



# Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

ITK's work is strategically linked to implementing the actions in the National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People. The following are key highlights in advancing the National Inuit Action Plan. This work is achieved through various national-level working groups led by ITK with members from Inuit land claims organizations, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada and the National Inuit Youth Council.

**Shelters and Housing:** In 2019, ITK released the Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy to bring housing outcomes in Inuit Nunangat in line with housing outcomes in the rest of Canada. Our work contributed to the federal budget 2022 announcement of an additional \$845 million over seven years for housing across Inuit Nunangat.

**Infrastructure:** In August 2021, ITK released a research brief that provides an overview of the reality of internet access in Inuit Nunangat. In addition, it evaluates the infrastructure required to bridge the digital divide between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada.

**Education:** ITK undertook work to complete a business case for establishing an Inuit Nunangat university and continued our partnership with the MasterCard Foundation to support this work. In addition, ITK completed an environmental scan of Inuit education at the K-12 level, which includes an in-depth analysis of the legal and legislative responsibilities of all jurisdictions involved in K-12 Inuit education.

**Economic Security:** In July 2021, ITK released the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy, which advances Inuit-driven solutions to improve food insecurity and sustainable food systems. ITK is working towards capturing the true depth of poverty for Inuit in Inuit Nunangat. This work involves research on developing poverty metrics to capture relevant, up-to-date data on the cost of living in Inuit Nunangat.

**Health and Wellness:** ITK and Inuit land claims organizations engaged in the proposed federal distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to inform key priority areas for the co-development process. In regards to suicide prevention, ITK is working at improving knowledge on trauma-informed care, working with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the Kids Help Phone on shared priorities, and sharing information on preventing child sexual abuse through webinars.

**Justice and Policing:** A sub-working group was created to track the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and identify Inuit priorities for an UNDRIP Action Plan. ITK also created an ad-hoc Justice Working Group to provide direction towards an Indigenous Justice Strategy. In addition, ITK has a shared work plan with the RCMP to improve the relationship between Inuit communities and the RCMP.

**Children and Youth:** ITK completed an evaluation of the interim Inuit Child First Initiative and is working on a long-term Inuit-specific policy and legal equivalent options to Jordan's Principle. This work ensures that the Government of Canada maintains its commitment to substantive equality for Inuit children. ITK also supports Inuit land claims organizations in protecting children and asserting and exercising their jurisdiction over Inuit children and youth in care through the implementation of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit & Métis children, youth and families. In November 2021, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation passed a new law, Inuvialuit Qitunrariit Inuuniarnikkun Maligaksat (Inuvialuit Family Way of Living Law). The legislation will ensure that Inuvialuit children, youth, and families are cared for in a way aligned with Inuvialuit priorities. In addition, based on a decision of the ITK Board of Directors, ITK has been working with Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to add each Inuit land claim organization as a Listed Community under the Ontario Child Youth and Family Services Act in order to ensure that Inuit-specific supportive services are provided to Inuit in Ontario who come in contact with Children's Aid Societies. ITK is currently listed in the act and has designated Tungasuvvingat Inuit as its representative.

**Anti-Racism and Reconciliation:** The Inuit Crown Partnership Committee Reconciliation Measures and MMIWG Working Group has been established as the table to review and provide oversight for implementing the National Inuit Action Plan. The National Inuit Committee on Health has been involved in discussions and decisions related to addressing anti-Indigenous racism in the healthcare system, including distributing federal funding to Inuit rights holders.

**Governance:** ITK and the federal government co-led the development of a federal Inuit Nunangat Policy that Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee Leaders endorsed in April 2022. The policy applies to all federal departments and agencies, guiding them in the design, development and delivery of all new or renewed federal policies, programs, services, and initiatives that apply in Inuit Nunangat and/or benefit Inuit, including those within many of the other themes of the National Inuit Action Plan. Further, ITK is active in collaborative workshops on a proposed Modern Treaties Implementation Review Commission. The workshops have fostered a better understanding of the context of modern treaties, their character, their scope of application and their legal status in Canada.

**Inuktitut:** ITK completed an environmental scan of Inuit education at the K-12 level, which includes an in-depth analysis of the legal and legislative responsibilities of all jurisdictions involved in K-12 Inuit education. In addition, ITK and the Atausiq Inuktitut Titirauisq Development Team continued to work on establishing Inuktitut spelling and grammar rules and standards. Work has continued to advance an Inuktitut costing analysis and funding model for Inuit Nunangat, which will inform the implementation of the federal Indigenous Languages Act and action on each region's language priorities.

**Data and Research:** ITK has continued to advance work on the Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey. In January 2022, data collection began in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. ITK developed a proposal to secure \$4 million in the 2021 federal budget to create an Inuit Data Strategy. ITK also launched a series of research briefs to inform federal policy and support greater knowledge about issues of importance to Inuit. In addition, critical partnerships for the National Inuit Strategy on Research were brokered, including with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Polar Knowledge Canada.

**Urban Inuit:** ITK established an Urban Inuit Task Force, with a mandate which includes targeted research on statistics and needs relating to Inuit outside of Inuit Nunangat. This group has been meeting monthly on thematic issues important to urban Inuit.

**Men and Boys:** ITK has established an ad-hoc Justice Working Group to provide input toward an Indigenous Justice Strategy. This work will be guided by the actions of the National Inuit Action Plan. The Nunatsiavut Government has hired a Sexual Violence Prevention and Outreach Counsellor who will develop a weeklong program delivered at the Labrador Correction Centre. In addition, they will provide counselling to men in Happy-Valley Goose Bay, Nain and Hopedale and have weekly meetings with inmates to do traditional activities.

**Family Violence:** ITK actively considers the root causes of violence and applies a GBA+ lens in our work when implementing policies that work towards ending violence in Inuit communities, including work on early learning and child care, suicide prevention and other social and wellness initiatives. Inuit leadership has continued to speak out about, advocate for, and lead the implementation of measures within their respective areas of jurisdiction that help end violence against Inuit women, children and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

## Next Steps

ITK will work with the Reconciliation Measures and MMIWG Working Group to finalize an implementation plan that will provide information on how to move forward with the actions indicated in the National Inuit Action Plan. We will also continue to advocate for Inuit-specific funds to support the implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan.

