. |



Goals for Health & Well-Being

Supporting health and well-being is central to Inuit resilience. Climate change is already affecting all aspects of our health, including our physical, mental, and emotional health. Notably, our mental health is impacted as climate change affects our culture and way of life – resulting in feelings of grief and loss. Meanwhile, changes in wildlife and the spread of new diseases affect food security and place additional strain on limited health services.

For Inuit, health is holistic. It includes clean water, nutritious food, mental wellness, and the strength that comes from being on the land. Protecting health means creating systems that reflect Inuit ways while strengthening the conditions that allow communities to thrive.

This goal focuses on understanding and addressing climate-related health risks, strengthening food systems and land connections, and advancing culturally grounded care rooted in community leadership.

- 3A. Understand, monitor, raise awareness of, and respond to climate change impacts on health and well-being.
- 3B. Strengthen food security and connections to the land through hunting, harvesting cultural practices, innovation, and knowledge exchange and transfer.
- 3C. Develop self-sufficient, culturally grounded public health systems while advocating for policies that reflect community needs, opportunities, and aspirations.





Goals for Communities & Homes

Strengthening homes and communities is essential to building a resilient and self-reliant Nunavut. Today, communities often endure energy poverty, a lack of economic opportunities, overcrowded housing, mold and insufficient and aging infrastructure that was not designed for Inuit ways of life. Climate change is straining these unstable foundations, thereby threatening our sovereignty, safety, stability, capacity to respond to emergencies and overall well-being. Yet these same areas also present opportunities for innovation, leadership, and community pride.

Through the Anijaarniq Strategy, Inuit call for sustained investment in housing, infrastructure, and energy systems that are strong and rooted in culture. This work is not only about repair but about closing critical gaps, preparing for future challenges, supporting community capacity to operate and maintain our infrastructure and creating communities where homes are safe and efficient, infrastructure is sustainable and resilient, and spaces serve the community's needs.

As such, we intend to:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 4A. | Build sustainable, climate-resilient, culturally relevant housing and infrastructure while advocating for and developing policies that reflect community needs, priorities, and aspirations. |
| 4B. | Strengthen community capacity to build and maintain infrastructure, respond to emergencies, and support Arctic sovereignty and security. |
| 4C. | Transition to affordable, renewable, and self-determined energy systems. |
| 4D. | Advance self-determined, innovative, and diverse local economies. |

Together, these Goals define Inuit-led climate action in Nunavut. They reflect a shared commitment to protect the natural world, sustain culture and language, support health and well-being, and strengthen our communities and homes. The Anijaarniq Strategy turns these priorities into coordinated action by linking knowledge, governance, and investment across all regions.

Part III now outlines how this will be done over time. The Qarmait Model provides the process for carrying these goals forward: ensuring that Inuit leadership, regional self-determination, collaboration, and accountability guide every step moving forward.

PART 3

The Process: The Qarmait Model





You are in the past, long before settlements and colonial borders. It is early spring in a small camp. The air is cold and sharp. You take a deep breath and step toward your family's qarmaq.



Inside, the qulliq glows. Warmth and laughter fill the space. You hang your mitts to dry and take a seat on the bed of tuktu fur. The smell of seal oil and the sound of quiet conversation make you feel at home.

Your family asks where you travelled today and what you saw. You share what you observed: the wildlife in the hills, the shifting snow, the weather to come. Together, you decide where to hunt tomorrow, who will go, and what is needed. Success depends on planning together.



In the morning, you ready the qamutik and check your tools. The dogs bark, eager for the journey. On the land, you face rough sijja and changing ice. You stop, adjust, and find a new route forward. Along the way, you meet other hunters and travel together and share knowledge, caring for one another. Katinniq.





The hunt is successful. You return safely, feed your family, and tell stories of the journey including the challenges, the choices, and the lessons learned. Together, you celebrate. Alianait!

Seasons pass, and the qarmaq grows.

More people arrive; new materials are needed – from sod, stones, sinew, and whale bone – to make the structure stronger. You gather them carefully, knowing that without these foundations, the qarmaq cannot stand.



As the camp grows, so does your capacity to thrive. Knowledge is shared, roles are strengthened, and the work continues. You feel grounded and sustained by the land, by the materials it provides, and by the relationships that hold everything together.

You are home.





3.1 From Plan to Process

The Anijaarniq Strategy is more than a plan because it is also a process for implementation grounded in Inuit knowledge, governance, and the stories that have guided us for generations. Turning vision into action requires a structure that can evolve as the world changes. The Qarmait Model provides that structure. Inspired by the traditional qarmaq – a place where families once gathered to share warmth, stories, and decisions – it creates shared spaces where Inuit organizations plan, act, and renew together. The model translates our Positions and Goals into coordinated yet regionally relevant actions, ensuring that climate work remains continuous, adaptive, and guided by the needs and capacities of each region within the Territory. The Process is designed to be flexible and remains an open invitation for RIAs to participate in a manner that is regionally relevant and responds to their unique interests and priorities.

The component parts of the model are described in the following sections (See Appendix C for a schematic overview of the Qarmait Model).





3.2 The Qarmait & Elements

The Qarmait are the heart of the process. Each Qarmaq represents a space of work and reflection where NTI departments and participating RIAs can come together. In practice, participants “enter the Qarmait” to conduct a strategic planning session to map the Actions that will be taken in the near, medium and long-term to advance climate action.

The Qarmait are as functional as they are symbolic. Just as families once gathered in the qarmaq to plan for the seasons, participants may gather in the Qarmait to plan climate action. Each Qarmaq exists to work towards achieving the goals of the Anijaarniq Strategy.

Each Qarmaq also includes Elements or components that relate to the Goals and help guide participants in selecting Actions that are aligned with the Goals of the Qarmaq. The Elements showcase the types of topics that relate to the Goals we are trying to achieve but they are not checklists. They are reminders of what needs to be considered, and they may grow and shift over time to help guide us as we address the climate crisis in a holistic and adaptive way.

The Qarmait are interconnected. Actions selected within one will often influence the others, reflecting how Inuit understand the world: as an interconnected system.

The following provide an overview of each Qarmaq and describe how they bring the Anijaarniq Strategy’s Goals to life through Inuit-led planning and collective action.



Qarmaq Nunarjuami (The Natural World)

Implements: Goals to Protect the Natural World

Qarmaq Nunarjuami is where Inuit plan coordinate action to protect and sustain the land, water, ice, air, and all living beings. It focuses on ensuring that Inuit knowledge and leadership guide efforts to care for the environment and uphold the systems that sustain life.

The Elements of Qarmaq Nunarjuami

The Elements that guide planning within this Qarmaq reflect all parts of the natural world that Inuit observe, depend on, and protect. They include:



These Elements are not exhaustive but serve to guide discussions and decision-making within the Qarmaq, helping Inuit focus their work while recognizing that all parts of the environment are interconnected. Examples of actions that Inuit organizations could pursue coming out of this Qarmaq include capturing and recording Inuit knowledge; increasing hunters' access to information on climate research; and the creation of new programs, tools and mechanisms to monitor the impacts of human activities in Nunavut.

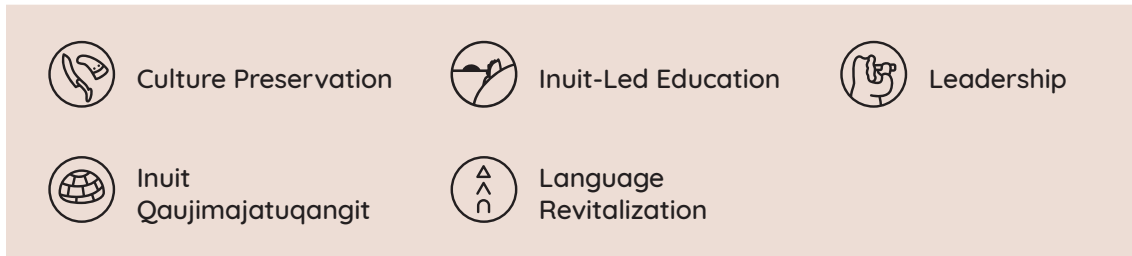
Qarmaq Iliqqusirmut Uqausirmullu (*Culture & Language*)

Implements: Goals to Sustain Our Culture and Language

Qarmaq Iliqqusirmut Uqausirmullu is the space where Inuit coordinate action to strengthen identity, knowledge, and expression. It also focuses on ensuring that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, language, and cultural practices remain central to climate resilience and decision-making at all levels.

Elements of Qarmaq Iliqqusirmut Uqausirmullu

The Elements of this Qarmaq reflect the knowledge, creativity, and leadership that sustain Inuit identity. They include:



These Elements guide the work of this Qarmaq by connecting culture and climate action, ensuring that Inuit ways of knowing and being continue to shape how we respond to change. Actions that Inuit could pursue coming out of this Qarmaq could include: creating new opportunities for youth to gain experience, knowledge, and skills to participate in climate leadership; expanded programs at the local level centered on intergenerational knowledge exchange; and supporting the creation of new education and training opportunities centered on climate science, Inuit science and monitoring.



Qarmaq Qanuinnigittiarnirmut Inuuttiarnirmullu (Health & Well-Being)

Implements: Goals to Support Our Health and Well-Being

Qarmaq Qanuinnigittiarnirmut Inuuttiarnirmullu is the space where Inuit coordinate action to protect and strengthen all aspects of health, including physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health. It focuses on ensuring that Inuit health and well-being are strengthened by enhanced connection with the land.

Elements of Qarmaq Qanuinnigittiarnirmut Inuuttiarnirmullu

The Elements of this Qarmaq reflect the interconnected conditions that sustain our health and well-being. They include:

 Food Security

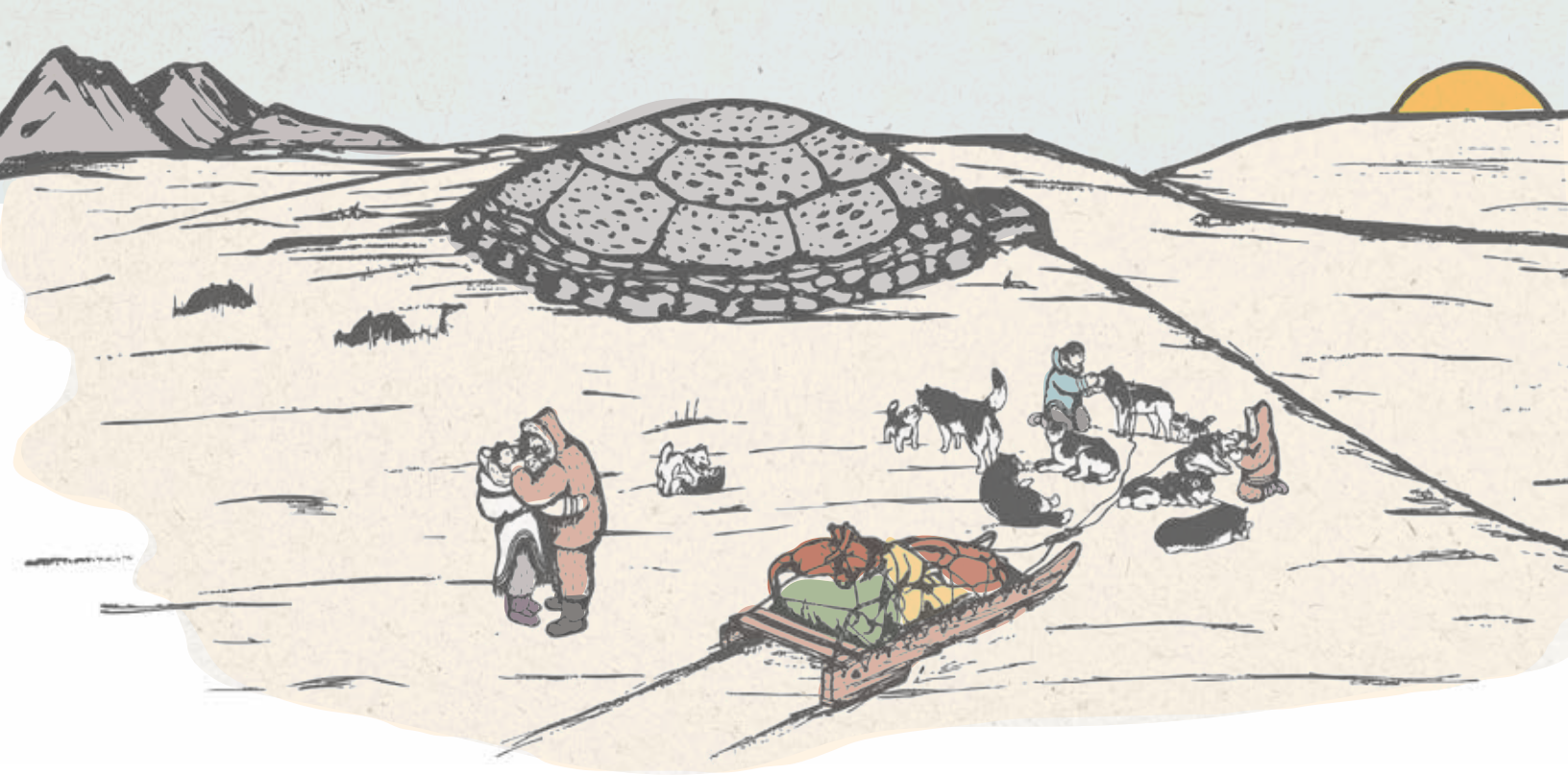
 Physical Health

 Mental Health

 Water Security

These Elements help Inuit organizations focus on the primary systems and supports that are required to ensure our communities are healthy and well. Examples of Actions that Inuit could pursue coming out of this Qarmaq include: monitoring the emergence of zoonotic diseases; funding, equipping, and supporting more hunters out on the land; and advocating for greater access to climate responsive mental health supports and counselling.





Qarmaq Nunalingni Angirrarijaujunilu (*Communities & Homes*)

Implements: Goals to Strengthen Our Homes and Communities

Qarmaq Nunalingni Angirrarijaujunilu is the space where Inuit coordinate action to build safe, sustainable, and culturally grounded places to live and work. It focuses on addressing housing and infrastructure needs while creating the conditions for communities to thrive through self-determination and innovation.

Elements of Qarmaq Nunalingni Angirrarijaujunilu

The Elements of this Qarmaq reflect the fundamentals of daily life and the opportunities for long-term resilience. They include:



Arctic Security
& Sovereignty



Economy



Housing



Disaster Preparedness
& Response



Energy



Infrastructure

These Elements highlight the need to close critical infrastructure gaps, strengthen community capacity, and ensure that homes and communities reflect Inuit ways of life in sustainable and resilient ways. Examples of Actions that Inuit could implement when coming out of this Qarmaq include developing training programs to support capacity for infrastructure building and maintenance; retrofitting existing homes to be more energy efficient while ensuring new builds are built with efficiency in mind; supporting Inuit Independent Power Producers, and developing incentives for the creation of new Inuit-led and operated businesses.

Together, all four Qarmait form one system of action. They are where our Goals become action plans, where decisions are made, and where collaboration happens.

3.3 Action Routes

Action Routes are how NTI and participating RIAs move from high-level goals to targeted, accessible and specific projects or initiatives. They are the specific actions that Inuit take to advance the Goals of the Anijaarniq Strategy.

From our Positions and Goals, we've established the Qarmait. Each Action Route starts at a Qarmaq and participants self-determine them based on regional feasibility, capacity, and alignment with Inuit knowledge and governance. Put together, the chosen action routes form an individual Action Route Map for each organization. It grounds participants in what they hope to achieve during the year.

Action Routes vary in scale and timing. Some can be completed quickly using existing resources, while others require years of preparation and investment. This approach allows Inuit to act immediately where possible, while also working towards longer-term objectives.

Action Routes are not necessarily one-time projects. They form a continuous process of learning and renewal. When a route cannot yet be completed, smaller near-term Action Routes may be identified to enable future work. In this way, the Anijaarniq Strategy remains flexible and responsive to changing realities while steadily moving forward.

The Community Action Inventory

The Community Action Inventory (CAI) is a resource that NTI and RIAs may refer to when selecting their Action Routes. Built through one of the most extensive Inuit-led engagement processes in Nunavut's history, it contains over 1,000 community-identified projects that communities would like to see occur in their region.

The CAI is not a fixed list of potential projects as it continues to expand and grow as Inuit organizations continue the conversation with communities. It is a record of what Inuit have said matters most in their regions, from food security initiatives and housing design to renewable energy, monitoring, and language programs. Inuit organizations may be inspired by the ideas from within the CAI and support them in making decisions around which actions to advance, ensuring that Action Routes remain grounded in community aspirations.

The CAI is expected to remain internal to NTI and the RIAs. However, as communities identified hundreds of actions that do not relate directly to the mandate of NTI and RIAs, it may be shared in confidence with key partners, such as Hamlets, governments or funders, when it is strategic to advocate for, and identify key actions that others are best positioned to support or implement.

Distance as Metric

The farther away something is on the land, the more prepared we need to be to get there. This understanding shapes how Action Routes are organized and measured.

- **Near Routes (within one year):** Actions that can begin immediately and can be achieved within one year using existing capacity and resources.
- **Moderate Routes (within two to three years):** Actions that require new materials, partnerships, or investment but are achievable in the medium term. Near Action Routes are likely to occur to prepare and achieve moderate routes.
- **Distant Routes (three years or more):** Ambitious, long-term efforts requiring significant resources, policy changes, or multi-year coordination. Moderate routes are required to achieve Distant Routes.

This approach helps Inuit organizations set realistic expectations, manage resources, and maintain momentum. It reflects Inuit experience on the land: every journey has near, moderate, and distant points, and all are important to reach. Each journey helps collect Materials and support capacity.

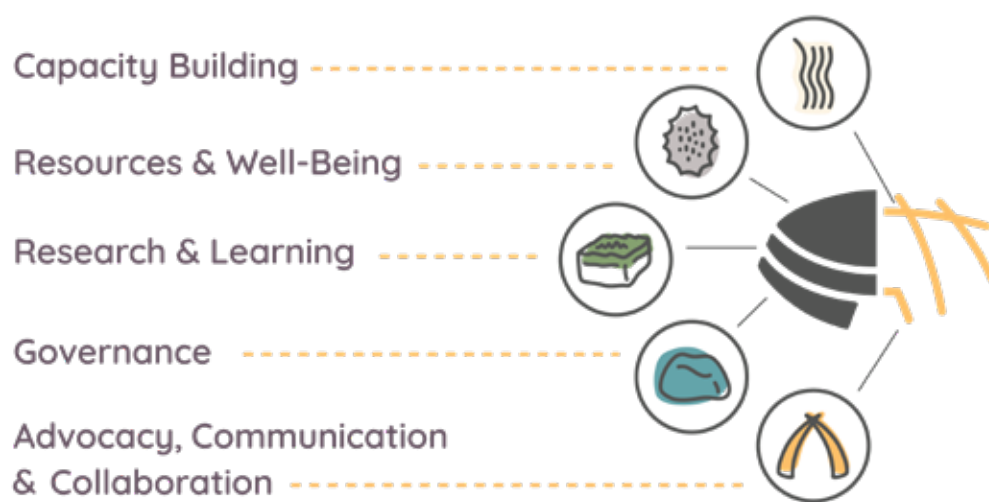
Early Action Routes build the experience, capacity, and relationships needed for longer journeys. Each completed step strengthens the next, ensuring that Inuit climate action remains pragmatic and cumulative. Further, it ensures that we are taking climate action today with where we are at today, while still working towards a broader goal over time.



3.4 Materials

Every Action must be supported by the right Materials. In the past, a qarmaq was built from seal skin, sod, sinew, whale bone, and stone – each with a purpose, providing strength and protection. Hunters, too, needed the right tools – such as snow goggles, parkas, and qamutiit – to travel safely.

The same idea applies in the Anijaarniq Strategy. Materials are the essential enablers that make Inuit-led climate action possible. They support all Qarmait and must be considered after identifying each Action Route. Materials are not linked to a single Goal but form the foundation that allows every Action Route to succeed. Without them, the Qarmait cannot stand, and actions cannot move forward.



The Five Materials Are:

1. **Capacity Building:** Helping Inuit gain the skills, knowledge, and resources to lead climate action and support their communities.
2. **Governance:** Ensuring decisions are Inuit-led, fair, transparent, and grounded in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and rights.
3. **Research & Learning:** Building knowledge based on Inuit observation and wisdom and drawing on scientific knowledge where helpful.
4. **Resources & Well-Being:** Making sure Inuit communities have the human resources, funding, infrastructure, and services they need to meet today's needs and prepare for tomorrow.
5. **Advocacy, Communication & Collaboration:** Strengthening Inuit voices, supporting existing initiatives, building partnerships, and making sure priorities are heard and understood by those with the power to act.

When participants enter the Qarmait, they review the strength of the Materials that support the Qarmait Model. They ask simple questions: Are the right supports in place? What needs to be strengthened or created? This reflection helps identify new Action Routes needed to maintain coordination and ensure successful implementation.

When planning each Action Route, Inuit organizations again assess whether the necessary Materials exist. If gaps are found – such as missing funding, staff, or partnerships – smaller Action Routes can be created to fill them. Some routes focus on strengthening these foundations, while others maintain what already works.

By regularly reviewing and reinforcing the Materials, Inuit organizations keep the Anijaarniq Strategy stable, adaptive, and ready for long-term, Inuit-led climate action.



3.5 Katinniq: Connecting Efforts Across Regions

For the Anijaarniq Strategy, a **Katinniq** is a moment of connection and represents a meeting point where Action Routes intersect across regions.

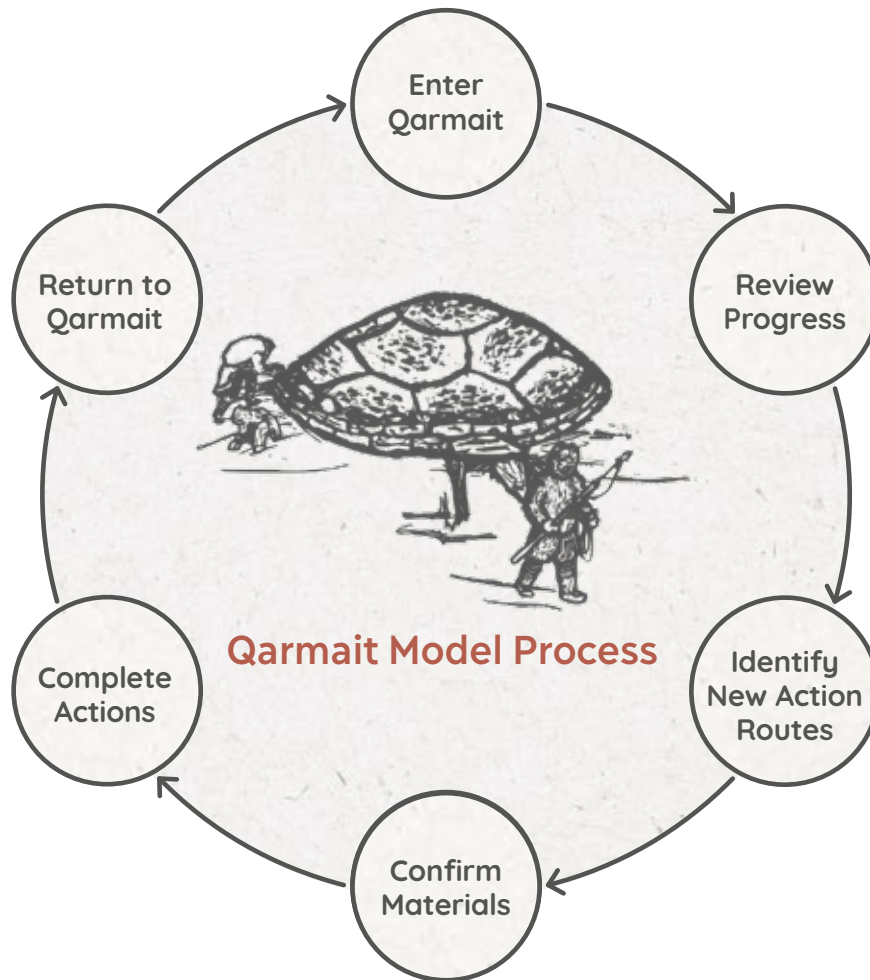
When regions identify similar or complementary routes, a Katinniq provides an opportunity for participating organizations to connect their efforts, exchange lessons, and build collective strength. Each participating organization will have its own Action Route Map. These moments of collaboration do not replace regional autonomy; rather, they enhance it by allowing Inuit organizations to learn from one another, amplify their impact and potentially pursue the Action Route together. Katinniq also presents an opportunity where the Katinniq between one Action Route between organizations can support the success of other independently pursued Action Routes. Further, it may identify an opportunity to connect with the efforts of other organizations.

Katinniq ensures that while each region acts independently, Inuit climate action remains connected through shared learning and mutual support. It reflects the understanding that progress is strongest when we travel together.



3.6 A Reoccurring Process

In summary, Part II laid out the Positions and Goals for Inuit climate action. This fed into Part III, outlining a reoccurring process for implementation. The Qarmait are Inuit planning spaces for Inuit organizations to develop Action Routes, which are the specific projects or initiatives that move the Goals forward. The Materials, which include the skills, partnerships, funding, and resources needed for success, support these Action Routes and make implementation possible. When Action Routes overlap or align across regions, Katinniq – points of connection – help Inuit organizations identify areas to cooperate and pursue things together.



The frequency of the Qarmait Process will be determined between NTI and participating RIAs. Once determined, they review progress, celebrate achievements, and learn from challenges. They then identify new Action Routes for the year ahead and confirm the Materials needed to carry them out. Once planning is complete, organizations move forward on their Action Routes – returning on a regular basis to continue the cycle. The Anijaarniq Strategy formally launches a reoccurring rhythm and will aim to ensure that the Anijaarniq Strategy remains a living, ongoing and long-term process of action.

3.7 Governance & Roles

NTI is responsible for implementing the process within the Anijaarniq Strategy, while RIAs are welcome to join in the implementation. Each participating organization identifies its own Action Routes while coordinating Action Routes across regions where Katinniq exists. NTI provides overarching coordination, secretarial support, planning, engagement and implementation while each RIA may lead regional planning, engagement, and implementation in ways that reflect local realities and strengths.

Recognizing that climate change impacts every aspect of society in Nunavut, the goals and actions we have identified – success requires a collective effort. While NTI leads the Qarmait Model, success depends on strong partnerships. The Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and other stakeholders each have an important role to play in supporting Inuit-led climate action. Inuit expect that these partners will align programs, policies, and investments with the priorities set out in the Anijaarniq Strategy. The goals set out in this Plan are Inuit goals, but achieving them will require the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada to treat them as their own. By working in collaboration with Inuit organizations, partners can help ensure that climate action in Nunavut is coordinated, sustainable, and grounded in Inuit knowledge and self-determination.





PART 4

Conclusion: Moving Forward Together

The Anijaarniq Strategy is a commitment to act, to adapt, and to lead. Built from the voices of Inuit across all three regions, it reflects who we are, what we value, and how we will move forward in a changing world.

Climate change is transforming Nunavut and the world, but Inuit have always adapted and cared for one another. The Anijaarniq Strategy continues this tradition and is how we will meet the future: with collective strength.

The journey ahead will require partnership and persistence. It will also require embracing our knowledge, our skills and our leadership. Through the Anijaarniq Strategy, Nunavut Inuit affirm that climate action in the Arctic must be Inuit-led, rooted in culture, and guided by the land itself.

Together, we will protect the cold, sustain Inuit culture, and shape a thriving Arctic future for our children, our communities, and the generations yet to come.

Appendices

4.1 Appendix A – Glossary of Key Terms & Acronyms

Key Acronyms

CAI	Community Action Inventory
KIA	Kitikmeot Inuit Association
KivIA	Kivalliq Inuit Association
NTI	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
QIA	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
RIA / RIAs	Regional Inuit Association(s)

Glossary of Key Terms

Action Route Maps	Annual plans showing the specific Action Routes each Inuit organization will implement.
Action Routes	Specific climate initiatives or projects selected within each Qarmaq to advance Anijaarniq Strategy goals.
Air (element)	Atmospheric conditions considered within the Natural World Qarmaq.
Alianait!	An expression of joy or celebration.
Animals (element)	Wildlife populations and migration systems considered in climate planning.
Arctic Security & Sovereignty (element)	Community-centred capacity to safeguard northern territory, maintain presence, and respond to threats.
Climate Adaptation	Actions taken to adjust systems, practices, and infrastructure to withstand climate change impacts.
Climate Change	Long-term shifts in temperature, weather patterns, and environmental conditions.
Climate Mitigation	Actions that reduce the human causes of climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions.
Communities & Homes	Thematic area containing four climate action goals related to housing, infrastructure, energy, security, and local economies.

Community Action Inventory	A record of community-identified ideas and priorities that are referenced to when selecting Action Routes.
Culture and Language	Thematic area containing four climate action goals related to identity, language, leadership, and cultural resilience.
Culture Preservation (element)	Activities that protect, strengthen, and revitalize Inuit culture.
Distant Routes (three years or more)	Action Routes requiring long-term resources, coordination, and capacity.
Disaster Preparedness and Response (element)	Community readiness and ability to respond to emergencies.
Distance as Metric	Framework organizing Action Routes as near, moderate, or distant journeys, mirroring travel on the land.
Ecosystems (element)	Interconnected natural systems affected by climate change.
Economy (element)	Local and regional economic development opportunities within climate resilience.
Elements	Topic areas within each Qarmaq that help guide Action Route planning.
Energy (element)	Renewable, affordable, and self-determined energy systems.
Energy Security	Reliable access to safe, affordable, culturally appropriate energy sources.
Enter the Qarmait	The annual process where NTI and RIAs meet inside each Qarmaq to plan Action Routes.
Food Security (element)	Access to safe, nutritious, culturally-grounded food systems.
Goals	The specific climate action objectives guiding each thematic area (15 total).
Health and Well-Being	Thematic area with three goals related to physical, mental, and environmental health.
Housing (element)	Safe, culturally relevant, climate-resilient places to live.
Iliqqusirmut Uqausirmullu	Qarmaq for Culture & Language.
Infrastructure (element)	Community infrastructure including buildings, facilities, transportation, and utilities.
Inuit Climate Action	Inuit-led efforts to address climate change based on rights, knowledge, and governance.
Inuit Climate Positions	Inuit statements guiding climate leadership across Natural World, Culture & Language, Health & Well-Being, and Communities & Homes.
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit	Inuit knowledge, worldview, values, and principles.
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (element)	Guiding cultural and knowledge foundation within the Culture & Language Qarmaq.

Inuit-Led Education (element)	Education approaches rooted in Inuit knowledge, language, and priorities.
Katinniq	Points where Action Routes overlap across regions, creating opportunities for collaboration.
Land (element)	The physical environment (ground, terrain, and landscape) central to Inuit knowledge and planning.
Language Revitalization (element)	Activities strengthening and expanding Inuktitut.
Leadership (element)	Development of youth, emerging leaders, and cultural leadership in climate action.
Materials	Five cross-cutting enablers capacity building, governance, research & learning, resources & well-being, and advocacy, communication & collaboration. These are needed for all Action Routes.
Mental Health (element)	Emotional, psychological, and cultural wellness.
Microorganism (element)	Microscopic life forms affected by and contributing to environmental change.
Moderate Routes (within two to three years)	Action Routes requiring mid-term preparation, partnerships, or investment.
Natural Forces (element)	Wind, storms, seasonal patterns, and other environmental conditions shaped by climate.
Near Routes (within one year)	Quick-start Action Routes achievable using existing capacity.
Nunalingni Angirrarijaujunilu	Qarmaq for Communities & Homes.
Permafrost	Permanently frozen ground undergoing rapid thaw due to climate warming.
Physical Health (element)	Bodily health affected by climate, food, and environmental conditions.
Plants (element)	Vegetation and plant systems impacted by climate change.
Qarmaq	Traditional Inuit winter dwelling; symbolic foundation for Anijaarniq Strategy planning spaces.
Qarmait	The four planning spaces of the Anijaarniq Strategy where Inuit organizations meet annually to plan climate action.
Qarmait Model	The Anijaarniq Strategy process linking Goals to implementation through Qarmait, Action Routes, Materials, and the annual cycle.
Qarmaq Nunarjuami	Qarmaq for the Natural World.
Qanuinnigittiarnirmut Inuuttiarnirmullu	Qarmaq for Health & Well-Being.
Qulliq	Traditional Inuit oil lamp used for heat, light.
Resilience	The ability to adapt, recover, and remain strong in a changing climate.

Sijja	Rough, uneven sea ice encountered while travelling.
Sky & Space (element)	Atmospheric and celestial conditions considered in planning travel – such as using stars for navigation or considering tides.
Tuktu	Caribou.
The Natural World	Thematic area containing four climate action goals related to land, water, ice, wildlife, and environmental systems.
Water (element)	Freshwater, marine, and drinking water systems affected by climate change.
Water Security (element)	Reliable access to safe and clean drinking water.
Zoonotics	Diseases transferred between animals and humans, influenced by environmental and climate changes.

4.2 Appendix B – Methodology

The Anijaarniq Strategy was developed through a collaborative, Inuit-led process grounded in community knowledge and regional self-determination. The approach was designed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the participation of the three Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs) to ensure that the voices of Inuit across all regions directly shaped the plan.

In November 2024, NTI and the RIAs co-designed the Qarmaq Model during a joint workshop. This model provides the foundation for the Anijaarniq Strategy and helped create the structure needed to organize climate actions under four interconnected thematic areas which organize both the Plan (Goals) and Process approach (Qarmait). The model links community priorities to clear goals and provides a structure for long-term implementation.

From late 2024 through 2025, NTI, with the participation of RIAs, led extensive regional engagements across Nunavut. Workshops were held in every region to reflect regional priorities. All communities in the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk were engaged and, at the request of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, representatives from the Kitikmeot were flown into Cambridge Bay for a ‘hub’ style engagement process. These sessions brought together Elders, youth, women, harvesters, Search and Rescue, and other knowledge holders to share local experiences, challenges, and ideas for climate action. Over 1,000 distinct project ideas and actions were gathered and is believed to be one of the most comprehensive climate engagement efforts ever conducted with Nunavut Inuit.

The engagement results helped refine and validate the Qarmaq Model and informed the identification of specific Climate Action Goals within each thematic area. Each RIA’s input shaped how goals fit within the four Qarmait and ensured that regional priorities were accurately represented. The combined dataset – approximately 1,000 community-identified actions – was then analyzed to identify patterns and groupings across the territory.

Through this analysis, 15 distinct Goals emerged. The process used both bottom-up (inductive) and top-down (deductive) analysis, ensuring that goals emerged directly from Inuit voices while supporting a broader vision for the territory, across regions. Each goal was reviewed and refined with NTI, RIAs and senior management from across the organizations to ensure alignment with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and other territorial and national frameworks.

Guided by the values of Piliriqatigiinni (working together), Aajiqatigiinni (decision through consensus), and Avatimik Kamattiarniq (care for the environment), the methodology resulted in a unified, Inuit-driven foundation for future action. The Anijaarniq Strategy now provides a clear and adaptable process for prioritizing projects, aligning funding, and tracking progress toward climate resilience across Nunavut.

4.3 Appendix C – Anijaarniq Strategy Qarmait Model (Schematic Overview)

Qarmaq (Work Space)	Thematic Area	Goals (Commitment)
Qarmaq Nunarjuami	The Natural World	a. Develop programs and resources for on-the-land, sea ice, and wildlife monitoring to identify and manage human and climate impacts.
		b. Enhance advocacy, communication and collaboration between communities, Inuit organizations, and government on climate change and impacts.
		c. Create Inuit-led climate research and adaptation programs.
		d. Enhance local awareness, knowledge, and co-ordination of climate science and research.
Qarmaq Iliqqusirmut Uqausirmullu	Culture & Language	a. Protect, strengthen, and grow Inuit culture to ensure it continues to thrive.
		b. Create inclusive spaces for current and future leaders to take part in climate action.
		c. Ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit guides all climate change plans and actions at local, regional, and territorial levels.
		d. Invest in local education and training focused on enhancing capacity to address climate change.
Qarmaq Qanuinnigittiarnirmut Inuuttiarnirmullu	Health & Well-Being	a. Understand, monitor, raise awareness of, and respond to climate change impacts on health and well-being.
		b. Strengthen food security and connections to the land through cultural practices, innovation, knowledge exchange and transfer.
		c. Develop self-sufficient, culturally grounded public health systems while advocating for policies that reflect community needs, opportunities, and aspirations.
Qarmaq Nunalingni Angirrarijaujunilu	Communities & Homes	a. Build sustainable, climate-resilient, culturally relevant housing and infrastructure while advocating for and developing policies that reflect community needs, priorities, and aspirations.
		b. Strengthen community capacity to build and maintain infrastructure, respond to emergencies, and support Arctic sovereignty and security.
		c. Transition to affordable, renewable, and self-determined energy systems.
		d. Advance self-determined, innovative, and diverse local economies.

Elements	Materials (Enablers)	Action Routes
Air Animals Ecosystems Land Microorganisms Natural Forces Plants Sky & Space Water	Capacity Building Governance Research & Learning Resources & Well-Being Advocacy, Communication & Collaboration	Regionally chosen projects (e.g., community wildlife monitoring; Inuit-led advocacy on shipping; local research projects).
Culture Preservation Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Inuit-Led Education Language Revitalization Leadership		Regionally chosen projects (e.g., Inuktitut revitalization programs; youth climate leadership training; IQ based curricula; intergenerational knowledge sharing initiatives).
Food Security Mental Health Physical Health Water Security		Regionally chosen projects (e.g., community greenhouses; hunter support programs; culturally grounded wellness services; zoonotic disease tracking; midwifery and maternal care programs).
Arctic Security & Sovereignty Disaster Preparedness & Response Economy Energy Housing Infrastructure		Regionally chosen projects (e.g., community-owned solar or wind projects; IQ-based housing designs; infrastructure maintenance training; oil spill response capacity; eco-tourism or fisheries initiatives).

