



Our future has a name.

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In 1993, the Inuit, the government of Canada and the government of the Northwest Territories signed the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)—the largest aboriginal land claim agreement in Canadian history.

The claim could have gone many different ways, but the Inuit negotiators always said a separate territory with our own government must be part of it. They were even, at several crucial points in the 1980s, willing to sacrifice the claim rather than give up and sign an agreement which did not include this crucial point.

It took 20 long years to finalize this agreement. It was an exhausting process that wore out dozens of bureaucrats and negotiators and spanned the terms of four prime ministers. But finally, the NLCA was ratified by the Inuit of Nunavut in November of 1992 and became part of Canadian law in July 1993. Today, Inuit hopes and aspirations for the future hinge on the successful implementation of all provisions contained in the agreement.



Keeping the promise of Nunavut

In July 1993, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) was set up to ensure the promises made in the NLCA are carried out. NTI is headed by a four-person Executive Committee elected at large by all Inuit 16 years of age or over and it speaks with an authority that is unmatched by any other organization in Nunavut.

By upholding the provisions of the NLCA, NTI touches nearly every aspect of life in Nunavut—from social well-being to economics, to wildlife and land management. It is our responsibility to safeguard the hard-won rights of the Inuit of Nunavut: to manage our own land and our own affairs consistent with Inuit values and traditions.



Turning words into action

A land claims agreement, like any contract, is just a piece of paper until both parties agree to implement it. At NTI, we take the obligations, principles and policies in the claim and turn them into real-world programs, services and organizations. In addition to the financial settlement, NTI negotiated funding from the federal government which ensures the articles of the NLCA can be implemented. Every year, the organization receives interest from the settlement, which is invested by Nunavut Trust. This money is used to fund programs, projects and operations that uphold the land claim and benefit Inuit.



NTI DEPARTMENTS The day-to-day operations of NTI are managed through offices in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Ottawa.

ADMINISTRATION centrally controls NTI operations and manages executive affairs.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT promotes the Nunavut economy and works with Inuit-owned businesses to provide jobs and income in the North.

LAND AND RESOURCES manages and monitors all Inuit-owned lands, contributes to the conservation and development of all Nunavut surface and subsurface lands and resources, and operates a Geographic Information System for mapping.

ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY works to enroll all Inuit with NTI, in order that Inuit can benefit from the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

FINANCE manages NTI finances and ensures that each department spends money according to directives of the NTI board.

HUMAN RESOURCES recruits staff, manages staff benefits, annual leave, staff appraisals, and actively promotes training and Inuit employment goals.

HUNTER SUPPORT PROGRAM manages hunter support benefits and represents NTI wildlife management interests with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

ELDERS BENEFIT PROGRAM provides income support to all elders 55 years of age and older.

IMPLEMENTATION ensures the promises in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement are carried out according to legislation and defended according to law.

COMMUNICATIONS informs the public and the media about NTI policies, programs and activities; publishes *Ittuagtuut Magazine*, an annual report, brochures and posters; maintains the www.tunngavik.com web site.





Mining and exploration development

One of the most important and complex of our direct responsibilities is the management of surface and subsurface development. NTI is the only organization that can issue licences to companies who wish to explore for subsurface minerals on Inuit-owned lands. We're working with the mining sector to build a healthy industry—one that promotes the Nunavut economy, and is efficient and profitable for the operators, while at the same time, is respectful to the environment, wildlife, and the values and culture of the Inuit.

Helping business succeed

We're also extremely proactive in promoting a healthy Inuit business sector. The NTI Business Development department oversees all the economic development aspects of the NLCA, including government contracting. This does not mean Inuit firms are guaranteed to win government contracts. But it does mean that Inuit do have some special considerations when bidding on those contracts—for job training, in learning how to bid for government work, and in finding employment. We have also set up a process for registering qualified Inuit firms. This up-to-date list of Inuit-owned firms must be used by government or any interested party in finding an Inuit firm with any needed expertise when seeking either federal or territorial government contracts.

Grassroots assistance

NTI's involvement doesn't concentrate solely on large projects. We believe small, community-based businesses offer Inuit entrepreneurs their best introduction to the private sector. That's why NTI provides \$2.1 million every year to help support small Inuit businesses. This money is distributed through a network of Inuit agencies in the three regions of Nunavut, and is used for loans, grants, and business training programs. Questions can be addressed to: ntiecddev@nunanet.com

Elders Benefit Program

The work of our elders, the living libraries of our rich oral tradition, was crucial to the success of the land claim negotiations. While rich in knowledge and wisdom, many, like older people elsewhere, depend on others for their everyday needs. To this end, NTI's Nunavut Elders Benefit Program provides income support to all elders 55 years of age and older.

Maintaining a proud tradition

Hunting is the mainstay of Inuit culture. Many Nunavut families maintain their tradition of hunting caribou, muskoxen, fish and sea mammals for meat and furs. It has enabled us to make





ourselves comfortable in a land others consider inhospitable, with a diet rich in healthy country foods and clothing that helps us withstand the harsh elements.

Despite low fur prices, this traditional way of life is a thriving part of the Inuit modern economy. However, making a living as a hunter can be a challenge—current sealskin and fur prices are low and do not always offset the cost of hunting equipment.

That is why NTI created the Nunavut Hunter Support Program—to assist families who fish, hunt and trap for a living. The program provides up to \$12,000 for equipment. Money for this program comes from a trust jointly created by NTI and the GNWT. As well as managing hunter support benefits, the program also manages NTI's wildlife management interests, working alongside the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Working together for the common good

A lot of our work is shared with other Inuit organizations. We work closely with regional Inuit organizations and others in creating a thorough structure of policies, systems and procedures needed to manage a territory one-fifth the size of Canada.

Other organizations include the Nunavut Planning Commission, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Water Board and the Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal. We're working together, with responsibilities that include:

- Creating national and territorial parks
- Protecting conservation areas
- Promoting the use of Inuit contractors
- Promoting responsible exploration and development of Inuit-owned lands
- Changing the boundaries of municipal lands
 - Protecting deposits of carving stone
 - Monitoring water quality
 - Regulating public access to Inuit-owned lands ... and much more.



The Nunavut government

NTI, as one of the three signatories of the Nunavut Accord, has the responsibility of reviewing and participating in the design of the new territorial government. Our goal has been to ensure that the government's form and functions reflect the spirit and letter of the claim—to ensure there is a territorial public government in place that will be chosen by, and serve, all the citizens of Nunavut.

Into the future

With Nunavut finally a reality, NTI continues to work hard in fulfilling the dream of Nunavut as a vibrant, beneficial and equally respected part of the Canadian mosaic. In the words of NTI President Jose Kusugak, "We want to level the playing field, to participate like any other Canadian. We're all in this together to develop a good Canada."



