

# Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami 2009-2010

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## President's Message

The past several years have brought an unprecedented level of attention to our Arctic homeland. And that attention is bringing some hopeful policy shifts for Inuit and for Inuit Tapiriit Katanami.

In the most recent Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada inaugurated a new session of Parliament with a commitment to endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Governor General shone an international spotlight on our relationship with the seal, supporting our way of life by sharing in a community feast and eating some of the fresh meat. It was a meaningful gesture and very much appreciated by Inuit.

MPs and Senators later dined on seal in the Parliamentary restaurant, as did Prime Minister Stephen Harper and federal cabinet ministers meeting in Iqaluit during their latest of a string of summertime Arctic visits.

But we must now direct our attention to addressing perhaps our greatest challenge – improving the well being of our families.

It is troubling to consider that Canadian Inuit live in one of the most prosperous countries in the world, yet socio-economic conditions across Inuit Nunangat are comparable to many countries in the developing world.

Not enough of our youth are getting through school, with only a 25 percent rate of graduation. There are many reasons for this, not the least of which is our lack of adequate housing and poor living conditions at the community level. Mental health services are sorely lacking, which contributes to a very high suicide rate. The rate of tuberculosis is totally unacceptable at 185 times the rate of Canadian-born non-Aboriginals.

If the federal government, working in partnership with other governments, were to do only one thing to address Inuit health and education, it would be to provide the funds necessary to relieve the housing crisis.

We have survived for generations by sharing our knowledge, our expertise and our technologies. We have survived because the leaders who came before us continually looked out across our land and assessed the conditions to determine if a change in course was necessary.

Our goal is to ensure that our children are healthier, better educated and more equipped to face 21st century challenges than our own generation. We know there are no easy solutions to improving our health and education conditions. We know that turning around some of the most desperate indicators is a daunting task.

But we also know that inaction is not an option.

The work of ITK is to advocate for change. Change to cut loose those laws, policies and programs that do not work well for Inuit. And change to adopt those progressive legislative, administrative and financial measures that will contribute to the well being of Inuit in this and future generations.

We live in a world of many states and a country with many levels of government. It is only by accepting that reality, and expressing ourselves clearly in every useful political arena, that we can hope to protect and advance Inuit rights and interests.

It is our responsibility to use our skills in politics and our knowledge of technology and public policy as our tools of action to move our governments beyond their statements of good intentions, into a new era – one that will look at the health and education of Inuit as a measure of our entire country's well-being.

Inuit have never accepted the status quo as anything other than the starting point for change.

As I conclude this message, I would like to thank the leaders and staffs of all those sister Inuit organizations that, together with ITK, represent Inuit effectively at every level – internationally, nationally, provincially/territorially and locally.

As we continue to commemorate 2010 as Year of the Inuit and prepare for our 40th anniversary in 2011, I would also like to thank the staff of ITK for their hard work. Healthy organizations, like healthy families, see strength in diversity and encourage a lively exchange of ideas. It is my hope that ITK will remain a place of open doors and open discussion long after my term is complete.

Finally, I thank all those Inuit who have helped me, in big and small ways, in carrying out my job over the last year. You have made all the difference.

Mary Simon

President

## Executive

### Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The commitment to create the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) came out of the terms of settlement to the lawsuits brought on behalf of residential school survivors. The first set of Commissioners stepped down as a result of disputes about their collective and respective roles. But the Commission now appears to be on a more steady foundation.

ITK is a coordinating body on behalf of Inuit signatories to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and has been successful in lobbying Commissioners to create an Inuit Sub-Commission within the TRC. Work is now focused on ensuring that this Sub-Commission is allowed to operate with sufficient autonomy and is equipped with the resources it needs to meet the unique needs of Inuit, including full respect for the Inuit language.

### Arctic Sovereignty

In close collaboration with the Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada), ITK has repeatedly pressed the point that an effective sovereignty strategy for the Canadian Arctic must be built on a full, reliable and creative partnership with Canadian Inuit.

Our insistence on such a partnership is not going unnoticed at home and abroad. At a meeting of foreign ministers in Chelsea, Quebec, in March 2010, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton emphasized the importance of Inuit participation in circumpolar policy making.

### United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In September 2007, Canada was one of only four countries to vote against the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Since then, Inuit leaders, in combination with leaders of other aboriginal and human rights organizations, have campaigned energetically and vocally to change the Government of Canada's position.

In the February 2010 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada announced a change of position in favour of endorsing the Declaration. ITK is now working to ensure that Canada's further statements on the Declaration are fully consistent with its spirit and substance, and that the government begins the process of implementing the Declaration in Canada.

### Climate Change

The December 2009 Convention of the Parties (known as COP15) in Copenhagen, Denmark, did not result in a clear, ambitious international agreement to cap and then reduce emissions contributing to global warming. The final conference communiqué also lacked any reference to the need for the international community to help finance the dramatic climate adaption measures that are already needed in the Arctic.

But ITK is hopeful that the process going forward will be responsive to Inuit concerns, in particular because of its historic nature – it is the first time the world's two biggest emitters, the United States and China, have found common ground on climate change.

## National Committee on Inuit Education

In the fall of 2009, the National Committee on Inuit Education, chaired by Mary Simon, began work to develop a National Strategy on Inuit Education. The strategy is the main goal of the Inuit Education Accord, an agreement between governments and Inuit organizations that grew out of the 2006 Summit on Inuit Education, also chaired by Simon. It is the first time Inuit from all four regions have collaborated to produce national goals for Inuit education.

The committee's three meetings this year have focused on developing a landmark document that will address key policy and program needs to improve education achievement levels for Inuit students. Discussions have focused on bilingualism, building an Inuit-centred curriculum, mobilizing parents, increasing the number of Inuit educators and service providers, collecting and sharing information, post-secondary and adult learning, and early-childhood development. A final strategy is expected in the fall of 2010.

### **Executive**

President: Mary Simon

Executive Director: Jim Moore

Executive Assistant to the President: Kathleen Tagoona

### **Executive Services Secretariat**

Director: Rosemary Cooper

Senior Policy Advisor: John Merritt

Senior Parliamentary and Policy Advisor: John Cheechoo

Human Resources Officer: Shawna Clancy

Human Resources Assistant: Jennifer Bradley

Administrative Assistant: Maggie Amarualik

## Social, Cultural and Economic Development

The department changed its name in 2009, adding the term “cultural” to what was previously known as the socio-economic development department. SCED, as it is now called, continues to work with a strong vision, and goals based on the ITK strategic objectives.

### Olympic Winter Games

When the five-piece multicoloured Inuksuk was announced as the emblem of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in 2005, ITK set out to ensure Inuit participation in the areas of art and culture, tourism and economic development, and youth engagement. The National Inuit Committee on Vancouver 2010 was formed to ensure each Inuit region had meaningful participation and equitable access to opportunities associated with the Olympics. The 2010 Games were looked on as a stepping stone for long-term economic and cultural development for Inuit.

ITK forged strong ties with the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) and Four Host First Nations Society (FHFN), becoming the only MOU signatory, national or otherwise, that focused on promoting Inuit.

ITK coordinated the creation of a tapestry combining designs from all four regions and incorporating images of Inuk hockey star Jordin Tootoo wearing a Team Canada jersey, a parka-clad Inuk waving a Canadian flag and an alpine skier soaring across a mountainous Arctic landscape.

The Olympic torch relay also reached out to all four regions, thanks in part to ITK’s successful negotiation to include Nunatsiavut on the 145,000-kilometre journey, the longest Olympic torch relay to take place in a single country.

Inuit participation at the Olympics extended to the momentous Opening Ceremony, in which 25 Inuit youth danced for hours before an audience of billions.

Finally, a team of performers representing each region assembled for a special performance at the 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion. On Inuit Day, Feb. 20, the dome of the pavilion was illuminated to appear like the inside of an igloo for a performance titled “The People Behind the Inukshuk” – a memorable end to a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

### Suicide Prevention

ITK continues to draw attention to elevated suicide rates among Inuit. A key awareness-raising initiative is an annual celebration of life on Parliament Hill to mark World Suicide Prevention Day on Sept. 10. Partners include the National Inuit Youth Council, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada), Tungasuvvingaat Inuit, the Ottawa Inuit Children’s Centre, the National Aboriginal Health Organization’s Inuit Tuttarvingat division and Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

Leaders spoke of the determination and resilience of Inuit communities in combating suicide rates, while Susan Aglukark and others performed for the gathered crowd.

### Economic Development

The department participates in meetings of the National Economic Development Committee for Inuit Nunangat (NEDCIN). The Committee will gather in Iqaluit in June 2010 with representatives of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) and the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) to discuss the redesign of INAC’s Aboriginal Economic Development Program.

NEDCIN was established in June 2008 with a memorandum of understanding signed in Cambridge Bay by the presidents of the four land claims organizations, as well as the presidents of ITK and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (INAC's deputy minister signed on in October 2008.) NEDCIN is a 22-member committee of Inuit organizations, Inuit Community Economic Development Organizations (CEDOs), INAC and CanNor. Its purpose is to address economic development challenges in Inuit Nunangat.

## Language and Culture

In the summer of 2009, a linguistics student was tasked with researching all available programs and funding related to the Inuit language. This information expands on research collected by the National Inuit Language Committee (NILC) for a draft National Inuit Language Strategy begun in 2008. ITK has also developed a searchable online database of language resources and is in the process of adding to this collection of materials related to language planning, revitalization, promotion and maintenance.

ITK continues to advocate for protocols for how Inuit are consulted on the allocation of Aboriginal Language Initiative (ALI) funds. The ALI program was extended for a year so that its review will coincide with reviews of other Aboriginal Peoples programs in 2011. The Department of Canadian Heritage would like to make ALI a permanent program and has begun consultations by independent evaluators. ITK has worked with the NILC to develop common messaging around the ALI program to advocate for changes that will benefit Inuit regions.

## Youth

The National Inuit Youth Council has finalized its terms of reference and election process in advance of a National Elders and Youth Summit scheduled for Inuvik in August 2010. Work has also proceeded on the redesign of the NIYC website ([www.niyc.ca](http://www.niyc.ca)) with a focus on improving education, employment and training outcomes, and the creation of a youth magazine, to be called Nipiit. The magazine will be a platform for Inuit youth to express their opinions and ideas, and will serve as a forum for youth to interact and share stories.

## Inuit Human Resources Development

ITK is a policy and program liaison between regional Inuit organizations and the federal Department of Human Resources and Skills Development. Over the past year, ITK participated in a regional consultation to ensure Inuit-specific recommendations were considered during the policy and program development process leading to the launch of the new Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). ITK represents Inuit human resource development agreement holders on the Board of Directors of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council and the Steering Committee of Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources. The organization also made Inuit-specific recommendations on a Mining Guide for Aboriginal Communities developed by the Mining Human Resource Council.

### **Social, Cultural and Economic Development**

Director: Belinda Webb

Senior Policy Advisor: Maria Wilson

Language and Culture Coordinator: Heather Campbell

Youth Project Coordinator: Shelly Watkins

Senior Policy Coordinator: Susan Scullion

Project Coordinator: Alyssa Flaherty-Spence

## Health and Environment

The department continues to develop an internal team approach to key files, initiated when the departments of health and environment were combined in previous years.

### National Inuit Committee on Health

The National Inuit Committee on Health identifies Inuit health priorities, provides guidance to the ITK Health and Environment Department and ITK Board of Directors, and also ensures national representation on Inuit initiatives and policy processes. The committee meets about six times a year, either by teleconference or in person.

### ITK-Health Canada Task Group

ITK meets with senior officials at Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada to discuss high-level, planning and coordination focusing on short-term deliverables. This approach has proven effective in enabling an ambitious short-term workplan to progress steadily. The Task Group has identified five mutual areas of interest: an Inuit-specific health approach; community wellness planning; mental health; health human resources; and information and data collection. Areas of action in each mutual area of interest have been identified by each participating member organization to ensure progress is made. The next fiscal year will see the implementation of a series of Task Group projects.

### Mental Wellness

Inuit are working to find creative solutions to the lack of Inuit-specific mental wellness services. The Alianait Inuit-Specific Task Group takes a community and region-based approach to healing, in addition to acknowledging and drawing attention to what is already working in communities and regions.

Since the formal launch of the Alianait Inuit-Specific Mental Wellness Action Plan in December, the Alianait Inuit-Specific Task Group has been working with governments and non-governmental organizations to create awareness of the lack of mental wellness services, programs and policies across Inuit Nunangat. Inuit, through Alianait, have identified mental wellness as a top Inuit health priority. An area of focus for the coming year will be securing funding for implementation of the Action Plan.

### Tuberculosis

TB has been a priority topic for the Inuit Public Health Task Group for the past year. In March, TB rates among Inuit were found to be 185 times greater than the rate among Canadian-born non-Aboriginals. The task group has lobbied for the Canadian TB Elimination Strategy to be revised to include a separate and targeted strategy for Inuit that sets realistic and incremental goals for the elimination of TB among Inuit.

In April, the chair of ITK's National Inuit Committee on Health made a presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health, calling for provinces and territories to be held accountable for TB rates among Aboriginal peoples by way of an annual report card that evaluates TB control and access to health care, as well as the social determinants of health. ITK also recommended that the federal minister of health call an emergency meeting of provincial and territorial ministers of health, as well as the leaders of National Aboriginal Organizations, to take an honest look at issues of jurisdiction and process that might be behind the current high rates of TB in aboriginal peoples.

## Pandemic Planning (H1N1)

When the H1N1 pandemic hit Inuit regions in 2009, the ITK Board of Directors passed a resolution calling for an Inuit-specific annex to the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan. Pandemic experiences varied by region, with some reporting sufficient resources and others requiring additional support. Further, regions reported different levels of success working with their respective provincial and territorial governments. In the interest of learning from this experience and preparing communities for the next pandemic, ITK is working with Inuit regions to prepare a document that illustrates the experience and sets out best practices and areas for improvement.

## Health Human Resources

For the past four years, ITK has worked with Inuit from all four regions to improve health human resources in Canada's Arctic through the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative, which has been renewed until 2012. The Initiative funds projects that create increased awareness of health careers for Inuit and youth and provides scholarships for students enrolled in university health programs. The program also ensures that university programs contain culturally relevant materials and that students learn to provide culturally safe and appropriate care to their patients. Other projects focus on recruitment and retention of health care workers within Inuit communities.

ITK, as part of the Inuit Health Human Resources Technical Working Group, is also in the process of developing an HHR framework and action plan and securing resources to implement the plan throughout Inuit Nunangat.

## Maternal Child Health

ITK continues to work with the regions to develop an Inuit Maternal Child Health Strategy. This is especially important given Prime Minister Stephen Harper's focus on maternal and child health during Canada's year as host of the G8 nations.

A bilingual colouring book titled "Have Fun, Play Safe" was developed for Inuit children aged 4-8 to raise awareness about injury prevention and smoking. The 20-page book focuses on nine themes of injury prevention, each involving an illustration, an activity and a simple message on how to stay safe. Copies of the activity book were distributed to every school board and regional day care coordinator across Inuit Nunangat.

## Early Childhood Development

ITK continues its role as the secretariat of the Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group, a file that has recently moved to the Department of Health and Environment from its former home in the Department of Social, Cultural and Economic Development.

In March 2010, 100 early childhood educators representing Inuit child-care centres, community and regional organizations and urban centres in Ottawa and Montreal gathered in Goose Bay, Labrador, to exchange knowledge, showcase Inuit-specific materials and celebrate Inuit early childhood education during a landmark event called "Nutaqavut Sivuniksavut" (our children, our future) or the National Inuit Childhood Education Gathering.

The meeting was hosted by the Nunatsiavut Government and planned by the Inuit Early-Childhood Development Working Group in collaboration with the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Montreal's Rising Sun Childcare Centre, the Public Health Agency of Canada and Aboriginal Head Start Programs. The gathering, which was the product of 11 years of planning, was the first-ever national conference held specifically for Inuit

early years teachers in Canada. During one session, participants were asked to consider five things that the Prime Minister of Canada should know about Inuit early-childhood education. The list was the starting point for a letter to the Prime Minister, signed by all participants, with an introduction by Mary Simon.

## Cancer

Inuit lack access to programs and services taken for granted by most Canadians. A chronic lack of Inuit health care professionals has led to staffing shortages and high turnover rates, and places enormous stress on front-line health personnel. All these factors lead to an unfortunate emphasis on illness, rather than on prevention and health-promotion activities.

Due to these and other persistent health disparities, ITK is dedicated to addressing the cancer care deficit within the four Inuit land claims regions. As part of their work, ITK staff have developed close relationships with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), as well as with the Canadian Cancer Action Network (CCAN). These particular partnerships have enabled ITK to influence the national cancer strategies of both organizations to more accurately reflect Inuit needs and the barriers experienced by Inuit within the cancer care continuum.

ITK's partnership work with CPAC has, in particular, led to ITK's participation in the creation of CPAC's Advisory Committee on First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Control. ITK now sits on this committee and has also assisted in the nomination of a representative in the area of Inuit health expertise. One further position on this committee (an informed Inuit cancer patient/survivor) is in the process of being filled.

## ArcticNet

The central objective of ArcticNet is to contribute to the development of knowledge needed to formulate adaptation strategies and national policies to help Canadians face the impacts of climate change in the Arctic. Mary Simon is co-chair of the ArcticNet Board of Directors and, along with board members Duane Smith (president of ICC Canada) and Pita Aatami (President of Makivik Corp), advocates for research of interest and importance to Inuit, and capacity building and training opportunities for Inuit youth in science and research.

In September 2009, ArcticNet provided resources to support a training workshop for Inuit Research Advisors (IRAs) in Ottawa. The December 2009 ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Victoria, B.C., and attracted many Inuit representatives, 12 of whom were recipients of the ArcticNet/Northern Contaminants Program Inuit Travel Bursary. The IRAs facilitated the selection of candidates, in addition to judging and presenting the annual Inuit Partnership of Excellence Award.

Throughout the year, Inuit representatives of the ArcticNet board continued to advocate for an improved Inuit-ArcticNet partnership. Accomplishments resulting from these discussions include representation by all four regions on the Research Management Committee (RMC), increasing the number of Inuit representatives on the RMC to six; representation of health and social scientists on the RMC, one seat per field; resources to support the administration of the Inuit Advisory Committee (IAC), which held its first meeting in February 2010; the opportunity for coordinated regional input on the review of project reports and proposals; and \$1 million for a targeted call for Health and Social Science projects, going to 12 projects across all Inuit regions.

ArcticNet is funded until March 2011 with a possibility of renewal until 2018. The continuation of ArcticNet beyond 2011 is conditional on the success of a renewal application to be submitted in the fall of 2010. The Board of Directors have supported renewal of the Network, and the IAC will be submitting an Inuit-specific

renewal paper for consideration during the review (to be held in Quebec City in fall 2010). This paper will summarize Inuit involvement in the program and highlight an Inuit vision of a renewed Network.

## Northern Contaminants Program

The Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) was established in 1991 in response to concerns about human exposure to elevated levels of contaminants (such as PCBs and mercury) in wildlife species that are important to the traditional diets of Inuit. In the past year, NCP has helped fund research including the Inuit Health Survey, and continues to build capacity at the regional and local levels.

In the summer of 2009, NCP funded a community-led beluga health project blending western science and Inuit knowledge in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. Inuit hunters provided valuable information about the movements and behaviour of belugas, elders collected tissues for contaminant analysis and other members of the community recorded data about each harvested whale, including size and sex. Youth mentorship was a major part of the project, training future generations to combine the best of both sets of knowledge tools and allowing youth to serve as principle investigators.

In June 2009, the NCP Human Health Assessment report was released in Iqaluit. Findings from this assessment show a significant decline in most contaminants in people over the past 10 years for all Canadian Arctic regions. However, there are some contaminants, such as mercury and flame retardants, that are at very low levels but seem to be increasing. Continued monitoring is needed.

Goals for the coming year include the development of a mercury convention that will be similar to the successful Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). NCP will also continue to look for ways to foster community-led research. There is concern that a lot of contaminant health projects are wrapping up, including the Inuit Health Survey and the children cohort studies in Nunavik, and there is a growing need to communicate this information to the public health officials in each region.

NCP continues to be the flagship model for research in Inuit regions. The support and guidance that this program provides to Inuit and other aboriginal peoples is critical and necessary for good sound future research.

## Food Security

Food security is identified as a major issue in Inuit communities and one that ITK has worked to define in a northern context for a number of years. Food security is a broad-based concept existing when “all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit 1996). In recent years, ITK has worked to gather the local and regional perspectives needed to develop a comprehensive national strategy aimed at achieving food security in Inuit communities.

A regional consultation effort in 2008 and 2009 revealed a range of aims to be included as the basic building blocks of a national Inuit food security strategy including: federal food security legislation, the inclusion of food security in northern economic and resource development and as an element in infrastructure planning and development policy-making, an enhanced Food Mail Program, support for Inuit country food harvesting and food sharing practices, community awareness and education on health nutrition including the management of chronic diseases such as latent tuberculosis, and support for community-based solutions and monitoring of environmental factors that are influencing food security. ITK is currently working toward the production of a detailed national Inuit strategy based on the framework in conjunction with the Inuit regions.

## Wildlife

ITK is concerned with monitoring federal species assessments to determine whether they are meeting requirements to incorporate the best available community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge. ITK will continue to monitor whether consultations with Inuit co-management bodies on species at risk issues are adequate and to provide comments on both the five-year review of the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and SARA's policy suite.

In light of increasing focus in recent years on the impact of climate change on Inuit communities and Arctic wildlife species, ITK has provided increasing coordination and communication assistance between Inuit organizations, the federal government (in particular, the Canadian Wildlife Service), provincial and territorial jurisdictions, and co-management boards in Inuit regions. As part of this work, ITK also works closely with the National Aboriginal Council for Species at Risk (NACOSAR) to support the Inuit representative on the Council and is a member of NACOSAR's Policy and Planning Subcommittee.

ITK also manages links with the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee under the umbrella of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). In addition, ITK coordinates and communicates with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada) on Inuit-related wildlife interests and concerns that have an international dimension to ensure that Canada's Inuit regions are informed of international-level wildlife issues and that the regions have the opportunity to provide input on such issues.

### Boreal Caribou Aboriginal Advisory Group

ITK has participated in the Boreal Caribou Aboriginal Advisory Group since its inception in September 2009. ITK was involved in the development of the terms of reference for the group and its work plan, and has provided input into the boreal caribou Aboriginal traditional knowledge consultation process as well as providing preliminary comments on the process to be determined to link Aboriginal traditional knowledge and western science in the National Recovery Strategy to be developed in 2010-2011.

### Migratory barren-ground caribou

There are a number of issues affecting Inuit regions with respect to significant population declines in migratory caribou herds. Lack of access to caribou and associated food security issues are leading to questions about how management solutions to caribou scarcity in one area are affecting other areas. There is also concern about the undermining of caribou co-management processes and harvesting rights by unilateral government management actions. Recent court actions in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories centre on the management of the Porcupine and Bathurst caribou herds and illustrate these issues. ITK is working actively to monitor these cases in conjunction with the Inuit regions.

In association with concerns about increasing development pressures on caribou ranges, a number of regional groups are calling for the permanent legislated protection of caribou calving and post-calving areas, which exist almost exclusively in Inuit regions. Finally, there are food safety concerns with the increasing prevalence of existing diseases in some areas and the potential impact of newly emerging diseases on caribou populations. ITK is in communication with researchers to monitor the relative level of risk of such diseases.

### Polar bear

ITK continues to work closely with regional Inuit organizations and ICC-Canada in monitoring activities and reporting on relevant developments in regard to polar bear issues nationally and internationally. ITK also communicates regularly with Environment Canada and its Canadian Wildlife Service regarding their work on

polar bear with respect to the Species at Risk Act and other processes that are relevant nationally as well as internationally.

A major undertaking this year was planning and strategizing for and attending the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in March 2010 in Doha, Qatar. The United States submitted a proposal to upgrade the listing of polar bear on CITES from Appendix II to Appendix I. An Appendix I listing would have meant an international trade ban on polar bear, with direct consequences for Inuit.

Parties to CITES voted against the US proposal, though ITK will continue to work with regional organizations and governments to prepare for the next CITES conference, in Thailand.

## Seal

In September 2009, the European Parliament and the European Council adopted a ban (EU Regulation No. 1007/2009) on all seal products imported into and sold in the European Union. The regulation was published in the EU official journal on Oct. 30, 2009, bringing the regulation into force 20 days later. The intent of the regulation is to halt the commercial trade and sale of all seal and walrus products, regardless of species, age, part of the mammal or form of the product (skin, meat, oil, ivory) within the trade and economic zone of the EU's 27 member-state countries.

The regulation also contains three types of "exemptions," including products for personal use, products derived from management culls and traded on a non-profit basis and products from Inuit and other indigenous communities that hunt on a non-commercial and traditional/subsistence basis.

The new EU Treaty of Lisbon, which came into effect on Dec. 5, 2009, allows non-EU parties to file legal action within the EU against EU parties, with a January 2010 deadline for action on the seal ban. On Jan. 11, 2010, ITK, along with Inuit organizations and individuals in Canada and Greenland, filed an application to annul the regulation. The case argues that EU laws provide no legal grounds for the regulation. Despite the inclusion of an Inuit exemption, the EU has not demonstrated that the exemption will work for Canadian Inuit. The case is currently before the EU court in Brussels, Belgium.

### **Health and Environment**

Director: Elizabeth Ford

Senior Health Policy Coordinator: Tanya Nancarrow

Senior Environment Policy Coordinator: Eric Loring

Senior Policy Advisors: Tina Price, Joni Boyd, Jennifer Forsyth, Selma Ford, Jim Cincotta, Anne Kendrick

Project Coordinators: Anna Claire Ryan, Looee Okalik, Martin Lougheed, Leanna Ellsworth

Senior Researchers: Soha Kneen, Meghan McKenna

Administrative Assistant: Meeka Serkoak

## **Inuit Qaujisarvingat: The Inuit Knowledge Centre**

The centre leads efforts to ensure an increasingly active role for Inuit in research that leads to the generation of knowledge for improved research, science and policy decision making within a Canadian, circumpolar and global context.

Launched in January 2010, Inuit Qaujisarvingat is a centre designed to foster and build research capacity among Inuit and to encourage discourse to improve understanding among experts in both western science and Inuit knowledge. It will provide the tools to help Inuit access the systems of western science and aid southern-based scientists interact fully and appropriately in Inuit communities and with Inuit knowledge.

The centre was created in response to growing demands for timely scientific information on topics ranging from sovereignty, resource development, climate change and militarization, and the need for meaningful engagement of Inuit in such research. Over the past year, the centre's staff have initiated consultations with Inuit regions, begun work on developing partnerships and formulated a detailed business plan that will guide their work over the next several years.

### **Inuit Qaujisarvingat: The Inuit Knowledge Centre**

Director: Scot Nickels

Strategic Planning Officer: Carrie Grable

## Communications

The department is responsible for communicating activities about ITK to the media, as well as the creation of key corporate documents. It responds to inquiries about the Inuit of Canada, and supports ITK departments and leaders in educating target audiences about the Inuit of Canada. The department grew this year with the addition of two communications officers, as well as the return of Information Technology staff under the Communications umbrella.

### 2010 Year of the Inuit

The goal of 2010 Year of the Inuit is to increase awareness among the general Canadian population about issues facing the Inuit of Canada and celebrate Inuit accomplishments and achievements. Key events included the launch of a public opinion poll in November 2009. The “North Poll” revealed that Canadians possess only a passing knowledge of Inuit issues, but demonstrate a great desire to learn more, and to visit the Arctic.

The 2010 commemorative year began with a fundraising dinner called “A Taste of the Arctic,” held at the National Gallery of Canada with proceeds going to the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation. A new website ([www.inuit2010.ca](http://www.inuit2010.ca)) was created to raise awareness of Inuit achievement in the Arctic and highlight the dates of key Inuit events and festivals. A commemorative calendar, poster, temporary tattoos and T-shirts were produced and distributed to Inuit communities to help celebrate 2010 Year of the Inuit.

### Media Support

The department communicates key developments by issuing press releases, statements, and media advisories, and writing op-eds and commentaries for publication in major dailies. Communications staff also coordinate media interviews for Mary Simon.

The development of ITK’s social media presence grew during this year, with an increase in the posts on Mary Simon’s blog, and the introduction of an ITK Twitter account.

### Inuit Executive Arctic Training

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.

In 2010, the initiative was renamed Inuit Executive Arctic Training to reflect the trip’s focus on education and awareness-building. The 2010 session included 21 senior officials representing 12 federal departments, and travelled to the Nunavik region. Highlights included detailed discussions on the housing needs of the region and a visit to the Xstrata Nickel Mine. The 2011 tour will be held in Nunavut.

### Publishing

Inuktitut magazine is a biannual magazine published in Inuktitut syllabics and roman orthography, as well as 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. Highlights from the year included coverage of Inuit participation in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

### Technology

ITK’s web presence ([www.itk.ca](http://www.itk.ca)) continues to attract visitors from around the world who are increasingly interested in developments in the Canadian Arctic. It is a portal to a growing Inuit presence on YouTube,

Twitter and the blogosphere. The communications department also develops websites for other ITK departments and has played a large role in websites recently launched for Inuit Qaujisarvingat: The Inuit Knowledge Centre and the National Inuit Youth Council.

**Communications**

Director: Stephen Hendrie

Communications Officers: Melissa Irwin, Marcel Mason,  
Patricia D'Souza

Senior Information Management/Information Technology Officer: Craig Clark

Information Technology Officer: Jaymes Ellsworth

## Finance

ITK's Department of Finance uses systems and controls to ensure ITK's financial operations are transparent and accountable. It ensures that all departments receive timely and precise financial information and support. The department also completes travel arrangements for ITK staff and maintains the ITK donor list.

### Finance

Director: Carol Jattan

Finance Officer: Natalia Haldorsen

Finance Clerk: Koomook McLister

Travel/Administrative Coordinator: Irina Appa

## 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 of March 31, 2010 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 14, 2010. 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.

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Canada

## Summarized Account Balance Sheet

March 31, 2010 with comparative figures for 2009

	2010	2009
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,388,610	\$ 73,741
Amounts Receivable	215,796	175,530
Contributions Receivable	806,537	3,436,261
Prepaid Expenses	87,759	22,950

	2,498,702	3,708,482
<b>Capital assets</b>	237,280	304,213
	<b>\$ 2,735,982</b>	<b>\$ 4,012,695</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,112,207	\$ 2,745,825
Deferred contributions	874,334	216,092
	1,986,541	2,961,917
Deferred capital contribution	-	3,690
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Invested in capital assets	237,280	300,523
Internally restricted	299,437	299,437
Unrestricted – general operation and funded projects	212,724	447,128
	749,441	1,047,088
	<b>\$ 2,735,982</b>	<b>\$ 4,012,695</b>

## Summarized Statement of Operations

March 31, 2010 with comparative figures for 2009

	General Operations	Funded Activities	2010 Total	2009 Total
Revenue:				
Contributions received and receivable	-	\$ 7,289,913	\$ 7,289,913	\$ 7,502,728
Other	263,531	-	263,531	330,841
	263,531	7,289,913	7,553,444	7,833,569
Deferred revenue, beginning of year	126,748	89,344	216,092	531,989
Deferred revenue, end of year	(127,498)	(746,836)	(874,334)	(216,092)
	262,781	6,632,421	6,895,202	8,149,466
Expenses:				
Administration	-	2,524	2,524	4,735
Advertising	19,105	647	19,752	63,698
Bank charges	5,431	-	5,431	5,962
Communications	57,145	32,797	89,942	87,498
Distribution	16,146	29,278	45,424	30,878
Equipment rental	5,074	4,844	9,918	11,466
Insurance	14,740	-	14,740	12,048
Office expenses	100,485	73,556	174,041	219,291
Printing	36,622	66,535	103,157	115,672
Professional fees	112,761	1,036,008	1,148,769	1,580,274
Legal fees	-	104,736	104,736	-

	General Operations	Funded Activities	2010 Total	2009 Total
Rent	281,208	128,726	409,934	354,002
Repairs & maintenance	4,849	-	4,849	-
Salaries and benefits	188,123	2,490,249	2,678,372	2,709,771
Translation	13,472	34,701	48,173	78,273
Travel	157,153	1,240,968	1,398,121	1,782,187
Capital:				
Furniture/equipment	29,723	-	29,723	45,817
Leasehold improvements	-	-	-	188,098
<b>Affiliated organizations participation:</b>				
Project activities	-	842,000	842,000	875,613
	1,042,037	6,087,569	7,129,606	8,165,283
Administrative overhead charges	(559,763)	559,763	-	-
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>482,274</b>	<b>6,647,332</b>	<b>7,129,606</b>	<b>8,165,283</b>
Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenditures Before Undernoted	(219,493)	(14,911)	(234,404)	(15,817)
<b>Amortization of capital assets</b>	(96,656)	-	(96,656)	(91,889)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	3,690	-	3,690	3,688
Transfer of capital expenditures to net assets	29,723	-	29,723	233,915
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>(282,736)</b>	<b>\$ (14,911)</b>	<b>\$ (297,647)</b>	<b>129,897</b>



## Summarized Statement of Changes in Net Assets

March 31, 2010 with comparative figures for 2009

	INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	2010	2009
<b>BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 300,523	\$ 299,437	\$ 447,128	\$ 1,047,088	\$ 917,191
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-	(297,647)	(297,647)	129,897
Amortization of capital assets	(96,656)	-	96,656	-	-
Additions to capital assets	29,723	-	(29,723)	-	-
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	3,690	-	(3,690)	-	-
<b>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 237,280	\$ 299,437	\$ 212,724	\$ 749,441	\$ 1,047,088