



## Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

November 15-17, 2021

**Resolution #: RSA-21-11-07**

**Inuit Self-Government**

**Moved by:** Stanley Anablak

**Seconded by:** Guy Enuapik

**WHEREAS** Nunavut Inuit were self-governing long before Europeans arrived in what is now Canada, and were self-sufficient through their harvesting way of life based on their own language and worldview, economy, and systems of laws and governance, and deeply connected to and reliant on their homeland;

**AND WHEREAS** in the 1970s Nunavut Inuit began their aspiration to create their own government because of the damaging effects and disruptions of colonialism and attempts to assimilate Inuit language and culture into the dominant Canadian society;

**AND WHEREAS** Nunavut Inuit had hoped that the creation of a Nunavut Government, through the negotiation of the Nunavut Agreement, would reflect their right to self-determination, and that would continue and protect the connections to their homeland, language and cultural identity;

**AND WHEREAS** Nunavut Inuit had expected that the Nunavut Government, consisting of majority Inuit, would protect their rights and interests to land and wildlife harvesting, language and culture “to encourage self-reliance and the cultural and social well-being of Inuit” as a way to reclaim their sense of being;

**AND WHEREAS** Nunavut Inuit opted for a public government to be created subsequent to the signing of the *Nunavut Agreement*, but never ceded their inherent right to self-government, as recognized, affirmed and protected by sections 25 and 35 of Canada’s *Constitution Act*, 1982, including jurisdiction and law-making authority over their own affairs;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of Canada has renewed its commitment to respect that constitutional right to self-determination by having re-designed its comprehensive lands claim policy towards a more principled *Rights Recognition* framework of self-government, and as further re-affirmed by the passing of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* on June 21, 2021 that now requires “minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples”;

**AND WHEREAS** the socio-economic state of Inuit has not improved since the creation of the Nunavut Government in 1999, and has worsened in the areas of educational attainment, employment under-representation resulting in significant wage gaps, overcrowded housing conditions, food security, lower health indicators, economic participation and other social inequities faced by Inuit, as the Nunavut

Government has not been able to fulfill Inuit aspirations and priorities on the delivery of Inuit language and culture within education, Inuit employment and other critical socio-economic conditions and social justice of Inuit;

**AND WHEREAS** NTI has consistently tried to work with the Government of Nunavut in the meaningful implementation of treaty and Inuit rights with no satisfactory progress, and the exercise of self-government may offer Nunavut Inuit the means to improve their economic, social and cultural well-being where the Government of Nunavut has not been able to provide;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Members desire Nunavut Inuit to exercise the right of self-government to enable Nunavut Inuit to have direct decision-making and control over their own affairs, and direct NTI to seek a negotiation mandate with the Government of Canada to begin self-government discussions;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Members authorize the Board of Directors to oversee the self-government negotiation, and to implement the mandate through phased approach if the Board deems necessary;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** NTI report back to the annual meeting of members on the progress of the negotiation mandate on Inuit self-government, including any potential ancillary intergovernmental agreements, transitional requirements, anticipated timelines of negotiations and consultation plans as developed in partnership with the Regional Inuit Associations, that would support the exercise of Inuit self-government.

**In Favour:** All

**Against:**

**Abstentions:**

**Carried:**

**Defeated:**

Dated: November 16, 2021