

President's Report

April 2021

Message from the President

Since my election on February 4th, my team and I have worked fiercely on many files of importance, and held many meetings with different ministers and regional organizations.

To date, we have met with the Prime Minister of Canada, and with federal Ministers Vandal, Miller and Bennett. On Quebec side, we have met with Minister Lafrenière and with Sophie Brochu, CEO of Hydro Quebec. A meeting with Premier Legault is in preparation.

We plan on working closely with all our regional and community organizations to support their efforts in meeting their mandates and responsibilities. Our strength will come with our collaboration and respect.

As you all know, youths make up a large part of our Inuit population and they will soon have a place on the Makivik Executive Committee. We also need to pay a particular attention to our Elders in ensuring that while we discuss closing the gap to have equity for many other areas affecting us, we will make sure that their voice is heard and that we adapt to their needs. Culture is key and Makivik will make sure that Avataq is properly financed to conduct their activities.

We have also redesigned the work leading to a Nunavik Government. It is very important to us to have Quebec on board. Mary Simon will give you all the details in a few minutes. I have great confidence of this team and I am convinced that success is waiting for us at the end of the road.

I look forward to working in close collaboration with my fellow Executive Members and my team in ensuring that we meet our collective mandates.

Thank you all for having given me this opportunity.

Self-Determination

The Nunavik Self-Determination process is being renewed under Makivik's new leadership. We are focused on ensuring the process is fully transparent and inclusive of all Inuit and the Nunavik organizations. Mary Simon has returned as the Senior Negotiator, and Lisa Koperqualuk is the Deputy Negotiator.

Makivik will continue its negotiations with Canada, while also reaching out to Quebec to begin discussions with the province. To support this renewed process, we have established an Inuit Advisory Committee, composed of six Inuit, two from each coast.

These critical and independent thinkers will provide the negotiation teams with guidance and strategic advice on the development of negotiation priorities and positions.

Makivik will continue to engage with the Nunavik organizations through the Self-Determination Committee, composed of the organizations' representatives.

Youth Protection

Youth Protection remains an important file in Nunavik. Sukait gave a presentation a few weeks ago on the steering committee's mandate to articulate the restructuring of youth protection services, as well as youth and family services, and to develop culturally adapted care for all youth and families of Nunavik.

Makivik will fully support the work of Sukait that is based on a number of principles and the Inuit ways, needs and knowledge. This initiative has the potential to bring significant change in our communities. Our youth and our families will have access to culturally adapted services. Implementing family councils will be a priority under this initiative. We understand that our work on self-determination could eventually bring jurisdiction in the field of children, youth and family services to a new Nunavik government. Before we reach that milestone, we need to do things stepwise, to respect the rhythm and realities of people and of communities. We will do this together, step by step as we build capacity.

Justice

The Makivik Justice Department is the fastest growing department in our Corporation. As I am still familiarizing myself with all the new mandates taken on by this department, I am looking forward to supporting our efforts to provide assistance and services to our fellow Inuit that have to unfortunately face the justice system. The vision is to provide culturally adapted services in Inuktitut at all stages, whether it be through our justice committees, our team of para-judicial workers or our liaison employees in different detention facilities.

Along with the Legal and President's departments, the Justice Department has initiated the work to implement the report from the Viens Commission. This report contains 142 calls to action in different fields including justice, corrections, police, social services and youth protection. This report will be key in allowing us to access more funding to improve the services that are available to all Nunavimmiut.

Dog Slaughter

For the unsettled issue of the Dog Slaughter in Nunavik, I had a discussion with Minister Marc Miller shortly after my election where I brought it to his attention that we will be

addressing this issue shortly and he indicated that Nunavik should be considered on the same basis as Nunavut in terms of a compensation package. As well, I raised the issue with Prime Minister Trudeau during our ICPC Leaders Meeting on April 8th. With our team, I will be following up on the developments and will keep you informed of the progress.

Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee

The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) is a five-year agreement where Inuit and the Government of Canada have a process in which we work together to address priorities that will benefit Inuit and Inuit Nunangat.

On April 8th I joined the ICPC Leaders Meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau, several Ministers, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Inuit leadership from the other Land Claim Organizations. Priority issues that I highlighted to the Prime Minister targeted Self-Determination, Housing, the Nunavik Dog Slaughter and Makivik's concerns with the Croll Agreement.

Created four years ago in 2017, ICPC focuses on ten priority areas:

- Land Claims Implementation
- Inuit Nunangat Policy Space
- Infrastructure & Housing
- Health and Wellness & Food Security
- Education, Early Learning and Skills Development
- Reconciliation
- Economic Development & Procurement
- Legislative Priorities
- Inuktut Revitalization, Maintenance, Protection & Promotion
- Environment & Climate Change

We look forward to advancing Nunavik's agenda through ICPC and working with Makivik Executive and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), Kativik Ilisirnilarinik (KI), Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and other regional partners involved in the ICPC process in identifying Nunavik's position and priorities on various matters. As ICPC files progress, you will be provided regular updates.

Makivik, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Inuvialuit Regional Corp., and the Nunatsiavut Government participate in those on-going discussions and, Makivik is fully compensated for its participation in the ICPC process.

Nunavik Inuit Housing

The present 5 years (2017-18/2021-22) Tripartite Agreement entered between the interested Nunavik organizations (i.e., Makivik, the KRG, the KMHB), the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada will terminate **as of March 31, 2022**. Along with our Nunavik partners in housing, we are in discussions with Canada & Quebec to begin the negotiations for its renewal, in order reach an agreement by September 1, 2021. A total of three hundred and thirty-six (336) housing units will have been built over the last five (5) years under the Tripartite Agreement.

Additionally, a Government of Canada' specific 10-year funding envelop will at closing have provided a 250M allocation (**25M over 10 years – 2017-2027**) for housing in Nunavik. Makivik has been advocating for that sort of catch-up measures for properly addressing the social housing crisis experienced by Nunavik Inuit and the overarching effects on Inuit youth, children and families. 274 housing units will have, as of March 2021, been built under these federally made available funds:

These units were constructed in addition to the number of housing referred to in the Tripartite Agreement, and, for the first time, the catch-up program alongside the Tripartite Agreement created tangible effects in trying to close the gap between the housing needs and the housing offer in Nunavik.

A difficulty that as arisen from the bi-lateral funding from Government of Canada is that the Quebec Government is refusing to accept the transfer of ownership from Makivik for those newly built houses. Fortunately, the Operating Expenses (O&M) relating to these additional units are covered under Quebec's ad hoc orders in council and KMHB-SHQ Temporary Contracts. Permanent solutions have to be found in order to officially transfer these units to the KMHB without further delay considering the impacts it has on our not-for-profit corporation status.

We have recently invited Ministers Bennett and Hussen of Canada and Ministers Lafrenière and Laforest of Quebec to a high-key official meeting that Makivik will host in view of resolving the dispute that has evolved regarding those houses built under the bi-lateral funding.

Construction Division

Our 2020 construction season was delayed 6 weeks because of Covid-19. We started construction of 86 housing units in 5 communities on July 9, 2020 under very strict protocols developed by our team in conjunction with the KRG health officials.

We have been told that the Makivik Protocols were a role model for other construction teams.

Fifty-two (52) of those units were funded by the tripartite housing agreement and 34 units were funded by the bi-lateral housing agreement.

Due to COVID-19 precautionary measures, we were not permitted to build in two communities. We delayed the construction of twenty-four (24) units in Puvirnituaq and twelve (12) units in Kuujuarapik until the 2021.

We delivered 28 units to the KMHB by December 16 and the balance of 58 units were delivered by April 9, 2021.

In the coming 2021 construction season we plan on building 142 units in 6 communities: Kuujuaq, Salluit, Puvirnituaq, Inukjuak, Umiujaq, and Kuujuaaraapik.

Inuit Employment

Our Makivik's construction division is engaged and determined to be a leader in local employment and retention in the Kativik region. The continuation of the social housing construction program is visibly the most significant aspect which will make it possible to continue to develop a skilled workforce in construction in Nunavik.

In 2020, the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and the risk of spreading the virus has limited Makivik Construction's ability to hire locally. Only two communities allowed the hiring of local workers: Salluit and Kangiqsujuaq. In addition, in Salluit, it was possible to introduce an Inuit-apprentice project which involves an all-Inuit apprentice carpentry team to build a duplex from start to finish.

A total of 6,281 hours was recorded to date for 14 Inuit carpenter-apprentices with the Commission de la Construction du Quebec (CCQ) and 7,667 hours recorded for 47 Inuit non-unionized kitchen and camp service workers employed by Makivik Construction Division since July.

Approximately 33% of Makivik Construction's workforce is composed of Inuit workers. Given the limitations and challenges faced this season due to the pandemic, these statistics demonstrate that Makivik Construction has continued to deploy efforts to promote local employment and skills development.