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INUIT TAPIIRIT KANATAMI

Building Inuit Nunaat The Inuit Action Plan

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and
Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada)

February 5, 2007 Ottawa, Canada



Inuit Nunaat

Inuit Nunaat is the term used to describe the homeland of the Inuit of Canada. In a contemporary context, Inuit Nunaat can, with some minor qualifications, best be described as the land and marine areas that make up the land claims settlement areas of the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, Nunavut and the Nunakput region. Inuit Nunaat makes up approximately forty percent of Canada's land. Inuit Nunaat contains about one half of Canada's coastlines, and forms virtually all of one territory (Nunavut), significant portions of one other territory (Northwest Territories) and two provinces (Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador).

The literal translation of the Inuktitut singular phrase Inuit Nunaat is "Inuit land, and/or where Inuit live," inclusive of Inuit who reside in southern centres.

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A Framework for Action

The Inuit of Canada and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada signed a *Partnership Accord* on May 31, 2005.¹ The Inuit of Canada are represented in the *Partnership Accord* by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), on behalf of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Labrador Inuit Association, Makivik Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, the National Inuit Youth Council, and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference Canada (ICC Canada).

The *Partnership Accord* calls for an Inuit Action Plan (IAP) to be developed and negotiated by the Government of Canada and Inuit. The IAP must reflect the principles and objectives of the *Partnership Accord* and recognize the emerging global Arctic reality. The Government of Canada has recognized the growing importance of the Arctic in a world where there are “increased security threats, a changed distribution of global power, challenges to existing international institutions, and the transformation of the global economy.”²

The IAP will be monitored and evaluated through the establishment of a joint steering committee and through regular meetings between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the President of ITK.³

The purpose of this Framework document is to provide a context for the follow-up actions by the Government of Canada and the Inuit of Canada on the *Partnership Accord* and *Inuit Action Plans*. This context is framed by four important realities:

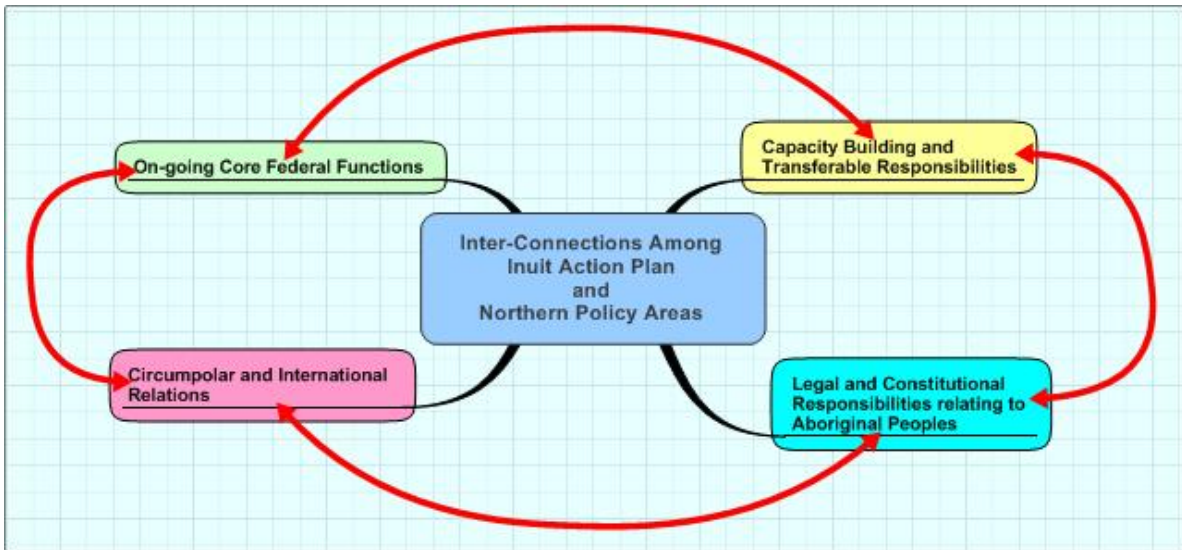
Linkages Among Issues

There are many linkages among issues affecting Inuit. While the complexity of such linkages presents challenges, clear priorities and an awareness of the relationships among issues can help. A single, well-integrated initiative can result in cost effective actions serving multiple agendas.

¹ The Partnership Accord is attached as Appendix “iv”.

² *ibid.*

³ *ibid.*, pg. 12



The existence of Shared and Overlapping Responsibilities

Throughout Canada, government departments and agencies with a range of responsibilities must work together to provide integrated packages of laws, policies and programs to address the needs of Canadians. Within Inuit Nunat, responsibilities are similarly shared across a range of governmental and organizational actors. While the elements of an IAP can be brought together in one framework, discrete organizations and processes must be appropriately situated within that framework to form a complete and workable picture.

For Inuit, it is important to take a holistic approach to problem solving. At the same time, not all issues can be handled with a “one window” approach. Local, regional, national and international issues may require widely divergent approaches, and flexibility must be created for diversity and experimentation.

Improving the lives of Inuit within Canada requires a stronger and healthier Government of Canada/Inuit relationship. Such a relationship involves two teams working together for a common set of goals and objectives. There should be collaboration within the Government of Canada team, composed of various departments and agencies, and within the Inuit team, made up of various contributing Inuit organizations. Equally importantly, there must be a high level of constructive engagement between the two teams.

The need for Ongoing Actions on Related Fronts

Any “action plan” must focus on the achievement of tangible and concrete results. The IAP will convert the ideal of partnership into near-term, focused initiatives that both improve the lives of Inuit and contribute to a stronger Canada. The IAP will identify activities to be conducted over an initial three year period. Subsequently, the IAP will be reviewed, updated, and re-focused every three to five years. The table on the next page (to be completed by the parties) illustrates one way to organize activities. Other approaches might also produce good results.

Inuit Action Plan Overview of Activities as of _____

Activities	Expected Output	Lead Dept./ Inuit Org.	Participants	Date of Implementation	Financing	
					Project cost estimate	sources of finances
1. ENVIRONMENT						
Priorities for Action identified by Canada/Inuit for the period ____ to ____.						
1.1. Climate Change						
1.2 Contaminants						
1.3 Oceans						
1.4 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources						
1.5 Species at Risk Act						
1.6 Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development						
2. HEALTH						
Priorities for Action identified by Canada/Inuit for the period ____ to ____.						
2.1 Health Promotion and Prevention						
2.2 Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention (Celebrate Life)						
2.3 Sustainable Health Care Funding						
2.4 Tele-Health						
2.5 Inuit Health Directorate						

Activities	Expected Output	Lead Dept./ Inuit Org.	Participants	Date of Implementation	Financing	
					Project cost estimate	sources of finances
3. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES						
Priorities for Action identified by Canada/Inuit for the period ____ to ____.						
3.1 Early Childhood Development (ECD)						
3.2 Economic Development						
3.3 Housing						
3.4 Language & Culture						
3.5 Law & Justice						
3.6 Urban Inuit						
3.7 Youth						
4. HUMAN RESOURCES						
Priorities for Action identified by Canada/Inuit for the period ____ to ____.						
4.1 Education						
4.2 Human Resources						
4.3 Employment and Training						
2.4.3. New Activities						
5. RESEARCH						
Priorities for Action identified by Canada/Inuit for the period ____ to ____.						
5.1 Environment, Health and Socio-Economic Research, Monitoring and Indicators						
5.2 Circumpolar Science and Research						

Activities	Expected Output	Lead Dept./ Inuit Org.	Participants	Date of Implementation	Financing	
					Project cost estimate	sources of finances
6. INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES						
Priorities for Action identified by Canada/Inuit for the period ____ to ____.						
6.1 Sustainable Utilization of Living Resources						
6.2 Arctic Biodiversity						
6.3 Environmental Contaminants						
6.4 Climate Change						
6.5 Health						
6.6 Arctic Shipping						
6.7 Arctic Sovereignty						
6.8 Russian Cooperation						
6.9 Arctic Science and Research						
6.10 Language						
7. WOMEN'S ISSUES*						
Priorities for Action identified by Canada/Inuit for the period ____ to ____.						
7.1 Equity and Empowerment						
7.2 Health and Safety						
7.3 Strengthening Inuit Families						
7.4 Inuit Women's Independent Voice on Global Issues						

** Reference activities contained in the Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Action Plan previously submitted to the federal Government October 1, 2006*

Need to Build Capacity to Act at All Levels, including within the Government of Canada

Success in implementing IAPs will depend on commitment to provide and account for adequate financial resources. This includes funding required to build and maintain the human resources within Inuit organizations and within the Government of Canada, regionally, nationally, and internationally to carry out consultation within Inuit Nunaat and to conduct needed research and policy development.

A main principle of the Partnership Accord is:

“Appropriate financial, human resources and accountability capacity for the sustained involvement of Inuit in policy development with the Government of Canada and, where appropriate, relevant provincial and territorial governments, will be jointly developed, including those required by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to address national issues.”⁴

It is important also to make note of key recommendations contained in the recent 2004 DIAND report entitled, “Reviews of Funding to Provincial/Territorial Organizations (PTOs) and National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs)”. Implicit within the recommendations was the need to ensure that national and regional Aboriginal organizations have access to adequate and reliable multi-year core funding.

The Partnership Accord calls for a new and more positive relationship between Inuit and the Government of Canada. The underlying premise is that well-functioning structures and processes linking the Government of Canada and Inuit will foster initiatives that “add value”. Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada acknowledge that new ways of relating, some that differ substantially from the status quo, are required to foster cooperation and address matters of national, and indeed global, importance.

The success of IAPs will be closely linked with the ability to utilize institutional structures and supports needed to effectively implement initiatives designed to improve the lives of Inuit.

For its part, the Government of Canada would benefit from formal mechanisms and protocols, enabling access to, and more importantly, support from Inuit decision-makers.

⁴ Canada. Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Partnership Accord. Ottawa: Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, 2005. pg.6

Effective and efficient informal and formal communication is necessary to ensure that this Action Plan is co-operatively implemented. IAPs will research the creation of new or reformed institutions and processes to address Inuit issues, be they national or international in nature.

Summary

The commitment to action, through IAPs, will put into operation the May 2005 *Partnership Accord* entered into by the Crown and Canadian Inuit. This Framework for Action document provides an overview of the initiatives that both parties will address collectively through their various departmental and organizational structures. Further details of the elements of the IAPs are contained in the attached documents:

Annex A: *Building Inuit Nunaat: The Inuit Action Plan -ITK*

Annex B: *The International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan 2006 – 2010: Creating Partnerships for Effective Global Action on the Arctic -ICC*

Note: Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada has submitted their Inuit Women's Action Plan, hence reference to Inuit Women's priorities are not articulated in full detail in this document.

Annex A

Building Inuit Nunaat

The Inuit Action Plan



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INUIT TAPIIRIT KANATAMI

Inuit of Canada

& Government of Canada

December, 2006



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Introduction

The Inuit of Canada and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada signed a Partnership Accord on May 31, 2005.⁵ The Inuit of Canada are represented in the Partnership Accord by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), on behalf of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Labrador Inuit Association, Makivik Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, the National Inuit Youth Council, and the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada (ICC Canada). The Queen is represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The Accord contains recitals relevant to the history and status of the Inuit of Canada as an aboriginal people within Canada, principles to guide the relationship between the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada, and short and long-term objectives the relationship will pursue. The Accord also states, *“A Government of Canada-Inuit Action Plan, reflecting the principles and objectives of this Accord, will be developed and negotiated by March 31, 2006, between the Parties and, upon approval and ratification by the Parties, will be appended to this Accord and become part of it.”*⁶ This initial Action Plan will identify activities and initiatives to be conducted over a three year period, with revisions as needed. Subsequent Action Plans shall be reviewed and priorities negotiated every 3-5 years.

As the international community intensifies its gaze northward, and the Arctic takes on the new characteristics of a geopolitical region, Canada’s perception of the area is changing. Once seen as a peripheral region, the circumpolar Arctic is now seen as an important foreign policy venue with unique challenges and opportunities. This was most clearly articulated in Canada’s 2005 International Policy Statement which identifies the Arctic, Africa, and the Americas for specific attention and increased activity. Canada has recognized the growing importance of the Arctic in a global context in which there are “increased security threats, a changed distribution of global power, challenges to existing international institutions, and the transformation of the global economy.”⁷ This action plan and its activities, therefore, situates Inuit Nunaat both as an important region within Canada and, at the same time, as one element of a larger circumpolar region and, in fact, a larger world community.

This Action Plan, jointly developed by Inuit and the Government of Canada, recognizes this emerging global Arctic reality – and focuses on the achievement of tangible and concrete results. It reflects the view that Inuit-Canada partnerships, which address both the need for a new way of relating and the necessity for urgent actions, are the most

⁵ The Partnership Accord is attached as Appendix “iv”.

⁶ Canada. Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Partnership Accord. Ottawa: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2005. pg.12

⁷ibid.

appropriate tools in dealing with issues affecting Canada's Inuit – as well as the new international reality of the Arctic.

The Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated through the establishment of a joint steering committee and through regular meetings between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the President of ITK.⁸

This Action Plan can serve as a significant step in building a more sound, effective and sustainable relationship between Inuit and the Government of Canada. This undertaking is not tied to any general exercise to redefine the relationship between the federal government and aboriginal peoples. This Action Plan will convert the ideal of partnership into near-term, focused initiatives that both improve the lives of Inuit and contribute to a stronger Canada.

⁸ *ibid*, pg.12

Background

The Inuit of Canada

Approximately 155,000 Inuit live in the Arctic, spread across four countries. Inuit possess a common culture and heritage, a shared environment, speak one language, eat similar foods, and utilize similar natural resources.

Inuit from Russia, Alaska, Greenland and Canada are represented internationally by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC). Founded in 1977, the ICC promotes Inuit unity and puts Inuit at the centre of international decision-making on issues that affect their interests and concerns. Given the range and number of priorities that drive the ICC agenda and to provide comprehensive information to Government on the work of ICC; a companion detailed ICC Inuit action plan forms a part of this submission. The ICC plan⁹ is integral and complementary to this document.

The Inuit of Canada are approximately 53,400¹⁰ in number: inhabiting Nunakput, Inuvialuit Settlement Region surrounding the Canadian side of the Beaufort Sea; Nunavut; the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani portions of the central and eastern Arctic; Nunavik, in northern Quebec; and Nunatsiavut, in northern Labrador.

The Inuit of Canada have concluded four modern land claims agreements that collectively encompass regions traditionally and continuously used and occupied by Inuit pre-dating Canadian sovereignty to the present. The settlement areas of the four Inuit land claim agreements comprise a geographic homeland called "*Inuit Nunaat*."¹¹

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) represents all Inuit of Canada on matters of national importance as mandated by its board of directors. ITK's primary role is to secure a more equal and equitable place for Inuit within Canada. But ITK is also committed to working on ensuring that none of the important sub-sections of the Inuit community—including women, men, children and youth, elders, Inuit living in urban areas, the disabled, the marginalized—are forgotten or left behind. ITK believes that the Inuit of Canada have a responsibility to practice equality and equity, just as the Inuit of Canada have the right to seek these things no matter where they choose to reside.

Inuit Circumpolar Council – Canada (ICC) represents Canada's Inuit on matters of international importance, and is also the representative body of the Inuit Circumpolar

⁹ The ICC plan can be found in Annex B: The International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan, 2006 – 2010

¹⁰ Estimated by Statistics Canada for 2006 that is projected from the 2001 census figure

¹¹ A map of Ukiuqtaqtuq is attached as Appendix "C".

Council in Canada. The four Inuit organizations that represent Inuit under regional land claims agreements form the membership of both ITK and the ICC Canada.

For a number of years, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, an organization separate from ITK and its four member land claims organizations, has worked on bringing about positive change for Inuit women. Pauktuutit and ITK have collaborated on a number of health and other projects having special relevance for Inuit women. Pauktuutit has submitted the action plan for Inuit women to the Federal Government on October 1st, 2006.

Additional support for Inuit youth is provided by the National Inuit Youth Council.

The Government of Canada, Provinces, Territories, and Regional Governments

Inuit of Canada are citizens of Canada and enjoy all the rights and responsibilities of other Canadians, including those fundamental rights and freedoms that are protected under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom*.

Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, identifies Inuit as an aboriginal people of Canada. As aboriginal Canadians, Inuit derive rights and benefits from the Parliament and Government of Canada from three sources: the authority of Parliament to make laws in relation to Inuit under heading 91.24 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*; the discretion of Parliament to authorize expenditure of moneys in any area that it sees fit and, the rights and benefits that flow from land claims agreements ratified by Parliament. .

In Canada, the Crown can act through both the federal and provincial levels of government. The special relationship, and associated duties, that exist between aboriginal peoples and the Crown, applies to both federal and provincial levels. That being said, the Constitution defines a larger jurisdictional and policy space for the federal level than the provincial level through such mechanisms as heading 91.24 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the federal spending power, and federal power over territories and marine areas.

The relationship between the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada can and should be defined in reference to two things: to the Inuit as a people, that is, as a distinct ethnic, cultural and linguistic component of Canadian society; and, geographically, to the Inuit regions that constitute *Inuit Nunaat*.

The relationship between the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada is elaborated in part through the rights and benefits that flow from land claims agreements to policies, programs and services that exist outside land claims agreements. These are not exclusively distinct compartments; many issues have both a land claims agreement component and aspects that do not figure directly in those agreements. There are seven realities that must necessarily be addressed in the building up of that relationship:

- *Inuit Nunaat includes areas that fall within two provinces and two territories;*
- *Inuit do not form the demographic majority in any of those provinces and territories except Nunavut;*
- *distinct governments exist in Nunavik and Nunatsiavut where Inuit do form a demographic majority;*
- *in the case of Nunavut and Nunavik, the territorial and distinct governments are not defined, by way of electoral franchise, along Inuit ethnic lines;*
- *in the case of Nunatsiavut, the distinct government is defined along Inuit ethnic lines;*
- *in the case of Nunakput, there is not a regional government, the electoral franchise of the territorial government is not defined along ethnic lines, and the Inuvialuit do not form a majority of the electorate; and,*
- *Inuit families and individuals who reside outside Inuit Nunaat form significant communities within a number of larger Canadian cities.*
- *The preceding factors must be addressed in making determinations as to topics of focus and priority, and the structuring and allocation of resources to implement this Action Plan.*

International Law, Protocols and the International Circumpolar Council

The Government of Canada and the Inuit of Canada share a vision of international agreements and activities that enhance the health, well-being, culture, and economy of the Inuit of Canada, and protect the natural environment upon which Inuit so closely and fundamentally depend.

To this end, a primary objective of the Partnership Accord is to address “relevant challenges and opportunities of an international nature in cooperation with the Government of Canada.”¹²

Given that the manner in which the Canadian government addresses international issues is often distinct from how domestic issues are managed, and since Canadian Inuit are part of a larger body of Inuit in Russia, Alaska, and Greenland, it is important that international dimensions are considered as part of this Action Plan, in order to:

- *facilitate the efforts of Inuit to deal effectively with social, cultural, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities of an international nature in co-operation with the Government of Canada;*

¹² Ibid, pg.9-10.

- *strengthen existing or establish new institutions and processes enabling Inuit and the Government of Canada to work in partnership on matters of shared international priority;*
- *undertake joint international initiatives from 2006 to 2010¹³ that address short and long-term challenges facing Canadian Inuit; and*
- *Promote effective implementation of existing international agreements and make the case for additional agreements required to secure the health and well-being of Canadian Inuit.*

There are specific international Arctic policy positions of the Government of Canada that are articulated through various instruments including the *Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy* and, more recently, *Canada's International Policy Statement*. This latter document singles out globally three "particular geographic areas for increased activity"¹⁴ that Canada will target. They are the Arctic, Africa, and the Americas. The Arctic (which encompasses eight nations) has increasingly become a focus of not only Canada, but of the international community as well. Much of this is, according to *Canada's International Policy Statement*, the result of "increased security threats, a changed distribution of global power, challenges to existing international institutions, and the transformation of the global economy."¹⁵

There are also international issues of importance to Inuit of Canada that go much beyond the circumpolar region, such as sustainable utilization, environmental contaminants, and security matters decided at international bodies such as the United Nations.

When it comes to foreign policy and international activities undertaken by Canada, the key government departments and bodies within departments are often quite different than those related to domestic matters. As such, this Action Plan may take a different, yet complementary, approach to the national and international issues put forward—when developing Government of Canada/Inuit partnerships and joint initiatives. A stand-alone *International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan* reflects this reality.

¹³ The Inuit Circumpolar Council holds its General Assembly every four years, during which Inuit delegates from Russia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland mandate ICC to work on issues over a four year period.

¹⁴ Government of Canada. *Canada's International Policy Statement*. [Overview](#). Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2005. pg. 30.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* pg.30

Guidelines

This Action Plan is a subsidiary document to the Partnership Accord and conforms to the core rationale, principles and objectives of the Accord.

The jurisdictional, legislative, policy, program, and service arrangements that constitute the relationship between Inuit, the Parliament, and Government of Canada are more a function of the history and priorities of non-Inuit society than the outcome of informed, consensual discussions with Inuit representatives (modern land claims agreement qualify this statement).

These arrangements are by and large the sum total of a series of incremental decisions, rather than the product of any kind of long-term vision or comprehensive planning. They represent the status quo, and this Action Plan accepts that they are the starting point in a focused discussion towards development and implementation of Inuit specific solutions designed in full partnership with Inuit. All federal government laws, policies, programs and services that apply to Inuit of Canada, should be considered.

Commitment and Obligations

No part of this Action Plan, large or small, can be successful without a commitment to provide and account for adequate financial resources. This includes funding required to build and maintain the human resources within Inuit organizations, regionally, nationally, and internationally to carry out consultation within *Inuit Nunaat* and to conduct needed research and policy development.

A main principle of the Partnership Accord is:

“Appropriate financial, human resources and accountability capacity for the sustained involvement of Inuit in policy development with the Government of Canada and, where appropriate, relevant provincial and territorial governments, will be jointly developed, including those required by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to address national issues.”¹⁶

It is important also to make note of key recommendations contained in the recent 2004 DIAND report entitled, “Reviews of Funding to Provincial/Territorial Organizations (PTOs) and National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs)”. Implicit within the recommendations was the need to ensure that national and regional Aboriginal organizations have access to adequate and reliable multi-year core funding.

¹⁶ Canada. Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Partnership Accord. Ottawa: Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, 2005. pg.6

Institutional Supports

The Partnership Accord calls for a new and more positive relationship between Inuit and the Government of Canada. The underlying premise is that well-functioning structures and processes linking the Government of Canada and Inuit will foster initiatives that “add value”. Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada acknowledge that new ways of relating, some that differ substantially from the status quo, are required to foster cooperation and address matters of national, and indeed global, importance.

The success of this Action Plan will be closely linked with the ability to utilize institutional structures and supports needed to effectively implement initiatives designed to improve the lives of Inuit.

For its part, the Government of Canada would benefit from formal mechanisms and protocols, enabling access to, and more importantly, support from Inuit decision-makers.

Effective and efficient informal and formal communication is necessary to ensure that this Action Plan is co-operatively implemented. This Action Plan will research the creation of new or reformed institutions and processes to address Inuit issues, be they national or international in nature.

Measurable Efforts

This Action Plan directs the parties to focus plans of action in areas including: environment; health; social and economic development issues; human resources; research; international priorities; and, women’s issues¹⁷. Given limitations in resources, and the practicalities that make initiatives in some areas more feasible than others, many topics must necessarily be left for subsequent Action Plans. It is understood that the plan must be flexible and have the ability to respond to emerging priority issues.

¹⁷ A selective summary of Inuit social & economic indicators is attached as Appendix “D”

Environment

Inuit are hunters and gathers and, as such, the Arctic land and sea ecosystems, habitats and species are an essential component of their daily lives. Significant national and international attention has been placed on the Arctic's conservation challenges of trade policies, politics, globalization, natural resources exploration and development, hunting and sustainable consumption rights, climate change and contaminants.

This section of the Action Plan will help ensure that laws and related policies and programs relevant to Inuit reflect and foster the protection and proper management of the Arctic environment and its resources. This section will help to inform Inuit, governments and all Canadians about international, national and regional trends and developments. The Action Plan will further enable Inuit to increase their capacity and development of resources in order to identify and take effective action on Inuit environmental priorities.

Climate Change

The Arctic environment is changing at an alarming rate. This has already been confirmed by numerous international and national studies. Inuit are already taking action to address climate change at the international, national and regional levels. Inuit seek to define climate change priorities, considering linkages between adaptation and mitigation, and specific topics relevant to the Canadian Arctic. Inuit need to develop core capacity to address climate change so as to effectively develop long term adaptation plans. This will require participation in strategic policy and training initiatives by all levels of government, as well as cooperation on key international activities related to climate change. These activities include: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation, and the Arctic Council.

The Climate Change part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *establishment of a government/institutional policy approach that recognizes the equivalent importance and applicability of Inuit knowledge with scientific knowledge in respect to climate change;*
- *establishment of an Inuit-driven process to identify and determine opportunities and risks/threats posed by climate change for Inuit;*
- *assisting the Government of Canada in promoting climate change mitigation, adaptation, monitoring, surveillance, research and outreach activities both domestically and internationally that reflect the key findings of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), the Arctic Council's Reykjavik Declaration, that effect*

the rights, interests and concerns of Inuit such as those flowing from the UNFCCC process;

- *strengthened communications channels and cooperative activities between Inuit and the Government of Canada to ensure that Arctic circumstances and Inuit concerns inform fully the positions, proposals, advocacy, and interventions of the Government of Canada in international fora on climate change;*
- *strengthening existing partnerships between Inuit and the departments of Environment, Natural Resources, Fisheries and Oceans, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Industry, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the workgroups, committees and roundtables created by these departments;*
- *increased opportunities and incentives within Inuit Nunaat to apply renewable energy/mitigation initiatives and engage communities, governments, and industry;*
- *development of sustainable capacity-building tools enabling Inuit to engage in impacts and adaptations research, regional adaptation planning, and community development planning; and*
- *Establishment of a Canadian Arctic Climate Change Strategy that addresses both mitigation and adaptation.*

Contaminant Issues

The Arctic ecosystem is internationally described as “the indicator of global environmental health”. The production of legacy Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), emerging new chemicals, and heavy metals are of particular concern.

For more than twenty years, Canadian Inuit, along with Inuit in Russia, Alaska, and Greenland have worked with scientists, informed and consulted with Arctic Inuit communities, and pursued nation states and international organizations on contaminants related issues. The Canadian Government has been a leader among circumpolar nations in contaminants-related science, and working in collaboration with Inuit. Together, many significant advances were made, including the Stockholm Convention on the Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants

There is an ongoing need to keep Inuit informed and educated about local and long range contaminants affecting their human and environmental well-being. Inuit need to develop and maintain the requisite organizational capacity, and be engaged in the balancing of the benefit and risk research and assessment of contaminant exposure in relation to traditional food consumption. Inuit must also have the tools to engage at international and national levels to tackle the elimination of contaminants from Arctic ecosystems.

The Contaminants part of the first Action Plan will address the following:

- *on-going collaboration and cooperation between Inuit and Government of Canada on environmental contaminants;*
- *identification, through on-going research and cooperation, of new contaminants entering the Arctic that are not identified under the Stockholm Convention;*
- *enhanced capacity of Inuit to play a full role in the work governed by the Canadian Environmental Protection Act;*
- *determine linkages and overlaps between the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) toward the elimination of contaminants and pollutants in the Arctic;*
- *opportunities for further collaborative activity and/or agreements within existing international fora, such as the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the UN's Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)'s Long-Range Transport of Airborne Pollutants (LRTAP) process; establishment of a process to deal with local-based contaminants affecting Inuit communities ;*
- *strengthening communications channels between scientists and Inuit ;*
- *identifying actions that promote the confidence Inuit have in country food, and identifying the potential health effects from exposure through the food chain;*
- *establishment of a process, through expansion or paralleling of the Stockholm Convention, to eliminate long-range trans-boundary mercury pollution affecting Inuit Nunaat;*
- *completion of the Inuit Blueprint of the NCP to ensure Inuit priorities are met and addressed regarding communication, education, and capacity on long range contaminants issues;*
- *active Inuit involvement in upholding Canada's commitment to the Stockholm Convention;*
- *greater awareness by NCP scientists, researchers and administrators of the needs and issues of capacity building within regional Inuit organizations and communities, appropriate forms of consultation, and the responsible return of program results within Inuit Nunaat;*
- *providing input to the status of Arctic mercury levels, and international chemicals activities related to Canada's Northern Contaminants Program (NCP);*
- *development of an effective network of Inuit representatives involved in the NCP to exchange information and coordinate communication related activities; and*
- *Extension of funding of the NCP beyond its present phase.*

Oceans

All, but one, Inuit communities are located on the Arctic or Atlantic coasts. Inuit depend upon the conditions, health, and management of the oceans to support and sustain a way of life that is based on marine activities and resources. Moreover, climate change and the increasing research by industry and global players have placed an unprecedented focus on the Arctic and its potential shipping lanes.

Through the *Oceans Act*, the development of Canada's Oceans Strategy, and the implementation of Phase I of the Oceans Action Plan, the Government of Canada has taken steps to support integrated governance of Canada's oceans, taking advantage of economic opportunities, while integrating social and environmental goals, and providing Canadians the opportunity to engage in these processes. Collaboration between Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada is key to fully protecting the Arctic Ocean and to reflecting the ocean use rights and interests of Inuit.

The Oceans part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *greater inclusion of Inuit at the national and international levels by Canada in the development and implementation of broad oceans and shipping initiatives (for example, Oceans Action Plan phases, fisheries renewal, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including the appropriate communication of these initiatives within Inuit Nunaat);*
- *identification of means for the Government of Canada to assist Inuit in advocacy work with the International Maritime Organization, and active participation in the 2004-2008 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment to fully reflect Inuit interests, concerns, and rights in the offshore;*
- *establishment of more coordinated consultative processes between the Government of Canada, and Inuit on marine initiatives and issues affecting Inuit interests at the regional and local levels;*
- *enhanced capacity for Inuit at the national and regional levels to support Inuit driven marine research and monitoring, related economic opportunities at the regional and local levels (i.e. fisheries and marine harvesting), training and education, and management of coastal marine resources;*
- *inclusion of Inuit traditional knowledge on a par with Western science in oceans/marine studies and research;*
- *inclusion of Inuit in economic development projects that may have impacts on marine species and ecosystems; and*
- *Identification of opportunities for the Canadian Government and Canadian Inuit to work collaboratively on the new challenges of Arctic shipping.*

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources

Inuit have a vested interest in monitoring, promoting and advocating internationally and nationally principles and practices for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources integrally linked to Inuit culture, values, livelihoods, and economies in the Arctic. There are also mounting pressures from science and research communities that push agendas in reaction to climate change impacts on wildlife. Moreover, there is a continuing need for an organized and strategic Inuit presence and voice on matters regarding wildlife resources.

The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources part of the first Action plan must address the following:

- *funding assistance from governments for national and regional Inuit organizations to support Inuit research, advocacy, capacity-building, and communication efforts relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources;*
- *establishment of broad-level Inuit specific conservation and sustainable use strategies and positions to support international and national efforts;*
- *defining working relationships with the appropriate national, circumpolar and international partners including the Arctic Council's working groups, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), the World Conservation Union (IUCN); the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES); International Whaling Commission (IWC); the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO); and appropriate United Nations bodies;*
- *establishment of effective and mutually beneficial working relationships among Inuit, governments and co-management bodies – at the national, circumpolar and international levels – in supporting Inuit values and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife;*
- *development of position papers on salient matters of sustainable utilization and enhanced public understanding of the linkages between wildlife harvesting, conservation, and Inuit community sustainability according to Inuit values and practices;*
- *safeguarding Inuit culture and economy through the focused and coordinated efforts of Inuit and governments; and*
- *Identifying opportunities to collaborate on bilateral initiatives and agreements regarding species such as polar bears, narwhal, bowhead, beluga, muskoxen, and others.*

Species at Risk Act

Inuit have been involved in the development and early implementation stages of the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Inuit must ensure that the implementation of SARA programs, policies, and regulations will be in accordance with Inuit land claims agreements and respect for Inuit values, principles, knowledge, the economic needs and aspirations of the communities, and the sustainability of harvesting and use. It is also important that Inuit secure Inuit specific funding for implementation activities related to SARA programs and policies.

The Species at Risk part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *culturally appropriate communications strategies developed by Inuit with support from the federal government regarding SARA legislation, its related programs, initiatives and opportunities;*
- *development and implementation of Inuit specific and regionally specific multi-year funding allocations for SARA programs, initiatives, and opportunities;*
- *increased coordination and partnerships between Inuit organizations, co-management bodies, and governments on the implementation of SARA provisions, and the development of policies and programs within Inuit Nunaat;*
- *establishment of a multi-year funded national level Inuit working group to coordinate and communicate work on SARA issues across Inuit regions;*
- *effective and respectful use and inclusion of Inuit knowledge in SARA efforts in regard to species research, species listings, habitat protection, recovery, and management planning;*
- *federal support for the continuance of the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk beyond 2007;*
- *federal support for the continuance of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee; and,*
- *Implementation of SARA within Inuit Nunaat in a manner that reflects and respects the Crown's responsibilities to Inuit under land claims agreements.*

Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development

Since the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992, Inuit at the international level have been active in advocating Inuit positions and interests in on-going meetings of the CBD. The CBD process has now reached a point where Canada is now implementing elements of the CBD at the national level. Highly focused and sustained efforts are required to address the challenge of Arctic biodiversity. In this regard, Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada acknowledge the twin goals of preserving delicate and unique Arctic biological diversity and associated Inuit knowledge, and protecting Inuit rights to their genetic resources through enhanced cooperation between Inuit and the Government's Biodiversity Convention Office (BCO).

The Biological Diversity part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *identifying opportunities for increased collaboration and capacity-building between BCO and Inuit in policy and program development;*
- *development of a long-term Inuit national CBD implementation work plan with the Government of Canada that outlines involvement of Inuit in national and regional implementation activities and targets;*
- *collaboration between Inuit and the Government of Canada on the proposed 2006-2010 Circumpolar Biodiversity Assessment;*
- *continued capacity development and involvement of Inuit at the international level in on-going United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes;*
- *examining capacity issues relating to serving as Canadian delegation members to Conference of the Parties (COP) and meetings of subsidiary bodies pursuant to the CBD;*
- *enhanced capacity of Inuit to communicate about the CBD and its elements to Inuit Nunaat and communities, and to establish priorities, positions, and recommendations on key CBD elements;*
- *proper meshing of CBD implementation with Canada's obligations under land claims agreements, including the protection of Inuit knowledge, rights associated with biological and genetic resources, and the development of access and benefit sharing arrangements;*
- *Inuit inclusion in CBD federal, provincial, and territorial working groups in order to ensure on-going dialogue and development with Inuit on CBD implementation plans and activities;*
- *sharing expertise on preserving delicate Arctic biodiversity, evaluating the complex interconnectivity among environmental degradation, climate change, and human health in the Arctic and globally; and*
- *Exploring means of cooperating on the 2006 – 2010 Circumpolar Biodiversity Assessment as proposed by Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF).*

Environment Next Steps

The Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada should commit to the next steps:

1. the bilateral development of an Environment Chapter to the Action Plan (2006-2009) during 2007;
2. commitment by the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada to allow organizations and individuals with relevant expertise to participate in the development of that Environment Chapter;
3. the Government of Canada to undertake the following Environment actions on an immediate and urgent basis to:
4. increase opportunities and incentives within Inuit Nunaat to apply renewable energy/mitigation initiatives and engage communities, governments, and industry;
5. establish a Canadian Arctic Climate Change Strategy that includes both mitigation and adaptation measures;
6. uphold Canada's commitment to the Stockholm Convention with Inuit involvement;
7. enhance capacity for effective Inuit involvement in work governed by the Canadian Environmental Protection Act;
8. adequate multi-year funding for national and regional Inuit organizations to support Inuit research, advocacy, capacity-building, and communications efforts on conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources;
9. increase capacity and resources to Inuit at the regional and local levels to support monitoring, research, promotion, education, training, and continuance of sustainable use of wildlife resources and related livelihoods;
10. culturally appropriate and regionally specific communications strategies developed by Inuit regarding SARA legislation, its related programs, initiatives and opportunities;
11. development and implementation of Inuit specific and regionally specific funding allocations for SARA programs, initiatives, and opportunities; and,
12. Development of a long-term Inuit national CBD implementation work plan with the Government of Canada that outlines involvement of Inuit in national implementation activities and targets, regional inclusion of Inuit, and continued capacity development and involvement of Inuit at the international level in on-going CBD processes.

Health

Throughout the circumpolar Arctic, the achievement of Inuit health and well-being is compromised by several determinants. Many of these determinants relate to changes that have and continue to occur in all segments of life: from changing physical and natural environments, to changes in all fundamental aspects of daily activities, food sources, and social life. The disparities that continue to exist between Inuit and the general public have led to an increasing incidence of mental health concerns; as well as an increase in chronic disease such as lung cancer and diabetes. The geography, remoteness and demographic characteristics pose additional challenges to ensuring that the health systems within Inuit Nunaat provide access equitable to that offered to southern Canadians.

A number of efforts are underway internationally to improve the health status of Inuit populations. Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada are committed to collaborating on significant circumpolar health issues such as jurisdiction and control, access and capacity, research on determinants of health, baseline (community, regional, national and circumpolar) health data, and partnerships and research.

The Health section of this Action Plan seeks to make significant progress in eliminating gaps between the general Canadian population and Inuit. This will be achieved by improving access to quality health care through new health policies jointly developed by governments and Inuit, and the provision of comprehensive, holistic and coordinated health services. Due recognition must be given to the need for concerted efforts on the determinants of health. Population Health must be incorporated and considered central in improving Inuit Health Status.

Health Promotion and Prevention

A Health Promotion and Prevention (Wellness) Strategy is a key investment in Inuit health and is viewed as a means of ensuring that gaps between Inuit health status and that of other Canadians are eliminated. These initiatives must be available for individuals throughout their life span, beginning with prenatal programming and early childhood programming and continuing on into the stages of adulthood. Inuit communities have identified the need for initiatives related to food security and food availability, parenting, access to midwifery, addictions prevention, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and other public health programs, as well as plans for responding to health pandemics as areas of focus. It is essential that health promotion and prevention programs be responsive to community priorities and needs.

The Health Promotion and Prevention part of the first Action Plan addresses the following:

- *greater capacity within Inuit Nunaat to develop and deliver health promotion and prevention programs;*
- *development of Inuit specific strategic plans for health promotion and prevention in partnership with relevant agencies and Inuit organizations;*
- *greater attention to food security and affordability initiatives;*
- *inclusion of medical and non-medical determinants of health in the development of health promotion and prevention initiatives;*
- *collaborating on numerous international circumpolar health issues and bodies that have a role to play in addressing Inuit health concerns;*
- *collaborating and consulting between international and national Inuit organizations to bring Canadian Inuit health issues (best practices and challenges) to the circumpolar world and bring circumpolar issues to Canadian decision makers; and*
- *developing a Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan to address key issues with adequate capacity to engage in the important circumpolar health fora (including, for example: the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group; the international Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLICA); the ongoing work of the Arctic Human Dimension Report; the AMAP Human Health Experts Working Group and its future Health Assessment; health related activities within the framework of the International Polar Year; ArcticNet; climate change fora including the health-related aspects of the UNFCCC; the International Union for Circumpolar Health; the World Conservation Union (IUCN); and the International Union for Circumpolar Health.*

Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention (Celebrate Life)

Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention (Celebrate Life) have been identified as priorities by Inuit. These areas link directly to many of the health and social conditions that are present in communities. Current services and initiatives in the areas of treatment, health promotion and prevention are intermittent providing little continuity of care for individuals, families, caregivers and communities.

The Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention (Celebrate Life) section of the first Action Plan addresses the following:

- *Inuit specific approaches to mental wellness and suicide prevention (Celebrate Life) with regard to health promotion and prevention programming, treatment, training and follow-up programming;*
- *Acknowledgment, recognition, and commitments to addressing the crucial linkages between non medical determinants of health, such as poverty, addictions, abuse, that affect individual, family and community well-being and mental wellness and suicide prevention (Celebrate Life) initiatives;*
- *appropriate facilities and access to technologies in the delivery of culturally relevant mental wellness services;*
- *active engagement of youth, families and communities in the development and implementation of policies and programs aimed at improving mental wellness and promoting life; and,*
- *A continuum of care for mental health approach must be adopted to ensure Inuit have access to comprehensive services that are inclusive of traditional knowledge in or near their home communities.*

Sustainable Health Care Funding

Sustainable health systems require recognition of the significant financial impacts of medical transportation required, few numbers of Inuit health workers and the high costs of recruiting and retaining southern practitioners. Current funding formulas that are based on per capita allocations do not recognize the unique realities of Inuit communities such as significantly lower life expectancy, differing access to primary health care services, and the impact of population demographics on health services and health promotion needs. Improving Inuit health status requires an immediate investment in programs and services.

The Sustainable Health Care Funding part of the first Action Plan addresses the following:

- *a relevant funding formula for Inuit Nunaat must be utilized that recognizes the cost of medical transportation, recruitment and retention strategies, training of health staff, medical supplies, and retrofitting of medical facilities;*
- *a funding scale that considers remoteness, need, operating costs, and wage parity for workers in the health and social services sector;*
- *a more effective Non-Insured Health Benefits program will improve the health status of Inuit when mechanisms that promote improved access, including implementation of a National Inuit ID card and improvements to the actual benefit categories with appropriate resources are ;*
- *appropriate access to Primary Health Care and Health Promotion/ Prevention initiatives, ; and,*
- *Clarification of the roles of governments and Inuit in the delivery of health care services, with appropriate Inuit involvement at all stages.*

Tele-Health

Tele-Health offers a viable and value added opportunity to provide healthcare services in Inuit communities however the current reality is that this service is fragmented and frequently policy and programming does not reflect Inuit needs.

Technology is transforming Inuit society and influencing virtually every aspect of our lives: whether it is the ability to communicate with people who are out hunting via satellite phones, buying our groceries at the store, watching television, or using computers to communicate with loved ones who may be far away or accessing important health programs or resources. It is important that Inuit are included in this new era. There is already a digital divide between the Arctic and Southern Canada but there is interest in bridging that gap and using technology to benefit Inuit not just in health but in other sectors as well.

The Tele-Health part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *capacity within Inuit Nunaat to provide quality healthcare close to or in the home community through enhanced use of technology, human capacity and increased awareness and capital;*
- *use of technology to improve health networks across Inuit Nunaat including program and policy sharing, also utilized to improve education and training opportunities;*
- *Opportunities for improved health outcomes as a result of technological advancements and community based training strategies implementation; and*
- *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure needs to be in place that can deliver Tele-health at a feasible cost*

Inuit Health Legislation and Inuit Health Directorate

There is a need for greater Inuit control, consistency, and unity over the design, development and delivery of health programs and policies in Inuit Nunaat¹⁸ which respect Inuit culture and support community based approaches. A coordinated Inuit health policy process which promotes targeted, culturally appropriate public health, population health based community strategies is required. These objectives can be immediately achieved within a distinction based health directorate operating within Health Canada that focuses on the priorities and needs of Inuit.

Currently, federal health policies and programming for Inuit are primarily developed and initiated under the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. ...

The Inuit Health Directorate part of the first Action Plan should address the following:

- *Further, greater accountability for delivery of results and standards of service could be enhanced through the development of Inuit specific legislation.*
- *Inuit autonomy in the design, development, and delivery of programs for Inuit, by Inuit, is required for systematic change; and,*
- *Access to federal government programs by all Inuit through a single window approach that addresses barriers in relation to current and emerging federal policy and program design.*

¹⁸ Inuit Nunaat – translated means the Inuit Homeland and includes Inuvialuit Region of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut Territory, Nunavik Region of Quebec and Nunatsiavut, Inuit self government region of Labrador.

Health Next Steps

The Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada commit to the next steps:

1. the bilateral development of a Health Chapter to the Action Plan (2007-2010)
2. to make all efforts to complete the development of the Health Chapter by June 30th 2007; and,
3. the Government of Canada to undertake the following health actions on an immediate and urgent basis (within 6 months):
 - a. commit to phased in implementation of the Inuit specific Action Plan for Mental Wellness (Alianiat);
 - b. immediately begin to identify current expenditures on Inuit Health Care by federal government departments, including identification of gaps, and inequities;
 - c. work with Inuit organizations to develop, negotiate, update and implement an Inuit specific Federal Health Program Delivery funding formulae;
 - d. identify timelines and resources for the implementation of National Inuit Identification Cards;
 - e. work with Inuit organizations to identify appropriate processes for ensuring Inuit sign off on existing and emerging Health Promotion and Prevention initiatives and provide support to research wellness models based on population health approaches;
 - f. work with Inuit organizations to develop a comprehensive plan to address food security in Inuit communities;
 - g. DIAND to develop a formal process to engage Inuit in the review of Policy decisions and direction related to the Food Mail Program;
 - h. work with Inuit organizations to identify current human resource needs to utilize existing and emerging technologies to ensure improved and affordable technology in all Inuit communities;
 - i. Commitment to work with Inuit organizations to develop objectives, and a model for implementation of an Inuit Health Directorate. This includes clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all partners;
 - j. commitment to implement the Inuit-specific Non Insured Health Benefits Action Plan that aims to make improvements to NIHB;

- k. work with Inuit organizations and applicable governments to develop a response plan to health pandemics which includes a commitment of resources; and,
- l. Commit to ensuring there are no gaps in Inuit regional and community healing programs as agreements are put in place.

Social and Economic Development Issues

Inuit communities, most less than fifty years old, are trying to find ways to provide adequate infrastructure and services to meet needs while anticipating further pressures of a young and rapidly growing population. Inuit language and culture are under intense pressures from the effects of southern culture and society. The effects of residential schools, relocation, missionaries, and forced assimilation still impact Inuit society. Major social and economic development gaps exist between Inuit and other Canadians in areas such as secondary and post-secondary educational attainment, housing, access to early childhood development initiatives, incarceration rates, and employment rates. This section addresses some of these issues and suggests initiatives to address them.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a major base for a lifelong learning continuum for Inuit. The vision of Inuit early childhood development encompasses Inuit languages, culture and ways. The purpose of Inuit ECD is to strive to achieve the ultimate goal of 100% healthy, happy and safe Inuit children and families.

The Early Childhood Development part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *improved culturally appropriate resources and documents in Inuit languages, enabling Inuit families to be provided with consistent and continuous support;*
- *involvement of Inuit in federal government ECD initiatives, through increased communication and collaboration through an annual forum for Inuit ECD leaders to come together to share experiences, knowledge and successes as well as to deal with issues;*
- *direct involvement of Inuit in the development of Inuit specific ECD initiatives;*
and,
- *inclusion of factors such as remoteness and isolation when negotiating financial, technical, professional support for training as well as regional and community capacity building throughout Inuit Nunaat.*

Economic Development

Many Inuit communities in *Inuit Nunaat* lack economic infrastructure, training and skills development, resource development and business development. Connectivity is an additional issue.

The Economic Development part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *improved economic opportunity partnerships and relationships;*
- *greater access to economic development initiatives as well as the awareness of Inuit priorities, so Inuit are directly involved in the development and implementation of Inuit specific policies and programs;*
- *inclusion of an Inuit specific perspective on issues concerning information technology;*
- *improvement of the development and maintenance of social and economic factors to increase the capacity of healthy and skilled individuals and Inuit communities; and,*
- *Development of an Inuit specific economic opportunity strategy and implementation that is relevant to Inuit identity to increase Inuit self-sufficiency.*

Housing

The shortage of housing in *Inuit Nunaat* is well-documented. It is also well-documented that homelessness and overcrowding contribute to social, mental, and physical challenges in any community.

The Housing part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *development of a comprehensive Inuit-specific housing strategy for Inuit Nunaat that would, over time, effectively address and resolve the crisis;*
- *identify the additional resources required over and above the initial investment of \$296.4 million (source: pg 149 2006 Federal Budget: Focusing on Priorities) as a second step in addressing the crisis. In the Northwest Territories, Quebec, and Newfoundland & Labrador these housing funds are for off-reserve aboriginal peoples;*
- *enhanced economic and human development returns within Inuit Nunaat by linkage of housing investments to economic and human resource development; and,*
- *Increased sharing of best practices and information related to housing by creating a National Inuit Housing Working Group.*

Education

Education is a major issue within *Inuit Nunaat*. There is a need to improve Inuit educational outcomes in all areas of education in the lifelong learning continuum.

The Education part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *greater collaboration between governments, including the governments of provinces and territories, and by national and regional Inuit organizations;*
- *undertaking of research on relevant issues pertaining to education to improve and enhance training for Inuit teachers, curriculum developers and administrators; and,*
- *Increased educational attainment levels by Inuit through Inuit specific curriculum while protecting, promoting and enhancing Inuit language and culture programs.*

Language & Culture

The preservation, protection, promotion, support, and enhancement of Inuit language and culture are of primary importance. Inuit language and culture have been affected greatly by the legacy of the residential schools, the proliferation of southern mass media, the introduction of the wage economy, and by many different social issues.

The Language and Culture part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *Development of a National Inuit Language Strategic Plan which will promote language and culture. This plan will outline a long term, intensive approach to the protection and enhancement of the Inuit language;*
- *Strengthen the partnership relationship between Inuit and the federal government by encouraging greater awareness in language and culture and collaborate on developing programs and services that promote the social and economic benefits of speaking the Inuit language.*

Law & Justice

As the recognition and practice of community participation in law and justice is increasing, Inuit are being challenged to meet the needs and rights of Inuit offenders, Inuit victims, work with law enforcement agencies, as well as the challenges of developing prevention measures and services from the Inuit perspective.

The Law and Justice part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *improved consultation, coordination, information sharing, and networking between Government of Canada and Inuit Nunaat to start to develop a strategy on ways and means of addressing law and justice in and for Inuit communities;*
- *the sharing of services and knowledge across jurisdictions to meet the needs and rights of Inuit offenders in federal/provincial/territorial penitentiaries; and*
- *Development of a National Inuit Prevention/Progressive Plan with Inuit specific programs and services with ties to education and social service institutions with implementation approaches for the regions and communities.*

Urban Inuit

The urban Inuit population is growing rapidly as Inuit relocate to southern Canada for education, employment, health, or social services. The programs and services for these Inuit need to be enhanced to better reflect the social and cultural realities Inuit come from.

The urban Inuit portion of the first Action Plan must address or undertake the following:

- *Data and resource research including numbers of Inuit in different urban centres, types of programs and services they are accessing, types of programs and services they could access; and*
- *Development of urban Inuit centres to enhance and improve access to programs and services for Inuit.*
- *Recognition of the unique needs of the Inuit population living outside Inuit Nunaat by developing and promoting the protection and enhancement of Inuit language and culture in these communities; and,*

Children and Youth

Issues of major concern to Inuit youth include employment, education, health, the environment, and the overarching importance of language and culture. Inuit youth share common life experiences and wish to expand their peer support networks through engagement in uplifting and inspiring initiatives across *Inuit Nunaat*.

The Youth part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *increased capacity at national, regional and community levels on all issues for better and efficient youth program and service delivery;*
- *a strengthened relationship between Inuit youth and the Government of Canada, and increase participation of Inuit youth in federal programs that affect Inuit youth;*
- *an increase in the number and seniority of Inuit youth employed in the Government of Canada, and in the number of Inuit youth participating in internship and other career oriented and training programs;*
- *development of a stronger youth advocacy role in relation to culture and language initiatives and promotion;*
- *Development of holistic joint strategy for Inuit children and youth which will focus on wellness. The strategy will be developed between Inuit and the many Federal departments and agencies with a focus on Aboriginal children and youth.*
- *an increase in accessible culturally and geographically appropriate programs and services aimed at Inuit youth; and,*
- *Creation of an Inuit Youth Employment Strategy that would prepare and mobilize the next generation of the Inuit workforce for both labour market and traditional livelihood options.*

Social and Economic Development Issues Next Steps

The Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada commit to the next steps:

1. the bilateral development of a social and economic development priorities to the Action Plan (2006-2009) by March 31, 2007, which may provide strategies and approaches to the following;
 - a. Provide short/medium/long-term housing relief for Inuit of Canada. All stakeholders work together to address housing shortages and overcrowding in *Inuit Nunaat*;
 - b. Commit to fund initiatives to protect, promote, and enhance Inuit language and culture. Establish a National Inuit Education Research and Resource Centre. Develop Inuit-specific curriculum, promotion, and protection of Inuit languages and, train Inuit teachers, curriculum developers and administrators;
 - c. fund ECD initiatives to meet the objectives of the Inuit ECD Strategy;
 - d. commit to research regarding urban Inuit issues; and,
 - e. Increase capacity at national, regional and community levels on all issues for better and efficient youth program and service delivery.
 - f. Develop a joint strategy on Inuit and children youth
 - g. work within *Inuit Nunaat* on developing Inuit specific curriculum and teacher training; and,
 - h. invest in Headstart programs available in all communities, with appropriate emphasis on basic literacy and numeracy objectives,
 - i. Implementation of strategies that address the current gaps in the education system in *Inuit Nunaat*.

Human Resources

The social and economic conditions of *Inuit Nunaat* provide a wide range of opportunities for Canada to invest in institutions, agencies, and organizations for the betterment of Inuit, particularly those which provide and support education, training and development, and employment.

Human Resources

There is a requirement for significant efforts and commitments to ensure Inuit have increased opportunities to participate in the work force and contribute to sustainable communities. This requires a targeted approach and an educational strategy that starts with the pre-school aged child and continues throughout the school experience which includes exposure to different types of careers, as well as an educational system that supports the entry of Inuit into post-secondary institutions. There is also a need to develop appropriate supports for those individuals already in training programs, and individuals already working within Inuit Nunaat.

The Human Resources part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *an increase in the number of health, environment and social/ economic human resource personnel within Inuit Nunaat through education, realistic recruitment and retention strategies, and encouragement for Inuit to enter these fields of employment;*
- *to identify and assist young Inuit that have an interest to work in health environment, social or economic fields*
- *the development of Inuit specific reporting and mentoring mechanisms that identify and track Inuit in various career fields;*
- *the development of a targeted approach and an educational strategy that starts with Inuit school-aged children and continues throughout the scholastic life-cycle and gives exposure and training in different careers;*
- *improved links to colleges, research facilities, research programs, and institutions to provide Inuit with educational, training, and employment possibilities; and*
- *implementation of recruitment and retention strategies designed to encourage professionals and para-professionals to remain in Inuit Nunaat;*

Employment and Training

In order to meet the human resource development needs of Inuit, it is critical that Inuit have the authority to design and deliver programs and services that are geared to their specific needs and priorities. Also critical is the need for increased numbers of trained Inuit who have the opportunity to work within *Inuit Nunaat* and other parts of Canada. It is imperative for Inuit to have these opportunities in order to become equally educated, and fully contributing citizens of Canada.

The Employment and Training part of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *to undertake research of the Inuit aboriginal human resource development strategy, and Inuit human resource development and capacity building;*
- *the development of and implementation of an Inuit-Government of Canada reporting framework to ensure that Inuit will be consulted on issues that may affect Inuit human resource development;*
- *the maximization of Inuit participation in training opportunities and priorities;*
- *to increase the numbers of educated and trained Inuit filling jobs in a full spectrum of occupational categories;*
- *the increased participation of Inuit in apprenticeship programs; and,*
- *The development and strengthening of recruitment and retention strategies designed to increase employment of qualified Inuit within Inuit Nunaat and in other parts of Canada.*

Human Resources Next Steps

The Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada should commit to the next steps:

1. the bilateral development of a Human Resources Chapter to the Action Plan (2007-20010);
2. a commitment by the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada to promote organizations and individuals with relevant expertise available to participate in the development of that Human Resources Chapter;
3. to make all efforts to complete the development of the Human Resources Chapter during 2007;
4. the Government of Canada to undertake the following human resources actions on an immediate and urgent basis:
 - a. identify resources for recruitment and retention packages within *Inuit Nunaat* for Inuit and local and southern-based providers;
 - b. identify and implement support required to ensure that students already in health, environment, and social/economic training succeed;

Research

A fundamental issue that is significantly impacting the ability of stakeholders to ensure that effective policy and program decision making is occurring is the current ad hoc, fragmented nature of Inuit specific data collection, storage and use. At the present time there is minimal national level Inuit data that can be used for evidence based policy making. The level of information available at a regional level throughout Inuit Nunaat varies however all regions agree that there is not a satisfactory level in the areas of environment, health or socio-economic.

A central objective of the Partnership Accord is:

“To support Inuit-specific research needed for results-based policy, program and service delivery implementation, in cooperation, where appropriate, with federal departments and agencies, and provincial and territorial governments.”¹⁹

This objective is relevant to the full range of issues affecting the dynamics of Inuit society, the physical environment of *Inuit Nunaat*, and the connections between Inuit and *Inuit Nunaat* with wider societies and geographic areas. Given the range and depth of these needs, research priorities must be established. In the first Action Plan (2007-2009), priority should be given to

- *environmental research;*
- *Inuit health research;*
- *Socio-economic; and*
- *circumpolar science and research*

In addition to these areas, it is appropriate for the first Action Plan to examine whether some of the broader institutionalized arrangements that have been struck by the Government of Canada to play a role in relation to research applying to Inuit and *Inuit Nunaat* are delivering optimal and measurable results.

Research must be understood in a broad sense, and necessarily extends to the identification of key indicators and the monitoring, collection, evaluation and dissemination of relevant data, both in Canada and with the international community.

¹⁹ Canada. Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Partnership Accord. Ottawa: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2005. pg.11

Environment, Health and Socio-Economic Research, Monitoring and Indicators

The Research, Monitoring and Indicators section of the first Action Plan must address the following:

- *The need to consult and develop Inuit specific research priorities in the area of human health, socio-economic and environment;*
- *Improving the capacity and opportunity for Inuit organizations and individuals to lead and benefit from research in Inuit Nunaat and, where Inuit leadership in research is not practicable, enhanced Inuit participation and collaboration;*
- *inclusion of Inuit-specific base line data and increased use of Inuit sourced knowledge in the decision making processes of governments and organizations in working in Canada and internationally on environmental, health and socio-economic issues;*
- *improved coordination of Canadian and international research licensing processes and guidelines for responsible research; and*
- *an updated inventory of current Arctic indicators development and monitoring programs as a first step in developing an ongoing partnership of monitoring experts and Inuit with the goal of creating a coordinated Canadian Arctic Indicators and Monitoring Program which is inclusive of environment, health and socio-economic needs.*
- *The collaboration of Inuit and federal, provincial, and territorial governments in the development of a State of the Arctic Reporting process.*
- *institutional reorganization and re-focusing of those parts of the federal government, and those corporate bodies relying on federal government contribution agreements, that have roles and responsibilities in relation to research, delivery and policy making towards Inuit specific priorities and objectives; and,*

Circumpolar Science and Research

Just as the Arctic has become a region of global political interest, universities, research centres, and government scientists from around the world are increasingly working on Arctic scientific research questions.

The Circumpolar Science and Research part of this first Action Plan must address the following:

- *developing capacity so Canadian Inuit may engage with the international scientific community as research questions are formulated, and carry out science in partnership with the researchers, and the Canadian Government;*
- *developing a circumpolar science and research program that builds upon the Canadian experience, incorporates international expertise, and enables Inuit to*

participate in all levels of international science and research planning, training, fieldwork, data analysis, and communication;

- *Exploring opportunities to capitalize on the initiatives such as the International Polar Year to develop and design a research process that could define the state of Arctic research and Inuit capacity, identify the strengths and weakness in Arctic research, and facilitate the development of a coordinated Circumpolar Inuit “research vision.”*

Research Next Steps

The Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada should commit to the next steps:

1. the bilateral development of a Research Chapter to the Action Plan (2007-2010);
2. commitment by the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada to promote organizations and individuals with relevant expertise available to participate in the development of that Research Chapter;
3. to make all efforts to complete the development of the Research Chapter during 2007; and,
4. the Government of Canada to undertake the following environmental, health and socio-economic research actions on an immediate and urgent basis:
 - a. increase capacity and opportunity for Inuit organizations, regional, national and international and individuals to lead environmental, health and socio-economic research;
 - b. Evaluate and examine processes and guidelines for conducting research in Inuit Nunaat. Ensure institutions and organizations that conduct research as part of their mandate are effective in meeting the needs of Inuit specific research; and,
 - c. creation of a Canadian Arctic Monitoring Program to ensure the development of a partnership between monitoring experts and Inuit and addresses the national and international information needs in the areas of environment, health and socio-economic.
 - d. implementation of the Inuit specific component of an Aboriginal Health Reporting Framework;
 - e. development of the state of the Arctic Environment report;
 - f. evaluation and examination of institutions and organizations that have research as part of their mandate to examine the effectiveness of these processes in meeting the needs of Inuit specific research, including a performance review of the Canadian Polar Commission;

- g. Ensure that Inuit organizations and communities have the capacity to participate and benefit from the research activities associated with initiatives such as International Polar Year.

International Priorities

A separate stand-alone document entitled the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan should be consulted for greater insight into the international nature of Inuit Nunaat. It is an integral part of the overall Inuit Action Plan, yet the global nature of many issues in the Arctic and Inuit Nunaat, and how the Government of Canada itself governs these matters differently from domestic ones (e.g. different government officials, different sections within the public service, and different Departments taking leads on international matters) warrants a special focus. This focus is found in the International Dimension.

The international aspects of a number of major issues facing Canadian Inuit have been discussed in this Action Plan, and can be found in the International Dimension. Over the next four years, as can be seen in the International Dimension, the following priorities have been identified:

- *Sustainable Utilization of Living Resources*
- *Arctic Biodiversity*
- *Environmental Contaminants*
- *Climate Change*
- *Health*
- *Arctic Shipping*
- *Arctic Sovereignty*
- *Russian Cooperation*
- *Arctic Science and Research*
- *Language*

Women's Issues

Many barriers and challenges are faced by Inuit women today. Inuit women actively strive to improve their lives and those of their families and to address the difficult social, health, and economic conditions common to Inuit communities.

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, the national organization representing Inuit women, is a signatory to the 2005 Partnership Accord. The local, national, and international issues of concern to Inuit women, and the role that Pauktuutit plays in initiating positive change, involves working directly with various government departments, branches, and agencies. These partnerships, developed over years of working together, often differ substantially from those that deal with Canadians in general and, more importantly, often differ from those developed with other Inuit organizations. Pauktuutit's partnerships reflect the reality that the unique needs of Inuit women command unique responses.

There are four priority policy areas that articulated in the Pauktuutit and Inuit Women's Action Plan:

- *Equity and Empowerment*
- *Health and Safety*
- *Inuit Women's Independent Voice on Global Issues*
- *Strengthening Inuit Families*

As a national Inuit organization, Pauktuutit has a reputation for researching, developing, and implementing projects and initiatives that promote capacity building and deliver community level tools and resources. Together, these have improved the health and well-being of Inuit women and their families in both northern and southern communities. Continuing to apply this experience and expertise – through implementation of the Inuit Action Plan – will result in measurable improvements in the health, safety, and economic independence of Inuit women, and in the strength and vitality of Inuit culture and communities.

Annex B

The International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan

2006 – 2010

**Developed by Canadian Inuit and
*The Government of Canada***



**Creating Partnerships for
*Effective Global Action on the Arctic***

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1. Introduction

The *International Dimension* of the Inuit Action Plan 2006-2010, has been jointly developed by the Inuit of Canada and the Canadian Government. The Action Plan is an initiative called for in the Partnership Accord entered into by Canadian Inuit and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada on 31 May 2005. This *International Dimension* complements the domestically oriented Action Plan also developed as a result of the Partnership Accord.

155,000 Inuit live in the Arctic spread across four countries. Inuit possess a common culture and heritage, a shared environment, speak one language, eat similar foods, and utilize similar natural resources.

Inuit from Russia, Alaska, Greenland, and Canada are represented internationally by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), founded in 1977 to promote Inuit unity and to put Inuit at the centre of international decision-making on issues that affect their interests and concerns. Inuit are one people, yet as a result of different colonial pasts and current political and constitutional realities they have developed unique political and institutional arrangements in the countries in which they reside through self-government and land claims negotiations, as well as other processes.

The Inuit of Canada have concluded four comprehensive land claims agreements—modern treaties that encompass the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the western Arctic; the Territory of Nunavut in the central and eastern Arctic; Nunavik, in northern Quebec; and Nunatsiavut, in northern Labrador.

ICC Canada is the organization that represents Canada's 54,000 Inuit on matters of international importance, and also is the representative body of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Canada. The Board of Directors of ICC Canada is chaired by an elected president who also serves as a vice-chair on the council of the international Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC). There are two vice-presidents, one for International Affairs, and the other the President of the national Inuit organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). Other board members are the leader of the Nunatsiavut Government, the chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the presidents, respectively, of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Makivik Corporation, as well as two ex-officio members representing Pauktuutit – Inuit Women of Canada, and the National Inuit Youth Council. ICC Canada is the Inuit organization responsible to give effect to the *International Dimension*, in partnership with the Government of Canada.

A primary objective of the Partnership Accord is to address “relevant challenges and opportunities of an international nature in cooperation with the Government of Canada”.²⁰

The *International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan 2006-2010* recognizes and builds upon several preceding agreements, policies, and official positions of ICC Canada and the Government of Canada. Most importantly, the *International Dimension* complements the objectives of the four Inuit comprehensive land claims agreements and Inuit self-government arrangements.

Of important note is the *Northern Dimension of Canada’s Foreign Policy*, adopted by the Government of Canada in 2000. Canada’s International Policy Statement (2005) gives further guidance. The recently elected government has yet to formally announce its foreign policy priorities, but Prime Minister Harper has stressed the importance of use and occupation in the Arctic and effective monitoring to support Canada’s Arctic sovereignty.

From the Inuit side, ICC’s *Principles and Elements for a Comprehensive Arctic Policy*, published in 1992, still provides an essential understanding of Inuit positions on how their homeland should be treated and developed. Resolutions and declarations adopted at ICC’s quadrennial general assemblies are also important foundations to the *International Dimension*. The *Utqiagvik Declaration* to be adopted at the ICC General Assembly at Utqiagvik, Alaska in July 2006 will guide Inuit international efforts from 2006 to 2010.

Economic and social change is accelerating in the circumpolar world. The 2004 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) projects very significant reductions in the coverage of Arctic sea ice which will ease access to the Arctic’s large and relatively undeveloped hydrocarbon and mineral resources, further promoting industrial development. This is, in larger part, why the circumpolar Arctic is attracting increased attention not only from the eight Arctic states – Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States of America – but also by non-Arctic states, international organizations, and transnational corporations.

The eight Arctic states adopted an Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) in 1991 and strengthened and broadened their commitment to co-operative action by establishing the Arctic Council in 1996. ICC and five other Arctic indigenous people's organizations are “permanent participants” in the council, a welcome status unique in intergovernmental relations. This international dimension will help prepare the Government of Canada and Inuit for Canada’s assumption of the Arctic Council Chair in 21012. Assessments of the environmental and human impacts in the Arctic of global climate change, and contaminants released far to the south that end up in the North, prompted the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to

²⁰ Partnership Accord, p. 9.

adopt a resolution in February 2003 calling for increased attention to the Arctic as a global priority. The Arctic is the world's early warning system, an indicator of the health of the planet as a whole.

Global covenants (such as the Convention on the Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants – the Stockholm Convention – and the Convention on Biological Diversity), international bodies (such as the Arctic Council, the United Nations, and the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region), and international law (such as the Law of the Sea) increasingly are shaping the way Inuit relate to the Canadian and other national government. Inuit have long been committed to principles of sustainable development. Effective implementation of these agreements and arrangements assists Inuit live by and live up to these principles. It is entirely likely that additional international agreements on environmental issues and economic development and trade will be important in the Arctic and to the future of Inuit.

As the international community intensifies its gaze northward, and as the Arctic takes on the new characteristics of a geopolitical region, so too is Canada's perception of the area changing. Once seen as a peripheral region, the circumpolar Arctic is now seen as an important foreign policy venue with unique challenges and opportunities. This was most clearly articulated in Canada's 2005 International Policy Statement which identifies the Arctic, Africa, and the Americas for specific attention and increased activity. Canada has recognized the growing importance of the Arctic in a global context in which there are "increased security threats, a changed distribution of global power, challenges to existing international institutions, and the transformation of the global economy"²¹ Because of the urgency of many overlapping Arctic challenges, it is expected that the current Canadian government will very soon indicate how it plans to deal with them.

This document, jointly developed by Inuit and the Government of Canada, recognizes this emerging global Arctic reality. It reflects the view that Inuit – Canada partnerships, which address both the need for a new way of relating and the necessity for urgent actions, are the most appropriate tools in dealing with the new international reality of the Arctic. This document describes how new communications structures will support the new way of relating, and what action items have been identified as joint priorities from 2006 to 2010.

²¹ Ibid.

2. Vision Statement

The Government of Canada and the Inuit of Canada share a vision of international agreements and activities that enhance the health, well-being, culture, and economy of the Inuit of Canada, and protect the natural environment upon which Inuit so closely and fundamentally depend.

3. Objectives Of The International Dimension

The overarching objectives of the *International Dimension* are:

- a) to facilitate the efforts of Inuit to deal effectively with social, cultural, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities of an international nature in co-operation with the Government of Canada;
- b) to strengthen existing or establish new institutions and processes enabling Inuit and the Government of Canada to work more co-operatively on matters of shared international priority;
- c) to undertake joint international initiatives from 2006 to 2010 that address short and long-term challenges facing Canadian Inuit; and
- d) To promote effective implementation of existing international agreements and make the case for additional agreements required to secure the health and well-being of Canadian Inuit.

4. Working Together

Strengthening Communication

The 2005 Partnership Accord calls for a new and more positive relationship between Inuit and the Government of Canada. This appeal informs the Inuit Action Plan and this *International Dimension*. The underlying premise is that well-functioning communications structures and processes linking the Government of Canada and Inuit will foster initiatives that “add value”. Both Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada acknowledge that new ways of relating, some that differ substantially from the status quo, are required to foster cooperation and address matters of global importance. There are other positive examples, such as the cooperation between the parties leading to the Stockholm Convention, which need to be emulated. Canadian Inuit need to know that they will be consulted prior to Canada taking positions internationally on matters that affect them, and be integrally part of processes to formulate these positions. For its part, the Government of Canada requires formal mechanisms and protocols enabling access to Inuit decision-makers. Effective and efficient informal and formal communication is needed to ensure that the *International Dimension* is co-operatively implemented. Incorporating Emerging Issues into the International Dimension

It is important that the *International Dimension* be sufficiently flexible to accommodate and respond to new knowledge and ever-changing international events. To do so, the parties agree to periodically re-evaluate and potentially amend the *International Dimension*, and to use fully the procedural mechanisms outlined in this document.

Elements of the New International Communications Structure

The Government of Canada is a large organization composed of many departments and agencies with tens of thousands of employees. It is complex in structure and even with the best of mutually respectful intentions; its organizational structure is a challenge to access. To address international issues, which are increasingly interdisciplinary and multifaceted, the Government of Canada establishes ad hoc and sometimes permanent interdepartmental committees and/or working groups. Canadian Inuit are sometimes invited to participate in these bodies but often after positions have been developed by Canada. In any event, Inuit lack financial and analytical resources to make best use of invitations to participate. In light of these difficulties and reflecting the shared commitment to improve communication, a review will be undertaken of existing communication mechanisms with the aim of strengthening and improving

Inuit access to the Government of Canada as a whole, and in particular to departments with international mandates.

The review will draw lessons from successful experiences and partnerships including the Circumpolar Liaison Directorate (CLD) within the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). As the Arctic is increasingly of interest for its Hydrocarbon and mineral resources and as a result of its geo-strategic position, many departments are undertaking Arctic-related initiatives. Many of these initiatives are poorly known to Canadian Inuit. A first task under this *International Dimension* is to inventory these initiatives.

The Government of Canada and the ICC Canada agree, with respect to international matters, to the following communication structures and processes outlined below and summarized in Figure 1.

a) Annual Meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

The President of ICC Canada and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will meet at least on an annual basis to discuss international matters of mutual concern. The objective of these meetings will be to evaluate progress in implementing the Inuit Action Plan's international dimension and to discuss international issues and affairs of mutual concern.

FIGURE 1 – Summary of Joint Actions of the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan (Processes & Structures)
(nb: This table is not exhaustive. Please consult text for a complete overview)

Working Together – Strengthening Processes & Structures

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUE	OBJECTIVES	REQUIRED ACTION(S)
1. Annual ICC Canada President – Minister of DFAIT Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To evaluate progress of the <i>International Dimension</i> - To discuss at a high level, international matters of mutual concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICC Can Pres & DFAIT minister to meet annually; - More to come (see text)
2. Annual ICC Canada President – DIAND Minister Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To evaluate progress of the <i>International Dimension</i> - To discuss at a high level, international matters of mutual concern - More to come (see text) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICC Can Pres & DIAND minister to meet annually - Other ministerial meetings as required; - More to come (see text)
3. Strengthening the Inuit Relations Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To significantly strengthen international capacity of IRS - To identify best methods to develop IRS policies, procedures, & budgets; - To best locate the IRS so it maximizes its interdepartmental mandate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive joint review of IRS to be undertaken; - Recommendations to be acted upon; - More to come (see text)
4. Strengthening the Office of the Circumpolar Ambassador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen the role of the Office of the Circumpolar Ambassador (OCA); - To strengthen the overall capacity of the OCA - To improve understanding and strengthen key elements of the OCA mandate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive joint review of OCA to be undertaken' - Recommendations to be acted upon; - More to come (see text)
5. Circumpolar Liaison Directorates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen the mutual support and liaison between Inuit and Canada on a departmental level; - To identify the priority departments which require strengthening its liaison capacity on circumpolar matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish or strengthen circumpolar liaison directorates in DIAND, EC, DFO, NRCAN, DOT, & HC; - More to come (see text)

FIGURE 1 (cont'd) – Summary of Joint Actions of the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan (Processes & Structures)

(nb: This table is not exhaustive. Please consult text for a complete overview)

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUE	OBJECTIVES	REQUIRED ACTION(S)
6. Reassessing the Role of the Canadian Polar Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To follow up on the 1991 definitions of CPC's responsibility to enhance Canada's profile internationally as a circum-polar nation - To redefine this mandate as relates to monitoring of polar knowledge around the world; working with international institutions to determine science and other polar priorities and fostering international cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two parties will work together to reassess and redefine the mandate of CPC
7. Strengthening Inuit International Relations Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen the capacity of ICC Canada to work in partnership, on international matters, with the Government of Canada & its departments - To enable the Canadian Inuit to engage more effectively in the new relationship that has been established between the two parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICC Canada to engage staff dedicated solely to liaison with government & implementation of <i>International Dimension</i>; - Government of Canada to earmark additional core funding to ICC Canada; - More to come (see text)
8. Arctic International Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify on a department to department basis, circum-polar and other international initiatives of importance to Inuit & the Arctic - To establish a database within 6 months of the International Dimension coming into effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRS will create an inventory of all international initiatives that impact upon Arctic; - Government of Canada to earmark additional core funding to ICC Canada; - IRS will establish process for periodic updates of database; - More to come (see text)

b) Annual Meetings with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

The President of ICC Canada and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs will meet on an annual basis to discuss matters of an international nature and to review how existing partnerships are developing. The President of ICC Canada will meet with additional ministers on an as needed basis.

c) Strengthening the Inuit Relations Secretariat

An Inuit Relations Secretariat was established in 2005 to serve as a government-wide focal point on all Inuit matters. There will be a detailed review of Inuit Relations Secretariat (IRS)'s capacity to deal with international issues.

d) Strengthening the Office of the Circumpolar Ambassador

The Government of Canada established the post of Circumpolar Arctic Ambassador in 1994. This ambassador is Canada's Senior Arctic Official to the Arctic Council, and reports to the ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Enjoying the support of a small staff, the Office of the Circumpolar Ambassador is increasingly important in charting the direction of Canada's foreign policy in the circumpolar world. In turn, Canada's Arctic foreign policy affects Inuit profoundly. It is vital that the ambassador receive appropriate and sufficient intellectual, fiscal, and political support, and is comprehensively and regularly briefed on Inuit priorities and concerns. To this end, a review will be undertaken by both parties of the role, mandate, structure, reporting relationships, and levels of support of the Office of the Circumpolar Ambassador.

e) Circumpolar Liaison Directorates

In consultation with Inuit, the Government of Canada will strengthen or establish circumpolar liaison directorates within all departments that address Arctic issues internationally, including as a first priority, DIAND, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Natural Resources, Transport, and Health Canada.

f) Reassessing the Role of the Canadian Polar Commission

The two parties agree that the Canadian Polar Commission (CPC)'s responsibility of enhancing Canada's international profile as a circumpolar nation, be reassessed. Established in 1991, three of its mandates relate to international affairs. These include the monitoring of polar knowledge around the world; working with international institutions to determine science and other polar priorities; and fostering international cooperation. Given that it has been 15 years since the CPC was asked to implement these mandates, and given that global circumstances and foreign interest regarding the Arctic have so much changed over that period of time, Inuit and the Canadian Government agree that this is a matter of priority.

g) Strengthening Inuit International Relations Capacity

Canadian Inuit will require additional capacity in order to 1) effectively engage in the new way of relating that has been established between the two parties; and 2) deal adequately with the increasing interest on the Arctic from international corners. As the representative of Inuit on international matters, ICC Canada will need to be fully engaged with the increasing number of actors within government that are taking on international Arctic mandates. As well Inuit will need to be well represented on international bodies, such as the Arctic Council and its working groups. The Inuit Circumpolar Conference has consistently demonstrated its ability to highlight circumpolar challenges over the past decade and is increasingly able to identify possible solutions and approaches to dealing with these challenges. Funding ICC Canada with additional capacity would be a “win-win” situation for both parties.

h) An Arctic International Data Base

Within six (6) months of the *International Dimension* coming into effect, the Inuit Relations Secretariat will survey, list, and provide details of all international initiatives of the Government of Canada that impact upon Inuit and/or the Arctic. This database will be regularly updated.

5. International Priorities, Actions, & Partnerships

As Inuit and the Canadian Government work, between 2006 and 2010, towards establishing improved communications structures and process mechanisms, they agree that certain action items require immediate attention. For a brief summary of these action items, please see Figure 2.

a) Sustainable Utilization of Arctic Living Resources

Inuit and the Government of Canada agree that a primary focus of the Inuit Action Plan is that of supporting each other through international measures that address the important challenge of using the Arctic's living resources. They also agree to promote globally the rights of Inuit to sustainable utilization of living resources.

Inuit are hunters and, as such, the Arctic land and sea ecosystems, habitats and species are an essential component of their daily lives. Significant international attention has been placed on the Arctic's conservation challenges of trade policies, politics, globalization, natural resource exploration and development, hunting and sustainable consumption rights, climate change and contaminants.

FIGURE 2 – Summary of Joint Actions of the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan (Substantive Issues)
(nb: This table is not exhaustive. Please consult text for a complete overview)

INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES, ACTIONS, & PARTNERSHIPS

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE(S)	REQUIRED ACTION AND PARTNERSHIPS
1. Utilization of Arctic Living Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That Inuit and Gov of Canada support each other through international measures to address challenge of Arctic's living resources - Canadian Inuit and Gov of Canada to support each other on bilateral matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canadian Inuit through ICC Canada and with support of Gov of Canada will develop position papers on sustainable utilization. - ICC Canada to define working relationships with appropriate national, and Int'l partners - ICC Canada will work together with ITK to represent interests of Canada Internationally
2. Arctic Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better conservation of delicate and unique Arctic biodiversity; - Preservation and promotion of the use of associated Inuit traditional knowledge; - Protecting Inuit rights to their genetic resources; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity Convention Office and ICC Canada to work towards enhance cooperation; - BCO to provide ICC Canada with greater capacity to develop policy papers - ICC Canada to provide technical experts and political reps as CDN delegation to COP and meetings of subsidiary bodies pursuant to CBD
3. Contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of collaboration and cooperation between parties on environmental contaminants on scientific, technical and political levels - Strengthen communication channels between scientists, ICC Canada and Inuit consumers - Promote confidence Inuit have in country food - Define potential health effects from exposure through food chain - Parties to pay special attention to POPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enter into further agreements on support for Stockholm implementation - Activities within AMAP - Input to ECE's LRTAP

FIGURE 2 (cont'd) – Summary of Joint Actions of the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan (Substantive Issues)
(nb: This table is not exhaustive. Please consult text for a complete overview)

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE(S)	REQUIRED ACTION AND PARTNERSHIPS
4. Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen information flow on positions, proposals, advocacy and interventions of Gov of Canada in int'l fora - Enter into cooperative activities related to climate change - Ensure Gov of Canada promotes climate change mitigation, adaptation, monitoring, surveillance, research and outreach activities internationally that reflect findings of ACIA, AC's Reykjavik Declaration and rights, interests and concerns of Inuit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICC to partner with Departments of Environment, Natural Resources, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade. - Strengthen existing partnerships, build new ones
5. Arctic Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote plans and policies of Arctic states and Int'l Organizations to protect Arctic Ocean, rights and interests of Inuit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gov of Canada to support ICC Canada in areas of Arctic shipping in advocacy work with Int'l Maritime Organization - Gov of Canada to assist ICC Canada to participate in 2004-2008 AMSA
6. Arctic Sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued collaboration and cooperation between parties on land rights and treaties. - Canadian Inuit to help Canada define its sovereignty objections and acting on them - Promote cooperative int'l solutions to issues of state sovereignty in circumpolar world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With Gov of Canada, ICC Canada to organize and convene a working group to bring together NGO's, Government agencies and int'l bodies to develop Arctic sovereignty programme.
7. Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve health status of Inuit and reduce disparity between health of Inuit and general public - Improvement on jurisdiction and control; access and capacity; research on determinants of health, baseline circumpolar health data; partnerships and research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canadian Inuit and Gov of Canada to collaborate int'l circumpolar health issues - ICC to consult with Tapirit Kanatami on health issues - ICC with help of Gov of Canada to develop Inuit Health Action Plan to engage in Int'l for a

FIGURE 2 (cont'd) – Summary of Joint Actions of the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan (Substantive Issues)
(nb: This table is not exhaustive. Please consult text for a complete overview)

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE(S)	REQUIRED ACTION AND PARTNERSHIPS
8. Arctic Science and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To have Canadian Inuit develop capacity to engage with int'l scientific community on scientific research questions in Arctic. – Develop partnerships with researchers with support of Gov of Canada – Use Int'l Polar Year as opportunity to develop and design research processes and define current Arctic research and Inuit capacity to facilitate development of coordinated Circumpolar Inuit research vision – priority of both parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ICC and Canada to develop jointly a circumpolar science and research programme to allow Inuit to participate effectively on all levels of int'l science and research planning, training, fieldwork, data analysis, communication.
9. Russian Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Take both multilateral (circumpolar) and bilateral approaches to relations with Russian indigenous peoples – Pursue with Gov of Canada (directly and indirectly) cooperative activities and programmes with Inuit and other indigenous peoples – Priority to relationship between Russian Federation and its Arctic Peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gov of Canada and ICC Canada to identify next cooperative steps to close gap between overall policy and programme matters in Russian Arctic

While cooperative and collaborative conservation measures will require bringing together various local, national, circumpolar, and international interests together, this document focuses on the latter two dimensions. ICC Canada will work closely together with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and regional Inuit organizations as it represents the interests of Canadians internationally.

Canadian Inuit, through ICC Canada, will with the support of the Government of Canada, develop position papers on salient matters of sustainable utilization. These papers will be based on consultations with all stakeholders and through Canadian Inuit governance structures. As well, ICC Canada will define working relationships with the appropriate national, circumpolar and international partners including the Arctic Council's working groups, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), the World Conservation Union (IUCN); the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES); International Whaling Commission (IWC); the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO); and appropriate United Nations bodies. Canadian Inuit and the Government will also support each other on identifying how best to deal with bilateral matters regarding species such as polar bears, narwhal, bowhead, beluga, muskoxen, and others. Many of these cross-border issues are already targeted various agreements with Inuit neighbours to the west (Alaska) and to the east (Greenland). Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada agree to work together, where appropriate, on these bi-lateral initiatives and agreements.

b) Arctic Biodiversity

It is agreed in this *International Dimension* that highly focused and sustained efforts are required by both parties in addressing the challenge of Arctic biodiversity. Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada acknowledge the twin goals of preserving delicate and unique Arctic biological diversity and associated Inuit traditional knowledge, and protecting Inuit rights to their genetic resources through enhanced cooperation between ICC Canada and the Government's Biodiversity Convention Office (BCO). As a result of the spirit of collaboration contained in this *International Dimension* the BCO will actively involve ICC Canada in its policy formation. It will also provide ICC Canada with greater capacity to develop policy positions in advance of meetings and, in turn, ICC Canada will provide technical experts and political representatives to serve as Canadian delegation members to Conference of the Parties (COP) and meetings of subsidiary bodies pursuant to the CBD.

ICC Canada will also offer its unique expertise on preserving delicate Arctic biodiversity, evaluating the complex interconnectivity among environmental degradation, climate change, and human health in the Arctic and globally.

Both parties agree to substantially cooperate on the 2006 – 2010 Circumpolar Biodiversity Assessment as proposed by CAFF.

c) Environmental Contaminants

The Arctic ecosystem is internationally described as “the indicator of global environmental health”. It has taken over 20 years of science and advocacy to create a global awareness that what happens to the world happens in the Arctic first. Canadian Inuit, along with Inuit in Russia, Alaska, and Greenland have over this period worked relentlessly with scientists, informed and consulted with Arctic Inuit communities, and vigorously pursued nation states and international organizations on contaminants related issues. For its part, the Canadian Government has been a leader among circumpolar nations in both doing and promoting contaminants-related science, and doing so collaboratively with Inuit. Together, many significant advances were made, not the least of which was the Stockholm Convention on the Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Inuit and the Canadian Government agree that the demonstrated scientific, technical, and political collaboration and cooperation between them on environmental contaminants should continue. Not only must communications channels between scientists, ICC Canada, and the Inuit consumers of country foods be strengthened, but the parties agree that identifying actions that promote confidence Inuit have in country food, and the potential health effects from exposure through the food chain will be important elements of its partnership in this area.

The parties agree that they will during the period of this *International Dimension*, pay special attention to the production of legacy POPs, emerging new chemicals, and heavy metals. They will do this through entering into further agreements to work collaboratively on support for *Stockholm* implementation; activities within the Arctic Council’s Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP); providing input to the UN’s Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)’s Long-Range Transport of Airborne Pollutants (LRTAP) process; the status of Arctic mercury levels; and international chemicals activities related to Canada’s Northern Contaminants Program (NCP).

d) Climate Change

It is now universally accepted that climate change is a reality and that the Arctic is suffering its greatest impacts. Arctic climate change once again demonstrates how the Inuit homeland is a barometer for the world and an “early warning system” In order that Arctic circumstances and Inuit concerns inform fully the positions, proposals, advocacy, and interventions of the Government of Canada in international fora (bilateral and multilateral), the parties agree to strengthen the information flow between them, and to enter into cooperative activities related to climate change. These activities relate to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the North American Commission for Environmental Co-

operation, and the Arctic Council. Specifically, to ensure the Government of Canada promotes climate change mitigation, adaptation, monitoring, surveillance, research and outreach activities internationally that reflect the key findings of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the Arctic Council's Reykjavik Declaration, and the rights, interests and concerns of Inuit.

In order to achieve positive outcomes in this collaboration, ICC Canada will partner with the departments of Environment, Natural Resources, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Elements of this partnership are already in place, and in some cases simply need to be strengthened. In others, significant resources and focus need to be brought to the collaborative structures already in place.

e) Health

Throughout the circumpolar Arctic, the achievement of the Inuit vision of health and well being is compromised by several determinants. Many of these determinants relate to the pressures of change that have and continue to occur in all segments of life, from changing physical and natural environments, to changes in all fundamental aspects of daily activities, food sources, and social life. The disparities that continue to exist including between Inuit and the general public with respect to these determinants have led to an increased incidence of mental health concerns; an increase in chronic disease such as lung cancer and diabetes. A number of efforts are underway internationally to improve the health status of Inuit populations. Despite the progress that has been made several areas are consistently identified as requiring action. They include: jurisdiction and control; access and capacity; research on determinants of health; baseline circumpolar health data; and, partnerships and research.

Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada will collaborate on numerous international circumpolar health issues and bodies that have a role to play in addressing the above concerns. ICC will consult with its national counterpart, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, to bring Canadian Inuit health issues (best practices and challenges) to the circumpolar world and bring circumpolar issues to Canadian decision makers. ICC, with the support of the Government of Canada, will develop an Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan to address these issues with adequate capacity to engage in the important circumpolar health fora. These fora include the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group; the international Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLICA); the ongoing work of the Arctic Human Dimension Report; the AMAP Human Health Experts Working Group and its future Health Assessment; health related activities within the framework of the International Polar Year; ArcticNet; climate change fora including the health-related aspects of the UNFCCC; the International Union for Circumpolar Health; the World Conservation Union (IUCN); and the International Union for Circumpolar Health.

f) Arctic Shipping

Among other factors, climate change and the increasing search by industry and global players, has placed an unprecedented and current focus on the Arctic and its potential shipping lanes. In this context, Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada agree that both parties will promote plans and policies by the Arctic states and international organizations to fully protect the Arctic Ocean and to reflect the ocean use rights and interests of Inuit.

The Canadian Government will give full support to ICC Canada taking on the new challenges of Arctic shipping. It will assist ICC Canada in advocacy work with the International Maritime Organization, and assist it in actively participating in the 2004-2008 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) being conducted by the Arctic Council's PAME working group. The goal of participation will be to ensure that use and occupancy of the offshore is fully reflected in the AMSA and that policy recommendations to ministers fully reflect Inuit interests, concerns, and rights in the offshore.

g) Arctic Sovereignty

As the international community focuses more intently on the Arctic, the matter of Arctic sovereignty is increasingly debated. For Inuit, this issue poses a whole set of complex questions. Inuit have lived in the Arctic as an indigenous people for millennia, and are keenly interested in what newcomers to their territory are claiming about their lands and seas. Further, Canadian Inuit are part of a larger body of Inuit living in other jurisdictions including the Russian Federation, Alaska, and Greenland. Inuit in Canada are also proud Canadians and, as the final texts of their land claims negotiations attest, they have increasingly been able to work out their major differences with the Government of Canada in a cooperative manner. Indeed, this *International Dimension* speaks strongly to this reality of cooperation and meaningful collaboration.

Canadian Inuit and the Government of Canada, by definition of their land claims agreements, need to be partners in this issue. By their strong association with Inuit in neighbouring lands, and through the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and other vehicles, Canadian Inuit can play a strong facilitative role in helping Canada define its sovereignty objectives and acting on them. The objective of this initiative would be to use Inuit use and occupancy of land and ocean in the circumpolar Arctic, particularly in the offshore, to promote cooperative international solutions to issues of state sovereignty in the circumpolar world. ICC Canada will, in cooperation with the Government of Canada, organize and convene an Arctic sovereignty working group to bring together selected non-governmental organizations, government agencies, and international bodies to develop an Arctic sovereignty programme.

h) Russian Cooperation

Canadian Inuit have a keen and vested interest in what happens to the lands and seas in neighbouring countries, namely the eight (8) Arctic states. Further, through family, historical and cultural ties, Canadian Inuit perhaps look outward to these neighbours more than any other Canadian.

There are two important approaches for Inuit, as well as the Canadian Government, to take in this regard. One is multi-lateral (or circumpolar), and much of this *International Dimension* aims its efforts in this approach. The other equally important approach is to pursue, when appropriate, bi-lateral relations. ICC Canada will pursue, with the support of the Government of Canada, and sometimes in direct cooperation with the Government of Canada, cooperative activities and programs with Inuit and other indigenous peoples of the circumpolar world and beyond.

One area that bears special attention and is an immediate priority of this Action Plan is the cooperation with the Russian Federation and its Arctic peoples. Starting in 1996, ICC Canada led an impressive decade long capacity- and institution-building program, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. This program focussed on both government and the indigenous peoples of the Arctic. Although the Canadian Government continues to have strong interests in the Russian Arctic, there is a gap with respect to overall policy and program matters. It is in this area that the Canadian Government commits itself to work with ICC Canada on identifying the next cooperative steps to be taken.

i) Arctic Science and Research

Just as the Arctic has become a region of global political interest, universities, research centres, and government scientists from around the world are increasingly working on Arctic scientific research questions. Canadian Inuit must develop the capacity to engage with the international scientific community in which these questions are first formulated. Inuit must also develop the capacity to do much of this science in partnership with the researchers, and with the support of the Canadian Government.

ICC and Canada, through this *International Dimension*, agree to jointly develop a circumpolar science and research program that builds upon the Canadian experience, incorporates international expertise, and will efficiently and effectively allow Inuit to participate in all levels of international science and research planning, training, fieldwork, data analysis, and communication.

The International Polar Year provides an exciting opportunity to develop and design a research process that could define the current state of Arctic research and Inuit capacity, the strengths and weakness in Arctic research, and could

facilitate the development of a coordinated Circumpolar Inuit “research vision”. Both parties undertake to make this a matter of priority.

6. Conclusion

The Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada have jointly developed an Inuit Action Plan. This plan has various dimensions that reflect the broad range of issues that Canadian Inuit face.

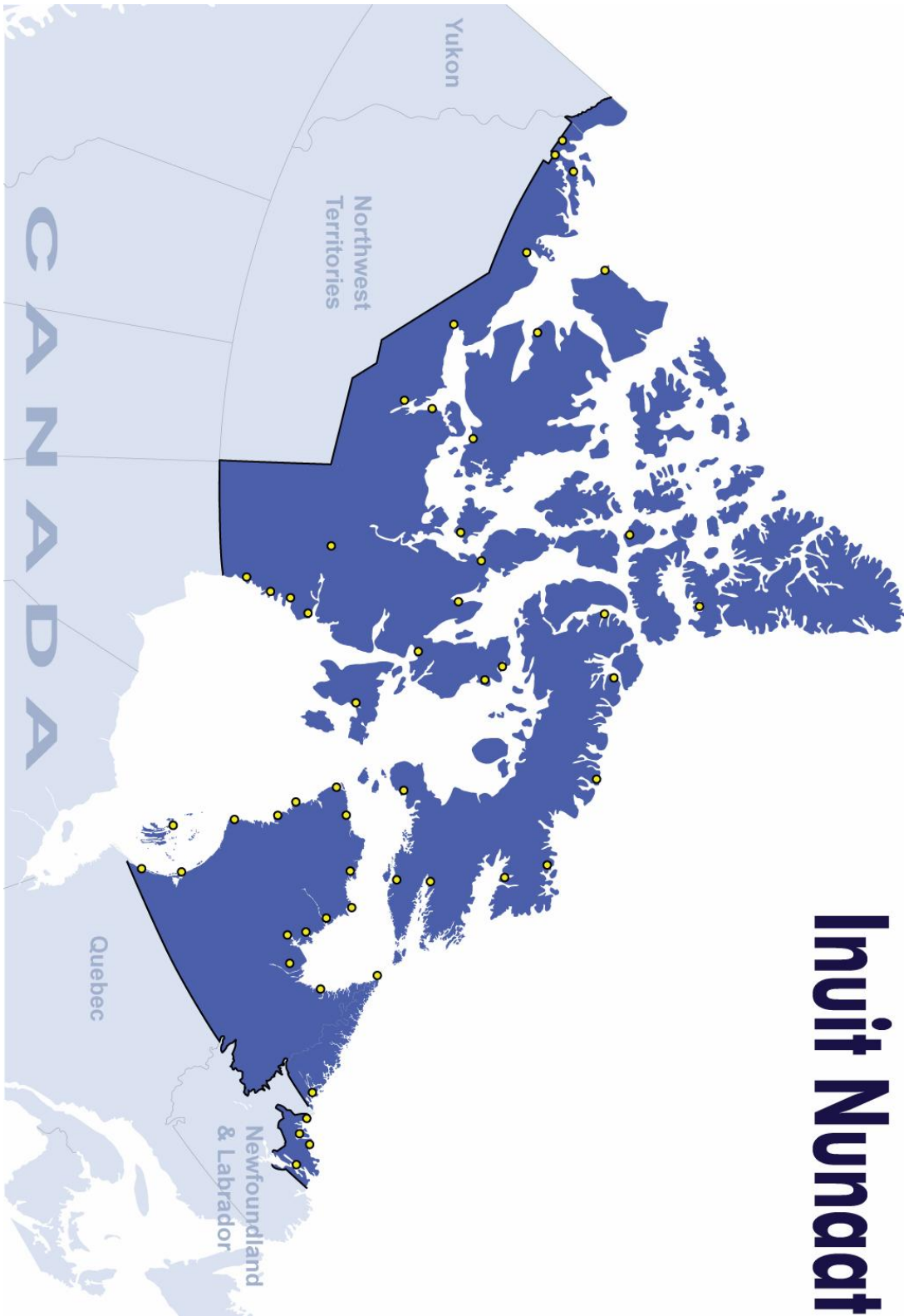
A primary objective of the May 2006 Partnership Accord was to address “relevant challenges and opportunities of an international nature in cooperation with the Government of Canada.”²² Because the manner in which the Canadian government addresses international issues is often distinct from how domestic issues are managed, and as Canadian Inuit are part of a larger body of Inuit in Russia, Alaska, and Greenland, this document was developed by the parties describing international-specific processes and initiatives.

The Canadian Government and the Inuit of Canada agree to give immediate effect to this jointly developed *International Dimension* of the Inuit Action Plan. The parties will, within 30 days of formally agreeing to this plan, sketch out an immediate scheduling plan for various government departments and the appropriate officials for each of the action items presented in this document.

Both parties agree to give this document their full and immediate attention and welcome the new way of relating between Inuit the Canadian Government.

²² Ibid, pg. 9-10.

Appendix i) Map of Inuit Nunaat



Appendix ii) Inuit Circumpolar Map



Appendix iii) Social & Economic Indicators

For more details, please refer to notes and source information at the end of the tables.

Number and age of Inuit in Canada, provinces and territories

Table 1: Inuit in provinces, territories, Inuit settlement regions and elsewhere, 2001			
Geographic Areas	Total population (Inuit and non- Inuit)	Inuit population	% of the total population that is Inuit
Canada	29,639,030	45,075	0.15
Newfoundland and Labrador	508,075	4,555	0.90
Prince Edward Island	133,385	20	0.01
Nova Scotia	897,570	345	0.04
New Brunswick	719,715	160	0.02
Quebec	7,125,580	9,535	0.13
Ontario	11,285,545	1,380	0.01
Manitoba	1,103,700	340	0.03
Saskatchewan	963,150	230	0.02
Alberta	2,941,150	1,090	0.04
British Columbia	3,868,875	805	0.02
Yukon Territory	28,525	140	0.49
Northwest Territories	37,100	3,905	10.53
Nunavut	26,665	22,560	84.61
Inuit Settlement Regions*	47,560	36,640	77.04
Rural areas outside Inuit Settlement Regions	6,020,470	2,030	0.03
Urban centres outside Inuit Settlement Regions	23,571,000	6,405	0.03
Selected urban centres:			
Montreal	3,295,065	435	0.01
Ottawa-Hull	938,375	415	0.04
Toronto	4,514,450	315	0.01
Edmonton	840,025	420	0.05
Vancouver	1,914,265	250	0.01

* Inuit Settlement Regions include: Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, Nunavut and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Included is the community of Chisasibi in Northern Quebec, which has a Cree population of more than 3,000.

Table 2: Age distribution of Inuit and all Canadians, Canada, 2001				
Age groups	Total Inuit population		Total Canadian Population	
	#	%	#	%
0 - 4	5,620	12.5	1,701,485	5.7
5 - 9	5,930	13.2	1,980,610	6.7
10 - 14	5,910	13.1	2,055,585	6.9
Subtotal 0 - 14	17,460	38.7	5,737,670	19.4
15 - 24	8,260	18.3	3,988,200	13.5
25 - 34	7,160	15.9	3,973,085	13.4
35 - 44	5,715	12.7	5,074,090	17.1
45 - 64	5,075	11.3	7,241,135	24.4
65 and over	1,405	3.1	3,624,850	12.2
Total - All ages	45,075	100.0	29,639,030	100.0

Source: 1

Perceptions of water quality

Table 3 - Inuit adults' perceptions of water quality in their community, 2001				
Perceptions of water quality	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador (%)	Nunavik (%)	Nunavut (%)	Inuvialuit (%)
Inuit who feel that drinking water at home is unsafe to drink	9	43	13	16
Inuit who feel there are times of the year when the water in community is contaminated	25	74	21	33

Source: 10

Harvesting activities and country food

Region	% of Inuit adults harvesting
Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	76
Nunavik	81
Nunavut	70
Inuvialuit	55
Total Arctic	71

* Percentages are for those that harvested during the year ending Dec. 31, 2000

* Harvesting includes hunting caribou, fishing, gathering wild berries and shellfish etc.

Source: 10

Region	% predicting an increase in 5 years	% predicting a decrease in next 5 years	% predicting no change in 5 years
Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	21	16	58
Nunavik	20	12	43
Nunavut	22	12	49
Inuvialuit	21	11	58
Total Arctic	21	13	49

* Row totals do not add up to 100% because the "Don't know" category is not shown.

Source: 10

	%
Main reasons why harvesting activities will increase	
There will be more harvesters in household	31
People in the household will get better at harvesting	17
People in the household will have better equipment	22
People in the household will have more time	18
Main reasons why harvesting activities will decrease	
There will be fewer harvesters in household	12
Less time to do harvesting activities	11
Fewer resources to harvest/pollution etc	34
Increased consumption of store-bought food	9
Other reasons	29

Source: 10

Amount of meat and fish eaten in household that's country food	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador (%)	Nunavik (%)	Nunavut (%)	Inuvialuit (%)	Total Arctic (%)
None	x	x	2.0 ^E	x	2.0 ^E
Less than half	42	21	25	29	27
About half	25	42	33	27	33
More than half	31	36	40	43	38

* Information in this table comes from the question, "Of the total amount of meat and fish eaten in your household during the year ending December 31st, 2000, how much of this total was country food?"

Country food includes things like caribou, arctic char, whale, seal, wild berries, shellfish etc.

Source: 10

- *96% of Inuit households in the Arctic shared or gave away country food to people in other households.*

Source: 10

Health indicators

Geographic areas	Life expectancy (years)
Nunatsiavut	64.7
Nunavik	63.3
Nunavut	68.3
Inuvialuit	69.9
Total, all Inuit regions (both sexes)	66.9
Inuit males	64.5
Inuit females	69.7
Total Canadian population (both sexes)	79.5
All Canadian males	77.0
All Canadian females	82.0

* Life expectancy is the average number of years a person can expect to live.

*This table is based on information for Inuit **and non-Inuit residents** of: 6 Inuit communities in the NWT, 28 in Nunavut, 14 in Nunavik, 6 in the Nunatsiavut region.

Source: 3, 4

Life expectancy in Inuit communities* in the late 1990's was the same as that for all Canadians around 1950.

*Information is for all residents, both Inuit and non-Inuit, combined.

Source: 5

Group	rate per 100,000
All Inuit	71.0
Inuit in the 3 territories	101.4
All Aboriginal People (Inuit, Métis, First Nations)	23.3
All Canadians	5.2

Source: 6

Group	rate per 100,000
Inuit	135
First Nations	24.1
All Canadians	11.8

*The Inuit rate is for the period 1999-2003 while the figures for the First Nations and total Canadian populations are for 2000.

Source: 7

Group	Fertility rate 1991-1996	Fertility rate 1996-2001
Inuit women	3.99	3.21
All Aboriginal women (Inuit, Métis, First Nations)	2.86	2.6
All Canadian women	1.68	1.56

* The total fertility rate shows the average number of children that the average woman gives birth to in her lifetime.

Source: 8

Group age groups	Canadian Arctic Inuit population		Total Canadian population (excluding Territories)	
	% of men smoking daily	% of women smoking daily	% of men smoking daily	% of women smoking daily
15 to 19 years old	61	68	16	17
20 to 24 years old	73	76	27	22
25 to 34 years old	71	72	24	18
35 to 44 years old	67	68	23	18

* "Arctic" is made up of communities in all 4 Inuit regions except Hopedale. Happy Valley – Goose Bay is included.

Source: 9

- *62% of Inuit women who were pregnant in 2001 smoked daily.*

Source: 10

Table 13 - Chronic Conditions among Canadian Inuit, 2001				
Description	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	Nunavik	Nunavut	Inuvialuit
Adults (15 and over)				
One or more long term health condition (%)	39.8	29.6	30.3	35.4
Respiratory problem - asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema (%)	14.5	6.2	6.6	7.9
High blood pressure, heart problems or effects of a stroke (%)	15.8	11.4	10.9	13.8
Children (0-14 years old)				
One or more long term health condition (%)	41.1	32.6	29.7	33.8
Allergies	13.7	5.0	7.6	10.8
Ear infection/problem (%)	15.3	15.3	11.4	10.0

Chronic conditions are those that have lasted or that are expected to last 6 months or more. These conditions have to have been diagnosed by a health professional. It is often more difficult to have conditions diagnosed in the north because of difficulty accessing health care services and the lower percentages for Inuit reflect this.

Source: 10

- *In 2001, 37% of Inuit adults did not drink alcohol. While 41% of Inuit women did not drink, the figure for Inuit men was 33%.*
- *Among those that did drink, 70% drank less than 3 times a month.*
- *19% of drinkers had 5 or more drinks on one occasion 2 or 3 times a month. 9% drank that much 2 or more times a week.*

Source: 10

Table 14 - Strength of ties with family members living in another household within the community*, Inuit adults in Arctic, 2001	
Strength of ties	%
Very weak	3
Weak	5
Moderate	19
Strong	20
Very Strong	53

* Information in this table comes from the question, "how strong are your ties with members of your family living in your community?"

Source: 10

Characteristics	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	Nunavik	Nunavut	Inuvialuit
% kids breastfed	51	57	59	66
Average number of months breastfed	9	16	17	17

* "Arctic" is made up of communities in all 4 Inuit regions except Hopedale. Happy Valley – Goose Bay is included.
Source: 10

Characteristics	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	Nunavik	Nunavut	Inuvialuit	All children in Canada (Inuit and non-Inuit)
% of children with serious injury in past 12 months	7	10	8	11	11

* Respondents were asked to report injuries serious enough to require medical attention. In the Arctic, due to a lack of health professionals and services, injuries are more likely than elsewhere to go undiagnosed. This can result in lower injury rates for Inuit children.

* children are those aged 0-14

Source: 10

Characteristics	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	Nunavik	Nunavut	Inuvialuit
Average number of hours per day spent watching TV and/or playing video games	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.9
% of children never playing sports or playing less than once a week	34	28	27	35
% of children playing sports one or more times a week	61	71	72	64

* children are those aged 0-14

Source: 10

Indicators of Inuktitut strength

Table 18: Inuit with Inuktitut mother tongue and home language*, Canada, 2001		
Characteristics	Inuktitut Mother Tongue (%)	Inuktitut Home language (%)
Language by age group		
0-14 years	63.5	55.7
15-24 years	63.1	53.9
25-44 years	66.7	49.0
45-64 years	75.5	57.9
65 years and over	78.8	68.8
Inuit of all ages	66.1	54.1
Language by Inuit region		
Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	14.5	5.8
Nunavik	97.3	94.5
Nunavut	84.4	68.2
Inuvialuit	21.7	4.9

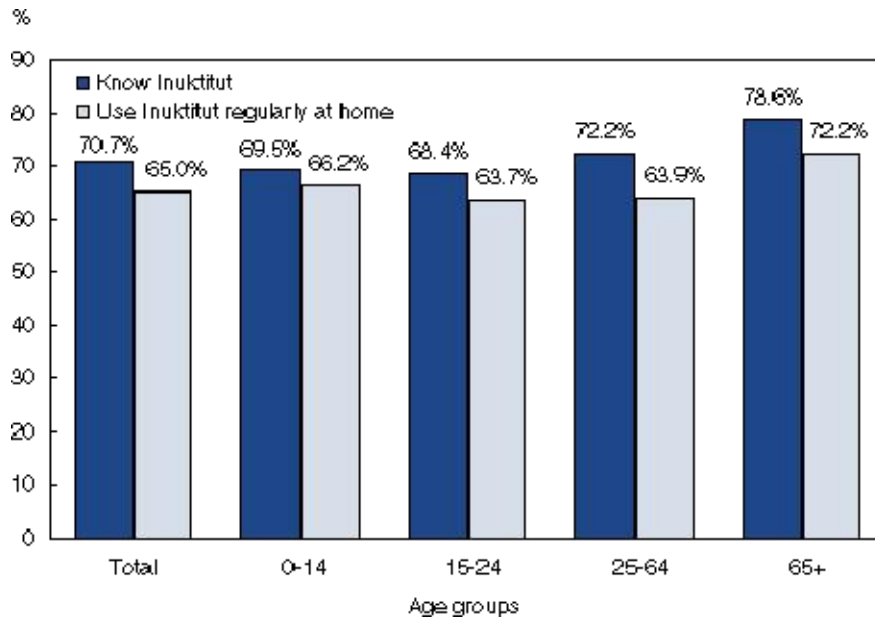
*Included in the calculations for Inuit speaking Inuktitut is a very small number of Inuit speaking an Aboriginal language other than Inuktitut.

Mother tongue is the first language learned in childhood and still understood.

Home language is the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home.

Source: 1

Percentage of population reporting an Inuit identity who know Inuktitut and who use it regularly at home, by age groups, Canada, 2001



Source: 1

Housing conditions

Region	1996 (%)	2001 (%)
Nunavut	63	54
Nunavik	67	68
Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	33	28
Inuvialuit	51	35
Total Canadian population (Inuit and non-Inuit)*	8	7

* A household is crowded if it has one or more person per room (hallways, bathrooms etc. are not counted as rooms).

* Total Canadian population excludes those living on reserve.

Source: 1

Group	% living in dwellings in need of major repairs
Total Inuit population	22.5
Arctic Inuit population*	24.0
Total Canadian population	8.1

* Major repairs include things like structural repairs to walls, floors, ceilings etc.

* "Arctic" is made up of communities in all 4 Inuit regions except Hopedale. Happy Valley – Goose Bay is included.

Source: 1

	% households in core housing need
Inuit households	31.9
Status Indian households	28.4
Non-Status Indian households	24.9
Métis households	20.6
All Aboriginal households	24.8
Non-Aboriginal households	15.6

Source: 2

* A household is in core need if its housing falls below at least one of the CMHC standards for adequacy, suitability or affordability. Adequate dwellings do not require major repairs. Suitable dwellings have enough bedrooms for the size and makeup of the household. Dwellings are affordable if they cost less than 30% of pre-tax household income.

For more information on core housing need, please go the article by Canada Mortgage and Housing on their website: http://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/b2c/b2c/init.do?z_category=0000000012/0000000030/0000000043

Formal education, paid work and income

Characteristics	All Canadian adults	Inuit adults
Incomplete high school studies (%)	31.3	57.7
High school graduation only (%)	14.1	6.2
Post secondary studies (%)	54.6	36.1
Incomplete post-secondary education	10.8	12.9
Completed post-secondary education	43.8	23.3
Completed college	15.0	9.5
Completed trades	10.9	11.1
Completed university	17.9	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Highest level of schooling is the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary (high) school attended, or to the highest year of university or college education completed.

Source: 1

Main Reasons	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador %	Nunavik (%)	Nunavut (%)	Inuvialuit (%)	All Canadian Inuit (%)		
					Male	Female	Total
Wanted to work	17 ^E	6	9	21	16	7	11
Had to work	8 ^E	7	9	10 ^E	13	6	9
Bored with school	13 ^E	13	12	9 ^E	16	10	13
Pregnancy or taking care of children	7 ^E	12	13	12	1 ^E	25	13
To help at home	13 ^E	6	9	11 ^E	6	10	8
No school available	19 ^E	5	8	6	6	8	7

Source: 10

Group	Inuit		All Canadians	
	Male %	Female %	Male %	Female %
Canada	24.7	19.4	7.6	7.2
Newfoundland/Labrador	41.5	21.9	24.2	19.1
Quebec	20.9	16.5	8.7	7.7
Northwest Territories	21.1	17.4	10.4	8.4
Nunavut	25.2	20.8	18.3	16.3

* The unemployment rate includes those age 15 and over who were not working but who were available for work and: were looking for work, were on temporary layoff (and were planning to return to their job) or who had definite arrangements to start work in the near future.

Source: 1

Main reasons	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador (%)	Nunavik (%)	Nunavut (%)	Inuvialuit (%)
Going to school	28	19	22	24
No full-time job available	22	26	28	11 ^E
Health problems	4 ^E	4 ^E	7	11 ^E
Family responsibilities	8 ^E	16	19	13 ^E
Not qualified for available jobs	7 ^E	2 ^E	7	x
Retired	23	12	10	18

Source: 10

Group Geography	All Canadian adults		Inuit adults	
	Average (\$)	Median (\$)	Average (\$)	Median (\$)
Newfoundland and Labrador	22,620	16,050	17,809	13,148
Quebec	27,125	20,665	19,054	14,311
Northwest Territories	35,012	29,030	21,459	15,104
Nunavut	26,924	17,270	19,686	13,090
Canada	29,769	22,120	19,878	13,699

Source: 1

* Average income is the amount obtained by adding up the total income of all individuals and dividing this sum by the number of individuals with income.

* Median income is the midpoint of the range of income of individuals.

Use of Communication Technology

Communication Technology	Inuit in selected Inuit communities in Labrador (%)	Inuit in Nunavik (%)	Inuit in Nunavut (%)	Inuit in Inuvialuit (%)	All Canadians age 15 and over (%)
Used a computer in the past 12 months	65	44	51	56	N/A
Used the Internet in the past 12 months	54	28	34	44	53
Do not have a phone at home	9	13	13	11	3

Source:

10

Community life

Table 28 - Selected reasons why Arctic* Inuit would consider leaving their community, 2001					
Reasons	Male	Female	Total		
School, Education opportunity	19	22	21		
Job Opportunities	46	30	38		
Family moved, to be closer to family	13	18	16		
To travel, see other places, get away, want change	23	22	22		
Table 29 - Selected reasons why Arctic* Inuit stay in their community, 2001					
Reasons	Selected Inuit communities in Labrador	Nunavik	Nunavut	Inuvialuit	Total Arctic
Job Opportunities	43	20	20	27	23
Family is here	82	56	69	60	67
Friends are here	34	18	22	15	22
Home town	33	39	34	23	34

* "Arctic" is made up of communities in all 4 Inuit regions except Hopedale. Happy Valley – Goose Bay is included. Percentages do not add to 100% as respondents could provide more than one reason.
Source: 10

IMPORTANT NOTES:

How is "Inuit" defined? In all tables shown, most information is for people who identified as Inuit. Not included are those who had Inuit ancestry who chose not to identify as Inuit.

Who was not included in the tables? In 2001, the Census missed about 8% of the population of the Northwest Territories. These people are not included in the tables based on Statistics Canada data. Excluded from the counts for the total Canadian population are about 30,000 people living in First Nations communities that did not take part in the census.

Geographic issues for Labrador Inuit. Many of the tables below provide information for Labrador Inuit. For some tables, figures are for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. For another table, data are specifically for the Nunatsiavut region. The "Selected Inuit communities" referred to in the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) tables are: Happy Valley – Goose Bay, Makkovik, Postville, Rigolet and Nain. Information for Hopedale is not included in the APS tables. Check the table headings to determine the geographic area covered by the table.

"Arctic", "North" and "Territories" – what's the difference? Throughout these tables, the terms "Arctic", "North" and "Territories" are used. Each means something slightly different and users should check the different definitions at the end of the tables for clarification.

Inuit adults and children – ages differences. In the tables above, adults are those age 15 and over while children are aged 0-14. Information for children was usually provided by the adult who knew the most about them (usually a parent or guardian).

What are the “x” and “E” that appear at the end of some tables?

x - Suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements

E - Use data with caution

SOURCES OF DATA:

The source numbers at the end of each table correspond to those listed below.

1. Statistics Canada, 2001 Census
2. Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2004. Research Highlight “2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households” Socio-economic Series 04-036
3. Finès, P., & Senécal, S. Life Expectancy in the Inuit-Inhabited Areas of Canada. Paper presented at the First Conference of the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health. October 29, 2005. Québec, Québec.
4. Statistics Canada 2001. Health Indicators – Life expectancy – abridged life table http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/82-221-XIE/2005001/tables/html/1431_01.htm (accessed Oct. 31, 2005)
5. Statistics Canada, 2005 “Health Expectancy of the Inuit-inhabited areas of Canada” Health Analysis and Measurement Group
6. Public Health Agency of Canada. “Tuberculosis in Canada 2002”
7. Health Canada, 2005 (forthcoming). A Statistical Profile on the Health of First Nations in Canada for the Year 2000. Ottawa: Minister of Health
8. B. Ram, “Emerging Patterns of Aboriginal Fertility, 1966-71 to 1996-2001”. Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Canadian Population Society, Halifax, 2003
9. Statistics Canada, 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey and 2001 Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey
10. Statistics Canada, 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey – Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

Appendix iv) Partnership Accord

**THIS PARTNERSHIP ACCORD IS
EFFECTIVE FROM THE 31ST DAY OF MAY 2005.**

PARTNERSHIP ACCORD

**BETWEEN THE INUIT OF CANADA AS REPRESENTED BY
INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI**

**WHOSE VOTING MEMBERS ARE INUVIALUIT REGIONAL
CORPORATION, LABRADOR INUIT ASSOCIATION, MAKIVIK
CORPORATION,
AND NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED, AND EX-OFFICIO
MEMBERS ARE INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE CANADA,
NATIONAL INUIT
YOUTH COUNCIL AND PAUKTUUTIT INUIT WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**

AND

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA AS
REPRESENTED BY
THE MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN
DEVELOPMENT
(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "MINISTER")**

WHEREAS the Inuit are an Aboriginal people of the Arctic;

AND WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada live in Labrador, Nunavik, Nunavut, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and many centres in southern Canada;

AND WHEREAS Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami represents the Inuit of Canada on national issues as agreed by the above four voting members of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami;

AND WHEREAS the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of Inuit, as an Aboriginal people of Canada are recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., on behalf of the Inuit they respectively represent, have entered into land claims agreements, protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, with the Crown in Right of Canada;

AND WHEREAS a land claims agreement for the Inuit of Labrador, represented by Labrador Inuit Association, has been ratified by the Inuit of Labrador and by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and, if ratified by the Crown in Right of Canada will be protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize the importance of implementation of comprehensive land claims agreements;

AND WHEREAS the parties recognize that the honour of the Crown is at stake in all the Crown's dealings with Inuit;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada's goal as stated in the February 2, 2004, Speech from the Throne is "To see Aboriginal Canadians participating fully in national life on the basis of historic rights and agreements – with greater economic self-reliance, a better quality of life;" and committed at the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable of April 19, 2004, to renew and strengthen the ongoing and evolving relationship between the Government of Canada and the Aboriginal peoples of Canada;

AND WHEREAS this commitment to a renewed relationship and strengthened partnership with the Inuit of Canada has informed joint policy discussions, which have taken place since the Roundtable, on health, environment, lifelong learning, housing, negotiations, economic opportunities and accountability;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has established an Inuit Relations Secretariat as a focal point for the renewed relationship between Inuit and the Government of Canada;

AND WHEREAS political undertakings in relation to various topics can best be pursued in the context of an Accord that establishes an Action Plan for the purpose of achieving tangible progress on matters of shared priority;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE SIGNATORIES TO THIS PARTNERSHIP ACCORD AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Principles

1) The Inuit are an Aboriginal people of Canada as described in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the Inuit are protected pursuant to section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

2) The demographic, socio-economic and geographic realities of Inuit regions and communities will be given appropriate attention and thoughtful consideration in the design of governmental institutions responsible for the delivery of programs and services that may affect Inuit and will be taken into account in a tangible and transparent way in the design and delivery of such programs and services.

3) Appropriate financial, human resources and accountability capacity for the sustained involvement of Inuit in policy development with the Government of Canada and, where appropriate, relevant provincial and territorial governments, will be jointly developed, including those required by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to address national issues.

4) Government of Canada programs and services that may affect Inuit will take into account:

a) the representative role of Inuit institutions and organizations;

b) the need for Inuit to make practical use of programs and services including the need for Inuit-specific elements reflecting the social, economic, cultural and geographic circumstances of Inuit;

c) the roles and responsibilities of provinces and territories; and,

d) the appropriate care and accountability in the use of public funds.

5) A constructive partnership of the kind contemplated in this Accord requires a consistently high level of Government of Canada and Inuit commitment to:

a) discussions and decisions rooted in evidence-based research and analysis;

b) the central role to be played by informed and inclusive participation by Inuit in decisions affecting Inuit rights and interests; and,

c) defining an active role for Inuit in decisions with respect to broader issues affecting Inuit as citizens of Canada.

Objectives of the Partnership Accord

This Partnership Accord has the following longer-term and shorter term objectives:

The longer-term objectives are:

1) To increase the understanding of Inuit rights, interests and aspirations in the various departments and agencies that make up the Government of Canada.

2) To identify and resolve issues of common concern to Inuit and the Government of Canada through a partnership based on the principles of mutual respect, recognition, responsibility and sharing;

3) To promote and support Inuit communities to become self-reliant, healthy, culturally vital and secure and, to improve and sustain the social, environmental and economic conditions of Inuit;

4) To facilitate the efforts of Inuit to deal effectively with relevant challenges and opportunities of an international nature in cooperation with the Government of Canada and, where appropriate, with relevant provincial and territorial governments; and,

5) To increase public awareness and understanding of the Inuit as a distinct, unified and dynamic people.

The shorter-term objectives are:

- 1) To conclude a mutually agreed upon Inuit Relations Secretariat – Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Workplan, including adequate resources, which will be developed and approved by senior officials of the Parties within 60 days of the signing of this Accord.
- 2) To undertake joint initiatives, including, where appropriate, with provincial and territorial governments and developing governance structures, to improve the socio-economic, cultural and environmental circumstances of Inuit;
- 3) To examine and refocus, as deemed necessary, current approaches, mechanisms and processes required to support an effective partnership and renewed relationship between the Government of Canada and Inuit;
- 4) To determine, with the intent of strengthening, the financial, human resources and accountability capacity of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to support effective involvement of Inuit in the development and implementation of government policies, programs and/or services that directly affect Inuit;
- 5) To advance the development and delivery of Inuit-specific policies, programs and services, within the Government of Canada, that are responsive to the specific priorities of Inuit and, where appropriate and possible, to coordinate these efforts with provincial and territorial policies, programs and services;
- 6) To support Inuit-specific research needed for results-based policy, program and service delivery implementation, in cooperation, where appropriate, with federal departments and agencies, and provincial and territorial governments.

Government of Canada - Inuit Action Plan

- 1) A Government of Canada-Inuit Action Plan, reflecting the principles and objectives of this Accord, will be developed and negotiated by March 31, 2006, between the Parties and, upon approval and ratification by the Parties, will be appended to this Accord and become a part of it.
- 2) The Government of Canada-Inuit Action Plan will be replaced, as required, by further Government of Canada-Inuit Action Plans, concluded as above, which will be for a period of three to five years each.
- 3) Implementation of the Government of Canada-Inuit Action Plan, with particular focus on the achievement of tangible and concrete results, will be monitored and evaluated through the establishment of a joint steering committee comprised of two senior officials appointed by the Minister and two senior officials appointed by the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. The joint steering committee will be co-chaired by one of the officials from each Party.
- 4) As directed by the joint steering committee, working groups, special project teams, and other mechanisms, involving outside experts, federal departments and agencies, and relevant provincial and territorial governments as required, may be constituted to achieve tangible results.
- 5) An annual report prepared by the co-chairs of the joint steering committee delineating the results of the committee's efforts and activities will be submitted to the Minister and the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and will be made public.
- 6) The Minister and the President will meet annually to discuss the annual report and determine future plans and priorities relevant to the Government of Canada-Inuit Action Plan.

Inuit Relations Secretariat

- 1) The Inuit Relations Secretariat within the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will provide an important point of contact on Inuit matters for departments and agencies of the Government of Canada and will provide a focus for information, advice and expertise on policy and program matters concerning Inuit.
- 2) The Inuit Relations Secretariat will support integrated and broad based action plans on Inuit issues and priorities across the federal government and will foster close collaboration among federal departments and agencies, and with provinces, territories, and developing governance structures.
- 3) Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, through an Inuit working group, and the Inuit Relations Secretariat will work closely together to support the Parties in their efforts to develop and negotiate the Government of Canada-Inuit Action Plan, in its implementation and in the preparation of annual reports of the joint steering committee.

General

- 1) The Partnership Accord is viewed by both Parties as a living document, reflecting a renewed relationship and strengthened partnership between the Government of Canada and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Duly ratified amendments to this Accord agreed to by the President and Minister shall be incorporated into this Partnership Accord. This Accord may be terminated with the consent of one or both of the Minister and the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.
- 2) This Partnership Accord does not create any legal obligations which are binding on the Parties.
- 3) There shall be an Inuktitut, a French and an English version of this Accord. The French and English versions shall be the authoritative versions.

