



IQQANAIJAQATIGIIT
2004-2005 ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRIORITIES

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

And

The Government of Nunavut

We are pleased to present the results of the first annual review of Priority Areas/Items following the signing of the *Iqqanaijaqatigiit* Protocol between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Government of Nunavut (GN).

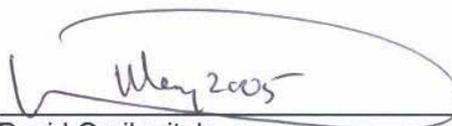
As a requirement of the Protocol, a review of mutually agreed priority areas is to take place between President Kaludjak and Premier Okalik on an annual basis. As a result, the following report provides an overview and assessment of the priority areas for 2004-2005 and provides recommendations for the upcoming year.

The report has been co-written by staff at both organizations and is intended to provide leadership with a summary and framework for discussion of the relationship between our two organizations. The report analyzes the Priority Areas that have been mutually identified. In addition, workplans have been developed for specific items within each area and will be included as an appendix to this report.

In general, NTI and GN have been able to work collaboratively on their priority areas. We are confident that the report strongly supports the argument that NTI and GN have enjoyed a positive relationship on issues that have been mutually identified as priorities. By working together, we have been able to move numerous files forward. While there is more work to be done, we are encouraged by the work accomplished thus far and look forward to working together in the future.



Joe Adla Kunuk
Chief Executive Officer
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated



David Omilgoitok
Deputy Minister of
Intergovernmental Affairs
Government of Nunavut

Date: May 28, 2005

Background

Subsequent to the Clyde River Protocol signed in 1999, the *Iqqanaijaqatigiit* Protocol was drafted and signed on May 28, 2004 by both NTI and the GN.

Iqqanaijaqatigiit's purpose is to enhance the relationship between the GN and NTI so that they serve the people and interests of Nunavut. It provides a framework for both organizations to work effectively together by identifying:

- Areas of mutual interest, and associated priorities, work plans and timelines;
- Working relationships and responsible officials;
- A process for periodic meetings to measure progress; and,
- A process for discussing and resolving disputes.

Pursuant to the signing of the Protocol, a list of Priority Areas was developed by senior staff at both organizations at a joint meeting. Priority areas were identified as:

- Relationship with Canada
- Economic Development
- Social and Cultural Development
- Education, Training and Language
- Environment
- Communication and Consultation

These Priority Areas were approved by the NTI Board of Directors and GN Cabinet. Within each Priority Area, specific items were identified by senior staff and workplans were developed.

Review of Priority Areas

Priority – Relationship with Canada

This Priority Area was clearly identified by leadership and senior staff during the drafting of *Iqqanaijaqatigiit*.

With respect to NLCA contract implementation negotiations, NTI, GN and the Government of Canada have just recently agreed to a conciliation process. All parties have agreed to Mr. Thomas Berger as the conciliator.

On December 14, 2004, the Government of Canada, along with the three northern territories released a framework to develop a Northern Strategy for Canada. As part of this announcement, Nunavut was able to secure a commitment from Canada for the negotiation of a devolution agreement by December 2008. NTI has been fully supportive of this position and is now part of the tri-party (Canada, GN and NTI) working group to negotiate the agreement.

The GN and NTI have been able to work together on a number of transboundary issues that affect Nunavut. Both the GN and NTI support the resolution of all land claims for aboriginal groups provided agreements do not come at the expense of Nunavut.

Priority – Economic Development

NTI and the GN have collaborated on the Priority of Economic Development throughout the past year.

With regard to the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy (NEDS), the Nunavut Economic Forum Inc. (NEF) has provided the basis for preparing a number of sector strategies, such as the recently released joint NTI-GN Fisheries strategy. Nunavut Economic Forum was created as a result of the NEDS.

During the federal budget announcement in 2004, a \$90 million northern economic development fund was approved for the three territories. This budget announcement resulted in part from joint lobbying by GN and NTI. The NEF is being consulted regarding the implementation of Nunavut's allocation of the \$90M northern economic

development funding. It is the position of both GN and NTI that any Nunavut economic agreement should be based on the *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy* and decisions should be made by Nunavummiut. An Economic Development Agreement is one mechanism toward this end. In meetings, DIAND Ministers Scott and Mitchell indicated willingness to enter into a Nunavut economic agreement or “accord”.

With regard to Article 2.7.3 of the NLCA, NTI and GN compiled a list of federal programs for Aboriginals that Inuit/GN would like to access. This list was submitted to the federal justice department requesting a review of programs that are available to Aboriginals but not Inuit. To date, no specific response has been received from Justice Canada.

The NNI Policy is the third important area. The establishment of the NNI Secretariat within the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has been critical to this process. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the GN Cabinet and the NTI Board in 2003 is a priority, coupled with the on-going review and advisory responsibility.

Priority – Social and Cultural Development

There are a large number of initiatives within the Social and Cultural Development Priority Area that have been initiated within the past year and continue into the upcoming years.

Health is a major issue for all Nunavummiut. GN and NTI have worked together to determine what Health Canada programs are available for GN and NTI to access for funding. In addition, collaborative work continues in the areas of an addiction strategy, treatment facility, suicide prevention, training and community capacity building and disabilities.

A major social issue facing Nunavut is the issue of Inuit housing. On September 1, 2004, NTI and GN jointly released a Nunavut Ten Year Inuit Housing Action Plan. The action plan, which was developed through collaboration between both organizations, has been submitted to the Government of Canada. NTI and the GN are currently having meetings with various federal departments to develop an implementation plan for Inuit housing.

With respect to Elders and Youth, the GN will be tabling their Elders Strategy at the fall sitting of the Nunavut Legislature. NTI was actively consulted and contributed to the development of these strategies and work continues on this priority issue between the GN and NTI.

Priority – Education, Training and Language

NTI and the GN have collaborated on a number of initiatives within this Priority Area. Work continues in the development of a Nunavut Education Act and the GN is actively involving NTI in this exercise. NTI is a participant in the Steering Committee on the Education Act. In addition, the GN and NTI are working together to draft an Adult Learning Strategy with recommendations for release in fall 2005.

Research and work is being done towards the introduction of a Nunavut Language Act. NTI has taken on a role in the consultation process of drafting of Nunavut Language Act Legislation. A first draft of the legislation is anticipated in the fall of 2005.

Article 23 is a key issue that both the GN and NTI have collaborated on. A joint GN-NTI Article 23 Working Group has been established and together, they have been able to create Terms of Reference for their group as well as regular meetings. It should be noted that Article 23 issues are directly related with the upcoming conciliation process being undertaken between NTI, GN and the Government of Canada.

Priority – Environment

The GN and NTI have been working together on a number of priorities with respect to the Environment. In December 2003, the Wildlife Act was passed in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. The GN worked closely with NTI prior to introducing the legislation. For example, a working group was established to support the passage of the Wildlife Act. In addition, the working group is currently reviewing proposed regulations that will be associated with the Act. Overall there has been good progress as a whole, but there is still work to complete in advance of the new regulations.

The Nunavut General Monitoring Plan is seen by both organizations as an important obligation from the NLCA that has not been fulfilled to date. NTI has produced a

discussion paper outlining the need to coordinate existing monitoring and ways to approach this issue. The GN is currently reviewing the discussion paper.

The last priority outlined in the environment area is contaminated sites. The GN is committed to producing a contaminated sites discussion paper and will be presenting it to NTI for their review in the near future.

Priority – Communication and Consultation

The Priority Area of Communication and Consultation has moved forward at a relatively measured pace in the past year. With regard to communications, both the communications departments at NTI and the GN have been in regular contact to ensure a smooth and positive relationship exists between the two organizations. There are a number of examples where both organizations have worked together for communication purposes. For example, both organizations developed a joint communications strategy for the release of the 10 year Inuit Housing Action Plan in September 2004 and jointly organized the launch of the Nunavut Fisheries Strategy in May 2005.

A mutually agreed upon definition for GN and NTI of consultation is the goal of the consultation specific priority. Work is continuing on this front and will continue into the new year.

Both GN and NTI have contributed funding towards an NLCA Awareness program that is intended for workshops and schools. A lesson plan and curriculum is currently being developed with the hope of a possible roll-out of NLCA Awareness workshops in the future.

Next Steps

It is clear that significant work has been accomplished between NTI and the GN in the past year. In each of the Priority Areas, accomplishments range from the establishment of working groups and terms of references to complete collaboration on issues like NLCA Contract Implementation and devolution.

It is the recommendation of this report that GN Cabinet and NTI Board direct senior officials in the coming months to recommend the 2005-2006 Priority Areas for *Iqqanaijaqatigiit*.