

2024.2028

Strategic 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



About Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the national Inuit representative organization in Canada. Under the direction of the four Inuit Treaty Organizations whose members include all Inuit, ITK works to advance the priorities of our people and communities.

Voting members of the ITK Board of Directors are democratically elected by Inuit. ITK's Board of Directors are as follows:

- Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- President, Makivvik
- President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- President, Nunatsiavut Government

In addition to voting Directors, 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

The ITK president is elected by the leaders of Inuit Treaty Organizations and their delegates and serves a four-year term.

Vision

Canadian Inuit are prospering through unity and self-determination.

Mission

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



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Letter from the President



The seven priorities included in this Strategic Plan represent ITK's commitment to creating tangible, lasting improvements in the lives of our people.

I am pleased to share ITK's Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, the document that will guide our day-to-day work over the next four years. Our Strategic Plan builds on the successful implementation of ITK's previous Strategic Plan, which resulted in significant advances in Inuit governance and self-determination, including the development of the federal Inuit Nunangat Policy, the launch of the Inuit Child First Initiative, and the release of the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy.

For too long, the federal government has overlooked its binding international human rights treaty obligations, resulting in discrimination against Inuit in the form of major gaps in services within Inuit Nunangat in areas such as healthcare, education, as well as services for persons with disabilities. This Strategic Plan includes actions that will help remedy gaps in the provision of these and other services, including actions that support the development of Inuit jurisdiction over certain aspects of service delivery.

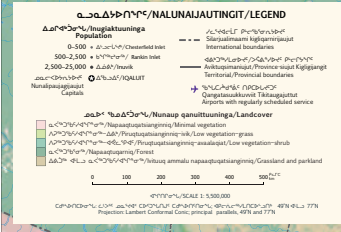
The seven priorities included in this Strategic Plan represent ITK's commitment to creating tangible, lasting improvements in the lives of our people. ITK will monitor and advocate for the implementation of our human rights, and utilize international mechanisms intended to hold States to account for their human rights treaty obligations. This includes advocating for solutions for improving the safety and security of our most vulnerable populations.

Language is a cornerstone of our culture and identity that is threatened by the declining number of Inuktitut speakers in all four regions of Inuit Nunangat. ITK will continue to advance Inuktitut revitalization, maintenance, protection and promotion measures that support the longevity of our language.

This Strategic Plan is also an important advocacy tool to enable Inuit to convey unified, shared priorities, while also allowing our leadership to evaluate and hold our organization accountable for making measurable progress. I look forward to continuing this work on behalf of Inuit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Natan Obed".

Nakummek,
Natan Obed



Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami 2024-2028 Strategic Plan



Overview

The 2024-2028 ITK Strategic Plan serves as our organization's mandate for this four-year period. The objectives, actions and deliverables included in this document guide ITK's day-to-day work and enable the ITK Board to evaluate our progress in achieving shared Inuit objectives. Implementation of the 2024-2028 ITK Strategic Plan is guided by our vision and mission.

Who we are

We are an Indigenous people recognized in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Our language, culture and way of life are rooted in our land and the foods we have always harvested to nourish our families and communities. Our homeland, Inuit Nunangat, encompasses the entire Arctic region of Canada. Inuit are also Indigenous to northern Alaska and Greenland, with our shared language and culture extending beyond Canada's international borders.

The four Inuit Treaty Organizations that direct ITK are signatories to five modern treaties negotiated with the Crown between 1975 and 2008. They are the only legal representatives of Inuit in our relationship with the Crown, and their members collectively form the Inuit population in Canada.

ITK was founded in 1971 in order to coordinate and advance Inuit land claims negotiations, as well as to define and pursue other national Inuit priorities. Our organization helped secure recognition of Inuit rights as a member of the Inuit Committee on National Issues (ICNI), which was created in 1979 to support work on the Constitution. ICNI was a member of the Aboriginal Rights Coalition, which helped secure the inclusion of Section 35 in the *Constitution Act, 1982*. ITK continues to advance national Inuit priorities and initiatives through representation, advocacy, and research.

Strategic Plan

The following objectives, actions and deliverables have been jointly determined by Inuit treaty organizations and are implemented in close coordination between ITK and Inuit Treaty Organizations.

1. Strengthen Inuit unity, governance and self-determination

Our unity as a people is our greatest strength and is pivotal for promoting our rights, developing solutions to shared challenges, as well as for effectively communicating shared expectations to all others. ITK will strengthen Inuit unity, governance and self-determination by working to ensure that national policies, programs and initiatives support Inuit aspirations for greater self-determination and self-government. We will build on the progress we have made through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to create opportunities for our people to exercise our right to self-determination, including over areas of jurisdiction currently administered by provincial and territorial governments. We will also advance initiatives that help ensure that Inuit Treaty Organizations are recognized and respected by governments and all others as the legal representatives of all Inuit.



ACTIONS

- Develop a national Inuit identification card to be used for determining eligibility for federal government and other programs, services, policies or initiatives
- Educate governments and others about Inuit and our communities, governance structures and rights
- Work to secure a legislative basis for the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee
- Leverage the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to secure federal budget allocations that benefit Inuit
- Advocate for full and effective implementation of the Inuit Nunangat Policy and Inuit-Crown Co-Development Principles
- Develop legislative and policy options supporting the processing and sale of Inuit country foods

DELIVERABLES

- ☐ National Inuit identification cards distributed to Inuit Treaty Organization members by September 2025
- ☐ Complete legislative and policy proposal for supporting the sale of Inuit country foods by May 2024



2. Improve access to education, health, and disabilities services

The health and well-being of our people is largely determined by the quality and accessibility of education and health services in our communities. The poor quality of education and health services in many parts of Inuit Nunangat contributes to some families experiencing social and economic distress and, in some cases, systemic human rights violations. Inuit with disabilities, elders requiring long-term continuing care, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk of falling through discriminatory education and health service gaps. ITK will work to improve access to high quality service delivery in the key areas of education, health and disability services by supporting the development of Inuit jurisdiction over service delivery. We will also utilize research to document existing gaps and promote potential legislative and policy solutions to remedy them.

ACTIONS

- Support the development of Inuit jurisdiction over critical service areas, including by advocating for direct intergovernmental transfers to Inuit Treaty Organizations
- Secure the resources and supports required to eliminate tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat by 2030
- Pursue legislative, regulatory and policy solutions for closing gaps in education, health and disabilities services
- Advocate for the implementation of national standards and other accountability mechanisms for the provision of education, health and disabilities-related services
- Complete the legal and administrative framework for the Inuit Nunangat University and work to secure enabling legislation authorizing its activities
- Pursue legislative and policy measures needed to implement the rights of Inuit with disabilities

DELIVERABLES

- ☐ Policy proposal identifying measures required to close gaps in education and health service delivery completed by April 2026
- ☐ Inuit Nunangat Disabilities Strategy completed by October 2025
- ☐ Inuit Nunangat University Charter and legislative strategy completed by October 2024
- ☐ Proposal for an Inuit Nunangat education policy by November 2024

3. Improve Inuktitut revitalization, maintenance, protection and promotion

Our language, Inuktitut, is a pillar of our culture, society and identity. Unfortunately, the number of Inuktitut speakers continues to decline in all four regions of Inuit Nunangat, threatening an essential part of our identity, culture, society and worldview. ITK will help improve Inuktitut revitalization, maintenance, protection and promotion through practical measures that support the longevity of our language. We will continue to work to secure additional federal resources to support Inuit-led Inuktitut initiatives, including through enhanced Inuit self-determination over education, help ensure that specific federal services are provided in Inuktitut, and make existing and new language learning materials more accessible to our people. We are particularly well positioned to gather and promote existing and new language learning tools and resources, as well as to broker partnerships that lead to the documentation of Inuktitut and development of Inuktitut media.



ACTIONS

- Advocate for adequate, sustainable, and long-term federal funding for Inuktitut, including through continued participation in the implementation of the national *Indigenous Languages Act*.
- Support the work toward achieving Inuktitut language of instruction from kindergarten to grade 12, including by creating new Inuktitut learning resources and consolidate existing Inuktitut curricula and learning materials online
- Document and promote best practices for Inuktitut revitalization, maintenance, protection and promotion
- Continued promotion and implementation of Inuktitut Qaliujaaqpait, the Inuit unified writing system, as an Inuktitut teaching tool, including through the development of common spelling and grammar rules, and standardized terminology for technical concepts
- Facilitate partnerships among Inuit that support production of new Inuktitut media and art
- Advocate for the provision of federal and other government services in Inuktitut
- Support the United Nations International Decade on Indigenous Languages 2022-2032
- Participate in the independent review of the *Indigenous Languages Act* in 2024 with the goal of securing legislative protection for Inuktitut.

DELIVERABLES

- ☐ Inuktitut online library consolidating Inuktitut learning resources and initiatives completed by July 2026
- ☐ Inuktitut policy strategy completed by December 2024
- ☐ Workplan for the Inuktitut Costing Analysis for Inuktitut language revitalization, maintenance, protection and promotion in Inuit Nunangat by August 2025



4. Support implementation of human rights in Inuit Nunangat

Canada prides itself as a human rights defender yet the federal government does not monitor or enforce domestic implementation of its international human rights treaty obligations. This coupled with the absence of national service standards contributes to Inuit being much more likely than other Canadians to experience substandard service levels and discriminatory gaps in services. ITK will support implementation of human rights in Inuit Nunangat by promoting our human rights as well as advocating for legislative and policy solutions that would enable implementation of Canada's human rights obligations in Inuit Nunangat. We will utilize international human rights reporting mechanisms to ensure that the international community is aware of the unique situation of Inuit and will advocate domestically for legislative and policy solutions for monitoring and enforcing implementation of our human rights by governments.

ACTIONS

- Work with federal partners to implement the *UN Declaration Act* and associated Action Plan measures
- Monitor and report to the UN Human Rights Council on the status of human rights treaty implementation in Inuit Nunangat
- Continue to pursue the establishment of an Indigenous human rights commission and tribunal
- Promote legislative and policy solutions for monitoring, implementing and enforcing our human rights

DELIVERABLES

- ☐ Comprehensive review of the status of human rights treaty implementation in Inuit Nunangat completed by June 2024
- ☐ Inuit Nunangat human rights treaty implementation strategy completed by February 2025
- ☐ Position paper on establishing an Indigenous human rights commission and tribunal completed by January 2024

5. Advance Inuit self-determination over research

Research is an essential component of effective advocacy and policy development and remains a cornerstone of our work. Exercising Inuit self-determination over research is necessary to ensure that research about our people is useful and beneficial for our communities. We have made significant strides in recent years in advancing Inuit self-determination over research, including through continued implementation of the National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR), brokering an international research project, forming an Inuit-led research ethics board, and conducting the ongoing Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey. ITK will continue to advance Inuit self-determination over research by prioritizing new opportunities to broker research projects and initiatives that benefit our communities. We will also continue to advocate for the alignment of federal policies and practices with the NISR and will develop our capacity to conduct research that supports Inuit priorities.

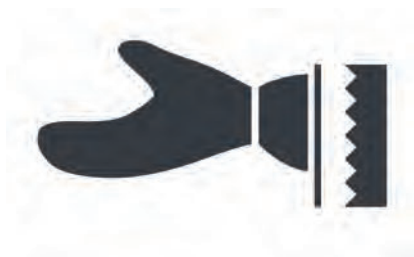


ACTIONS

- Promote Inuit data sovereignty through implementation of the Inuit Data Strategy
- Broker partnerships that advance Inuit self-determination in research
- Advocate for adequate, sustainable, and long-term funding to build and support Inuit research and data capacity
- Support and facilitate Inuit leadership in research ethics processes

DELIVERABLES

- ☐ Inuit Data Strategy released by September 2025
- ☐ Inuit Research Network Phase II developed by July 2026
- ☐ Data collection for the Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey completed by January 2025
- ☐ Qanuippitaa? survey results, including through summary reports, by March 2026



6. Help improve the safety and security of vulnerable Inuit populations

In recent years, governments and everyday Canadians have become more aware of the situation of the most vulnerable members of our society. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in particular helped promote broader understanding of the factors that make Inuit women and girls vulnerable to violence and other forms of distress. However, other vulnerable populations such as Inuit children and youth in contact with the child welfare system, or those who are unhoused, require greater attention. ITK will help improve the safety and security of vulnerable Inuit populations by continuing to advocate for implementation of Inuit-specific measures for preventing violence against Inuit women and children. We will continue to help facilitate Inuit self-determination over child and family services. At the same time we must continue implementation of the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy in order to help reduce suicide risk among our families and communities.

ACTIONS

- Advocate for the development of federal, distinctions-based violence against women legislation
- Implement the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy and advance other measures that help reduce poverty and improve food security
- Continue implementation of the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy and evaluate its effectiveness
- Support implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan on MMIWG
- Support implementation of the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families*
- Develop a National Inuit Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Promote implementation of comprehensive cost of living reduction measures by governments

DELIVERABLES

- ☐ Research paper identifying systemic gaps in the delivery of social services and potential solutions for closing gaps completed by December 2024
- ☐ Position paper and legislative strategy for establishing federal, distinctions-based violence against women legislation completed by August 2024
- ☐ Policy strategy on evidence-based, effective cost of living reduction measures completed by April 2025
- ☐ Complete evaluation of National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy by April 2027
- ☐ Inuit Nunangat Poverty Reduction Strategy released by October 2024
- ☐ Performance framework and funding approach developed to help support Inuit Treaty Organizations in exercising jurisdiction over child and family services completed by November 2025

7. Work to close the Inuit Nunangat infrastructure gap

Canada's investments in Arctic infrastructure fall behind those of all other Arctic States. The infrastructure gap between Inuit Nunangat and most other regions of Canada makes the country less secure, less economically competitive, and extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and other social and economic challenges. ITK has made strides in this area by identifying Inuit infrastructure needs for Inuit Nunangat that we will continue to use to advocate for greater investment in Inuit Nunangat infrastructure. We will continue advocating for implementation of the Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy as well as for Inuit-specific federal allocations for other types of infrastructure, including marine, telecommunications and aviation infrastructure. ITK will continue to work to close the Inuit Nunangat infrastructure gap by conducting research about the scope, costs, and most appropriate mechanisms for developing infrastructure in Inuit Nunangat. This includes developing a sustainable, long-term approach to federal infrastructure investments that secures new capital, as well as operations and maintenance funding, and grows our capacity to plan for, design, build, and maintain Inuit infrastructure projects.



ACTIONS

- Advocate to secure financial support for Inuit-defined and -led climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Pursue the development of stable, long-term distinctions-based funding mechanism beyond the current cycle of the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund
- Secure operations and maintenance funding for Inuit infrastructure projects
- Build and expand capacity to plan for, design, build, and maintain infrastructure projects in Inuit Nunangat
- Support the development of regional infrastructure needs assessments
- Urge Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to expand eligibility for the Adaptation Fund to include Inuit and recognize representatives of Indigenous regions as Parties
- Promote promising infrastructure initiatives and applicable lessons from Inuit Nunangat and other jurisdictions

DELIVERABLES

- ☐ Proposal for expanding eligibility to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change funds and financial entities as well as eligibility by Indigenous Peoples for UNFCCC membership completed by November 2024
- ☐ Recommendations for a stable, long-term distinctions-based infrastructure funding mechanism developed by June 2025
- ☐ Identify and cost operations and maintenance funding needs for Inuit infrastructure projects by November 2024
- ☐ Discussion paper identifying potential common elements for regional infrastructure needs assessments by June 2025



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