



Made in Nunavut

Made-in-Nunavut programs and legislation dealing with social issues, education, culture, language, health, housing, sustainable resource management, justice and good governance are made to benefit all living and future generations of Nunavummiut. In some cases, innovative programs and services are required to meet the unique needs of Nunavummiut.

Nunavut Language Legislation

The Inuit Language Protection Act and Official Languages Act were both approved in 2008. Taken together, these Acts help to ensure that the Inuit language remains at the center of education, work and daily life throughout Nunavut while protecting the existing rights of the English and French languages. It provides for the positive action required to respect unilingual Inuit and improve their access to services, to reverse the language shift among our young people, and to strengthen the use of the Inuit Language by all Nunavummiut.



Education Act

In September 2008, the Legislative Assembly unanimously

approved the Education Act, a piece of made-in-Nunavut legislation that sets the course for a bilingual system founded on Inuit societal values. It represents a fundamental shift in the education system and will bring real, progressive change for Nunavut learners, including bilingual education, Inuit culture in every aspect of the education system, local control and more support for students to stay engaged and succeed. It is the result of extensive community consultations and was drafted in partnership with district education councils, Inuit organizations, among others.

Fur Design and Production Program

Most Inuit prefer to eat a diet rich in traditional "country" foods such as seal meat. It is rich in proteins and polyunsaturated fats, as well as omega-3, a type of fat thought to aid resistance to heart disease. Many positive health outcomes are experienced by families that continue to harvest seals for food and culture is passed from one generation to the next. The by-product,

seal pelts, are used to create waterproof clothing suitable for Arctic weather. Excess pelts are sold at auction, tanned and made into fashionable coats, bags and boots, items in high demand in Nunavut. To address this internal market, a two-year Fur Design and Production Program is offered by the Government of Nunavut through the Nunavut Arctic College. Student designs have received recognition at the North American Fur & Fashion Exposition (NAFFEM), a high-profile, international event for the luxury fur industry.

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Permafrost Monitoring

Roads, runways, and buildings are constructed on top of permafrost and future melting of this permafrost due to climate change would have a profound effect on existing infrastructure and require unique solutions for the future. To monitor the effects of climate change, permafrost monitoring sites have been installed in seven communities. Results of this monitoring will allow Nunavummiut to plan for adaptation.

Outpost Camps with Young Offenders

When young Inuit get in trouble with the law, incarceration often worsens the underlying issue. Many of these youth are instead sent to outpost camps where they learn traditional skills and reconnect with their cultural identity. They gain skills which can help them provide food for their families and give them a sense of purpose. Cultural knowledge gives them a sense of belonging to a larger community and gives them pride in their culture and language.

Transportation Infrastructure

Nunavut is not accessible by road.



All transportation into the territory is by air or by sea. With one-fifth of Canada's landmass and two-thirds of Canada's coastline, Nunavut's remote communities depend on air and sea transportation infrastructure for the delivery of food, mail, construction materials, generators to create electricity, fuel to heat our homes, and medical equipment, to name just a few. Nunavut has invested significant funds into new air terminal buildings, maintenance of runways and training of airport Observer/Communicators.

Nunavut has also contributed to the Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans which identified harbours as important

for economic opportunities within the communities. Funding for a small craft harbour for Pangnirtung was identified in the federal 2009 Budget.

Increased Inuit Employment

Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) sets out steps for the Governments of Canada and Nunavut to develop a public service that represents the general population of Nunavut, which is approximately 85% Inuit. On April 1, 1999, the GN had 789 employees registered as Beneficiaries of the NLCA. By December 31, 2008, that number has nearly doubled to 1521 Beneficiaries employed. To meet reach that goal, the GN has increased training and development opportunities, published job opportunities in all Official Languages of the territory including the Inuit languages, offered summer employment opportunities for Nunavut students, offered bilingual bonuses to staff who can work in at least two Official Languages, and conducted audits of job descriptions to remove systematic barriers.