

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami



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National Centre for Inuit Education
Kanatami Inuit Ilinniarniliringat
Centre national de scolarisation des Inuits

Message from the ITK President Terry Audla

In July of 2014, Mary Simon, the Inaugural Chair for the National Committee on Inuit Education stepped down from her role as their Chairperson. On behalf of the ITK Board of Directors we are immensely grateful for the time and effort Mary has spent in leading the development of the *National Strategy on Inuit Education* and building the Amaujaq Centre. Mary's enormous commitment to Inuit education has helped to spark a national conversation on the role parents play in getting kids to school and keeping them in school. She has advanced our discussion on developing a unified writing system for our language – something that has the potential to increase our ability to communicate and share materials across Inuit Nunangat by leaps and bounds. Mary has indicated that she will continue to be available to assist the Amaujaq Centre and the National Committee on Inuit Education. We are grateful for her continued dedication on Inuit education.

In the fall of 2014 the ITK Board of Directors appointed me as the next Chairperson for the National Committee on Inuit Education. I am very familiar with the National Committee on Inuit Education process and National Strategy on Inuit Education while it has been under the commendable leadership of Mary Simon over the

past two years. My vision for the implementation of the strategy involves sustained public education among Inuit and, most importantly, continued work with Inuit communities to ensure that Inuit youth are receiving the full benefits of their education, arriving to school on time, well-rested and ready to learn.

I have witnessed several impressive initiatives that the National Committee on Inuit Education has achieved so far, and I would like to champion this cause so that our educators can continue readying our youth to be in decision-making roles as the economic growth and development in our homeland proceeds. I want to see Inuit at the board tables of the future economic drivers of Inuit Nunangat.

Sincerely,

Terry Audla, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami



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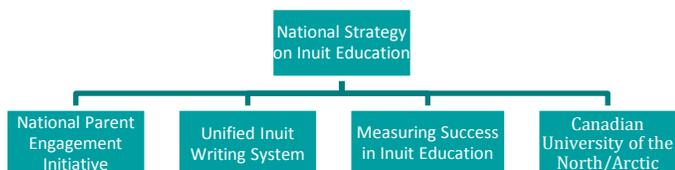


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What's New?

Amaujaq National Centre for Inuit Education Project Updates:



National Parent Engagement Initiative

The theme of the parent mobilization initiative: “getting our children to school every day, all day, rested and ready to learn” responds to the alarming statistics on poor attendance in some northern communities. With funding from the 2013 Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP), along with external grants from Vale, Royal Bank of Canada, and CIBC, the Amaujaq Centre was able to reach out to regional partners in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut, to plan and begin implementation on parent mobilization initiatives in selected communities across Inuit Nunangat.

In Nunavik, a workshop aimed at developing an “Inuit Rites of Passage Parent-Teacher Toolkit” was held in September. The workshop was delivered in partnership with the community of Inukjuak and Esuma - Nunavik’s multi-partner stay-in-school project. The development of the draft tool kit has been completed. The official launch for the toolkit will take place February 17th, 2015 in the community of Inukjuak.

In Nunatsiavut, planning is underway for a community-based parent engagement initiative in partnership with the Government of Nunatsiavut. A community workshop to gather feedback on a possible initiative was held this fall in Nain and we will be returning in February for a follow-up session with the community to define a project that meets their stated needs.

In Nunavut and in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region planning discussions are ongoing for parent engagement initiatives.

The Amaujaq National Centre for Inuit Education launched the Community-Based Initiatives Grant Project. The purpose of this initiative is to provide grants up to \$5000 for community based initiatives that are geared to Improve Attendance. The program is made possible through an endowment from the Arctic Inspiration Prize and collaborating partners. The Application deadline is set for February 20, 2015.



(Inukjuak Workshop Participants)

In the summer of 2014, in partnership with Frontier College and the Government of Nunavut a three week summer literacy camp was offered in the community of Cape Dorset, Nunavut.

43 youth participated in three weeks of fun educational activities to develop their literacy and numeracy skills through games, arts and crafts, cultural activities, field trips and opportunities to learn with special guests from their home community. We would like to thank TD Bank Group for their support of this initiative.

Unified Inuit Writing System

With funding support from the Counselling Foundation of Canada and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada this initiative was launched in 2012 in cooperation with the four Inuit regions under the auspices of the Atausiq Inuktut Titirasiq task group and coordinated by the Amaujaq Centre.



(Language Initiative Workshop – Igloolik, Nunavut)

Consultations have started across Inuit Nunangat. Our National Inuit Language Coordinator and representatives from the Atausiq Inuktut Titirasiq task group visited communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunatsiavut, and Nunavut to identify the issues surrounding a unified Inuit writing system. Similar sessions are being planned

for Nunavik and other communities in Nunavut. In January of 2015 the Atausiq Inuktut Titirasiq task group met in Ottawa to work on the planning for the 2015 summit on a unified Inuit language writing system.

The Amaujaq Centre continues to consult with Inuit language linguists on the community consultation process leading to a Summit on a Unified Inuit Writing System to be held in the fall of 2015. In partnership with Carleton University three individuals were hired on a part-time basis to assist with the research aspects of this initiative.

Measuring Success in Inuit Education

The National Strategy identified that there was a major gap in education research in Canada around Inuit education. There was very little research on how Inuit education is performing, what policy initiatives are working and what are not working.

For the past two years, the Amaujaq Centre has been working with the ArcticNet Research Centre of Excellence to expand their research program to include Inuit Education. In 2014, ArcticNet issued a Call for Proposals for Research in Inuit Education. Funding was approved for a research team under the guidance of Dr. Alexander McCauley to develop a learning network for Inuit educators and educational leaders. The network will facilitate discussion, creation, production, and sharing of classroom and community resources. It will provide a collaborative framework for partners in Inuit education — educators, parents, government and non-governmental agencies, and others — to support ongoing dialogue for better understanding of and practices in bilingual education for student success from pre-K to post-secondary. The goal is to develop a sustainable, culturally based, multilingual



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(Inuktitut, English, French) professional learning network for Inuit educators. The Amaujaq Centre has forwarded ArcticNet a proposal for their consideration for a second call for research on Inuit education.

At the 2014 ArcticNet Conference in December it was evident that the work the Amaujaq Centre has been doing to promote more research in Inuit education is having an impact. Four researchers presented the results of their research in Inuit education.

Canadian University in the Arctic



(ArcticChange University Discussion Panel Members: Dr. Keith Chaulk, Labrador Institute of Memorial University; Lars Kullerud, President University of the Arctic; Mary Simon, Inaugural Chair, National Committee on Inuit Education, Honourable Paul Quassa, Minister of Education, Nunavut)

A second discussion forum was held during the ArcticNet Conference that focused on the idea of a Northern/Arctic/Inuit University in Canada by addressing a number of questions including:

- What recent developments in the Arctic have created the right conditions for establishing a university in Inuit Nunangat?
- Given that a number of reports and studies have already affirmed the idea of an Arctic

university in Canada, what steps have to be taken next to advance the idea?

- What factors have contributed to the establishment of other circumpolar universities?
- What model of University is best suited to Inuit Nunangat?
- How should this/these university(ies) be structured, funded and sustained?
- How can the Arctic research community support an initiative to establish a University in the Arctic?

The next stage for the university discussion is to work with our partners in examining its feasibility.

For more information on the National Strategy on Inuit Education or to discuss funding partner opportunities, please contact: Peter Geikie, Geikie@itk.ca, 613 238 8181 Ext 268

The Amaujaq Centre would like to thank the following sponsors and partners for their ongoing commitment to Inuit education:

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Project Sponsors

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, ArcticNet, Arctic Inspiration Prize, Cisco & Esuma (Nunavik)