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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI

2008 - 2009

ANNUAL REPORT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed.

It has been a year that has seen more than its share of surprises and uncertainties. Indeed, it is fair to say that 2008 and the first half of 2009 has been one of enormous change and unpredictability for all of us who share this planet.

Some of these surprises and uncertainties have been worrying indeed.

While reports on global warming continue to offer a bewildering range of predictions, the overall message seems to be that the pace of climate change is accelerating. We must all work to ensure that the nations and peoples of the world assume their full responsibilities to fend off the worst case scenarios by dramatically reducing carbon emissions.

The global economic crisis, with no clear end in sight, is overturning all kinds of easy assumptions about the world's economic and political orders. Who would have foreseen that major multi-national banks and investment firms would go under? That the United States would be looking at a deficit in the trillions of dollars? That the price of oil would have shrunk to a third of what it was a year ago?

We are seeing some of the effects of all this economic turmoil directly in our regions, including a sharp drop-off in mining exploration and a re-consideration of the economic viability of major development proposals.

We have been insulated, to some extent, by the large public sector component to our economies, but this is, at best, only partial relief. We must be mindful of our long term goal of becoming more economically self-sufficient by building mixed economies that are less dependent on government spending and government jobs. We must also be mindful that, while the current global economic crisis has reinforced the value of a strong public sector, our regions are still beset with a big backlog of public infrastructure deficit in housing, schools, transportation facilities and in many other directions.

This backlog contributes to the acute social and economic problems that we see only too clearly around us: overcrowded and run down housing; young people lacking education and training and the positive self-images and self-confidence that come with being productive; physical and mental health problems at rates that are beyond what other Canadians endure; the searing problem of suicide.

In Canada, our national politics have been something of a roller coaster ride over the last year. We went from the pre-election jockeying of last summer; to a fall election with a minority government outcome; to a throne speech that nearly triggered the replacement of the incumbent government with a three party coalition; to an emergency economic stimulus budget; to a sudden change in leader of the opposition. It may well be that we are entering into an extended period of time when majority governments will become the exception and pizza parliaments the norm. If so, there could be both advantages and hazards for Inuit and for Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) as a national organization.

In a rapidly changing political environment, our core task at ITK will remain the same: to make best use of our insights, and of our talents, and of our resources, to ensure that the Inuit part of new national and international agendas are as prominent and beneficial as possible.

With respect to Inuit representation in parliament, we have had both reasons to celebrate and reasons to feel loss in the last year. Like all Inuit, I take great pride in seeing Leona Aglukkaq become the first Inuk to become a federal cabinet minister. I am also aware that the Inuit voice in Parliament will be weakened by the retirement of Senator Willie Adams after his many years of work on our behalf in the Senate of Canada. All Inuit owe Willie a debt of gratitude.

At ITK, we have responded to the political turbulence of the last year by maintaining our focus on the essentials and by redoubling our determination to promote our Inuit agenda.

This has taken many forms.

We have worked on a number of policy topics that have ongoing prominence for Inuit. These have included such things as the restructuring of the truth and reconciliation commission; the completion of an Inuit education strategy; Inuit participation in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics; and working in partnership with the Inuit Circumpolar Council on the completion of the Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic.

As has been the case since the beginning of my time as ITK president, I have devoted as much time to public outreach as I have to meetings with ministers and officials. At ITK, our priorities - whether in relation to hunting seals or to promoting an Arctic strategy that includes all four Inuit regions of Canada - are highly transparent and highly consistent. ITK has been in the arena of public advocacy long enough to know that off the record conversations and quiet diplomacy can sometimes be the best way forward. At the same time, ITK holds firmly to the view that the Inuit voice in Canada is a valued and credible one precisely because we say what we mean and mean what we say.

To help make the Inuit voice heard I have travelled extensively over the last year both within the regions and communities of Inuit Nunaat, and in other parts of Canada and abroad. This has resulted in the continuation of my major public speaking tour across Canada, appearances at numerous university and similar institutional settings, and an extensive number of television and radio interviews and commentaries. We also have been very active in the print media, shaping public debate in Canada through timely press release and opinion pieces.

There are, of course, time and physical limitations on communications work. I am, however, very pleased at the amount of such work we have been able to generate and what I believe to be the consistently well informed and well reasoned quality of our work. The Inuit voice in Canada may not always be acted on, but it can never be casually dismissed.

The work of ITK continues to be possible, and to be enhanced, by the active involvement and mutual support of other Inuit organizations, particularly the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the four Inuit regional organizations, the Inuvialuit Regional Council, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivik Corporation, and the Nunatsiavut Government. I would like to thank the Presidents, executives, other directors, and staff of ICC and the regional organizations for their generous contributions to the work of ITK.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the hard work of the staff of ITK throughout the year. Good team work gets good team results. I am happy to report that ITK's finances remain in sound shape and that, during the year, ITK managed to move office locations to space that will be much more efficient and cohesive. Keeping the machinery in good working order is no small thing.

Finally, I would like to thank the many Inuit I have met during the year who have offered their encouragement and support to ITK and to me as President. It is a privilege to work on your behalf.

Taima.

Mary Simon

President

ITK Executive Department:

Mary Simon: President

Jim Moore: Executive Director

Kathleen Tagoona: Executive Assistant to the President

Executive Services Secretariat:

Director: Rosemary Cooper

Strategic Policy Support: John Merritt

Senior Science Support: Scot Nickels

Strategic Planning, Information, and Technology:

Craig Clark, Marcel Mason

Human Resource Officer: Shawna Clancy

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

The period 2008-2009 saw a number of changes in the Department. Onalee Randell left as Director of the Department in September 2008. Elizabeth Ford assumed the Director's position in October. The Department continues to develop the internal team approach in order to become more integrated on files, which builds on the combining of the Departments of Health and Environment that took place a year previous.

Highlights in 2008-2009 include the planning of the International Stop Tuberculosis meeting held in November 2008, in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, as well as the establishment of the National Inuit Climate Change Committee and the Inuit Health Human Resource Technical Working Group which will guide the development of an Inuit Health Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

With financial support provided by ArcticNet and the NCP, ITK organized a delegation of approximately 50 Inuit to the Arctic Change 2008 Conference in Montreal Quebec. Increasing the engagement and visibility of Inuit at Arctic Change greatly enhanced the Annual Science Meeting (ASM) and increased opportunities for Inuit-Science knowledge exchanges. Inuit were also very well represented at the 2nd International Diabetes in Indigenous Peoples Forum held in Vancouver November 16-19, 2008. The Department also assisted in coordinating with the Minister of Environment attendance of Inuit organizations and regions to a first ever Ministerial Roundtable specifically devoted to discussing Canadian Arctic wide consultations on the listing of the Polar Bear on the Species at Risk Act.

NATIONAL INUIT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (NICoH)

The National Inuit Committee on Health identifies Inuit Health priorities, provides guidance to the ITK Health Department, ITK Board of Directors, and also ensures national representation on Inuit initiatives and policy processes.

All of the health related issues in this report have been discussed at the NICoH meetings, resulting in high level consultation from an Inuit perspective, and direction that informs the ITK Board for action and approval.

The National Inuit Committee on Health held the following meetings during the past fiscal year:

- April 1-2, 2008 - Ottawa
- May 2008 - teleconference
- June 3- 4, Nain, Nunatsiavut
- September 8-10, Inuvik, NWT
- September 29 – Teleconference
- November 19 - Teleconference
- December 10-11, 2008 –Ottawa
- February 9 - Teleconference

This period saw a change in the term of the Chair for NICoH which went from 1 year, to 3 years. It also saw a change of the Chair. At the September 2008 meeting, Gail Turner became the Chair for NICoH. Also at the December 2008 meeting, Larry Gordon attended his last meeting as the NICoH representative for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. Larry's many years of commitment to the

NiCoH committee were greatly appreciated and noted by the Chair. Larry continues to sit on some subcommittees.

Members of the National Inuit Committee on Health for fiscal year 2008/2009:

Gail Turner – Nunatsiavut Government and Chair (appointed September 2009)

Natan Obed- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, (NiCoH Chair from March – September 2009).

Larry Gordon/Crystal Lennie- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (Crystal became the official NiCoH Representative at the December meeting)

Gilles Boulet- Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (Makivik delegate)

Megan Pizzo-Lyall- National Inuit Youth Council

Elizabeth Ford Onalee Randell/ - ITK Director of Health (Onalee Randell from April – September, Elizabeth Ford from October – March)

Yvonne Moorehouse/Eva Krueemmel -, ICC (Canada), observer

Geri Bailey - Pauktuutit, observer

Diane Kinnon, Director Inuit Centre, NAHO, observer

Onalee Randell – Office of Inuit Health – First Nations Inuit Health Branch (Health Canada) - Observer

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis (TB) has a long history in Inuit communities. Many Inuit still remember being removed from their communities and sent to sanatoriums in the south for TB treatments. Many spent long periods of time, sometimes years in the sanatoriums before being able to return to their communities. Some never returned.

However, TB rates are still unacceptably high for Inuit. The Inuit TB rate is 90 times the rate as the rest of the Canadian population.

In November 2008 an international Indigenous conference was held in Canada on the issue. The Global Indigenous Stop TB Experts meeting brought tuberculosis and indigenous experts together to contribute to the development of a strategic plan focussed on reducing the burden of TB on Indigenous peoples globally. It is expected that the strategic plan will be a key tool for securing funding from donor agencies.

The meeting also provided a forum for discussions concerning the role and formation of an indigenous people's secretariat that will champion the strategic plan and coordinate the execution of an associated action plan. This secretariat will become a new "partner" within the Global Stop TB Partnership and will maintain a link with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Some of the key social determinants of health that affect people's susceptibility to TB include poor housing, overcrowding, lack of education, chronic unemployment and poor nutrition. A shortage of housing in our Inuit communities is causing overcrowding. Poverty is also a serious issue in most of our communities. According to Statistics Canada, Inuit are nearly eight times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to live in overcrowded homes.

These are just a few of the issues adding to the high rates of TB in Inuit communities and until these are addressed we will not see an improvement in our TB rates. The most important weapon in the battle against TB is to bridge the gap in the determinants of health notably housing, education, food security and income distribution.

FOOD SECURITY

Three key developments took place during the fiscal year: review of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Food Mail Program; the formal evaluation of the INAC Food Mail Program, and; ITK’s gathering of multi-stakeholder input toward developing an Inuit Food Security Strategy.

The Food Mail review was undertaken by INAC under the leadership of the INAC Minister. This is the first review of the Food Mail program since its creation 20 years ago. The research and planning activities of the review began in summer 2008. The review was completed in March 2009. ITK was involved with the INAC review team during the start up phase of providing advice on consultative outreach activities, who to contact in the regional Inuit organizations, and what possible communities the review may wish to focus on for visits, interviews, and focus groups.

ITK also met with the Minister’s Special Representative for the review, Mr. Graeme Dargo, during his consultations from identified representatives. ITK also provided perspectives on food mail and food security issues during 2008-2009. This was done via discussions with the food mail review team members, during meetings of the Food Security Reference Group, and the Retail-Based Nutrition Interventions group. Additional work was conducted during a session on the Food Mail “eligible food list”, and through a presentation at an international conference on circumpolar health.

Despite its similarity with the Food Mail review, the formal evaluation of the Food Mail program is a separate process which took place in parallel with the review. The evaluation began in the summer and fall of 2008, with a draft report completed by the end of March 2009. The final report is expected after March 2009. ITK participated as a member of the evaluation working group that provided advice for the evaluation process as well as input during information gathering focus group and interview sessions. The report will provide further information and support in considering how the Food Mail program can be improved with Inuit communities in mind.

ITK also worked this year to gather input toward building an Inuit Food Security Strategy. Meetings and interviews took place in spring 2008 and winter of 2008-2009 which covered input from regional representatives, national and regional government, health and policy sectors, airlines and retailers, and the academic/research community. All data and key elements of the framework have been thus far processed, including a compilation of relevant research materials on northern food security that focus on Aboriginal and Inuit communities. ITK has developed an initial draft framework for an Inuit Food Security Strategy using the information gathered and will present this for review with the National Inuit Committee on Health and the ITK Board of Directors before advancing it further in 2009-2010.

ITK HEALTH CANADA TASK GROUP

The Task Group which was created in 2007 continues. There was a lull in the work of the Task Group, with the changeover of the new federal Minister of Health, but the commitment to work on the second phase of the Task Group was reconfirmed by ITK President Simon, and the new Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq. This phase of the Task Group will continue the process of collaboration initiated during the first phase by also having a representative from the Public Health Agency of Canada sit on the Task Group.

Work on the planning of the second phase of the workplan did continue while this change happened, with drafts of the workplan being shared with the National Inuit Committee on Health, as well as with staff from Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The Task Group consists of senior officials from Health Canada: a representative from the Deputy Minister’s office; Assistant Deputy Minister, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB); a representative from the Office of the Minister of Health; ITK Executive Director; ITK Health and

Environment Director; and the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH) Chair, as well as a representative from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

NATIONAL TREATMENT STRATEGY

A report titled, *A Systems Approach to Substance Use in Canada: Recommendations for a National Treatment Strategy*, was released in November 2008. One of the key recommendations in the report is the establishment of a National Treatment Strategy Leadership Team (NTSLT) to coordinate the Strategy's implementation. The NTSLT will be led by a Co-Chairs Committee consisting of representatives from the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Liaison Committee on Problematic Substance Use, and ITK. Membership on the NTSLT will also provide multi-sectoral representation including the Provinces and Territories, Inuit, First Nations, and Métis, the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Health Canada, clients with substance use experience, and primary care.

Funding resources are provided by the Drug Treatment Funding Program from Health Canada until 2013. At that time, the Leadership Team will revisit its mandate and operations and make the necessary revisions to reflect such considerations as the National Treatment Strategy implementation to date, achievements and lessons learned and ongoing resource availability.

CANCER

Throughout the 2008-2009 fiscal year, ITK developed an Inuit-specific cancer strategy, identified gaps in existing Inuit-related cancer data and information, and provided input into and feedback on the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control from an Inuit perspective.

As part of this work, ITK has been working to address Inuit and cancer related needs and priorities, by building links with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). Both organizations are committed to work together to benefit Inuit as Canadians.

ITK's work has further included the building of a strong working relationship with the Inuit Public Health Task Group concerning the Inuit and Cancer Discussion Paper. In October, the Inuit and Cancer Discussion Paper was approved as a final document by the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH).

ITK has completed and distributed Inuit and Cancer Fact Sheets that summarize information obtained from the discussion paper. These fact sheets were distributed with the Inuit and Cancer Discussion Paper.

Throughout the 2008-2009 fiscal year, ITK has also been working with CPAC on planning a national forum to develop an Aboriginal Cancer Strategy. The forum took place in March 2009.

ITK continues to ensure cancer organizations and governments are aware of the unique cancer issues of Inuit.

NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS – DENTAL CARE

Through recommendations of the Dental Expert Advisory Committee, an Inuit Oral Health Strategy has been developed to identify possible strategies and solutions that would lead to improved dental health outcomes for Inuit. To compliment this strategy, the Inuit oral health survey has been completed in the following communities: Nain, Pangnirtung, Gjoa Haven, Tuktoyaktuk, and Rankin Inlet. Iqaluit will undergo the survey in June. This survey will gather the evidence needed to improve dental services across Inuit Nunaat.

Upcoming activities for this fiscal year includes a joint NIHB guidebook and the review of the medical supplies and equipment framework to identify gaps in services and to address policies that impede access to much needed medical supplies and equipment.

ABORIGINAL HEALTH TRANSITION FUND (AHTF)

In September 2004, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) which seeks to improve the integration of Federal, Provincial and Territorial funded health systems, adapt existing health programs and services to better serve the needs of Aboriginal peoples (Inuit, First Nations and Métis). This fund further seeks to improve access to health services and increase the participation of Inuit in the design, delivery, and evaluation of health programs and services.

The funding provided by the AHTF, which was initially developed for First Nations south of the 60th parallel, was intended to enable Federal-Provincial-Territorial governments and Aboriginal communities to devise new ways to integrate and adapt existing health services to better meet the needs of Aboriginal people. The work conducted under the umbrella of the AHTF falls under three envelopes: Adaptation (\$80-million), Integration (\$80-million), and Pan-Canadian (\$40-million). This funding is in place until 2010.

ITK's work on the AHTF has been to support and facilitate the close collaboration of regional and national Inuit governments and organizations. The objective is to develop projects aimed at improving health policy development, programs and services to make them more relevant and responsive to Inuit. ITK has also produced a newsletter on Inuit and the AHTF, distributed widely by the close of the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Funded through the AHTF, an Inuit AHTF Working Group began operating in 2006, year two of the program, and is composed of four Regional Engagement Coordinators (RECs) situated in each of the regional land claims organizations and an AHTF coordinator at the ITK Health and Environment department. For the purpose of accessing the Pan-Canadian envelope, the AHTF working group includes a representative from the Inuit Tuttarvingnat Center at NAHO and a member from Pauktuutit.

ITK has worked with the AHTF Regional Engagement Coordinators (RECs) in developing four proposal ideas under the Pan Canadian Envelope. This effort resulted in the development of Inuit proposals valued at \$5-million.

The REC positions have significantly increased the level of Inuit participation in health policy and regional and community-based work. The continuation of these positions and associated projects ensures that programs and services are developed with an Inuit perspective. Active Inuit involvement is a key component to a health care system that not only considers and provides for Inuit needs, but devises policy for and with Inuit.

ARCTICNET

ITK, as the national Inuit organization, has a vested interest in partnering with ArcticNet to transform our firsthand knowledge of the changing Arctic into impact assessments, national policies and adaptation strategies, which will in turn benefit Inuit at a community, regional, national and international level.

The direct involvement and partnership of Inuit in the scientific process is a primary goal of ArcticNet. ITK is an important partner to ensure this is fulfilled. By engaging its networks in the bilateral exchange of knowledge, capacity building, training and technology ITK helps to ensure Inuit engagement at all levels of ArcticNet. ArcticNet, with ITK's help, provides a unique multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral environment for the training of the next generation of scientists (including Inuit) which is urgently needed to ensure the stewardship of the Canadian Arctic.

In February 2008, the ITK Science Advisor participated in the RMC meeting in Ottawa. Following the review of projects, concern was raised regarding the vacancy in the Inuit Research Management Committee membership. At the ITK BOD in June 2008 Marina Biasutti (Director, Environment Department Nunatsiavut Government) was selected as the successful candidate.

The ITK President occupies one of four Inuit seats on the ArcticNet board. Ms. Simon attended the March 2008 meeting advocating for regional scientific and board meetings in the Arctic; requesting a commitment from ArcticNet to provide the ITK Communications Director with updates regarding ongoing media requests; and additional funds for an annual Inuit Research Advisor (IRA) in-person meeting. The IRAs are located in each of the four Inuit land claim regions and are co-funded by ArcticNet, Nasivvik and the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP).

The IRA positions were established to facilitate research in Inuit regions on contaminants, climate change and environmental health and to engage Inuit in undertaking research activities of importance to their communities. At this meeting the need for two working groups was raised. Ms. Simon has taken the lead on the Inuit Partnership Committee (IPC). The objective of the IPC is to ensure the ArcticNet partnership operates efficiently and effectively so that both Inuit and others can gain the most from the program.

With financial support provided by ArcticNet and the NCP ITK co-organized the participation of approximately 50 Inuit to the International Arctic Change 2008 Conference. Increasing the engagement and visibility of Inuit at Arctic Change greatly enhanced the Annual Science Meeting and allowed for an Inuit specific session on community-based research. Having a large Inuit delegation present at Arctic Change also increased opportunities for Inuit-Science knowledge exchanges.

Initiated by ITK and supported by the IRA program as a whole, an IRA review was conducted in response to expressed challenges facing the IRA program. Through perspectives of those involved with the IRA program, the report identifies successes and challenges of the program as well as formulates and outlines recommendations for the most appropriate ways to increase capacity, enhance research community connection, and improve research coordination of the IRAs.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Although this year has seen some challenges in terms of staffing for the Maternal Child Health file lead, ITK continued to be involved in advancing issues related to this issue. ITK sits on the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Liaison Committee of the Canadian Pediatric Society, and was involved in the planning for the 3rd International meeting on Indigenous Child Health which was held in March in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Approximately 300 child health providers and researchers who work with indigenous children and families attended this conference. Also included was a presentation on mental wellness by President Simon along with a panel of Inuit youth.

INUIT TOBACCO REDUCTION STRATEGY (ITRS)

Following the cuts to the First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy in September 2006, ITK met with the Director General of Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to express concern regarding the cuts.

Subsequently, ITK was granted funds to create an Inuit Tobacco Reduction Strategy which will go to the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH) for final approval.

The Inuit Tobacco Network (ITN), which has become the National Inuit Tobacco Task Group (NITTG) met with additional representatives from the regions, an Inuit elder, and with FNIHB to initiate the development of the strategy.

The Tobacco Programs Division within Health Canada manages the tobacco funds. ITK is working with this group on a call for proposal to obtain the necessary funding to deliver the strategy for Inuit, and ITK and NITTG met with the Tobacco Programs Division in early March 2009 to become acquainted and to prepare for the call for proposal.

ABORIGINAL DIABETES INITIATIVE (ADI)

2008-2009 proved to be one of the busiest and productive years on the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI). Activities included training, attending conferences, Inuit Diabetes Network (IDN) logo launch, IDN face to face meetings, and submitting the ADI Renewal for 2010.

Eight Nunatsiavut women graduated from the ADI Community Diabetes Prevention Workers training in Goose Bay, NL in July 2009.

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami together with the IDN members participated at the ADI Forum in Vancouver where the IDN logo was unveiled. The logo is reflective of Inuit culture and pride: a drum with ancestral teachings; a qulliq (oil lamp) with ceremonial purposes; iqaluk (fish), a staple diet; and the inussuk as a directional marker. IDN promotional items have been distributed to Inuit communities.

Inuit were very well represented at the 2nd International Diabetes in Indigenous Peoples Forum. IDN members in attendance included Nunatsiavut nurses whom had assisted in the Inuit Health Survey, and Inuit throatsingers. IDN Chair, Looee Arreak co-presented with ITK ADI Coordinator, Looee Okalik on the Inuttitut Diabetes Awareness CD produced with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and CBC Iqaluit. ITK co-presented with Dr. Grace Egeland of McGill, Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) on the Health Promotion project in Pangnirtung, NU.

The IDN members held an annual meeting in Pangnirtung, NU in February 2009 where they shared their ADI developments with colleagues. They also addressed their priorities, challenges and next steps during the two day meeting. Liz Gordon, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) is the new IDN Chair as the next annual meeting will be in the Inuvialuit Region.

The IDN Chair and the ITK ADI Coordinator attended the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association's 5th National Conference on Diabetes and Aboriginal Peoples. The conference theme was, Restoring Balance. It was held in Ottawa in March 2009. First Nations and Inuit Health Branch also sponsored three additional Inuit attendees at the conference. ITK co-presented at this conference with the Assembly of First Nations and FNIHB on ADI. Health Minister, Leona Aglukkaq was the keynote speaker at the opening of the conference.

HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES (HHR)

ITK is committed to improving Inuit Health Human Resources (HHR) capacity and creating awareness regarding the HHR needs of Inuit. ITK continues to pursue relationships with professional associations, educational institutions and other relevant stakeholders, to advance Inuit HHR issues.

ITK has had a very active year involving collaborative efforts with federal partners at the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI) Joint Research and Evaluations Working Group meetings and the AHHRI First Nations and Inuit Advisory Committee meetings to support the evaluation and renewal of this initiative.

Funding was acquired under the AHHRI to form an Inuit HHR Technical Working Group to develop an Inuit specific HHR strategy which will then evolve into an Action Plan. Direction provided at the Kuujuaq Inuit Health Summit was behind the development of this proposal to acquire funding and is consistent with the aim of the regions. The first discussions on the Inuit HHR strategy took place via teleconference in November, 2008. A literature review was conducted to further enhance work in this area of HHR. A meeting took place in Ottawa in January, 2009 to review the literature and develop an Inuit-specific framework. Work on the development of the strategy and action plan will continue into the coming year.

MENTAL WELLNESS

Mental Wellness activities continued to progress in 2008. Following the approval in 2007 of the Alianait Strategic Action Plan, the Inuit Mental Health Task Group met in December, 2008 to begin initial discussion on the next steps.

As new partnerships developed, ITK was invited to participate on new mental health and addictions initiatives. This prompted the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH) to hold a special mental wellness meeting with members from the Inuit Mental Health Task Group to address strategic direction regarding mental wellness. Invited guests to this meeting included senior representatives from the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

ITK continues to work with the regions, NICoH and Alianait on identifying specific needs and enhancing addiction and mental wellness services and programs. Specifically, ITK has been meeting with regional land claim organizations regarding regional mental wellness teams. The purpose of these meetings was to strengthen mental wellness partnerships, provide input, to gather support for the Inuit specific mental wellness process and to establish long term collaboration.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Inuit in Canada are feeling the firsthand effects as global warming continues to maintain its position at the top of the world's agenda.

Climate change impacts and adaptation for Inuit Nunaat is a very important issue and how we, as a global community of humanity, respond and address these issues will be crucial to everyone - now, and into the future. The ability to adapt has never been more important for Inuit than it is today.

During 2008, ITK president Mary Simon was active in delivering keynote addresses on climate change impacts and adaption for Inuit Nunaat (Climate and Law; Electricity and Climate Change). Through these speaking engagements Inuit emphasized the need for leadership at all levels of society, the need for integrated robust approaches to climate change impacts, and the need to examine carbon pricing policies to ensure they are simple and transparent. Inuit are feeling the effects of climate change in our daily life and a concerted global effort is required to slow this "climate crisis".

The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada announced a new program titled: The Climate Change and Health Adaptation in Northern First Nations and Inuit Communities. This program is aimed to develop Inuit community based research activities to find meaningful human health (physical, mental, emotional & spiritual), and adaptation strategies in a changing climate.

In previous years, research as it relates to Inuit has come a long way - from research about Inuit, to research on Inuit, and finally research conducted by Inuit. With Inuit taking the lead in addressing important issues facing our communities, we can conduct our own research and develop adaptation plans that are more relevant and culturally appropriate to us.

ITK is committed to working with other partners such as Health Canada in raising the awareness of the importance of climate change and health related impacts, and to make awareness of the funding opportunities available to assist Inuit in communities to reach this goal.

As part of this awareness, ITK organized the Community Based Research and Climate Change Forum, which was held January 13 - 14, 2009 in Ottawa. The forum brought together over 40 participants from Inuit communities, organizations, university and government researchers, representatives from key agencies and funding programs, to discuss opportunities related to Inuit climate change and health research.

The goal of the forum was to determine and discuss the tools and resources Inuit communities need to lead or participate fully in research initiatives, building capacity, to present funding opportunities, and to increase collaboration between Inuit communities, organizations and regional/national agencies around climate change research.

The National Inuit Climate Change Committee (NICCC) was formed in the fall of 2008 and held its first meeting in January, 2009 in Ottawa. The NICCC consists of members from all four Land Claim Organizations, as well as observers from ICC (Canada), Pauktuutit, NAHO, Nasivvik, and an invitation has been extended to the National Inuit Youth Council.

This committee serves as a collective voice for Inuit on climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation issues, and will provide Inuit specific recommendations towards the development and implementation of plans, approaches, priorities and actions, and to facilitate strategic advice regarding on-going climate change initiatives. NICCC held its second meeting in Goose Bay, Labrador.

CONTAMINANTS

There is some good news to report at the outset of this report that many of the old contaminants ITK and ICC fought so hard to eliminate from the Arctic with the signing of the Stockholm Convention in 2001 are now slowly declining from the Arctic ecosystems and from Inuit. This has been accomplished through a very unique and productive partnership with the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP). The NCP has been in operation for over 15 years conducting world class science and research and developing solid partnerships with northern Aboriginal organizations. ITK has been a very active member of this partnership during this time helping to communicate and educate Inuit and other northerners about the research and impacts of contaminants in the Arctic.

Unfortunately, there is also some bad news to report in that there are still many contaminants in the Arctic. Scientists are experiencing difficulty in accurately measuring an increase or decrease in Mercury levels, for example. As well, new contaminants which are not part of the Stockholm Convention are on the increase in the Arctic.

Communicating about the effects of contaminants on Inuit health has thus become more complex. ITK works in cooperation with all Inuit regions to gather, organize and critically review information on all aspects of communication of contaminants and Inuit health. To do this, ITK plays an important role in coordinating and working with research programs such as NCP International Polar Year (IPY), the Northern Ecosystem Initiative (NEI), ArcticNet, and the Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments.

RESEARCH

In April 2008, ITK coordinated an Inuit Health and Environment Research Forum in Ottawa. The intent of the research forum was to bring together Inuit organizations, university and government researchers, and representatives of key agencies and funding programs to present and discuss issues related to Inuit health and environment research. A final report has been written and is available through ITK.

The goals of the forum were:

- ▶ Identify emerging research priorities in the area of health and environment research from a variety of organizations/people.
- ▶ Improve networking between Inuit communities, various organizations as well as national and regional research agencies.
- ▶ Facilitate discussions related to the following themes: gaps in the field of health and environment research, funding allotments, ethics and data management, and long term capacity building.
- ▶ Participate in a collaborative process to provide input on a possible Arctic Research Legacy.

In June 2008, the ITK Board approved the Health and Environment strategic plan. This strategy outlined the creation of six inter-departmental working groups including the ITK Research Team. The ITK Research Team helps to place research activities and information into the broader Inuit Arctic research framework and plays a key role in avoiding overlap of work and research in communities through integration and cross-networking activities with researchers and students from various Universities and research programs (for example NCP and IPY).

The role of the Research Team is multifaceted. It raises awareness of Arctic/Inuit research, addresses Inuit specific research needs and priorities, and provides recommendations and key messages to the ITK Board of Directors and staff. It also identifies relevant Arctic and Inuit-related funding programs and academic institutions, as well as contributing to the development of the Inuit Knowledge Centre and the National Inuit Committee on Ethics and Research (NICER).

ITK and Inuit Tuttarvingat are committed to the development of the NICER and will act as a secretariat to this committee. The NICER will participate in a collaborative process to provide input to health and environment research in the Canadian Arctic, and identify emerging research priorities and to improve and enhance networking and facilitate knowledge translation. The NICER plays an active role in helping provide Inuit involvement and positions on research and research ethics at the regional, national and international levels. In recognition of Inuit interests in improving and maintaining appropriate research conduct and processes, the NICER will develop effective responses to identified Canadian policy statements and guidelines and prepare Inuit positions as necessary.

RESEARCH AND DATA INITIATIVES

In response to data needs identified by the Health Canada/ITK Task Group, discussions have taken place around developing Inuit health data and information. ITK is working with federal departments to produce a number of key health indicators for Inuit regions including infant mortality rates, leading causes of death and life expectancy. Work is also underway to investigate the feasibility of gaining Inuit-specific health information through record linkages.

ITK is working in partnership with Inuit Tuttarvingat and Inuit regions on the Naasautit Inuit Health Statistics project, which is funded by the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund. The project will meet the common need for credible and reliable health statistics for Inuit organizations and communities and will build capacity to gather and share reliable health information in Inuit regions.

SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA)

ITK is involved with the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) through supporting the Inuvialuit representative on the Council (Larry Carpenter). ITK is a member of the Council's Policy and Planning Committee along with AFN, NWAC, MNC, and CAP. Meetings and teleconferences were held in 2008 as in previous years on a regular basis. In 2008, the Council hosted a SARA Aboriginal Conference in Halifax in February 2009. ITK specifically coordinated regional representation to attend the conference, as well as ensuring there was an Inuit specific discussion within the agenda that focused on Inuit input on problems and recommendations in regard to SARA.

An objective of this conference was to develop input that would go toward the Five-Year Review of SARA that began late this fiscal year with the federal Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development facilitating the process. The SARA review will be on-going during 2009. ITK will be planning on making a presentation to the Standing Committee in May 2009. The Inuit regional organizations will also be planning on making presentations.

During the conference, NACOSAR presented awards to those who made contributions toward Aboriginal initiatives in regard to SARA as well as wildlife management. During the conference, through the help of NTI, ITK assisted the Council in presenting a joint award to the Hunters and Trappers Organizations of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord for their work in community based management of Peary Caribou. Jaypatee Akkeagok accepted the award on behalf of the two communities.

As per ITK's role on SARA, there was continued and on-going communications between ITK and each of the regions in relation to SARA and wildlife issues in general throughout 2008 to ensure ITK maintained communications from the regional to the national levels, as well as with the ITK Board level.

WILDLIFE ISSUES

Polar Bear

The major wildlife issue in 2008 on all levels has been with respect to the Polar Bear. The issue has transcended all boundaries of consideration and jurisdiction, from local to regional, to national and international. It has manifested itself in areas that include legal, rights, policy, political, advocacy, environmental, economic, consultative, cultural, research, and status listings.

ITK assisted Environment Canada and the Minister's office in coordinating Inuit regional participation for the Polar Bear Roundtable held on January 16, 2009 in Winnipeg Manitoba. ITK hosted an Inuit caucus meeting the day before the Roundtable so that Inuit representatives from each of the regions were able to share each other's concerns on what each member will be stating at the table. It was also

important to ensure that Inuit displayed a united voice during the Roundtable. There was a substantial level of Inuit participation at the Roundtable.

The Environment Minister announced and clarified that the Roundtable was the beginning of a consultative process that will begin in 2009 and wrap up in 2010 with the Minister's decision on what to list the Polar Bear as on SARA. Currently, COSEWIC has recommended that the Polar Bear be listed as "Special Concern". Following the Roundtable, Environment Canada then embarked on a cross-Canada tour of affected Inuit and First Nations communities to consult on the issue of the Polar Bear listing. The consultations are expected to continue throughout 2009.

On the international front, ITK, ICC, and the Inuit regions intervened on Environment Canada's plans to present to a European Union (EU) scientific body in December 2008. Environment Canada (EC) proposed to provide negative population status findings for Kane Basin, Baffin Bay, Western Hudson Bay, and Southern Beaufort Polar Bear subpopulations. They also proposed a Canadian self-imposed export ban on some or all of these subpopulations in relation to trade and shipment anywhere outside of Canada. Canada indicated that the self-imposed export ban was to ensure that the EU would not make a decision to impose an import ban of all Polar Bear originating from Canada.

As a result of Inuit pressure, EC adjusted its presentation and withdrew its findings and export ban suggestions due to a lack of consultation with Inuit on these matters. Nevertheless, the EU body decided following the meeting to put in place a temporary ban on Kane Basin and Baffin Bay Polar Bear imports into the EU, likely due to the fact that these are shared subpopulations with Greenlandic hunters and that Greenland has already banned its export of these two particular subpopulations of Polar Bear.

There was a possibility of Canada and Greenland discussing a joint agreement on the management of these transboundary subpopulations, but nothing concrete has come to ITK's attention. However, EC is planning its consultative approach with affected Inuit regions in respect to the subpopulation findings to provide positions that will eventually be presented at the next major conference of the parties to the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) in 2010.

ITK also assisted Environment Canada in regard to Inuit participation for the Polar Bear Range States meeting held in Tromsø, Norway in March 2009. The meeting is a gathering of the parties who are signatories to the 1973 International Polar Bear Agreement that include Canada, USA, Norway, Russia, and Denmark/Greenland. While ITK and ICC were unable to attend, the chairs of the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) attended on delegation with Environment Canada, and an advisor with NTI attended as an observer.

During the Range States meeting, ITK attended a Nunavut Wildlife Symposium in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut where many wildlife issues within Nunavut were discussed by participants predominantly comprised of Inuit hunters, elders, and organizational representatives. Government officials, co-management representatives, and scientific researchers were also present.

From ITK's perspective, key concerns included the problems related to scientific research in terms of estimation accuracies, methodologies, and the handling, drugging, and stresses placed upon animals such as polar bear and caribou during research. Many Inuit spoke against these approaches and wanted to seek better approaches that were less intrusive and more humane since these animals are the food sources for Inuit. The symposium reiterated many of the gaps that still exist between Inuit and western scientific knowledge and that it will take some time yet to fully address solutions to these gaps.

Sealing

ITK continues to monitor and respond where and however it can to the EU wide seal ban currently proposed. ITK sits on the Seals Advisory Committee chaired by Ambassador Loyola Sullivan (Canada's Ambassador for Fisheries Conservation). The committee primarily includes participation from

organizations and governments involved in the commercial sealing industry, with northern/Inuit based sealing interests represented by Government of Nunavut and by ICC (Canada).

In parallel with the Committee's deliberations, ITK has been actively reacting to the keeping EU wide seal ban, and has repeatedly and publicly denounced the ban, including an Inuit exemption that will have very little positive effect in an international sealing market place that would be killed off by an EU wide ban. As of spring 2009, the reported price of a seal pelt on the market place is around \$15, which is a remarkable drop from \$90 a year or two previously. In 2009, Nunavut was unable to sell off any of its 10,000 seal pelts at auction. This downturn is likely a result of two intervening factors – one, the prospect of an EU ban; and two, the global economic recession.

ITK and ICC have provided joint statements in the media on these matters, including a joint media release pointing out the illegalities of the proposed seal ban in respect to EU Treaty provisions and international and internal EU trade laws and rules. Inuit continue to question the EU's political intentions to judge Inuit and sealing communities based on the EU's moral platform and its stance as influenced by anti-sealing and animal rights organizations such as IFAW and the HSUS in respect to animal welfare and the hunting, trade, and use of seal products.

Other objections include the EU's intentions to raise trade barriers during a time of economic recession where such barriers have been discouraged (i.e. G20 Summit). The EU's proposed policy to be involved in circumpolar issues and vying for an observer seat at the Arctic Council have raised concerns about how the EU's seal ban flies in the face of the EU's proposed closer involvement in circumpolar affairs. ITK also assisted in part with a Nunavut Sivuniksavut day of counter protest on Parliament Hill on March 15, 2009 to detract attention away from the anti-sealing protest which took place at the same location.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

ITK attended the 4th IUCN World Congress, October 2008, in Barcelona, Spain. ITK attended as an accredited and voting member of the IUCN and hosted a delegation of Inuit members from the Inuvialuit and Nunavut regions. ITK co-attended with ICC as an international member of the IUCN.

ITK's delegation attended workshops during the first week of the Congress, largely focusing on issues of terrestrial and marine wildlife management and research. The Inuit delegates had opportunities to participate as presenters on a polar bear panel/workshop hosted by a former director under the US Fish and Wildlife Service. ITK participated on panel as well for a session that dealt with Biodiversity and its relationship with culture and indigenous knowledge.

ICC International, hosted by ICC chair Patricia Cochran, held a session on the conflict between traditional knowledge and western science in relation to environmental changes in the Arctic.

During the second week of the Congress, the ITK and ICC delegations participated in the plenary, contact group, and voting processes of the IUCN World Congress Assembly. As many as 140 motions were considered, debated, and voted upon, and almost the entire motions brought forward were passed as resolutions or recommendations either as is or revised.

Following the IUCN World Congress, ITK will engage in follow-up activities that will include regular meetings of the Canadian Committee of the IUCN based in Ottawa. Furthermore, and in concert with one of the IUCN's decisions during the congress, ITK may participate in a process that seeks to bring together two IUCN Commissions, which include the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Commission on Environmental Economics and Social Policy (CEESP).

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

The First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care (FNIHCC) Program was created in 1998 to provide basic Home and Community Care services. The program was designed to be comprehensive, culturally sensitive, accessible, effective and equitable to that of other Canadians and would respond to the unique health and social needs of the Inuit communities.

The term “continuing care” refers to a range of holistic medical and social services for individuals who do not have, or who have lost, some capacity to care for themselves, including elderly individuals, adults with physical disabilities, adults with mental health needs, and children with special needs. Continuing care services may be provided in the home, in supportive living environments, or in institutional settings.

The National Inuit Committee on Health has identified that Home and Community Care and Continuing Care have been an emerging priority for Inuit. For the past few years, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) has participated in a Working Group on Continuing Care by providing Inuit perspectives into the development of the Continuing Care Options Analysis document. This is a comparative analysis of options to develop of a full range of continuing care services.

These services are an increasingly important component of the continuum of health care model. The need for flexible, responsive programming and service delivery across Inuit communities is as great a need, if not greater, than that of all Canadians. As with all continuing care and long-term care successes, the future achievements of Inuit-specific in-home programs and services depends upon the quality of care, cost of care, access to services, and relationships between the multi-various providers involved in planning for and providing continuing care and long-term care services.

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (CEAA) REPORT

The Minister’s Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC) on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) met once during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. A meeting scheduled for December was postponed and then cancelled. The RAC Subcommittee on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) completed its work. The federal government introduced changes to CEAA regulations without the RAC’s involvement or knowledge.

The RAC held its 44th meeting on June 4-5, 2008, in Ottawa. ITK is a member of the RAC and its subcommittees and working groups, and attended these meetings. ITK also participated in a workshop to review the newly-developed CEAA Aboriginal Engagement Training package.

The RAC continues to focus its discussions on the upcoming Parliamentary review of CEAA (to begin in 2010) and what changes need to be made in the overall structure and application of the Act.

The SEA Subcommittee commissioned two studies. The first is a review of key SEA or “SEA-like” experiences (e.g. regional impact assessment) in Canada and elsewhere, to identify common elements of success or weakness. The second is an exploration of policy and legal options for implementing SEA at the federal level.

It is assumed that a stronger SEA could help protect and advance Inuit interests in trans-boundary and inter-jurisdictional contexts, but must not impinge on negotiated Inuit land use planning and EA processes. A separate issue is whether Inuit involvement in SEA processes can or should be designed to meet S.35 rights requirements.

Advancements in the policy and practice of SEA will be also beneficial to Inuit EA practitioners as well as communities and project proponents by providing improved methodology, improved planning, and project assessment processes.

The CEAA Aboriginal Engagement Training Pilot advice and orientation is generic enough to apply to non-CEAA processes, but much of it is specific to CEAA and will not apply to trans-boundary or

multi-jurisdictional assessments. Federal EA administrators who have taken the course will be more knowledgeable of and sympathetic to the range of Aboriginal realities in Canada.

An amendment to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement confirmed that the Nunavut Impact Review Board process is the sole environmental assessment process that applies within the Nunavut Settlement Area. This amendment was negotiated between Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the federal government.

The “Major Projects Management Office” (MPMO) is intended to act as a single window for proponents from pre-filing, through the EA process, and through the permitting process. This includes Crown consultation with Aboriginal peoples. It has no immediate effect north of 60 but does affect Nunatsiavut and Nunavik. Under the MPMO, the CEA Agency is now responsible for both “Aboriginal Engagement” in environmental assessments and the Crown’s duty to consult on development projects.

Amendments to CEAA regulations on exclusion and substitution, along with changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act that often triggers CEAA, were introduced as part of the government’s “economic stimulus package” to reduce potential delays in implementing infrastructure projects due to EA requirements. RAC members were not consulted on or informed of these changes, and it is not clear what their impact will be.

INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

Arctic Peoples, Culture, Resilience and Caribou (ACRC) is a research proposal for International Polar Year, led by a network of northern Canadian Aboriginal organizations (ITK, ICC, Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) and Gwich’in Council International (GCI)). ITK leaders have identified the concept of “community resilience” as a priority research focus to build capacity for Inuit communities and Inuit health and sustainability.

The research question is: How will Inuit communities continue to be resilient and healthy in relation to the social and ecological changes which threaten important human-environment relationships now and in the future, such as that between Inuit and an important country food resource such as caribou populations?

This project will allow Inuit organizations, researchers and all levels of government to have strong new evidence, and a range of strategic plans, actions and policies to guide community resilience and health in response to changing environmental and other conditions.

This year, progress focused around the development of the proposal which was finalized at the beginning of 2009. This three-year project includes two case studies in Inuit communities - Baker Lake and Aklavik. At this time Nunavik and Nunatsiavut are not included in the currently listed communities for the Inuit case studies because of the focus and limit of the projects for two Inuit communities within the current funding envelope. If other funding becomes available the project will try and incorporate already existing work in those regions into this case study.

Specific outcomes of the project will include:

- ▶ An understanding of the nature of resilience and adaptive capacity in Arctic communities from a human ecological perspective, and the knowledge and ability to sustain, enhance, and protect it.
- ▶ Knowledge of the human-caribou relationships to provide bases for further research, and for curricula and training at all levels of the education system.
- ▶ A knowledge base for planning for improved, culturally-inclusive policy and programs.

- A series of alternative strategies to support community resilience.
- Increased capacity for Inuit-led and directed research.
- A new model for sharing research results and experience among Inuit communities.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator (YSPC) continues to attend Alianait Inuit Specific Mental Wellness Task Group meetings, and has been actively involved in working with the regions to discuss moving forward on Mental Wellness and Suicide prevention planning.

For the past three years, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) in conjunction with Inuit Tuttarvinga, NIYC, and Pauktuutit have actively held an event on World Suicide Prevention Day. This year, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) joined the event, along with the Ottawa group, Tungasuvvinga Inuit and the students of Nunavut Sivuniksavut. Susan Aglukark was able to be a part of this event and was able to share some very inspirational words with us on Parliament Hill. We received very positive and motivational feedback and have now begun exploring the possibility of hosting the event for the full day. This event was a huge success and would not have been made possible without the collaborative effort between our Inuit organizations and the tremendous support we received from the public.

The YSPC, along with key members of the five demonstration projects across Canada that are funded under the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS) with Health Canada through FNIHB, were invited to attend a conference called the Spirit of Life Network (SOLN) in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The purpose of the SOLN Conference was to increase familiarity of the respective demonstration projects and the host communities. It was also to review evaluation plans and finalize the overall SOLN Evaluation Plan.

The YSPC also actively participated in key discussions regarding mental wellness, some in consultation with the Mental Health Commission (MHC). This process contributed to the development of a national mental health strategy which the MHC is currently preparing.

YSPC was also involved with the planning Committee for the “Youth Resiliency TV Show: Makkuktuuvunga Upimavunga, I am Young and I am Proud” at NAHO. Advisory Group with the Aboriginal Shield Program, an Aboriginal Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Program at the Drugs and Crime Awareness Service (DOCAS) of the RCMP.

This program is currently undergoing major revisions and ITK’s role as a member of the advisory committee is to ensure Inuit content is incorporated into the program.

Director: Elizabeth Ford

Senior Health Policy Coordinator: Cheryl Young

Senior Environment Policy Coordinator: John Cheechoo

Senior Policy Advisor/ Researchers: Eric Loring, Soha Kneen, Libby Dean, Leanna Ellsworth

Senior Project Coordinators; Tracy Brown

Project Coordinators: Selma Ford, Looee Okalik, Jim Cincotta

Technical Advisor- Health: Jennifer Forsyth

Arctic Net Coordinator: Meghan McKenna

Administration Assistant: Christina Sammurtok

Socio-Economic Development Department

The 2008-2009 period was characterized by growth within the Department. The team grew from four to eight in a short span of time and will continue to grow and strengthen. The department continues to work with a strong vision and objectives based on the ITK Strategic Objectives. Below is a summary of our departmental activities during the reporting period.

EDUCATION

Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre, Canadian Council on Learning

ITK continued its role as a part-time Northern Coordinator for the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre (ABLK), with the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) under a two-year (2007-2009) service agreement signed between ABLK and ITK. ITK continued to house the part-time position and serve as an information distribution, events coordination and facilitation centre. As a Northern Coordinator, ITK contributes to the fulfilment of the foundational functions of CCL-ABLK and strategic directions:

Research and Knowledge Mobilization

- ▶ Promote and identify research that will nourish respectful and transformative learning environments for Aboriginal people.
- ▶ Link current and future scholarship with the changing needs of Aboriginal learning.

Monitoring and Reporting

- ▶ Support national efforts of CCL to monitor forms and impact of learning, contributing to the Composite Learning Index and providing access to this knowledge and information to the Canadian public through dialogue, symposia, brochures, websites, and newsletters.

Knowledge Exchange and Information Sharing

- ▶ Work in partnership with existing organizations with expertise in lifelong learning to build on their work and supporting effective practices in all areas of lifelong learning analysis, and studies.
- ▶ Animate through various forums research and evidence based ideas for action.

As the ABLK/CCL mandate is set to expire in March 2009, the Knowledge Centre is working on producing final publications and reports, and other products.

Inuit Education Summit

ITK continued its important work under its Education Initiative by hosting the first ever National Inuit Education Summit in Inuvik in April 2008. Phase one of the Education Initiative, completed the previous year, through funding provided by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, resulted in the production of four background papers on the successes and gaps in Inuit education. This background research served as the foundation for discussions at the Inuit Education Summit.

Through funding provided by the Canada Millennium Foundation, the Canadian Council on Learning, the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre, and the Inuit Relations Secretariat, the Education Summit

focused on six Summit themes: 1) Capacity Building, 2) Graduating Bilingual Students, 3) Mobilizing Our Partners in Education, 4) Building Our Curriculum and Teaching Practices, 5) Building Post-Secondary Success and 6) The Importance of Collecting and Sharing Information.

The Summit attracted over 85 delegates from the four provinces and territories, regional Inuit organizations, federal government representatives, and other organizations. Among the participants were education ministers, educators, administrators, policy makers, elders, other provincial, territorial and federal government representatives, Regional Inuit Association representatives, and observers. The highlight of the Summit was the address to the delegates by the Governor-General of Canada, Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, and her participation in the breakout session on bilingual education.

During the Summit, ITK President Mary Simon held bilateral meetings with the Ministers of Education of Nunavut and NWT, senior officials of Indian and Northern Affairs, as well as representatives of Makivik Corporation, Kativik School Board, NTI, IRC, Labrador School Board, and Pauktuutit to discuss a collective vision for Inuit education and support for an Inuit Education Accord and National Inuit Education Strategy.

The Education Summit underscored the need to invest in key areas of Inuit education that have provided successful learning outcomes for Inuit such as education leadership development, expanded teacher education programs, Inuit language programming, early childhood education programs such as the language nest programs, and research into Inuit education.

A draft Inuit Education Accord emerged from the Summit discussions between education and Inuit leaders and was signed by the parties during the year and in a public ceremony with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs in Iqaluit on April 2, 2009.

The next phase of the ITK Education Initiative will involve the establishment of a National Committee on Inuit Education that will work on the development and release of a National Inuit Education Strategy.

In June 2008, two months after the Education Summit, ITK President Mary Simon represented Inuit in Parliament during the Prime Minister's Historic Apology on Residential Schools. ITK's Education Initiative is set to build from this Apology toward a new era in Inuit Education.

“Can we allow another year, another month, another minute to slip by without saying... it is time... it is time to make a fundamental difference in the educational outcomes of our children.”

- ITK President Mary Simon, Closing Remarks, to delegates at the ITK Education Summit.

Inuit Human Resource Development Technical Committee (IHRDTC)

Throughout the year ITK has worked on activities, outlined under the Policy Collaboration Agreement with the Department of Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) for 2007-2009. ITK continued to inform the IHRDTC members of various programs, activities and research initiatives as it pertains to employment and training for Inuit. Labour market information was provided regarding the Aboriginal Human Resource Council (AHRC) initiatives and programs, Building Aboriginal Environmental Human Resources (BEAHR) programs, HRSDC research initiatives, policies and programs, and other relevant information.

Throughout the year ITK coordinated Inuit Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) holders' participation and presentations at various conferences and workshops. Inuit AHRDA took part in the Aboriginal Human Resource Council's conference in Montreal in April 2008. In May Inuit took an active part in the joint session of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit AHRDA holders with HRSDC. A united voice delivered a strong message to the federal department regarding the post 2009 Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDS). Throughout the summer ITK continued holding meetings with the Aboriginal Affairs Directorate within HRSDC to discuss ongoing working issues and informing Inuit AHRDA holders of the developments.

The work plan developed for the fiscal year included research projects to collect information and create a database on employment and training programs and services available to youth throughout the Inuit regions. The research was launched in September 2008 and the final report is near completion. Research activities are important in order to have a clear picture of the labour market situation for Inuit youth in the regions and for evidence-based input into the post 2009 AHRDS successor strategy.

Inuit AHRDA from Nunavut took training offered by the AHRC to hold career awareness workshops in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. The workshop materials, Guiding Circles booklets one and two have been translated into Inuktitut and Roman Orthography and are being distributed among Inuit AHRDA holders in four Inuit regions. ITK also sat on the Advisory Committee of the Mining Human Resources Council (MiHR) and contributed to the development of the Mining Guide for Aboriginal Communities. The copies of the guide will be distributed among Inuit AHRDAs.

On January 27-28, 2009 IHRDTC held a strategic planning meeting in Montreal. As the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy is set to expire, the Inuit AHRDA holders have started working on the development of strategic plans for a new strategy.

A significant event took place on March 2-3, 2009 in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The Aboriginal Human Resource Council held a “Northern Workforce Connex” that brought regional employers and AHRDAs together to discuss how to improve the employment and training situation in the territory. The event was successful as it allowed the supply and demand side to discuss the issues they face and try to find solutions. The participants also made commitments to work on improving the situation through small steps each organization can undertake to help an individual obtain training and find employment.

As part of the human development policy review HRSDC launched a two stage evaluation process of randomly selected Aboriginal AHRDA holders. Two Inuit organizations have been evaluated. ITK took part in the work of the Evaluation Advisory Committee and provided Inuit AHRDA holders with the updates received from the HRSDC Strategic Analysis, Audit and Evaluation branch.

The following key events took place during 2008-2009:

- ▶ Inuit, First Nations, Métis HRDA holders and HRSDC joint session in May, 2008
- ▶ BEAHR Steering Committee meeting in May 2008
- ▶ Aboriginal Human Resource Council Board of Directors meeting, June 2008 in Iqaluit, Nunavut
- ▶ IHRDTC Strategic planning meeting in January 2009 in Montreal, Quebec
- ▶ BEAHR Steering Committee meeting in February 2009
- ▶ Nunavut Workforce Connex in March 2009 in Iqaluit, Nunavut

VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

ITK and the National Inuit Committee on Vancouver 2010 (NICoV) have made a great deal of progress over the past year with respect to Inuit participation in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Inuit have forged strong collaborative partnerships with the Four Host First Nations (FHFN) and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and have been welcomed into the spirit of the Games. Undeniably, Canada’s Games will bear witness to unprecedented aboriginal participation in the history of the Olympic movement.

The National Inuit Committee on Vancouver 2010 (NICoV), referred to above, was created during this fiscal year. NICoV is comprised of representatives from each of the Inuit Land Claims Organizations as well as national and international partners.

The main 2010 activities undertaken by ITK and NiCoV in collaboration with the FHFN and VANOC for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 include:

- ▶ Entrance into a Memorandum of Understanding between ITK and the Four Host First Nations, the primary mechanism by which Inuit participation is facilitated
- ▶ A theme for Inuit participation has been established appropriately coined as “Showing the World the People Behind the Inukshuk”
- ▶ Developed in collaboration with the Inuit Regions, a concept document was submitted to David Atkins Enterprises with respect to the staging of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Games
- ▶ Facilitated submissions by Inuit Artists to the Vancouver 2010 Venues Aboriginal Arts Program, which will result in the incorporation of Aboriginal Art works at official Games venues
- ▶ Facilitating the registration of Inuit Artists in the Aboriginal Artist Database administered by VANOC
- ▶ Submission of uniquely Inuit Ringtones to the FHFN. The ringtones will be made available to a world audience during the 2010 Winter Games — sharing the distinctive sounds of Inuit culture with a global audience
- ▶ Assistance provided to Inuit performers registering with VANOC’s Performance Artist database utilized in the development of Games related programming
- ▶ Promoted the Find Your Passion in Sport Program, resulting in the selection of an Inuvialuit athlete who appears in an official 2010 poster campaign. The poster series, which has accompanying curriculum, has been distributed to all schools across Canada
- ▶ Developed, through collaboration with VANOC and the FHFN, the parameters for seven Inuit torchbearer (13-30 years of age) positions as part of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay Aboriginal Program. Also facilitated outreach activities to reach our brightest Inuit Youth
- ▶ Worked with VANOC and the FHFN to develop the parameters for three Inuit Flame Attendant Positions as part of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. The Inuit Youth (19-25 years of age) selected will travel with and care for the Olympic Flame, and run in the relay where needed
- ▶ The ITK President also spoke at the launch of the 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion, where it is anticipated an Inuit Themed Day is set to occur during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.
- ▶ ITK worked with the Inuit Regions to select Inuit artists to create paintings, prints, and drawings from all four Inuit regions to be shown at the 2010 Winter Games. Ten artists were contracted to make two works each. One artwork will be exhibited at the Games and the remainder will be reserved for an art auction set to occur in August of 2009. Artists will travel to Vancouver for a high-end art marketing and merchandising opportunity in the fall. A piece from each region was also selected and will be utilized at the Uqurmiut Arts and Crafts Studio as inspiration for a large tapestry. The tapestry will incorporate elements from the four Inuit regions and will be permanently installed at the Richmond Oval in Vancouver, the official venue for speed skating competitions.
- ▶ ITK and NiCoV also worked with VANOC and the FHFN to have Inuit artists perform in the 2009 Cultural Olympiad, a celebration of arts and culture and official event associated with the 2010 Winter Games. Twenty five Inuit performers participated in a series of programs in the Talking

Stick Festival as well as a special performance at the VANOC offices.

It is with great pride that Inuit stand with the FHFN and VANOC as the countdown to the Games begins. Activities over the coming months will be integral in the planning of Inuit participation in the 2010 Winter Games. It is anticipated Inuit will again have a presence during the 2010 Cultural Olympiad and work has already begun on having an additional Inuit presence at other Official Games Venues and events associated with the 2010 Winter Games.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Nunavut Community Economic Development Organization (CEDO) has taken the lead in establishing a National Inuit Economic Development Committee (NIC) to represent the interests of the Inuit Land Claims Organizations in Nunavut, Nunavik, the Inuvialuit Region, and Nunatsiavut. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) sits on this committee as an ex-officio member and helps in the coordination between the committee and ITK Board of Directors. The ITK Board of Directors formally approved the creation of the NIC by passing a resolution on July 19, 2008.

NIC is a joint Inuit/Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) committee with representatives from the Inuit organizations, INAC Headquarters and the INAC Regional offices. Working co-operatively and collaboratively with a shared understanding of co-management principles, the Committee will seek to find solutions for the economic development challenges found in Inuit Nunaat.

The work will focus on the economic conditions and needs that all Inuit regions share in common, while also developing proposed program arrangements that build upon the provisions and institutional arrangements established through each individual Inuit land claims agreement.

YOUTH

The Youth Intervenor position is funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The Youth Intervenor coordinates youth issues working closely with the National Inuit Youth Council (NIYC). On March 2-3, 2009 the Youth Intervenor attended the Workforce Connex held by the Aboriginal Human Resource Council in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Government, business leaders, and Aboriginal Employment Organizations met to offer solutions to resolve employment shortages, build employment partnerships to open doors for young Inuit, and develop training opportunities. Efforts were made to identify gaps that could improve the employment, training and educational outcomes for youth, and the social and economic conditions of Inuit overall.

The Youth Intervenor travelled to Kuujuaq, Nunavik on February 23-27, 2009 to attend the Youth Sexual Health Conference where there were youth from across the Arctic met to discuss the Youth Perspective on Sexual Health.

The NIYC board members, including the Youth Intervenor met on March 9-13, 2009 in Ottawa to assess NIYC as an organized body. Discussions included creating a Youth Division within ITK employing more full time youth as part of NIYC. The location and date for the 2009 Youth Summit was decided. It will be held in Inuvik in September.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Since 2001 ITK has enabled early childhood educators to play a fundamental role in developing a plan for the future benefit of Inuit children. ITK continues to provide guidance and feedback to the federal government on the Inuit perspective of ECD with the support of the Inuit early childhood development working group. We held numerous meetings during 2008 which included travel within Canada. Our first meeting in April 2008 was held with Health Canada officials working with the ECD and FASD unit. Together we developed objectives for the new fiscal year.

A national Inuit Education Conference was held in Inuvik, NWT in April of 2008. It resulted in a pan Inuit Education Accord which will help to provide better education services and resources to our children and youth. A stakeholders committee meeting and brain storming session was also held by Dr. Janet Smylie, a researcher and physician with St. Michael's hospital. Dr. Smylie is currently working on an assessment of Indigenous children's health in Canada, in collaboration with researchers in New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii, who share the same concern for health assessment. The project was funded by Health Canada to research health assessment with the goal of writing a report containing information describing what we know about the health of Indigenous children as well as best practices on how health assessment information can be applied to improve the health of Indigenous children.

In October, 2008 the members of the Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group met in Ottawa to update the Terms of Reference, as well as come to a mutual agreement to host a future event - a pan Inuit ECD conference. In the fall of 2008, the 2006 Aboriginal Children's Survey results were released. For the first time ever, the Government and the NGOs who work together to provide services for aboriginal families, were able to see the disparities as well as the strengths among their children. Based on the survey information, there is concrete data to build better and stronger links, resources and services for aboriginal families. Although Inuit children face many challenges, Inuit families are known for their resiliency, adaptability and strong connection to their language and culture.

INUIT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROJECT

The project was funded by Health Canada to capture a glimpse of the many gaps in services and meager resources available for ECDs. The Inuit Early Childhood Development Strategy outlines programs and services for special needs children as an important part of Inuit ECD. Inuit have identified the need for additional training and Inuit specific resources.

In 2007 the Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group developed a work plan, surveys, and research for the Special Needs Project. In 2008 the survey process began with the community and technical research phases. Four different types of surveys were created to collect information in six regions. Research was conducted in six Inuit communities, in addition to interviews conducted via telephone, and written interviews to provide information regarding training, inclusion and experience. Responses varied for each region. Community research included the collection of family and professional information regarding experiences with the children.

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is now in the final stages of producing a report for Health Canada. The report will include various recommendations from Inuit families and Inuit health care professionals. It will also outline the lack of resources and services in the four regions of Inuit Nunaat.

National Aboriginal Women's Summit

ITK worked closely with Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association in preparation for the second National Aboriginal Women's Summit (NAWS) held in Yellowknife in July, 2008. It was co-hosted by Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland, and Beverley Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). The Summit welcomed 150 Aboriginal women from across Canada to improve

social and economic conditions of Aboriginal women and their families wherever they live, both on or off-reserve and in rural, Northern or urban areas. The slogan for the Summit was Strong Women, Strong Communities. Three theme areas based on recommendations from the first Summit formed the basis for plenary sessions and breakout discussion groups. The three themes were: Strength, Balance and Honour; Health, Safety and Wellness; and Equality and Empowerment.

Violet Ford, of Inuit Circumpolar Council gave opening remarks on behalf of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Ms. Ford was also a key speaker during the Equality and Empowerment seminar.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

ITK has been in discussion with Canadian Heritage (PCH) regarding the evaluation and renewal of the Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI) program. ALI is set to be renewed for another year and in the following year the terms and conditions of all programs under the Aboriginal Affairs Branch of Canadian Heritage are being evaluated. ITK will work with the regions to ensure recommendations are put forward during the evaluation process.

ITK's national mandate extends beyond PCH and includes the Inuit regional organizations, provincial and territorial governments, and our circumpolar community. The National Inuit Language Committee (NILC) terms of reference were passed by ITK's board of directors and were amended to include a member of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) as ex-officio member. ITK has been working on strengthening connections between various language related efforts across the country, linking language to education, literacy and research.

Some of the areas that ITK has taken part in are:

- ▶ the ITK Language and Culture Coordinator (LCC) was a board member for the National Indigenous Literacy Association
- ▶ ITK presented the National Inuit Language Strategy at the ITK Inuit Education Summit
- ▶ President Mary Simon presented at the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium
- ▶ The ITK LCC as well as some members of the NILC took part in the Nunavut Literacy Council's conference, "Making the Links: Language Acquisition and Literacy Development in the Inuit Language".

The ITK LCC will also be working more closely with other ITK staff on the development of the Inuit Knowledge Centre to insure that the Inuit Language is an integral component. A newsletter for the NILC is also in development and will serve as a tool to share information and promising practices across Inuit Nunaat.

INUIT ART

ITK gave an in-kind donation of time towards the creation of an online Inuit art exhibition titled "Inuit Art Alive" developed by the Inuit Art Foundation (IAF). ITK's LCC was on the curatorial committee and had an oversight role in decisions/suggestions regarding dialects, reviewing material, and recommending translators. Other ITK staff were also called upon for their language and cultural expertise to review sections of the website and provide comments. ITK also shared language-focused resources such as websites and documents on Inuit language, culture and statistics.

The ITK board of directors also approved ITK’s direction to research the administration of the Indian and Northern Affairs Inuit Art Authentication Program known as the “Igloo Tag”. A proposal will be submitted to carry out the necessary research. ITK is studying the program and the implications of transferring it to an organization such as ITK.

Belinda Webb: Director

Sharon Edmunds: Senior Policy Adviser

Maria Wilson: Senior Project Coordinator

Andrea Carter: Administrative Assistant

Heather Campbell: Language and Culture Coordinator

Mishael Gordon: Early Childhood Development Coordinator

Shelly Watkins: Youth Intervener

Alyssa Flaherty-Spence: Suicide Prevention Coordinator

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The department is responsible for communicating newsworthy activities about ITK to the media, as well as the creation of key corporate documents such as our Annual Report, Inuktitut Magazine, and Inuit Today. We respond to inquiries about the Inuit of Canada, and ensure ITK Departments and leaders are equipped with documents and media support to inform target audiences about the Inuit of Canada. Key developments are noted below.

MEDIA SUPPORT

Support was provided for numerous initiatives, announcements, and conferences ITK President Mary Simon and our departments have been involved in. The president continued her cross-Canada speaking tour, with presentations in Ontario, and the Atlantic provinces.

During the course of the fiscal year the department issued dozens of press releases, statements, and media advisories, and wrote numerous op-eds and commentaries which appeared in The National Post, Globe and Mail, Hill Times, Embassy, Nunatsiaq News, News North, and Above & Beyond. Communications staff also coordinated numerous media interviews, notably for CBC Northern Service, Taqramiut Nipingat Incorporated, Okalakatiget Society, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Global, CBC, CTV, and CPAC.

INUIT ARCTIC TOUR

In 2003 ITK developed the “Inuit Arctic Tour” to raise awareness among senior federal bureaucrats about Inuit specific issues, and to bring high level public servants to the Arctic.

The 2009 Inuit Arctic Tour was held April 20-24 in Nunatsiavut. The group of 18 senior government officials included representation from Health Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Justice Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Environment Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, Treasury Board, and the Privy Council Office. The Government of Nunatsiavut provided stellar support throughout this tour. Critical issues affecting Inuit in Nunatsiavut were communicated to the participants in a variety of settings. Highlights included formal briefings in Nain and Goose Bay; land excursions to Ten Mile Bay for supper, and ice-fishing near Hopedale. The Vale Inco mine was visited, as were facilities in Hopedale, and support services in St. John’s. Air Labrador provided charter air services for the tour, and sponsored a supper in Goose Bay. The 2010 tour will be held in the Nunavik Region.

PUBLISHING

Inuktitut Magazine was published twice during the year, ably managed by Editor Melissa Irwin. The magazine is published in Inuktitut, English, and French. It has been published for over 40 years, and is the oldest Inuktitut language publication in Canada. Back issues are available on the ITK web site.

TECHNOLOGY

www.itk.ca continues to attract visitors from around the world who are increasingly interested in developments in the Canadian Arctic. Our web presence provides a portal to an increasing Inuit presence on YouTube, and a new Blog for our President. RSS feeds ensure continual updates to people around the globe.

Stephen Hendrie: Director of Communications

Melissa Irwin: Communications Officer

Marcel Mason: Communications Officer (May, 2009)

THANK YOU ITK DONORS

ITK is a national, non-profit charitable organization which preserves Inuit identity, culture and way of life. Your donation to ITK supported specific initiatives that were our greatest need, such as environmental work on mitigating the effects of climate change, developing means to improve Inuit health, and children and youth issues. ITK is grateful to all of our donors who have renewed their support this year for ITK. We would like to acknowledge our donors for their ongoing support of the work done at ITK. For information on how to donate to ITK please contact Natalia Haldorsen at 613.238.8181 ext 299.

Miriam Jayne	Donovan Olds
M.L. Jayne	Robert Paine
Joseph Johnson	Alphonse Parent
Eunice Johnston	Ruth Pearce
Guy Jones	Ron Philipp
David & Rosi Jory	Catalino Place
Andrea Journeaux	Ian Pringle
Catherine Kohlsmith	Jadvyga Rimsaite
Gordon Kurtz	Jerold Rothstein
Rosemary Lafrenier	Wendy Russell
Margaret Laird	George & Helen Schwarz
Sylvia Lenard	Theresa Scott
Marion M & Leonard T Lockwood	Anna Sedgwick
Muriel Luca	Paul Shtogryn
Elaine Lutes	John and Joan Sichel
Alan MacDougall	Mark Singer
Bonnie Maclachlan	Burdett Sisler
Elizabeth Malone	Glen Soulis
Patricia Martin	Grace Street
Joyce Mathieson	Desna Sulway
Catherine Mcgeer	CPS Taylor
D McLeod	The Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus
Evan Melnyk	The South Saskatchewan Community Foundation
Donald Micks	The Women's Canadian Club of Toronto
Harold Mitchell	Ralph Thompson
Donald Moors	Helen Turbett
Kathryn Morgan	Adriana Van Leeuwen
Virginia Newman	Sofia & Pierre Walder
James & Hildegard Nickels	Robert Westland
Neilson-Jones Nielson-Jones	Ethel Woods

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The ITK Finance, Administration Department includes staff who use systems and controls to ensure ITK financial operations are transparent, and accountable. We ensure all departments receive timely and precise financial information and support. We also complete travel arrangements and maintain the ITK donor list.

Carol Jattan: Director

Koomook McLister: Finance Clerk

Irina Appa: Travel / Admin Coordinator

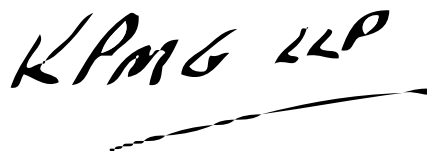
Natalia Haldorsen: Finance Officer

AUDITORS REPORT

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and summarized statement of operations and changes in net assets are derived from the complete financial statements of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami as at March 31, 2009 on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 14, 2009. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.



KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

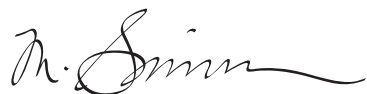
Ottawa, Canada

SUMMARIZED ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET

March 31, 2009 with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 73,741	\$ 738,007
Amounts Receivable	175,530	250,611
Contributions Receivable	3,436,261	1,406,518
Prepaid Expenses	22,950	23,945
	3,708,482	2,419,081
Capital assets	304,213	162,187
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,745,825	\$ 1,124,710
Deferred revenue	216,092	531,989
	2,961,917	1,656,699
Deferred capital contribution	3,690	7,378
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	300,523	154,809
Internally restricted	299,437	299,437
Unrestricted – general operation and funded projects	447,128	462,945
	1,047,088	917,191
	\$ 4,012,695	\$ 2,581,268

On behalf of the Board



Director



Director

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

March 31, 2009 with comparative figures for 2008

	General Operations	Funded Activities	2009 Total	2008 Total
REVENUE:				
Contributions received and receivable	\$ -	\$ 7,502,728	\$ 7,502,728	\$ 6,360,719
Other	330,841	-	330,841	429,531
	330,841	7,502,728	7,833,569	6,790,250
Deferred revenue, beginning of year	116,998	414,991	531,989	243,975
Deferred revenue, end of year	(126,748)	(89,344)	(216,092)	(531,989)
	321,091	7,828,375	8,149,466	6,502,263
EXPENSES:				
Administration	-	4,735	4,735	646
Advertising	13,624	50,074	63,698	48,838
Bank charges	5,962	-	5,962	5,228
Communications	22,197	65,301	87,498	150,733
Distribution	5,879	24,999	30,878	43,110
Equipment rental	-	11,466	11,466	8,419
Insurance	12,048	-	12,048	11,775
Office expenses	81,593	137,698	219,291	79,208
Printing	2,554	113,118	115,672	103,494
Production costs	-	-	-	11,871
Professional fees	55,463	1,524,811	1,580,274	955,009
Rent	247,406	106,596	354,002	316,785
Salaries and benefits	202,625	2,507,146	2,709,771	2,350,100
Translation	4,096	74,177	78,273	59,746
Travel	154,785	1,627,402	1,782,187	1,148,903
CAPITAL:				
Furniture/equipment	45,817	-	45,817	51,567
Leasehold improvements	188,098	-	188,098	-
Affiliated organizations participation:				
Project activities	-	875,613	875,613	928,785
	1,042,147	7,123,136	8,165,283	6,274,217
CAPITAL AND ADMINISTRATION CHARGES				
Total expenditures	(705,239)	705,239	-	-
	336,908	7,828,375	8,165,283	6,274,217
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE TRANSFERS AND AMORTIZATION				
	(15,817)	-	(15,817)	228,019
Amortization of capital assets				
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(91,889)	-	(91,889)	(76,804)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	3,688	-	3,688	3,688
Transfer of capital expenditures to net assets	233,915	-	233,915	51,567
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 129,897	\$ -	\$ 129,897	\$ 206,470

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

March 31, 2009 with comparative figures for 2008

	INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	2009	2008
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR As previously reported	\$ 154,809	\$ 299,437	\$ 462,945	\$ 917,191	\$ 710,721
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	-	129,897	129,897	206,470
Amortization of capital assets	(91,889)	-	91,889	-	-
Additions to capital assets	233,915	-	(233,915)	-	-
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	3,688	-	(3,688)	-	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 300,523	\$ 299,437	\$ 447,128	\$ 1,047,088	\$ 917,191