

THE NORTHERN INSTITUTE

Conferences Focused on Canada's North

A Conference Focused Solely on Nunavut, and Its Accomplishments, Failures and Challenges

February 4 & 5, 2015 | Southway Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

NUNAVUT AT 15

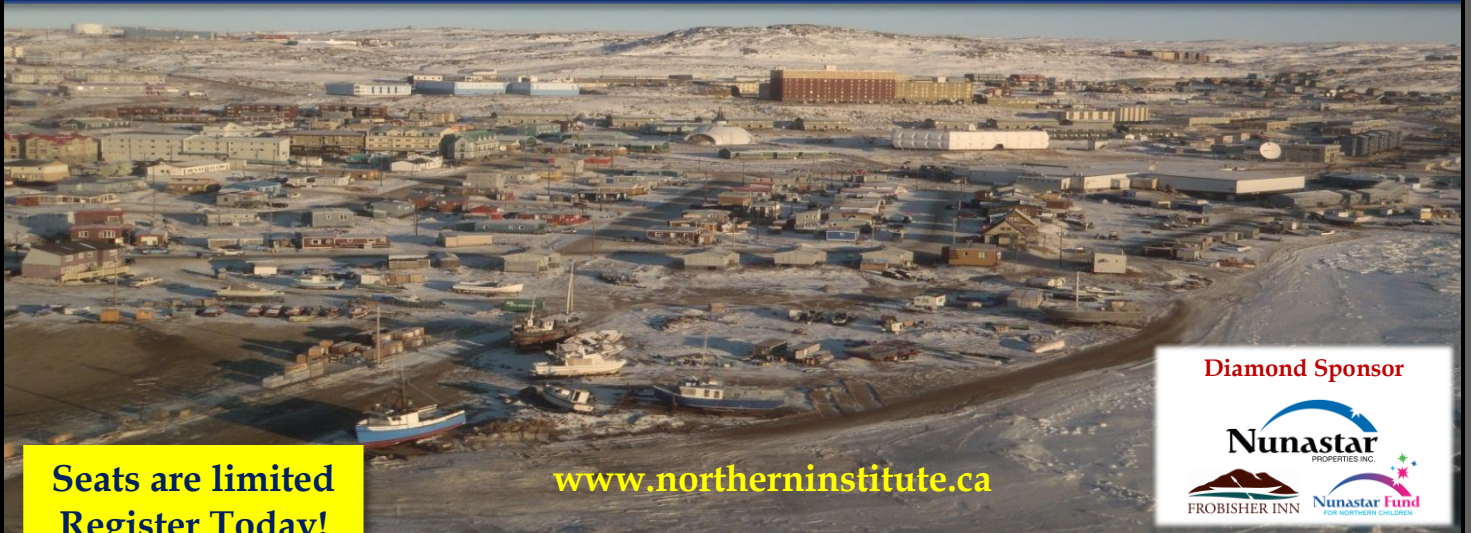
TAKING STOCK OF NUNAVUT'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1999

Keynote Speakers

Hon. Tom Siddon, P.C., Ph.D., LL.D., Minister of Indian Affairs & Northern Development (1990-1993)

Hon. Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut (TBC)

And many other high-profile speakers (see inside)



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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Territory of Nunavut came into existence on April 1, 1999 amid much fanfare and international publicity. Thomas Berger famously called it the “Nunavut Project.” Fifteen years have passed. Looking back, can we call the Nunavut Project a success? Or a qualified success?

Nunavut can celebrate many proud achievements in the past fifteen years: a trail-blazing *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the first of its kind in Canadian history; a wildlife legislation that fully embraces Inuit/Aboriginal traditional knowledge, another first in Canada; an Education Act that promises a bilingual education for its future generations; and the ground breaking of a new airport in the Territory’s capital, one of the largest government infrastructure projects north of 60 in decades, just to name a few. On the other hand, it has been said that Nunavut is at a crossroads, facing many serious political, social and economic challenges that include, for example, serious infrastructure deficit, severe housing shortages, an unsustainable level of poverty and food insecurity, the highest suicide rate in the country, the lowest high school graduation rate in Canada, and the potential loss of Inuit languages and traditions. Nunavut has to choose its path. Will Nunavut be able to choose its path wisely so as to guide itself to success and prosperity?

This conference will take stock and provide a comprehensive assessment of the Nunavut Project, including the accomplishments and failures of Nunavut in the past 15 years and its challenges and prospects in the coming decade. We will be asking the tough question: Are we better off now than we were 15 years ago? You will hear from a faculty of experts including elected leaders, top officials, advisors and lawyers as well as leading academics and researchers.

OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS / PANEL MEMBERS

Hon. Tom Siddon (Keynote Speaker), P.C., Ph.D., LL.D. is a professional engineer, environmental scientist, politician and community leader, and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from 1990 to 1993. Dr. Siddon was a Member of the Cabinet for 9 years as Minister of Science and Technology, Fisheries and Oceans, Indian Affairs and Northern Development and National Defense. As the INAC Minister, Mr. Siddon was instrumental in guiding the *Nunavut Land Claim Agreement* through all of its final stages from the Agreement-in-Principle (April 30, 1990) to the signing of the final *Nunavut Agreement* on May 25, 1993.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (Keynote Speaker) (TBC) is the Premier of Nunavut. He previously sat in the Third Legislative Assembly (2008-2013), during which he served as Deputy Premier and Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, among other portfolios. Prior to his political career, Premier Taptuna had worked in the oil and gas industry for 13 years, and served as a member of the Municipal Council of Kugluktuk and Deputy Mayor, and the Board of Directors of the Kitikmeot Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Eva Aariak was the Premier of Nunavut from 2008 to 2013. Guided by the Tamapta Mandate, Ms. Aariak worked with communities and stakeholders to create The Makimaniq Plan, a made-in-Nunavut approach to reduce poverty. She spearheaded pioneering legislation on poverty reduction and child protection. Ms. Aariak also successfully sought adoption of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* based on recommendations that she had previously made as Commissioner of Languages from 1999-2003. Ms. Aariak also partnered with the federal government to secure a desperately needed new social housing program.

Naullaq Arnaquq is the Assistant Deputy Minister at the Department of Culture and Heritage with the Government of Nunavut where she has led major initiatives including the development of the language legislation, and the establishment of Piquisilirivvik, the cultural school. Naullaq is currently working on her PhD with University of Prince Edward Island. She holds a M.Ed. degree with University of Prince Edward Island and a B.Ed. degree from McGill University. Naullaq is fluently bilingual in both Inuktitut and English.

Terry Audla is the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the national organization representing 55,000 Inuit in Canada. He was born in Frobisher Bay (now Iqaluit), and raised in Resolute Bay, the son of High Arctic Exiles relocated from Inukjuak, Quebec, in the early 1950s. Mr. Audla has dedicated his career to the implementation of Inuit land claims agreements and the growth of economic opportunities for Inuit, first with the Qikiqtani Inuit

Association (QIA) (as its land manager and subsequently executive director), and later with the Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) (as its executive director).

Dr. Maureen Baikie is the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Nunavut. She is a Specialist in Public Health and Preventive Medicine with broad experience in northern and aboriginal health issues, and is particularly interested in communicable disease control, environmental health, emergency preparedness and response and public health law. Dr. Baikie has also worked for extensive periods in Labrador and Nova Scotia.

Dr. Michael Byers is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia. His most recent book, *International Law and the Arctic* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), won the Donner Prize for the best book on Canadian public policy. He is a regular contributor to the Globe and Mail, National Post, and Toronto Star.

Adam Chamberlain is a partner with the national law firm BLG and Leader of the firm’s Team North. He works regularly in the Canadian north on environmental, regulatory and Aboriginal matters and speaks and writes on related matters frequently. Adam assisted the Government of Nunavut with the environmental assessment processes for the Mary River Iron Mine and Dominion Diamond (then Harry Winston) in its purchase of the Ekati diamond mine in the NWT.

Paul Crowley (Co-Chair) is a lawyer and Director of Arctic Programs for WWF-Canada. Mr. Crowley was the Principal Secretary to Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut during the Third Legislative Assembly (2008-2013), and Head of the Social Development Unit for the International Development Law Organization based in Rome, Italy. A long-time resident of Nunavut, Mr. Crowley has worked with many other Inuit leaders such as Sheila Watt-Cloutier, and helped initiate and was Special Counsel to the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

Barry Dewar is a former senior public-service executive with a 30 year career in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development focusing on aboriginal rights and claims. From 1979 to 1993 he was a member of the federal negotiating team on the Nunavut Land Claim, occupying the position of Senior Federal Negotiator from 1986 to 1993. He subsequently served as Director General Self-Government and Director General Comprehensive Claims. Since his retirement in 2007, he has continued to work as a consultant on aboriginal and treaty rights issues.

ABOUT US

The Northern Institute is a private educational and research organization based in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Our mission is to create top-quality, insightful conferences and educational events that focus exclusively on issues affecting Canada’s Northern Territories and Arctic regions. As an independent organization with no political or ideological agendas or affiliation with any interest groups, we strive to serve as a neutral, inclusive and respectful forum for dialogue and debate.

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Dr. Terry Fenge (Co-Chair) is an Ottawa-based consultant specializing in Arctic, Aboriginal and Environmental issues. He was Senior Negotiator for the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, the Inuit organization that negotiated the 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, and Strategic Council to the International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (now Council). He currently advises Nunavut Tungavik Inc. on implementation of the Nunavut Agreement.

Jack Hicks served as Director of Research for the Nunavut Implementation Commission (NIC) and as the Government of Nunavut (GN)'s first Director of Evaluation and Statistics. For the last decade he has focussed on suicide prevention – as a researcher, a suicide intervention trainer, and as the GN's Suicide Prevention Advisor during development of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy. Jack currently teaches at Carleton University and recently completed, with Graham White, a book about the creation and the decentralization of the Government of Nunavut.

Sandra Inutiq is the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Ms. Inutiq has held various positions at Nunavut's Department of Justice, Office of the Languages Commissioner and Qullit Status of Women Council. Ms. Inutiq has served with National Inuit Youth Council, Legal Services Board, Labour Standards Board, and Nunavummiut Makitagunnarningit. In 2006, Ms. Inutiq was the first Inuk woman to become a lawyer in Nunavut after attending the Akitsiraq Law School.

Thomas Johnston is the President of the National Inuit Youth Council (NIYC), the national organization representing the voice of Inuit youth in Canada. He also works in film as a writer, producer and actor/host on a number of Inuit Broadcasting TV shows where he promotes discussion and learning in Arctic issues, often with humour and always in Inuktitut. Thomas is also a board member of the National Committee on Inuit Education and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

Robert Long has worked in business, business development and community economic development for almost 50 years. Most recently he served as Deputy Minister for Department of Economic Development and Transportation for the Government of Nunavut from 2008 to 2013, and for 10 years as General Manager of Baffin Business Development Corporation before then. Bob was the President of Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce from 2001 to 2007.

W. Thomas Molloy, O.C., S.O.M., Q.C. has been negotiating land claim settlements with First Nations and Inuit for more than 30 years. Among many accomplishments as a Chief Federal Negotiator, Tom completed the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the *Nisga'a Final Agreement*, the Inuit of Northern Quebec Offshore Agreement, and most recently the *Tla'amin Final Agreement* under the BC Treaty Commission process. He is the Principal in Molloy Negotiations.

Hon. Paul Quassa is Minister of Education for the Government of Nunavut. Mr. Quassa was the Chief Negotiator for Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) during land claims negotiations, which led to the historic 1993 signing of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Mr. Quassa served as the President of the TFN, and subsequently the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), and was one of the official signatories to the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Tom Paddon is the President and CEO of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. He is leading Baffinland in currently developing Canada's most northerly iron ore mine, the Mary River Project, located on northern Baffin Island. Mr. Paddon's previous experience of developing and operating the Voisey's Bay Project in northern Labrador set new benchmarks for achieving social license and commercial success in remote mining operations. Mr. Paddon was recently appointed to serve as Chair of the inaugural Arctic Economic Council's executive committee.

Hon. Dennis Patterson is member of the Senate and a former Premier of the Northwest Territories. In his distinguished 16-year career as a member of the NWT Legislative Assembly Mr. Patterson served in many capacities including Minister of Education, Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister of Justice, culminating in his service as Premier between 1987 and 1991. Mr. Patterson played a key leadership role in the settlement of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* and the *Nunavut Agreement*, and the NWT Legislatures contributions, over 20 years, which led to the establishment of the Territory of Nunavut in 1999.

Tony Penikett was the Premier of the Yukon Territory from 1985 to 1992. He spent 25 years in public life, including serving as the Chief of Staff to federal New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent; five terms as MLA in the Yukon Legislative Assembly; and two terms as the Premier. His government negotiated settlements of Yukon First Nation land claims. He subsequently served as Deputy Minister of Negotiations and, later, Labour for the B.C. Government. His book, *Reconciliation: First Nations Treaty Making*, was published in 2006. He also authored two films: *The Mad Trapper* for BBC TV/Time Life Films and *La Patrouille Perdue* for ORTF France.

Rick Van Loon is currently Professor and President Emeritus at Carleton University, of which he was President from 1996 to 2005. He was Senior ADM for Comprehensive Land Claims and Northern programs and Associate DM at Indian Affairs and Northern Development from 1985 to 1993, a period that saw settlement of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the establishment of Nunavut and the creation of the Yukon First Nations umbrella agreement as well as the Gwich'in and Sahtu claims in the Mackenzie delta.

Graham White is Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, where he teaches courses on Canadian politics, with special emphasis on provincial and territorial politics. He has been and writing about Northern politics since the 1980s and recently completed, with Jack Hicks, a book about the creation and the decentralization of the Government of Nunavut.

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As northerners, we care about the North. We commit to donate 2% of gross proceeds from each of our conferences to northern charitable causes through our Northern Advancement Fund.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

All events are held at the Grand Ballroom, Southway Hotel, 2431 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario | (613) 737-0811

Feb. 3 | 6:30–8:30pm **Pre-Registration (refreshments provided)**
Delegated are encouraged to pre-register to avoid lineups on Feb. 4, 2015

DAY 1 – Wednesday, February 4, 2015

(Topics and speakers are subject to change without notice)

Feb. 4 | 7:30–8:30am **Registration; Continental Breakfast**
Feb. 4 | 8:30–8:45am **Opening Remarks**

Feb. 4 | 8:45–9:30am **Opening Keynote Address**
Hon. Tom Siddon, P.C., Ph.D., LL.D., Minister of Indian Affairs & Northern Development (1990-1993)

Feb. 4 | 9:30–10:45am **Session 1: Looking Back – A brief history of Nunavut, how it came into existence and where it stands today**

To understand Nunavut's successes as well as its many challenges, one has to look into its past. It has been said that the creation of Nunavut was a tremendous political achievement for both Canada and the Inuit. 15 years ago, Nunavut was full of hopes and promises. 15 years later, is Nunavut still part of a success story? Has Nunavut met our expectations?

- Land claim movement and negotiations leading to the creation of Nunavut
- Efforts between 1993 to 1999 regarding the establishment of Nunavut
- Promises and expectations for Nunavut on April 1, 1999
- Overall assessment of Nunavut's successes and failures after 15 years

Feb. 4 | 10:45–11:00am **Refreshment Break**

Feb. 4 | 11:00–12:15pm **Session 2: Are we better off? – A look at Nunavummiut's health and social wellbeing**

"Are we better off?" has been said to be the quintessential benchmark in measuring the effectiveness of a government policy/program. Since 1999, the GN and Inuit organizations have been undertaking tremendous amount of efforts to attempt to improve the health and social wellbeing of Nunavummiut. We will examine a few major government initiatives to see whether and what kind of progress has been made.

- Mental Health Strategy
- Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Family Violence Prevention Act and Family Violence Strategy
- Food Security Strategy

Feb. 4 | 12:15–1:30pm **Lunch (not provided) (A variety of choices are available within walking distance)**

Feb. 4 | 1:30–2:00pm **Northern Keynote Address**
Hon. Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut (TBC)

Feb. 4 | 2:00–3:15pm **Session 3: Mining and devolution – The roles of the GN and potential impacts of devolution**

Resource development has been one of the main pillars of the Harper Government's Northern policy. The GN, however, has limited control over resource development in Nunavut as the federal government owns the Crown lands within the Territory. The GN has been increasingly aggressive in asserting itself in the mining sector and in pursuing the devolution agenda. What is the prospect of devolution negotiation in Nunavut? Will it help solve Nunavut's challenges such as unemployment or infrastructure deficit?

- GN's role on resource development and tools it has to make other players listen
- GN's uranium mining policy, public consultation process and likely impacts
- History, status and prospect of the Nunavut devolution negotiation
- Potential impacts of devolution in Nunavut

Feb. 4 | 3:15–3:30pm **Refreshment Break**

Feb. 4 | 3:30–4:45pm **Session 4: Against the tide – Reversing the loss of language and culture through legislation**

Gradual loss of language and culture has been a major challenge for Aboriginal peoples including Inuit. Inuit Language Protection Act (ILPA) in 2008 has been celebrated as a major achievement by both the GN and Inuit organizations. Although Inuit organizations were not satisfied with the Education Act in 2008, it contains important provisions intending to promote bilingual education in Nunavut. How have these legislation been implemented? Are they making a difference?

- ILPA – History, accomplishments and deficiencies
- Will ILPA save the decline of Inuit languages?
- Education Act – History, accomplishments and deficiencies
- Will the Education Act bring about a bilingual population in Nunavut?

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Feb. 4 | 4:45pm Conference Adjourns for Day 1

DAY 2 – Thursday, February 5, 2015

(Topics and speakers are subject to change without notice)

Feb. 5 | 8:00–8:45am Continental Breakfast

Feb. 5 | 8:45–10:15am Session 5: What pays the bills? – Nunavut’s search for a sustainable economy

Although government spending will likely continue to dominate Nunavut’s economy in the coming years, there have been significant changes and shifts in the Nunavut economy in the past 15 years. The traditional harvesting economy has been shrinking while other sectors such as mining and tourism are growing. Will Nunavut be able to develop a sustainable economy in the foreseeable future?

- Overview of Nunavut economy and the role of government spending
 - Contributions and prospect of mining sector in Nunavut’s economy
 - Oil and gas development in Nunavut and the Arctic waters
 - Harvesting economy and impacts of EU seals ban and other animal right movements
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Feb. 5 | 10:15–10:30am Refreshment Break

Feb. 5 | 10:30–12:00pm Session 6: Self-governance through public government – How has it been working so far?

Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada where the majority of its population are Aboriginal. Inuit leaders chose a public government to effect their aspiration for self-governance, and both the Legislative Assembly and the Cabinet operate on a consensus form of decision making rather than a party system. The GN has also been pursuing a decentralization policy in the hope of bringing employments to smaller communities. How has the system been working for Inuit and those in smaller communities? Is the system working for Nunavut’s non-Inuit population?

- Self-government v. public government
 - Effectiveness and deficiencies of consensus form of government
 - GN’s decentralization policy and its impacts
 - Roles of Inuit organizations as checks and balances for the GN?
 - Interests of non-Inuit population in an Inuit-dominated public government
-

Feb. 5 | 12:00–1:15pm Lunch (not provided) (A variety of choices are available within walking distance)

Feb. 5 | 1:15–2:45pm Session 7: A small piece in a big puzzle? – Nunavut in a Canadian and global context

Nunavut is at the forefront and converging point of many global and national hot issues such as Canada’s Arctic Policy and Northern Strategy, Arctic sovereignty and national security, climate change, the debate over the Northwest Passage and the rush to develop what is arguably “the last frontier” on earth.

- Canada’s Northern Strategy and how Nunavut fits in
 - Arctic Sovereignty, Northwest Passage and the historical roles of Inuit
 - Climate change and the potential impacts on Inuit way of life
 - Canada’s claim on continental shelf and rights of Inuit
 - Commercial fishing and developments in the Arctic ocean
-

Feb. 5 | 2:45–3:00pm Refreshment Break

Feb. 5 | 3:00–4:30pm Session 8: Looking forward – Major political, social, economic and policy challenges in the next 10 years

This conference started with the past. It will end with the future. Do you still believe in Nunavut? Do you still think Nunavut has a bright and promising future, like we hoped 15 year ago? Panel members at this session will provide an overview of major challenges facing the Territory in the coming decade, and their views on Nunavut’s ability to overcome these challenges.

- the prospect for a sustainable economy and the continuing challenge of balancing resource development and the negative impacts on environment and traditional lifestyle
 - the critical shortage of infrastructure that negatively impact on economic development and quality of life of Nunavummiut
 - the overwhelming challenge of solving unemployment and poverty issues in Nunavut
 - the alarming loss of Inuit language and culture
 - the future of relationship between the Government of Canada and Inuit/GN in the face of the Inuit’s one billion lawsuit against the Government of Canada
-

Feb. 5 | 4:30pm Conference Concludes

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Seats are limited – Register today!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Elected leaders, public officials, policy advisors, executive and managers, academia/researchers, consultants, lawyers, business owners and community leaders.

EDUCATIONAL CREDITS

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Law Society of Nunavut: This program can be applied towards the Continuing Professional Development requirement of the Law Society of Nunavut. It is not accredited for Professionalism/Ethics hours.

DATE, LOCATION & TRAVEL

Date: February 4 & 5, 2015
Venue: Southway Hotel (Grand Ballroom)
2431 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario
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