



2016.2019

Strategy and Action Plan



Our Vision:

Canadian Inuit are prospering through unity and self-determination

Our Mission:

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is the national voice for protecting and advancing the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada

President's Introduction

We have such a strong and vibrant Inuit society that sustains and grounds us, and the pride we have in our identity is a source of inspiration that I draw on every day. We still have great social, cultural, and political challenges, but I am confident that we can work together to overcome them to build a better future through action, advocacy, and political mobilization.

It is important that we communicate ourselves clearly on this journey to self-determination and prosperity. To this end, I am pleased to present Inuit with ITK's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.

This Plan defines seven objectives that will form the foundation of our work over the next three years. These ITK objectives and the actions that will help us achieve them have been developed in partnership with the four Inuit land claim organizations and also reflect the priority areas I have identified as essential to demonstrate success in my three-year mandate.

We have been through so much change, so much hardship, and so much colonization, but we have persevered and overcome many barriers to be here today, including defiance of colonization, cultural genocide, and assimilation. We are an incredibly resilient people.

ITK will use our combined strength at the national level to help improve the quality of life of our people. Fighting to improve our socio-economic status, working to prevent suicide, asserting our rights as Indigenous people, and reconciling with each other and with Canada are just some of the things we must do to achieve peace and stability within our communities and within Canada.

I am looking forward to the work ahead. Let us find ways to work together, understand each other, and support each other to change Inuit society for the better.

Nakurmiik,

Natan



“We have been through so much change, so much hardship, and so much colonization, but we have persevered and overcome many barriers to be here today, including defiance of colonization, cultural genocide, and assimilation. We are an incredibly resilient people.”

01 Section 1: Organizational overview

Who we are

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the national representational organization for Canada's 60,000 Inuit, the majority of whom live in 53 communities spread across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). We call this vast region Inuit Nunangat and it encompasses roughly 35 percent of Canada's landmass and 50 percent of its coastline.

The comprehensive land claims settled in Inuit Nunangat remain the bedrock of who we are as an organization. These land claims have the status of protected treaties under the Constitution, and we remain committed to working with the Crown to ensure that these living documents are fully implemented.

Consistent with its founding purpose, ITK represents Inuit nationally as the democratic governance model that includes all Inuit at its base. We have a special working relationship with the National Inuit Youth Council, which was established by ITK in 1993 to provide guidance and input into issues of interest for Inuit youth in Canada.

ITK is also an Inuit advocacy organization for policies, programs and services on a wide range of social, cultural, political and environmental issues facing our people. In support of this work, ITK produces advice, knowledge, strategies, action plans, policy tools and learning resources that support our mission to protect and advance the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada.

ITK is governed by a Board that is composed of the following members:

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Makivik Corporation
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Nunatsiavut Government

60K

Inuit in Canada

53

Communities



In addition to voting members, the following non-voting Permanent Participant Representatives also sit on the Board:

- President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
- President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- President, National Inuit Youth Council

ITK's Annual General Assembly elects a president for three-year terms. Our office is located in Ottawa to maximize the national role we play.

ITK's executive office is staffed by the President, Executive Director, Political Advisor, Legal Advisor, and Executive Assistant.

ITK is organized into eight departments staffed by 30 employees. These departments are as follows: Executive, Health & Social Development, Environment & Wildlife, Communications, Amaujaq National Centre for Inuit Education, Inuit Qaujisarvingat, Finance & Administration and Human Resources.

Background

ITK's Strategic Plan defines our vision for Inuit society and provides a roadmap that will help us achieve this vision. The Strategic Plan also promotes accountability by informing the public and our Board about the outcomes we are committed to achieving during this three-year period.

The Strategic Plan will guide the work ITK's staff carries out on a day-to-day basis. It will inform the way we allocate resources, how we staff our organization and what issues we prioritize. The Strategic Plan is guided by ITK's vision, which is as follows:

"Canadian Inuit are prospering through unity and self-determination"

ITK's purpose is reflected in our mission statement, which is as follows:

"Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is the national voice for protecting and advancing the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada"

35%

Inuit Nunangat encompasses
35% of Canada's landmass

50%

and 50% of Canada's coastline



“We have to find an organized voice amongst ourselves so we may direct our lives the way we want them to be.”

Jacob Oweetaluktuk
(Inukjuak, Nunavik)
Toronto, 1971

1971
Founding of
Inuit Tapirisat of Canada

ITK’s History

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, formerly the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, was founded at a meeting in Toronto in February 1971 by seven Inuit community leaders. The impetus to form a national Inuit organization evolved from shared concern among Inuit leaders about the status of land and resource ownership in Inuit Nunangat. Industrial encroachment into Inuit Nunangat from projects such as the then proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline in the Northwest Territories and the James Bay Project in Northern Québec, spurred community leaders to action.

During the Toronto meeting, a participant from Inukjuak, Nunavik, Jacob Oweetaluktuk, set the tone for the historic meeting in his opening comments. He stressed that “we have to find an organized voice amongst ourselves so we may direct our lives the way we want them to be.”

The seven Inuit community leaders agreed that forming a national Inuit organization was necessary to voice their concerns about these and related issues. They chose the name Inuit Tapirisat of Canada for the new organization, whose name means “Inuit will be united”. They designated themselves as an interim organizing committee and outlined the parameters of the first ITC conference that was held in Ottawa later that year.

ITK’s early leadership envisioned a blanket land claim to Inuit lands in the Northwest Territories and Nunavik given the immediate pressures facing these regions while Nunatsiavut’s land claim would come later. However the acceleration of activity in the Mackenzie Delta region and Nunavik made work on a single claim impractical.

ITK remained active in land claims by leading land claims negotiations for Nunavut between 1976 and 1982, through coordination of research documenting traditional Inuit land use and occupancy in the Northwest Territories, and by making preparations to manage the assets of a future settlement.

In addition to land claims, ITK has played a leading role in the broader recognition of Indigenous rights in Canada. ITK oversaw the Inuit Committee on National Issues



(ICNI) which was organized in 1979 in order to represent Inuit views on Canada's Constitution. ICNI was part of the Aboriginal Rights Coalition that successfully lobbied the federal and provincial governments to reinstate Section 35 of the Constitution after its removal during the 1981 First Ministers Constitutional Conference. Among other things, Section 35 of the 1982 Constitution Act elevates Inuit land claims to the status of treaty rights and protects them within the Constitution.

In 2001, ITC changed its name to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, which means "Inuit are united in Canada." The name was changed to reflect the settlement of land claims agreements in all Inuit regions following the Labrador Inuit Association's signing of an Agreement-in-Principal for the Labrador land claims agreement.

More recently, ITK helped shape the work of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). ITK partnered with the TRC to establish an Inuit sub-commission that ensured that Inuit survivors of the residential schools were included in the national truth-telling and reconciliation process. The sub-commission did so by carrying out the work of the TRC in Northern Canada from January 2011 to April 2012. The policy directives that resulted from the TRC's inquiry call on the federal, provincial and territorial governments to enact policy changes that promote equity in the areas of child welfare, education, language and culture, health and justice.

ITK was founded to serve as the political vehicle unifying Inuit in pursuit of social and cultural self-determination. Although ITK's immediate focus was land claims when it formed in 1971, Inuit community leaders saw this struggle as part of the broader goal to gain control over institutions and systems that had undermined our traditional ability to be self-reliant. During the past four and a half decades ITK has been adept at adapting to the shifting political realities facing our people while keeping this goal in focus. It is because of this ability to adapt that ITK remains a powerful voice for Inuit.

2001

Inuit Tapirisat of Canada's name changed to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (Inuit are united in Canada) to reflect the settlement of land claims agreements in all Inuit regions.



“Our people are our greatest resource and their health and wellbeing are essential to sustaining the progress we have made.”

Our focus

The settlement of separate comprehensive land claims agreements by each of the four Inuit regions has helped safeguard the foundation of our culture and society. Land claims also produced new governance structures in the shape of Nunavut, a public government, the Kativik Regional Government in Nunavik, also a public government, and the Nunatsiavut self-government in Labrador. These entities strengthen Inuit self-determination over our affairs and today Inuit enjoy access to social and economic resources that were scarcely available when ITK formed in 1971.

However our people continue to experience some of the worst social and economic outcomes in Canada and this prevents too many families from fully enjoying the benefits of these important gains. In the last decades these persisting challenges have necessitated a shift in focus within our organization from land claims and regional governance issues to social and cultural development. Our people are our greatest resource and their health and wellbeing are essential to sustaining the progress we have made.

Today ITK works to improve the health and wellbeing of Inuit through research, advocacy and public outreach and education on the common issues affecting our population. We work closely with the four Inuit regions to present unified priorities in Ottawa that are supported by work in these three main areas.

Advocacy with a unified voice is imperative for Inuit given the small size of our population and our correspondingly small political representation in Ottawa. Inuit represent less than one percent of Canada’s population and just four out of the 338 ridings that are represented in the House of Commons include constituents in Inuit Nunangat. MPs representing Inuit Nunangat make up just one percent of Parliament. This means that there is a constant need for unified Inuit representation through ITK to educate lawmakers and government agencies about Inuit, our priorities and the realities within our regions and communities.



Consistent with ITK's focus on social development, the current ITK administration has identified five key priorities that will guide our work with governments in the immediate future. These five priorities are: suicide prevention, Inuit education, addressing family violence, reconciliation, and Inuit language promotion, preservation and revitalization. These priorities are reflected in the objectives outlined in more detail in Section 3 of this document.

Similar to its role in the early 1970s, ITK unifies the four Inuit regions in order to ensure that work on these and other complex challenges facing our geographically dispersed population does not take place in silos. ITK advocates for policies at the federal level that reflect the needs of Inuit communities and that contribute to the health and wellbeing of our people in five main ways:

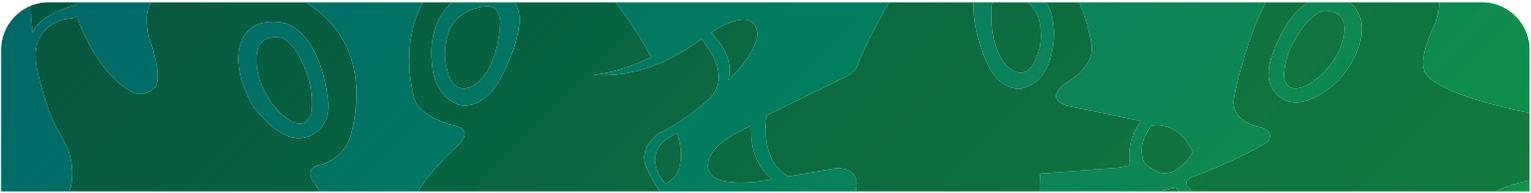
1. Representation

ITK is the National Aboriginal Organization representing Inuit in Canada. This means that ITK represents Inuit in our relationship with the Crown. In this role, ITK is responsible for communicating a unified Inuit perspective on the issues affecting our population, and ensuring that Inuit are consulted and accommodated where our Aboriginal and other treaty rights stand to be affected by a proposed Crown decision.

2. Research

ITK carries out and supports research that informs federal agencies, lawmakers and other stakeholders about the status of Inuit and the effectiveness of current policies and programs. The role that ITK plays in research helps ensure that federal agencies, lawmakers and other stakeholders are informed about the issues we care about, and that those policies or interventions impacting Inuit are effective and based on evidence.

“There is a constant need for unified Inuit representation through ITK to educate lawmakers and government agencies about Inuit, our priorities and the realities within our regions and communities.”



2014

ITK publishes an assessment of the impacts of the First Nations and Inuit Childcare Initiative across Inuit Nunangat

For example, ITK published an assessment of the impacts of the First Nations and Inuit Childcare Initiative across Inuit Nunangat in 2014 and in 2008-2009 partnered with Health Canada to conduct the Inuit Oral Health Survey. ITK also guides federal agencies such as Statistics Canada and Health Canada in their approach to gathering Inuit-specific information in their National Household Survey, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Aboriginal Children's Survey. By doing so, ITK contributes to the understanding of how Inuit are affected by policies and programs and what resources are needed to support service providers and other stakeholders at the regional and community levels.

3. Policy guidance

ITK provides guidance to federal agencies, lawmakers and other stakeholders on social and cultural policy. For example, ITK's 2011 National Strategy on Inuit Education and 2013 Inuit-Specific Tuberculosis Strategy, are policy roadmaps that articulate Inuit aspirations on these issues. They provide much needed guidance to provincial, territorial and regional governments as they seek to influence these issues.

4. Public outreach and education

ITK educates Canadians about Inuit priorities and concerns by creating resources that foster understanding and support for the work our people are carrying out at various levels of government. ITK's publications frame complex issues such as mental health, educational attainment and food security for a policy audience. This process of translating knowledge for a wider audience is crucial for influencing the way resources such as mental health services and supports are designed and allocated.

For example, ITK's 2014 Comprehensive Report on the Social Determinants of Inuit Health is aimed at supporting public health activities across the Inuit regions in Canada and functions as a reference for organizations and governments working with the Canadian health and social service sector.

2011

ITK publishes National Strategy on Inuit Education



In order to reach the broadest possible audience, ITK also educates Canadians about Inuit and keeps our constituents up to date about our progress through our biannual Inuktitut Magazine. Inuktitut is Canada's longest publishing Inuit language periodical. The magazine connects Inuit across Inuit Nunangat through stories published in Inuktitut, French and English. This important communications tool helps perpetuate Inuktitut and puts a human face on the issues we care about.

In addition, ITK supports Inuit regions more directly by partnering with federal agencies to develop tools such as the Inuit Environmental Health Guides that function as an educational resource for Inuit families on environmental health issues such as firearm safety, indoor air quality and open water and ice safety. Finally, ITK's participation in high profile events such as the annual World Suicide Prevention Day, helps raise awareness about the challenges our communities face and the resources and supports needed to overcome them.

5. Unifying Inuit

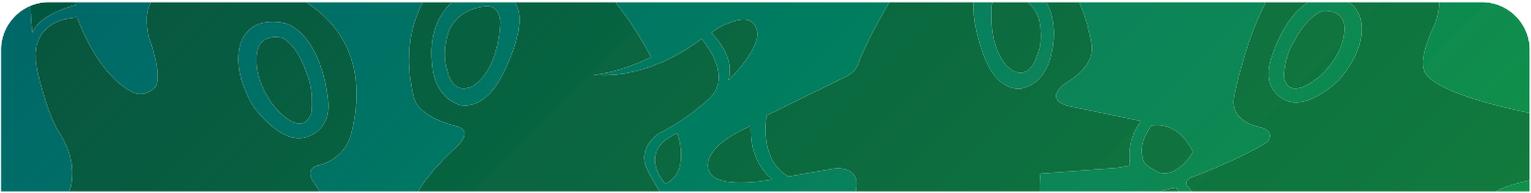
ITK contributes to a shared sense of political and cultural identity among Inuit across Canada through the work we do. ITK unifies our small population through our political advocacy, public outreach and education about the common issues facing our people. Our ability to foster a shared sense of identity among our population spread across a vast space continues to be the cornerstone of our success as an organization.

The creation of ITK in 1971 was part of a turning point in the history of relations between Inuit and the Government of Canada that continue to evolve. Looking forward, ITK will work in closer partnership with each of the four Inuit regions to protect the gains we have made through a focus on the social, cultural and political development of Inuit Nunangat.

“1959 Inuktitut magazine begins publication, becoming Canada’s first Inuit language publication.”

2013

ITK publishes
Inuit-Specific
Tuberculosis Strategy



02 Section 2: Rationale/Context

ITK works with regional Inuit organizations to advocate for solutions to a wide range of challenges at the national level. Inuit communities are spread across four jurisdictions and ITK's oversight provides the direction needed on these issues for effective advocacy. Our regions and communities are diverse yet we are united by many common issues and a shared commitment to our people.

Inuit communities are among the most culturally resilient in North America. Roughly 60 percent of Inuit report an ability to conduct a conversation in Inuktitut, and our people continue to harvest country foods such as seal, narwhal and caribou to feed our families and communities. Traditional values such as sharing, respect for elders and cooperation remain a central part of Inuit community life. Despite our small population, Inuit communities have produced world renowned musicians and artists and our leaders have helped advance the global struggle for indigenous self-determination and human rights.

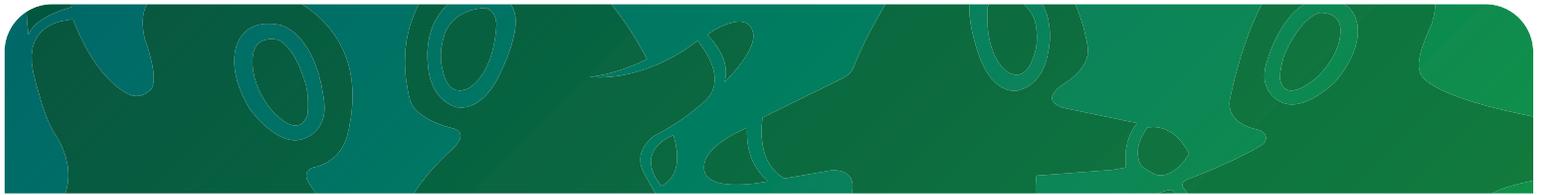
60%

Percentage of Inuit able
to converse in Inuktitut

These are some of the assets that reflect the resilience and potential of our people. However despite these positive characteristics too many Inuit face persisting social and economic hardship. Many families are struggling to meet their basic needs in areas such as safety, housing, and getting enough food to eat. Low rates of educational attainment and employment are compounded by high living costs across Inuit Nunangat that place intense stress on our people.

Statistics and research paint a distressing picture of a society struggling with violence and trauma. These struggles are often magnified by gaps in resources such as addictions treatment, domestic violence shelters and access to healthcare and housing. The suicide rate for Inuit is the starkest and most painful symptom of these interrelated challenges.

The fact that Inuit die by suicide at a rate more than 10 times the rate for Canadians as a whole underscores the impact these disparities are having on our people. It highlights the staggering inequity far too many of our people face despite living in a democratic country of relative wealth and abundance.



These challenges do not exist in a political vacuum. Rather they exist against the historical backdrop of Canada's colonization of Inuit Nunangat, in which federal government policy directed the institutions and systems that have destabilized our society by undermining our ability to be self-reliant. The social and cultural challenges that exist today can similarly be undone in large part through policies that support and empower Inuit institutions, families and communities.

The above profile of our people highlights some of the complex issues facing our population today. How we navigate these issues together as a society will determine the status and opportunities of future generations of our people. ITK is committed to leading Inuit in defending the progress we have made and strengthening the social and cultural foundation future generations will stand on.

03 Section 3: Strategic Approach

This section of the Strategy and Action Plan outlines the changes ITK seeks (objectives), the path to achieving these changes (actions) as well as the deliverables supporting our actions. The seven objectives described below are the priority areas that ITK will focus on during the 2016-2019 period. They were identified through consultation with leadership in the four Inuit regions and also reflect the vision set out by the ITK administration. Taken together, the objectives described in this section reflect our long-term aspirations for Inuit Nunangat.

This section is organized by objective, introducing the issues and their relevance to Inuit as well as the actions that will help us achieve each objective. The objectives, actions and deliverables that will help us achieve the change we seek are consolidated into a table at the end of this document (Appendix I). ITK's objectives for the 2016-2019 are as follows:

Objective 1:

Take action to prevent suicide among Inuit

Objective 2:

Improve access to appropriate and affordable housing in Inuit Nunangat

Objective 3:

Work toward reconciliation

Objective 4:

Support Inuit self-determination in education

Objective 5:

Protect the Inuit Nunangat environment

Objective 6:

Strengthen Inuit self-determination in research

Objective 7:

Enhance the health and wellbeing of Inuit families and communities

OBJECTIVE 1: Take action to prevent suicide among Inuit

Suicide affects all Inuit. It is a national crisis that demands a national response. Suicide prevention is the most pressing challenge facing our people. Inuit die by suicide at a rate more than 10 times the national rate, a statistic reflecting the vast inequity between Inuit Nunangat and southern Canada. Suicide has persisted as the most devastating social challenge in our communities for the last half century. ITK seeks to work with stakeholders in order to reduce the suicide rate among Inuit to the Canadian average or below it.

Suicide among Inuit is a symptom of wider social challenges faced by our people. The goals that support this objective therefore address wider challenges that are tied to suicide such as mental health services and supports, childhood trauma, and violence prevention. They reflect the ongoing work of ITK's National Inuit Committee on Health to address themes such as Inuit mental wellness, healthy living and healthy life choices for Inuit, and Inuit health research.

ACTIONS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | Advance suicide prevention efforts in Inuit Nunangat. |
| 1.2 | Ensure implementation of the national Inuit suicide prevention strategy. |
| 1.3 | Work with government agencies to ensure the availability of Inuit specific, government-funded and community-based programs and services for Inuit children and families. |
| 1.4 | Provide advocacy and research supporting a continuum of culturally relevant mental wellness programs and supports throughout Inuit Nunangat. |
| 1.5 | Ensure Inuit involvement in the development, design and delivery of public health policies, programs and services across all Inuit communities. |
| 1.6 | Lead efforts to communicate suicide prevention measures with Inuit and Canadians as a whole. |

“Suicide prevention is the most pressing challenge facing our people. Inuit die by suicide at a rate more than 10 times the national rate, a statistic reflecting the vast inequity between Inuit Nunangat and southern Canada.”



40%

Forty percent of Inuit live in crowded housing in Inuit Nunangat compared to four percent of Canadians as a whole.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve access to appropriate and affordable housing in Inuit Nunangat

Lack of access to appropriate and affordable housing in Inuit Nunangat is a national crisis. Forty percent of Inuit live in crowded housing in Inuit Nunangat compared to four percent of Canadians as a whole. Our society is experiencing enormous stress from the negative effects of crowded housing. Having access to appropriate and affordable housing is critical for people seeking safety from violence, improving educational attainment and health outcomes. Investing in housing is therefore an investment in the ability of our people to be self-sufficient and has a positive impact on our economies.

In order to remedy this situation, ITK will prioritize improving access to appropriate and affordable housing in Inuit Nunangat by advocating governments for increased spending allocations for public housing and alternative housing options in the short-term as well as for the creation of a National Inuit Housing Program. In addition, ITK will partner with the regions in identifying local solutions for meeting their long-term housing needs.

ACTIONS

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|-----|---|
| 2.1 | Work with government agencies to ensure, in the short term, increased spending allocations to significantly improve access to adequate, appropriate and affordable housing. |
| 2.2 | Draft a discussion document on barriers to Private Home ownership, with possible solutions as to how they may be overcome. |
| 2.3 | Organize a National Inuit Forum on Housing. |
| 2.4 | Advocate for the development and implementation of a National Inuit Housing Program with adequate programs for each region. |
| 2.5 | Work with regions to identify long-term, suitable solutions to meet Inuit housing needs. |

OBJECTIVE 3: Work toward reconciliation

We have reached a crossroads in Canada where past injustices committed against Indigenous peoples are being openly acknowledged by government. More importantly, the connections between injustices such as residential schooling and the present day social and economic inequity faced by Inuit and other Indigenous Canadians is more widely understood than ever before. Achieving reconciliation for our people is the next step, where Inuit are seeking true accountability from Canada through a renewed partnership that addresses the social and economic inequity caused by residential schooling, forced relocation, and other government policies. ITK will facilitate reconciliation for Inuit in partnership with governments in order to achieve the reconciliation and accountability our people seek.

The current government has made a commitment to “reset” its relationship with First Nations, Metis and Inuit, starting with the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 calls to action. ITK will partner with governments and regional Inuit associations to guide the implementation of these recommendations across Inuit Nunangat.

ACTIONS

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|-----|---|
| 3.1 | Continue to meet with all parties to ensure work continues past the end of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. |
| 3.2 | Continue to advocate on behalf of Nunatsiavut Inuit for Canada to address the exclusion and omission of Nunatsiavut Inuit from the Indian Residential School Settlement process. |
| 3.3 | Create and coordinate a plan that fulfills the desire by Inuit to implement the TRC’s Calls to Action. |
| 3.4 | Ensure that Inuit are meaningfully engaged in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls. |
| 3.5 | Partner with Reconciliation Canada and other organizations to promote reconciliation by engaging Canadians in dialogue that revitalizes the relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. |

“Inuit are seeking true accountability from Canada through a renewed partnership that addresses the social and economic inequity caused by residential schooling, forced relocation, and other government policies. ITK will facilitate reconciliation for Inuit in partnership with governments in order to achieve the reconciliation and accountability our people seek.”



“High school graduation rates across Inuit Nunangat lag behind the rest of Canada under the current systems, placing Inuit at a significant social and economic disadvantage.”

OBJECTIVE 4: Support Inuit self-determination in education

Inuit self-determination in education is the key to the survival of our language and culture. Consistent with the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inuit self-determination in education means that Inuit are leading the establishment and control of our own educational systems and institutions and providing education in our own language in a manner appropriate to our cultural methods of teaching and learning. ITK will work with regional Inuit associations and governments to support Inuit self-determination in education through continued research and advocacy. By doing so, we seek to achieve reconciliation for Inuit in this important area.

We use the term education to mean K-12 public schooling as well as the general transfer of Inuit language and culture within our society. This means that in addition to public schooling, ITK will work to support the development of alternative educational opportunities outside of the K-12 school system such as Inuktitut second-language learning and on-the-land skill development. Inuktitut language promotion, preservation, and revitalization is a priority, and ITK will work with the Inuit regions toward the establishment of a unified Inuit language writing system in support of this goal.

Inuit language and culture have been accommodated within current schooling models but Inuit have rarely had the opportunity to lead the development of Inuit-specific school systems. At the same time, high school graduation rates across Inuit Nunangat lag behind the rest of Canada under the current systems, placing Inuit at a significant social and economic disadvantage.

ACTIONS

- 4.1** Ensure implementation of the National Strategy on Inuit Education.
- 4.2** Unify the Inuktitut writing system.
- 4.3** Ensure implementation of the 2012 *Inuit Early Childhood Development Strategy*.



OBJECTIVE 5: Protect the Inuit Nunangat environment

Our culture, language and way of life are rooted in the Arctic environment, or sila in Inuktitut. Protecting sila is imperative for the continuity of Inuit culture and society. Issues such as climate change, resource extraction and pollution have implications for Inuit food security, economic development and the inter-generational transmission of knowledge. Given the global focus on Inuit Nunangat around these and related issues, it is imperative that ITK play a lead role in decision-making at regional, national and international levels on issues such as Arctic shipping, wildlife management and harvesting, and the use and inclusion of Inuit science to support evidence-based policymaking. We must protect sila by using our platform to navigate these changes in partnership with our communities.

ACTIONS

- 5.1 Support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions for Inuit regions and communities.
- 5.2 Coordinate strategic activities and outreach that protect our way of life in relation to wildlife management.
- 5.3 Develop a national approach on certifying, branding, and marketing sustainable Inuit wildlife products for domestic and international trade.

“Protecting the environment is imperative for the continuity of Inuit culture and society. Issues such as climate change, resource extraction and pollution have implications for Inuit food security, economic development and the inter-generational transmission of traditional knowledge.”



“Inuit communities are often in a vulnerable position when they engage with researchers and research institutions. Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have historically lacked the ability or opportunity to participate as equal partners with researchers and research institutions focusing on our communities.”

OBJECTIVE 6: Strengthen Inuit self-determination in research

Having access to Inuit-supported research findings about issues that are of priority to Inuit is critical for informing the design of policies that in turn impact the quality of life in our communities. Inuit self-determination in research means that Inuit have oversight in setting the research agenda in our regions and communities, work as equal partners with researchers in the design, implementation and dissemination of research, and have access to and — as appropriate — control over how information gathered about our population is used and disseminated.

Inuit communities are often in a vulnerable position when they engage with researchers and research institutions. Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have historically lacked the ability or opportunity to participate as equal partners with researchers and research institutions focusing on our communities. As a consequence of this power imbalance, our people have rarely benefited from research in a meaningful way. This is why it is necessary to strengthen Inuit self-determination in research. In order to truly benefit from research focusing on our people, Inuit must be included as equal partners with researchers at every step of the process.

ACTIONS

- 6.1** Collect, verify and disseminate Inuit-specific data, statistics and research to appropriate stakeholders.
- 6.2** Ensure continued organization, preservation, and sharing of Inuit-specific knowledge and information.
- 6.3** Develop partnerships to create a sustainable Inuit Health Survey.

OBJECTIVE 7: Enhance the health and wellbeing of Inuit families and communities

Over the past 60 years, Inuit have experienced dramatic socio-cultural changes which have impacted Inuit health and well-being. In all, many Inuit associate this transitional period with an overarching loss of self-reliance. Inuit regions share a common interest in advocating for health and wellness services, programs, policies, and research that are Inuit-specific and Inuit-led and which take into account the unique geographical, cultural and socio-economic factors affecting Inuit health.

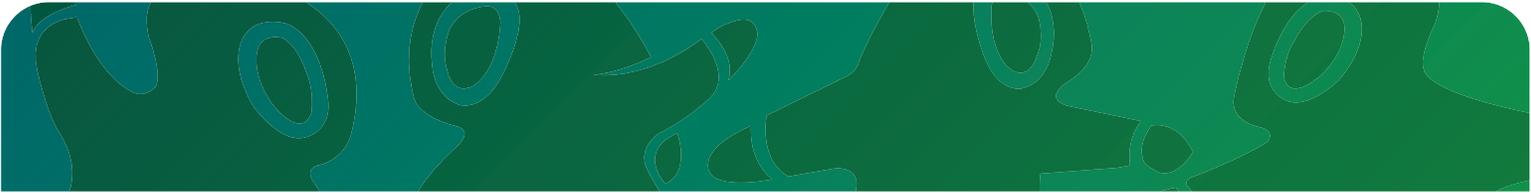
However, in spite of significant efforts to improve our socio-economic conditions, substantial work remains to address underlying conditions that impact Inuit health. Inequalities in the Inuit social determinants of health must also be addressed to enable access, and support improvements to, economic opportunities, housing, education, language and culture, justice, and infrastructure. More action and commitment is needed to better support Inuit self-determination where all levels of government fully involve Inuit in the development, design and delivery of social and cultural policies, programs and services.

Inuit must also have an equitable level of long-term funding and resources that support consistent, accessible and culturally relevant health care programs and services needed to address the factors contributing to the current state of Inuit health in Canada.

“Inuit regions share a common interest in advocating for health and wellness services, programs, policies, and research that are Inuit-specific and Inuit-led and which take into account the unique geographical, cultural and socio-economic factors affecting Inuit health.”

ACTIONS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 7.1 | Advocate for the adequate resourcing of programs, services and initiatives that meet the needs of Inuit children and families. |
| 7.2 | Ensure Inuit involvement in the development, design and delivery of public health policies, programs and services across Inuit Nunangat. |
| 7.3 | Ensure that the Health Accord is inclusive of and responds to Inuit health priorities. |
| 7.4 | Partner with government to identify solutions to the high cost of living in Inuit Nunangat. |



04 Section 4: Ensuring Success

In order for ITK to be effective, the Strategic Plan requires a process to monitor, evaluate and report on our progress. The Plan itself is the framework we will be using to report on our progress to the ITK Board on a quarterly basis as well as to regional leaders on a per-issue basis.

It is our priority to improve organizational transparency by educating the public about the work we do. ITK will provide the public with ongoing Strategic Plan updates about the progress we have made in fulfilling the commitments outlined above. In order to do so more effectively, ITK will strengthen our outreach to and involvement of Inuit on the major initiatives we champion.

In addition to these steps, ITK will develop a comprehensive results-based evaluation that will provide the principal tool for measurement of progress against the strategic goals. This evaluation will allow ITK to monitor and track action, and to better measure our direct (or indirect) impact on public policy.

Achieving our objectives will require a significant investment of resources. We are optimistic that ITK will be able to acquire the financial contributions needed to implement our goals.

Appendix I

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami 2016-2019 Strategic Plan

OBJECTIVE 1: TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT SUICIDE AMONG INUIT

ACTIONS	DELIVERABLES
1.1 Advance suicide prevention efforts in Inuit Nunangat.	a. By July 2016 develop a national Inuit suicide prevention strategy. b. By September 2016 develop a national plan to evaluate and monitor implementation of Inuit suicide prevention strategies and goals and objectives.
1.2 Ensure implementation of the national Inuit suicide prevention strategy.	
1.3 Work with government agencies to ensure the availability of Inuit-specific, government-funded and community-based programs and services for Inuit children and families.	
1.4 Provide advocacy and research supporting a continuum of culturally relevant mental wellness programs and supports throughout Inuit Nunangat.	
1.5 Ensure Inuit involvement in the development, design and delivery of public health policies, programs and services across all Inuit communities.	
1.6 Lead efforts to communicate suicide prevention measures with Inuit and Canadians as a whole.	

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN INUIT NUNANGAT

ACTIONS	DELIVERABLES
2.1 Work with government agencies to ensure, in the short term, increased spending allocations to significantly improve access to adequate, appropriate and affordable housing.	c. By April 2016 disseminate draft discussion document on barriers to Private Home ownership with Inuit regions. d. By Spring 2016 convene National Inuit Forum on Housing.
2.2 Draft a discussion document on barriers to Private Home ownership, with possible solutions as to how they may be overcome.	
2.3 Organize a National Inuit Forum on Housing.	
2.4 Advocate for the development and implementation of a National Inuit Housing Program with adequate programs for each region.	
2.5 Work with regions to identify long-term solutions to meet Inuit housing needs.	



OBJECTIVE 3: WORK TOWARD RECONCILIATION

ACTIONS

- 3.1 Continue to meet with all parties to ensure work continues past the end of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- 3.2 Continue to advocate on behalf of Nunatsiavut Inuit for Canada to address the exclusion and omission of Nunatsiavut Inuit from the Indian Residential School Settlement process.
- 3.3 Create and coordinate a plan that fulfills the desire by Inuit to implement the TRC's Calls to Action.
- 3.4 Ensure that Inuit are meaningfully engaged in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- 3.5 Partner with Reconciliation Canada and other organizations to promote reconciliation by engaging Canadians in dialogue that revitalizes the relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

OBJECTIVE 4: SUPPORT INUIT SELF-DETERMINATION IN EDUCATION

ACTIONS	DELIVERABLES
4.1 Ensure implementation of the National Strategy on Inuit Education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. By September 2016 develop a <i>National Strategy on Inuit Education</i> action plan to evaluate and monitor implementation of strategy goals and objectives. f. By December 2017 facilitate regional adoption of the national Inuktitut writing system.
4.2 Unify the Inuktitut writing system.	
4.3 Ensure implementation of the 2012 Inuit Early Childhood Development Strategy.	

OBJECTIVE 5: PROTECT THE INUIT NUNANGAT ENVIRONMENT

ACTIONS	DELIVERABLES
5.1 Support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions for Inuit regions and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. By January 2017 develop a long term Inuit-specific climate change strategy.
5.2 Coordinate strategic activities and outreach that protect our way of life in relation to wildlife management.	
5.3 Develop a national approach on certifying, branding, and marketing sustainable Inuit wildlife products for domestic and international trade.	



OBJECTIVE 6: STRENGTHEN INUIT SELF-DETERMINATION IN RESEARCH

ACTIONS	DELIVERABLES
6.1 Collect, verify and disseminate Inuit-specific data, statistics and research to appropriate stakeholders.	h. By 2018, develop a national strategy on Inuit-specific research.
6.2 Ensure continued organization, preservation, and sharing of Inuit-specific knowledge and information.	i. By June 2017 create a research library based at ITK.
6.3 Develop partnerships to create a sustainable Inuit Health Survey.	

OBJECTIVE 7: ENHANCE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF INUIT FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

ACTIONS
7.1 Advocate for the adequate resourcing of programs, services and initiatives that meet the needs of Inuit children and families.
7.2 Ensure Inuit involvement in the development, design and delivery of public health policies, programs and services across Inuit Nunangat.
7.3 Ensure that the Health Accord is inclusive of and responds to Inuit health priorities.
7.4 Partner with government to identify solutions to the high cost of living in Inuit Nunangat.



Deliverables Timeline

April 2016 disseminate draft discussion document on barriers to Private Home ownership with Inuit regions.	July 2016 develop a national Inuit suicide prevention strategy.	September 2016 develop a national plan to evaluate and monitor implementation of Inuit suicide prevention strategies and goals and objectives.	January 2017 develop a long term Inuit-specific climate change strategy.	June 2017 create a research library based at ITK.	December 2017 facilitate regional adoption of the national Inuktitut writing system.
Spring 2016 convene National Inuit Forum on Housing.	September 2016 develop a <i>National Strategy on Inuit Education</i> action plan to evaluate and monitor implementation of strategy goals and objectives.			2018 develop a national strategy on Inuit-specific research.	



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