



NIPIISI



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The Newsletter of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

May 1998

See Reverse for Inuktitut version

ONE MORE YEAR !

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. hosted a "Countdown to Nunavut" reception Mar. 31 at the Museum of Nature in Ottawa.

NTI President Jose Kusugak emceed the event.

The reception was timed to coincide with the introduction of amendments to the Nunavut Act in the House of Commons.

"Ottawa was chosen for this initial event in order to provide a setting for discussions that are still needed with federal Ministers, MPs and other officials in connection with amendments to the Nunavut Act, and other aspects of the Nunavut start-up," said Kusugak.

The amendments to the Nunavut Act will provide for a Feb. 1999 election for the Nunavut legislative Assembly, a single-level court system, and other important matters such as a federal MP for Nunavut and a Senator for the new territory.

Guests included Members of Parliament, national and international media correspondents, representatives from Inuit and Nunavut organizations, and the Inuit community of Ottawa.

As well, arrangements were made so Inuit staying at a medical boarding facility in Ottawa could attend.

There are still many Canadians who know nothing about the changes happening to Canada, or even who Inuit are.

By holding the meeting in Ottawa, NTI gave many people the opportunity to experience Inuit culture through music, art and food.

Continued on page 4. For more photos of the "Countdown" turn to pages 4 and 5.



Inuit, Nunavut leaders, federal MPs, international and national media and other organizations gather at Ottawa's Museum of Nature to kick off the Countdown to Nunavut. Photos By Fred Cattroll

WHAT IS NTI'S ROLE IN NUNAVUT?

Nunavut was the key to the settlement of the largest land claims agreement negotiated in Canadian history.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. is legislated to work with the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and other agencies on a host of issues critical to the establishment of Nunavut.

Principally, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is responsible for ensuring the 1993 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

Article 4 of the NCLA, dealing with Nunavut political development, mandates NTI to negotiate a political accord to deal with the establishment of Nunavut.

It was not until the Government of Canada agreed to the inclusion of Article 4 in the NCLA, committing the federal government to the creation of the Nunavut Government and Territory, that Inuit were prepared to settle their claim in the eastern Arctic.

With the settlement of the NCLA, Inuit agreed to the extinguishment of their aboriginal title to lands and waters anywhere in Canada as well as adjacent offshore areas within Canadian jurisdiction or sovereignty.

The Nunavut Political Accord notes the creation of a new Nunavut Territory with its own government is a fundamental objective of the Inuit of Nunavut.

Highlights of the Nunavut Government

- The Government of Nunavut will be a decentralized government, spread over 11 communities. Programs and services will be delivered to the fullest extent possible at the regional and community level.
- The Government of Nunavut is to be fully functioning by the end of its first year of operations.
- The Government of Canada and the Office of the Interim Commissioner have identified about 600-650 Full Time Equivalencies (FTEs) for the Nunavut Government Headquarters Functions.
- There will be 19 Members of the new Nunavut Assembly.
- The Office of the Interim Commissioner has been mandated to recruit and staff 150 - 250 government positions for Apr. 1st, 1999. They also have to establish systems and processes for the government; and enter into intergovernmental agreements for programs, funding, and the division of assets and liabilities.
- The Government of Canada will provide \$150-Million to cover the costs associated with the creation of Nunavut.
- Of that \$150-Million, \$39.8-million has been set aside for training Nunavummiut for government positions. The main objective is to recruit and employ a representative workforce, who would be comprised of 85% Inuit at all job levels.
- Approximately \$173-Million has been identified by the Government of Canada for infrastructure development for the new government. Of that amount, \$129-Million has been set aside for housing and office facilities, which is to be amortized of a 25-year period through leasehold arrangements with Nunavut Construction Corporation.
- A single-level court system, a first in Canada, will be attempted in Nunavut in efforts to improve administration and delivery of justice.
- The matter of direct election of a Premier for the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, while supported in principle has been deferred for consideration by the new government. It was determined that further work and research is required on this issue.
- In order for Nunavut to have an elected Legislature for Apr. 1st, 1999, and a Member of Parliament and a Senator for Nunavut, a package of Nunavut Act Amendments has to be passed by the Government of Canada.

BERNADETTE MAKPAH ELECTED NTI SECRETARY/TREASURER



Bernadette Makpah was elected to a three-year term as NTI's new Secretary/Treasurer March 24.

She defeated incumbent Natsiq Alainga-Kango by 417 votes.

Of the 12,486 eligible voters in Nunavut, 3,881 voters turned out for the Secretary/Treasurer election. Makpah received 1,806 votes, Alainga-Kango 1,389 votes and Meeka Kilabuk, the third candidate in the race, garnered 686 votes.

NTI recently shuffled the Executive Committee's portfolios. The Secretary/Treasurer is now responsible for Finance, Human Resources, Article 23 – Inuit Employment and Training within Government, Hunter Support Program, the Nunavut Social Development Council, and Education, Culture and Social Development Issues.

The President's office now manages Constitutional issues, Policy Development, Administration, Implementation, Business Development, Legal and Communications.

The office of the 1st Vice President is responsible for Lands Management, Parks and Conservation Areas, Environment, Water Management, Marine Development Impact, Resource Royalty Sharing and Lands and Resource Management Institutions.

The Second Vice President's office will now manage enrolment, the Elder's Benefits Program, the Inuit Heritage Trust, Wildlife and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

For voter turnouts by community please contact Solomon Awa at NTI's Rankin Office: 1-867-645-5400 or check NTI's website at: www.tunngavik.com.

“More infrastructure needed in Nunavut” says Symposium

The Kitikmeot Corporation and the Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce hosted the third annual Mining Symposium in Cambridge Bay March 27-30.

The event brought together geologists, land claims organizations, GNWT government departments and mining companies to discuss infrastructure requirements for Nunavut.

Seminars for the Symposium included speeches from NTI 1st President James Eetoolook, GNWT Finance Minister John Todd, Kitikmeot Corporation President Charlie Lyall and Vice President of Canarctic Shipping Tom Patterson.

Next year’s Symposium is to be held in Iqaluit.

Following are excerpts from NTI President James Eetoolook’s opening remarks to the Conference. Eetoolook talked about the need for mining companies, government and land claims organizations to work together to build infrastructure such as roads, housing and easier access routes to major markets.



“With great geology and the certainty of settled land claim, Nunavut offers opportunities for the mining industry that can’t be found elsewhere. We realize that Nunavut also presents many challenges to the mining industry — the lack of infrastructure, which is being talked about this week-end is one of the biggest.

We also know there is uncertainty and some concern about the new regulatory processes and issues related to the management of Inuit Owned Lands.

We need you to continue to talk to us and tell us about your concerns. On



NTI set up a booth at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference in Toronto March 8-11. The conference was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. NTP’s booth was manned by Mineral Resources Manager Wayne Johnson and Administrative Geologist Keith Morrison. NTI’s mandate is to promote mining and investment in Nunavut while safeguarding the environment.

our part, we will give those concerns our serious attention.

At NTI we will be using the input of industry and government representatives as well as the input from the beneficiaries and other northerners as we continue to improve our Rules and Procedures for the management of the subsurface Inuit Owned Lands we administer.

One of the concerns Inuit have about mining is that it will damage the environment. We worry that it might pollute the rivers from which we catch our fish and contaminate other animals on which we depend. By eating these foods, we would then damage our health.

We have seen the recent stories on the news about some of the harmful effects of mining as it was done at Port Radium 50 or 60 years ago.

But, as we saw on our tour of uranium mines in Saskatchewan last week, those days are long behind us.

We saw that the mining industry is highly regulated so that there is no danger to the workers or the environment.

I’d like to talk briefly now about our mining policy.

This Policy was developed to help guide us in our decision-making and to help mining companies and governments understand our position on mineral exploration

and mining.

The policy includes our commitment to support and promote the development of mineral resources throughout Nunavut.

We feel a strong and healthy mining industry in Nunavut is essential to help us achieve our goal of self-sufficiency.

We want to work with the mining sector to build this healthy industry — one that is efficient and profitable for the operators at the same time it respects the environment, wildlife and the values and culture of Inuit.

We think we have an opportunity now to make Nunavut a model which we can hold up to the world — an example of all parties working together in a spirit of cooperation and partnership to build a mining industry of which we can all be proud.

NTI is committed to doing its part. The fact that you are all here shows that you are also committed to doing your part.

By working together, everyone can benefit.”

For a copy of NTI’s Mining Policy or for a brochure on Mining in Nunavut please call the Communication Department of NTI at 867-979-3232.

You can also fax us at 867-979-3240 or email us at jpereira@tunnngavik.com.

COUNTDOWN

"We are the official caretakers of Nunavut been here for thousands of years"

Continued from page 1

The Special Celebration also gave people a chance to meet Inuit leaders.

"We are the official care-takers of Nunavut," Kusugak said.

"We want these people to know that we have been here for thousands of years. We let go for 50 years or so, and look what happened! In one year, we will be back in control."

Speakers included: John Amagoalik, the Chief Commissioner of the Nunavut Implementation Commission; Okalik Eegeesiak, President of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada; Hon. Goo Arlooktoo, Deputy Premier of the Northwest Territories, Nunatsiaq MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell; and Scott Searson, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, who filled in for Minister Jane Stewart, who was sick.

Mary Peter opened the ceremony with a prayer.

Entertainers included throatsingers Qaunak Mikkigaq and Timingiak Petaulassie, singer and storyteller Lucy Kownak, singers Peter & Susan Aningmiqu, drum dancer Gino Aqqaq, and singer Etulu Etidloie.

Northern food such as char, musk ox and caribou were also available for people to sample.

CBC TV and Radio gave the Celebration extensive national and regional coverage.

The Canadian Public Access Channel broadcast the event nationally to cable TV subscribers and ICSL/IBC videotaped the event for broadcast.

"There will be a whole series of events happening throughout the year in Nunavut," said Kusugak.

"We are in Ottawa to represent the Inuit of Nunavut who cannot be here themselves. I know it is politically important to do this at this time. With no one else taking action, it was vital for NTI to move quickly."



NTI President Jose Kusugak and 1st Vice President James Eetoolook with students at the Ottawa celebrations.



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*e want these people to know that we have
ays NTI President Jose Kusugak*



Nunavut MP Nancy Karatek-Lindell was one of the speakers.



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NTI's Directors meet in Ottawa. Standing up from left to right: Clara O'Gorman, Director of Lands and Resources; Bert Dean, Manager of Hunter Support Program; AlexCampbell, Executive Director; Solomon Awa, Enrollment and Eligibility Co-Ordinator; Bill Sackett, Director of Communications; Brian McLeod, Director of Business Development; Bruce Gilles, Director of Implementation.

Sitting down from left to right: Silu Connelly, Manager of Elders Benefit Plan; Kathleen Tagoona, Executive Assistant; Irene Adams, Director of Finance; Laurie Pelly, Legal Counsel.

Check out NTI's website at
www.tunngavik.com



For a copy of NTI's Mining
Policy or for a brochure on
the Hunter Support Program
and the Business Development
Department please call us
at Nipisi: 867-979-3232

ON THE MOVE

• Finance Officer Fred Patterson resigned in January 1998. Elisappe Morris, the Accounts Payable Clerk and Office Manager was subsequently promoted to Finance Officer. Maggie Kunuk who had been hired as NTI's Receptionist in October is now working with Jeannie Alainga as an Accounts Payables Clerk in the Finance Department. The Finance Department is based in Iqaluit.

• Policy and Program Advisor Laura Gauthier has left NTI for the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs in the new Nunavut government. Leena Evic-Twerdin will fill her position. Evic-Twerdin's term started April 13, 1998 and will end March 31, 1999. The position is based in NTI's Iqaluit office.

• Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick has been hired as Assistant Executive Director. The position has been vacant since Okalik Egeesiak moved to Ottawa as ITC's President. Idlout-Sudlovenick's position is based in Iqaluit.

• Gabriel Nirlungayuk has been hired as a Manager Trainee for the Nunavut Hunter Support Program. He started April 6, 1998. Nirlungayuk is from Pelly Bay and his family will soon join him in Rankin Inlet.

QUIZ

1. Where did NTI hold its Countdown to Nunavut celebration?

2. Who hosted the Mining Symposium?

3. Name three of the entertainers who performed at NTI's Countdown to Nunavut Celebration.

4. How many full-time equivalent jobs have been identified by the Government of Canada and the Office of the Interim Commissioner for the new Nunavut government?

5. How much money will the Government of Canada provide to cover the costs associated with creating Nunavut?

(Send in the answers to the quiz and the first twelve people with all the right answers will receive a prize.)