



Tunngavik News

The newsletter for the beneficiaries of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

AGM 2002 Resolutions:

Delegates focus on protecting NLCA rights



AGM 2002 – Delegates met in Gjoa Haven (Uqsuqtuq) to approve a \$34.2 million budget, among other actions. Special recognition was given to Gideon Qitsualik, for his role in launching the negotiation of the land claims agreement and his many years of service to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and Jordan Tootoo, for inspiring Nunavummiut through his dedication to sport and family. Photo by Joanasie Kanzyak

THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 2002 Annual General Meeting directed NTI to act on a number of Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) related issues.

"Inuit worked hard to achieve a fair and just settlement," said NTI President Cathy Towtongie. "They trust NTI to ensure our land claim rights are not ignored and our traditions are respected."

A number of resolutions dealt with territorial and federal legislation now in development that affect Inuit, including:

- **Wildlife Act (territorial)** – NTI to ensure 'made-in-Nunavut' legislation meets the expectations of Inuit, fully reflects the harvesting rights guaranteed by the NLCA, and is reviewed prior to passage by RWOs, HTOs, RIAs and every community.
- **Education Act (territorial)** – NTI to withhold support until concerns about the language of instruction and cultural programming are addressed,

- **Cruelty to Animals (federal Bill C-15B)** – NTI is to make every effort to ensure that Inuit traditional and current lifestyle and harvesting methods are not compromised,
- **Species at Risk (federal Bill C-5)** – NTI to take all necessary steps to ensure that this legislation respects Inuit rights under the NLCA.
- **Marine Species Harvesting** – NTI to take all necessary steps to ensure that government develops policies to govern the harvesting of marine species in Nunavut and that new fisheries regulations reflect Inuit land claim rights

Noting that the NLCA is not to limit the ability of Inuit to participate in and benefit from government programs for aboriginal people generally, the AGM directed NTI to research how Inuit can better tap into government programs for elders, women and youth. The AGM also directed NTI to

investigate the possibility of direct payments to NLCA beneficiaries.

In keeping with the high level of interest in financial matters shown throughout the AGM, delegates agreed that Atuqtuarvik Corp. must table its audited statements at each NTI AGM as well as report to the Finance Committee upon request. It was also agreed that NTI shall review the investment corporation's policies and procedures to see if small business could be better served.

Other resolutions passed at the AGM include:

- **Community Economic Development** – NTI is to work closely with RIAs and CEDOs to identify and secure additional funding sources for community economic development,
- **Arctic Sovereignty** – NTI to continue the peaceful use of Arctic areas and support federal efforts to assert sovereignty over the Canadian portion of the Arctic, and
- **DIAND** – NTI to invite Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to have a senior representative make a presentation to each year's AGM.

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President's Message

After completing my first Annual General Meeting as NTI's President, I am pleased to have been able to share good news with Beneficiaries.

Our organization's commitment to accountability is making a real difference to how we do business – and how well we do it. Through the portfolio system, Executive and staff are working closely to ensure that NTI functions smoothly.

In order for us to develop a greater capacity for accountability, innovation and performance on behalf of our Beneficiaries, we plan to offer more training for our staff and more policy support to decision-makers.

It is my hope that we can sustain the pace NTI is currently working at. There is much to be done by all.

The Executive are providing continuing assistance and support to meeting NTI's goals. We hope we prove ourselves worthy of the hope and belief of those who have placed their trust in us.

Cathy Towtongie

Social Issues a Priority for NTI

IT'S TIME FOR INUIT organizations and their leaders to tackle the 'silent agenda' of social issues, NTI President Cathy Towtongie told delegates at August's Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

"Historically it's been easier for our leaders to deal with simpler issues, those with an outward focus, than with social issues like suicide, violence, and self-destructive behaviour," Towtongie said.

"But too many of our people are suffering through lives filled with grief and trauma, dysfunction, abuse and depression. Our people cannot surmount some of the barriers they face without help.

"Inuit organizations and Inuit leaders must harness our common dreams, aspirations and energy, and use this shared strength to help those who we know are suffering.

"Their pain and struggles must come out of our mouths, be on our agendas, and dealt with using the same energy we dedicate to negotiating our rights and making economic agreements."

NTI will strive to integrate social issues into its day-to-day priorities, Towtongie said later. "Social issues cannot be divorced from the planning and program development that we do," she said.

"Now that we've incorporated the former Nunavut Social Development Council (NSDC) into our operations, we can fulfill the mandate given by the NTI Board last year to really address social issues.

"NTI will be speaking to a full range of social issues such as health, justice, education, housing, language and culture," Towtongie said. "We intend to do our best to present the interests and concerns of our Beneficiaries to all levels of public government and organizations."

NTI supports suicide prevention conference

NTI is a major sponsor of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention conference to be held in Iqaluit May 15-18, 2003.

The Board of Directors agreed at their Spring meeting to provide both \$50,000 as

well as 'in-kind' support to the conference. 'In-kind' support will include staff time for translation and communications services as well as a presence at the conference itself.

Regional Inuit Associations have been encouraged to budget for and organize the travel of as many people as possible to attend this conference. Said Towtongie: "Inuit from all regions have much to contribute and receive from this important learning opportunity."

NTI lobbies for Inuit language and culture

NTI has worked hard to ensure that Inuit children get the best education possible. Through many meetings and a formal presentation to the Legislature's Standing Committee on the proposed Education Act NTI has recommended that:

- Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun be the primary language of instruction for all grades, K-12, in communities where a majority of the population speaks these as their first language.
- NTI and the Government of Nunavut work together on securing more funding for teacher training and curriculum development to support the new approach to the primary language of instruction, and
- All people on a community's voters list be able to vote for their District Education Authority members, rather than limiting this power to rate payers only.

"NTI believes children learn best in their own language," said Towtongie. She noted that NTI's recommendations would help the territorial government to meet its own goal of having Inuktitut the language of the government by the year 2020.

NTI and RIAs:

\$34.2 million budget approved



DELEGATES TO NTI'S ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting in Gjoa Haven unanimously approved the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. The \$34.2 million budget allows for expanded business and economic development services at NTI, special projects for the Inuit Heritage Trust, and full implementation of the Community Liaison Officer project.

"Delegates were well informed and scrutinized our proposed budget carefully," said Paul Kaludjak, NTI's Vice President of Finance. "They appreciate the cost-saving measures we use in our day-to-day decisions and the overall soundness of our finances.

"Beneficiaries can rest assured that their financial interests are being well managed and carefully protected."

NTI President Cathy Towtongie noted that the transition of the Nunavut Social Development Council from a separate organization to a department within NTI is now complete. The savings realized already are quite significant and are being re-invested into active promotion for social and cultural priority areas such as Inuktitut language support, health, social housing and education.

The budget of \$34,195,147 will be allocated as follows:

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	18,384,626
Kitikmeot Inuit Association	3,246,346
Kivalliq Inuit Association	2,963,094
Qikiqtani Inuit Association	4,000,098
Inuit Heritage Trust:	
Core Funding	681,773
Special Projects	118,000
Kivalliq DIO Officer position	134,930
CLO facility funding	140,000
Regional Economic Development	1,800,000
Beneficiary Benefits Plan	1,000,000
Community Liaison Officers	1,726,280

Inuit Circumpolar Conference: Common Writing System Discussed

THE ISSUE OF ADOPTING a common writing system for the Inuit was one of the most important dealt with at last summer's Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Kuujuaq.

NTI President Cathy Towtongie, QIA President Thomasie Alikatuktuk and Kitikmeot Inuit Association Vice-President Joe Allen Evyagotailak attended from Nunavut.

The Nunavut delegation did not agree with the recommendations in support of adopting a common writing system and outlined its concerns in a letter to the ICC delivered at the conference:

"Communities throughout Nunavut have given strong direction that they are unwilling to consider the matter at this time. NTI

respects their direction....There is substantial concern regarding proposed attempts to standardize the writing system, without adequate consultation with all the Inuit stakeholders of Nunavut and consideration of the resulting impacts."

The key message from NTI was that Nunavummiut must make the decision to change at our own pace, at a time of our choosing.

"When the Language Commission brought forward its eight recommendations, it called on us to 'implement' them but on behalf of NTI, I said that 'seriously consider' would be more appropriate," said Towtongie.



Representing Nunavut at the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Kuujuaq last August were (L-R) Joe Allen Evyagotailak (KitIA), Cathy Towtongie (NTI) and Thomasie Alikatuktuk (QIA). Joining them (far left) is Adamie Alakuof Makivik.

Photo by Paul Inngait

News Briefs



CLO TRAINING – New Community Liaison Officers take a break from their training sessions in Rankin Inlet July 3-5. Front (L-R): Julia Putulik (Chesterfield Inlet), Bob Meldrum (Nunavut Benefits Corporation). Middle (L-R): Mona Tiktalik (Kugluktuk), Laisa Audlaluk (Grise Fiord), Tars Angutinguniik (Kugaaruk). Back (L-R): Paul Emingak (KitiA), Wally Porter (Gjoa Haven), Jayko Neeveeachak (Taloyoak).
Photo by Kathy Hanson

Human Resources: NTI creates full department

WITH MORE THAN 80 STAFF spread over five locations, NTI has increased its human resources capacity to match.

Once a function of the Administration Department, HR is now a separate department with four staff:

- Richard Paton, Director
- Danny Autut, HR Manager
- Kathleen Tagoona, Training Co-ordinator
- Mary-Lee Sandy-Aliyak, HR Clerk

The HR Department will be responsible for NTI's Article 23 activities (representative workforce) as well as personnel matters and training.

The HR Department is now focussing on the development of a formal training plan for NTI staff as well as regularizing the use of performance evaluations.

Human Resources: NTI Workforce Profile

Of the 82 full-time positions at NTI, excluding elected officials, there are 57 employees who are Beneficiaries. With three positions currently vacant, that means 75 per cent of NTI's employees are Inuit.

As well, all of the six-casual/summer student positions last summer were held by Beneficiaries.

In contrast, Inuit make up only 41 per cent of the GN's workforce and that number is falling. More than 1,500 GN positions need to be filled by Inuit in order to achieve the "representative level" of 85 per cent, at all occupational levels and across all departments, as required under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

Business Development: New approach to NNI Policy

NTI and the Government of Nunavut have agreed to a new approach for the NNI Policy that deals with preference for Inuit-owned companies when awarding GN contracts.

The NNI policy required companies to have at least 51 per cent Inuit ownership to qualify as 'Inuit' when bidding on government contracts after April 1, 2002. Up until that date, a 'grandfather' provision allowed companies with less than 51 per cent to qualify. NTI initiated court proceedings when the GN unilaterally extended the "grandfather" provision for one more year.

The GN did not reverse its decision but agreed to not extend the "grandfather" provision again on its own.

Of even more importance to NTI was the GN's commitment to consult properly with NTI on any changes it might consider to the NNI Policy in future.

As well, the GN agreed to adopt NTI's proposed approach for establishing the NNI Appeals Board. As a result, an outside mediator will be used to help develop a terms of reference acceptable to both NTI and the GN.

Implementation: Language of Work

Language is a significant barrier to Inuit employment. NTI and GN implementation negotiators are asking the federal government to increase its support for the measures needed to make Inuktitut the language of work in Nunavut's public service.

At least 75 per cent of Nunavummiut speak Inuktitut as their first language, according to Statistics Canada data for 1996, with many having poor or non-existent English language skills.

That means most Inuit who want to work for the GN must be able to not just acquire the skills needed for employment but also acquire the language skills for effectively operating in a second language — English.

This puts Inuktitut-speaking Inuit at a real disadvantage when it comes to making the most of opportunities for employment and advancement within the public service.

So far, the federal response at the implementation table has been disappoint-

ing. The federal mandate doesn't provide anything more than minor resources for implementing Article 23 and nothing to support the use of Inuktitut as the language of government.

The GN and NTI are working together on this important issue, with the first step being the collection of data to show the economic and social costs of not fully implementing Article 23.

Business Development: NTI has active role in economic development

Economic development is a priority for NTI. The Business Development Department last year organized a conference to obtain directions for economic development.

Now more staff have been hired to help the department deliver on its increased responsibilities. The next major event is the Sivummut II conference, to be held in Rankin Inlet in March.

NTI, through the Sivummut Economic Development Strategy Working Group, is actively working with the GN and other Nunavut organizations to develop a new strategy and secure the federal funding needed to implement it.

The Business Development Department also administers the annual Economic Initiatives Fund and the Nunavut Sivummut Small Business Program. NTI provides \$2.1 million annually to RIAs, which in turn fund Inuit development corporations and community economic development organizations for distribution to eligible businesses.

Implementation: Community Liaison Officers

With funding partly provided by NTI, the Regional Inuit Associations have now established 18 new 'Community Liaison Officer' positions across Nunavut:

- 11 in Qikiqtaaluk
- 6 in Kivalliq
- 1 in Kitikmeot

The 2001 AGM approved \$1,676,000 for this important initiative. The CLOs will act as a local resource for programs such as the Elders' Benefit Plan, Bereavement Travel, as well as providing a very important communication link between beneficiaries and NTI.

RIAs began staffing these positions over the summer, with NTI holding training sessions in July (Rankin) and September (Iqaluit). Training included an orientation on the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the enrollment process, and RIA and NTI services for beneficiaries.

Look for contact information in the next issue of Tunngavik News.

Lands: Long Service Recognized

The Lands Department recently recognized the long service of two employees.

Administrative Geologist Keith Morrison and GIS Co-ordinator Glen Kilian were each presented with a plaque that recognized five years of service to NTI.

The plaques recognized the "service, dedication and contribution to ensuring responsible management of Inuit Owned Lands and Resources."

Human Resources: Inuit Employment in Government

NTI has concluded Terms of Reference with both the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada for working groups dealing with Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

The working groups will explore ways to implement the "Inuit Employment in Government" provisions of the land claim. NTI is encouraging government to fulfill its obligations to see the government work force represent the population it serves.

Canadian North celebrates changes with bold, new look

The airline owned by Nunavut Inuit is starting 2003 with new fares, new responsibilities and a new look. It is committed to serving the north and its people.

Canadian North obtained their own air-operating certificate in 2002, which allows the airline to control its own fleet of aircraft. They can now directly hire their pilots, customer service personnel, flight operation staff and flight attendants — many of whom speak the languages of the north.

And last summer, Canadian North revolutionized the northern airline industry by completely restructuring their pricing model, resulting in permanently reduced airfares and eliminating travel restrictions.



CANADIAN NORTH
YOUR NORTH • YOUR AIRLINE

Canadian North celebrated these bold changes by adopting a new logo in September — a bold new look for a truly northern airline.

Nunavut Inuit own a 50 per cent share of Canadian North, through a series of corporate arrangements.

Canadian North was a division of Canadian Airlines International up until 1998, when Canadian North was purchased by NorTerra Inc.

Nunasi Corporation, representing the

Inuit of Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC), representing the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, jointly own NorTerra Inc. on a 50:50 basis.

Canadian North's fleet includes Boeing 737s and Fokker F-38s and F-28s. The airline serves 44 communities and three major cities (Ottawa, Edmonton and Calgary).

Canadian North has partnerships with five Airlines (Aklak Air, Air Tindi, North Wright Airway, Kenn Borek Air Ltd and Calm Air International) to ensure comprehensive service to northern communities.

NTI learns from whalers from around the world

NTI REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED the 4th General Assembly of World Council of Whalers to learn from the experience and knowledge from other whaling countries.

At the conference NTI was able to develop a joint research project on rifle ballistics with whalers in the Faroe Islands. This project will help Nunavut hunters determine the most efficient calibres and types of ammunition to be used when harvesting whales.

The Whalers Council met in Torshavn, in the Faro Islands, from Sept. 26-29. Delegates came from places like Japan, New Zealand, the United States and Iceland, among others.

NTI Wildlife Advisor Glenn Williams (Iqaluit), Lucassie Arragutainaq (Sanikiluaq), and Joeelee Papatsie (Pangnirtung) formed the Nunavut delegation. NTI 2nd Vice President Raymond Ningeocheak, who is responsible for Wildlife issues, was weathered in and could not attend.

Williams said it was surprising to see how whaling is part of so many cultures



around the world, including the Caribbean and South Pacific as well as more familiar countries like Japan and Iceland. There were many opportunities to compare techniques not just for harvesting but for cooking and eating.

The WCW is an international, non-governmental organization based in Canada. WCW funding comes totally from members and membership countries. The next World Council of Whales General Assembly has not been determined yet.

Firearms Act: NTI secures interim injunction

NUNAVUT INUIT ARE TEMPORARILY protected from prosecution for not registering their firearms, thanks to a court action brought by NTI.

The Nunavut Court of Justice decided on December 10, 2003 to temporarily suspend the application of the firearms registration requirements to Nunavut Inuit.

"This decision means that Inuit who were not able to register their firearms by the January 1, 2003 deadline will not be subject to prosecution," said James Eetoolook, 1st Vice President of the land claims organization that represents the interests of Nunavut Inuit.

The interim injunction will last at least until April 30, when the court will hear arguments from NTI and the Government of Canada. NTI had originally asked for the injunction to last until such time as the courts dealt with the main legal action around the conflict between the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the *Firearms Act*.

"NTI objects only to those provisions of the *Firearms Act* that contravene the rights

of Inuit as set out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement," said Eetoolook. "The NLCA gives Inuit the right to hunt, fish and trap without permit, license of fee of any kind. We see the requirement to obtain a permit in order to hunt as a betrayal of our rights."

Madam Justice Beverly Browne's decision granting an interim injunction until the hearing of the stay motion temporarily exempts the Inuit of Nunavut from the application of:

- Section 112(1) of the *Firearms Act*, which makes it an offence to not register a firearm, and
- Sections 91 and 92 of the Criminal Code, which makes it an offence to use a firearm that is not registered.

In materials filed earlier with the court, NTI noted that there had been numerous implementation problems with the new firearms regime in addition to the conflict with treaty rights. Lack of services and



A GOOD HUNT – Mosie Atagoyuk of Iqaluit is pleased by a successful hunt.

forms in Inuktitut, lost application forms and overall poor communication with hunters has contributed to the low compliance rate for firearms registration requirements.

Inuit start to use new insurance program

IT'S ALMOST A YEAR SINCE the new insurance coverage came into effect for beneficiaries of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement:

- Death Benefits
- Dismemberment Benefits

So far the Nunavut Benefits Corporation has processed one claim for loss of life with another half dozen in progress. There have not been any claims yet for loss of limbs, or use of limbs.

"We're hoping to open an office in Nunavut soon," said program manager Bob Meldrum, of Carleton Financial Group. "The first point of contact for applicants is their CLO — if that's not possible, they should call the Rankin Inlet office of NTI and ask

to speak to Annie Makpah."

Meldrum noted that there had been some confusion about the effective date of coverage. "Only events that take place after April 1st 2002 are covered by this policy," he said. "As long as that deadline is met, we can help eligible applicants."

Like any insurance program, the Nunavut Benefits Corp. requires clients to name a beneficiary. This is very important when a death benefit is involved because the client is not able to provide directions. If no beneficiary is named, the benefits are paid to the client's estate, where they are divided up according to law if there is no will.

The insurance program is now beginning to mail "Beneficiary Cards" to clients. These cards ask each client to designate

a beneficiary. A "beneficiary" under the insurance program doesn't have to be a "beneficiary" under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement — it can be anyone the client wants to see financially compensated in the event of their death.

"It's important to update one's designation card when circumstances change," Meldrum said. "If you name your common-law as the beneficiary and then you break up, you might want to change the beneficiary to a child, or parent, or someone who will need financial assistance if you die suddenly."

More details about the insurance program are available from your CLO or on the internet (in English and Inuktitut) at www.beneficiariesbenefits.ca

Nunavut Trust finances on track for billion-dollar target



THE NUNAVUT TRUST has outperformed the average institutional investment organization — to the benefit of Beneficiaries and Inuit organizations that depend on the trust's investment income for programs and services.

"Nunavut Trust outperformed nearly three-quarters of all the investment funds measured for a four-year period ending June 2002," said Trust Chairperson Okalik Egeesiak. This is especially impressive given the recent downturn in the stock market.

"We produced an average rate of return of 5.9 per cent, well up from the average return of 4.7 per cent," she said. "By the end of the second quarter (June), the market value of Nunavut Trust's assets was \$775.9 million."

The ultimate goal, as agreed to at the 2000 AGM, is that there should be \$1.148 billion in the Nunavut Trust by the end of fiscal 2007. The fund needs to increase so that it stays at the real dollar level of 1990, able to fund a comparable range of services.

Nunavut Trust CEO Andy Campbell reminded members at the 2002 AGM that the purpose of the trust is to generate sufficient annual net income to allow NTI and the Elders' Pension trust to meet their

responsibilities to the Inuit of Nunavut.

"We invest as a prudent person would," Campbell said. The Trust's portfolio is designed to outperform the average in times of a strong market and under perform when stock market performance is weak. This in fact is what has happened so far this year.

The trust also made wise use of its funds by replacing the TFN negotiating loan from the Government of Canada with a lower interest loan from the Royal Bank earlier this year. "The new procedures for repaying the Royal Bank went quite smoothly," said Egeesiak.

In May, Nunavut Trust distributed \$10 million to the Nunavut Economic and Social Development Inc., a beneficiary of the trust, which in turn used the funds to purchase preferred shares in Atuqtuarvik Corporation. These funds will be invested with Inuit development corporations for their use in developing the new regional hospitals.

Strong markets from 1997-2000 allowed the Trust to generate greater-than-predicted returns, which in turn funded special projects. With markets now less active, Nunavut Trust will be focusing on core activities that complement the funds available (about 5 per cent of the market value of the trust fund).



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Have you moved?

If you have moved since you were enrolled as a Beneficiary under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, please make sure your address is up to date on the Enrolment Registry! NTI needs to know where you are to serve you better. For example, a mail-out is now underway that will allow you to name a beneficiary for your NTI insurance policy.

Updating your information is easy:

- 1) Contact your Community Enrolment Secretary, or
- 2) Contact your Community Liaison Officer, or
- 3) Contact the NTI Enrolment Department at 1-888-236-5400, or
- 4) Download a Change and Correction Form from the NTI website, fill it in and mail it as directed www.tunngavik.com