

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Annual General Meeting



Date: September 27 & 28, 2011

Location: Inuvik N.W.T

Resolution #: A11-09-13
Resolution Title: Approval of Search and Rescue

Moved by: Cathy Towtongie
Seconded by: Dennis Arey

WHEREAS, recent airplane crashes have graphically highlighted the dangers of air travel in the Canadian Arctic and sub-Arctic;

AND WHEREAS, the realities of life in Inuit Nunangat and adjacent parts of Canada present real dangers in relation to a wide range of transportation and land use activities, and to community life;

AND WHEREAS, search and rescue services and emergency and disaster prevention and planning are an essential dimension of sovereignty, and a core public responsibility in Arctic governance;

AND WHEREAS, Canada and other Arctic Council members have recently recognized the shared importance of search and rescue within the circumpolar region by entering into a search and rescue agreement;

AND WHEREAS, the overall level and depth of search and rescue services and emergency and disaster preparation and planning in Inuit Nunangat are greatly inadequate, with notable deficiencies in relation to infrastructure, coordination, and Inuit involvement.

AND WHEREAS, the Canadian military has offered the Inuit Circumpolar Council a welcome, if still limited, opportunity to participate in some of its emergency and disaster preparation and planning;

AND WHEREAS, the existing centres with significant search and rescue facilities are located in southern Canada – thousands of miles away from the High Arctic:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) This AGM call upon the Government of Canada, in cooperation with Inuit organizations and other levels of government, to commit itself to developing a Strategic Plan to bring about a much enhanced level and depth of search and rescue services and emergency and disaster preparation and planning for Inuit Nunangat and, as needed, other parts of Canada;
- 2) This AGM also call upon the Government of Canada to commit the new financial resources required to implement such a plan;
- 3) As an immediate priority, the Government of Canada is urged to take the steps necessary to establish at least one major forward air search and rescue facility within each of the Western, Central and Eastern parts of Inuit Nunangat, thereby avoiding the need to call for planes based in southern parts of Canada with all the associated delays and risks.

Carried Unanimously

In Favor:

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried: X

Defeated: