

## Images of the Inuit of Nunavik

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Since the early 1970s the Inuit of Nunavik (northern Quebec) have been documenting their political, economic and social development by taking photographs. With the creation of the Northern Quebec Inuit Association there was a need for a magazine to communicate the issues relating to the negotiation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement to the population of Nunavik. The publication was called *Taqralik*, first published in May 1974. It featured articles illustrated with photographs of the meetings held by the NQIA (Northern Quebec Inuit Association). *Taqralik* evolved over the years in a series of new publications, called *Atuaqniq*, then *Makivik News*, to its current title, *Makivik Magazine*. It is now published quarterly by Makivik Corporation.

Makivik was created following the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement in November 1975. The corporation has the mandate to implement the Agreement, and to administer the funds accorded to the Inuit. It publishes an annual report, which focuses on the activities of the corporation, and is well illustrated with photographs and charts.

The photos presented here are a selection of images dating back to the early 1970s, right up to the current political leadership in Nunavik. They testify to the development process in Nunavik. Staff of the Northern Quebec Inuit Association, and its successor organization, Makivik Corporation, took the photos. The choice is a deliberate one to contrast the beginning of the early 1970s with the accomplishments of today.



Northern Quebec Inuit Association Annual Meeting in Kuujjuaq,  
August 1974.



Makivik's annual general meetings have always been an opportunity to take a group photograph once the week-long session is over. Here is an early look at Inuit leaders following the annual meeting held in Quaqtaq (spelled Koartaq on the sign) in July 1976.



An early group photo of the Makivik Corporation Directors following an Annual General Meeting in Quaqtak, July 1976. Front row (left to right): Peter Matte, Sarollie Weetaluktuk, Peter Inukpuk, Mark Annanack, Charlie Arngak, Tommy Cain. Standing (left to right): Putulik Papigatuk, Zebedee Nungak, Charlie Watt, Johnny Williams, Mary Simon.



The current leaders, photographed at the airport facilities in Quaqtq, January 1999. Left to right: Pita Aatami, President; Mark T. Gordon, Vice-President Economic Development; Anthony Ittoshat, Treasurer; Johnny Peters, Vice-President Resource Development; George Berthe, Corporate Secretary.



Two airplanes, two decades apart. The first is a Beaver, purchased in the early 1970s to transport the Inuit negotiators to Nunavik communities to communicate progress on the James Bay negotiations. The airplane developed into an airline: Air Inuit, which was Makivik's first wholly owned subsidiary company. In April 1995 Air Inuit purchased a De Havilland Dash-8 aircraft to service the Hudson Bay coast.





Makivik also owns First Air, Canada's third-largest airline, which specializes in Arctic transportation, links Nunavik, Nunavut, and the western Arctic together and to the south. First Air also flies to Greenland. It was purchased in September 1990. Then-President Charlie Watt signed the papers alongside First Air President Don Jamieson.



Makivik also engages in business partnerships with other Inuit groups. The M.V. Aqviq is an example of offshore shrimp fisheries development in partnership with the Inuit of Nunavut. Makivik Corporation is a partner in Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics Inc, a joint venture between all Inuit development corporations in Canada.





Politically, Makivik Corporation has the mandate to represent the Inuit of Nunavik. The Inuit population elects its directors. In March 1999 the population was 8,970. Makivik's president speaks out on behalf of the Inuit in many different forums. At the Canadian constitutional table, the Inuit of Nunavik were present in the mid-1980s.



In July 1995 Simeonie Nalukturuk represented Makivik at the Inuit Circumpolar Conference General Assembly held in Nome, Alaska. In October 1995, Zebedee Nungak announced the results of the Inuit referendum held days prior to the Quebec referendum. Inuit voted over 95% to remain in Canada.



Berry picking near Kuujjuaq.



The sun rises over Inukjuak on the Hudson Bay coast.



Inuit throat singers practising in Inukjuak.



A typical street scene in mid-January in Inukjuak, a community in Nunavik on the Hudson Bay coast.