

**Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami  
Nain, Nunatsiavut Annual General Meeting  
June 10, 2009  
Resolutions**

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**Re: Approval of Inuit Position as Inuit Specific**

Moved by: Pita Aatami

Seconded by: Paul Kaludjak

WHEREAS Inuit face many Health, Social and Economic Development challenges that are particular to Inuit;

AND WHEREAS Inuit are a people separate from First Nations and Métis and so recognized under the Constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Federal government deals with First Nation people and communities on a direct basis.

Therefore be it resolved that the Federal Government continue to move forward and reinforce the need to deal with Inuit on a direct basis as they do First Nation people.

**In favour:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Against:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstentions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Carried:** **Unanimously**

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Re: Approval of Inuit Position on Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Moved by: Pita Aatami

Seconded by: Paul Kaludjak

WHEREAS the media is reporting that none of the three Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners are Inuit;

AND WHEREAS there are a significant number of Inuit survivors of the Residential School experience;

AND WHEREAS it is important that the TRC process adequately address the need of Inuit;

AND WHEREAS Inuit of Nunatsiavut have been excluded from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The TRC establish an Inuit Sub-Commission to ensure that Inuit survivors of the Residential Schools experience are fully consulted as part of the truth telling reconciliation process.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Inuit Sub-Commission to the TRC be adequately resourced to develop and implement a comprehensive workplan of truth and reconciliation consultation and programs.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the survivors of the Labrador Residential Schools era be treated in the same manner as other Inuit included in the IRSSA and that fair compensation be extended to them.

In favour: \_\_\_\_\_

Against: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

Carried: Unanimously

**National Committee on Inuit Education**

Moved by: Pita Aatami

Seconded by: Jim Lyall

WHEREAS, there has never been national goals set for Inuit education;

AND WHEREAS ITK is a signatory to the Inuit Education Accord signed in Iqaluit in April 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Accord results in the creation of a National Committee on Inuit Education (NCIE) that is tasked with developing a National Strategy on Inuit Education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the ITK National President represent ITK on the National Committee on Inuit Education in the role of Chairperson;

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT the ITK National President work with other NCIE committee members in developing a National Strategy on Inuit Education that sets out national goals for Inuit education.

**In favour:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Against:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstentions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Carried:** **Unanimously**

June 10, 2009

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**Resolution:**            **Re:** H1N1 flu virus

**Moved by:**            **Robert B. Gruben**

**Seconded by:**        **George Berthe**

**Whereas** the rising number of H1N1 is of serious concern to Inuit communities and regions,

**And whereas** it has been identified that the H1N1 flu virus is affecting Inuit communities in a more serious manner than the rest of Canada,

**And whereas** the health status of Inuit is lower than it is for other Canadians, and is impacted by social determinants of health such as poverty, food security and overcrowding and inadequate housing, and by the high rate of tobacco use,

**And whereas** Inuit are also faced with issues of living in remote communities with issues of access to healthcare, diagnostics, antivirals, and with limited capacities to deal with Pandemics because of Health Human Resource issues unique to the regions,

**Therefore be it resolved that** the Public Health Agency of Canada must work with Inuit to create an Inuit specific appendix to the Canadian Pandemic Plan, with clear outline of roles and responsibilities.

**And that** Surveillance and epidemiological support needs to be enhanced for Inuit.

**And that** the Federal Government work with Inuit, to address the underlying causes or social determinants of health which make Inuit more vulnerable to the H1N1 and other viruses.

**In favour:**

**Against:**

**Abstentions:**

**Carried:**                **Unanimously**

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**ITK Resolution: Polar Bear Research Methods**

Moved by: Jim Lyall

Seconded by: Raymond Kayaksark

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada continue to harvest and use Polar Bears in accordance with Inuit cultural practice to meet subsistence and livelihood needs;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada continue to harvest Polar Bears in a respectful manner that does not cause unnecessary pain and suffering or excessive stress on the animal;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada continue to harvest Polar Bears in accordance with rights protected under Inuit land claims agreements and Canada's Constitution, and in respect to the long term conservation of the species and the regimes in place that assist in the management of the species;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada hold a rich body of traditional knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of Polar Bears that dates back thousands of years;

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Inuit of Canada have serious and increasing concerns about the intrusive methods by which western science researchers are handling and gathering research data on Polar Bears that is causing stress and harm to the animals—namely through methods such as the use of tranquilizers, direct handling of the animal, taking bodily samples, collaring, paint marking, recapturing, and using aircraft to track, chase, and seize the animals;

WHEREAS these methods impact and interfere with the natural well-being of Polar Bears as well as the subsistence and livelihood needs and interests of Inuit;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada are deeply concerned that these research methods ignore, do not take into account, or do not respect Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on Polar Bears;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada regard accurate and useful human knowledge of Polar Bears as very important and should be gathered in a manner that respects the natural well-being of Polar Bears, respects the subsistence and livelihood interests of Inuit, involves Inuit, and utilizes Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Inuit of Canada reject intrusive methods of western science research, including direct handling methods, on Polar Bears conducted within Inuit Nunangat that cause excessive stress and harm to the animal;

THAT the Inuit of Canada reject the use of these methods on Polar Bears that directly or indirectly interferes with and impacts Inuit rights, needs, and interests in respect to Polar Bear harvesting, subsistence, and livelihoods;

AND THAT the Inuit of Canada call upon the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments, as well as the western science research community specializing in Polar Bear research to work closely with Inuit to develop and establish better methods and protocols of gathering human knowledge of Polar Bears that includes Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, including through the development of technologies that will eliminate the need for intrusive methods of research on Polar Bears.

**In favour:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Against:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstentions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Carried:** **Unanimously**

June 11, 2009