

# Inuvialuit Corporate Group Update

## *Message from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Chair and CEO*

Aaqana and Quviahukluhi Quviahukvingmi, Quviasuglusi Qitchirvingmi, Quviahugluhi Qitchirvingmi to Inuvialuit. IRC is pleased to give Elders Benefit Payments in December. While the number of beneficiary elders is growing, IRC is pleased to be able to provide cheques or Direct Deposit through electronic fund transfer (EFT) to Inuvialuit elders. This monetary distribution aligns with the objectives set out in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Consistent payments are a part of our ongoing work in implementation of IFA fundamentals.

IRC looks for the guidance of its members regarding Draft strategies and documents we send back to your communities. Recent calls for community insight and written comment to guide our ongoing work include Inuvialuit Land Administration Commission (ILAC) review and Draft Cruise Ship Strategy. Copies are available at your CC. RSEA online comment forum starts in January. From everything we heard from the 42 Directors a year ago, IRC's Strategic Plan guiding our work for the next three years will also be presented to members for additional input and clarification.

In our childcare centres, IRC Health and Wellness encourages parents within the Parent Handbook to form Community Working Groups to work with and guide childcare staff and help plan special events. IRC also encourages Inuvialuit parents to their register children with IRC's Enrolment Department. Knowing the most current number of children helps IRC advocate for program funding with governments.

With First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families Act having received Royal Assent in June 2019 and coming into force in the new year, IRC looks forward to working on making sure that Inuvialuit make decisions about how to care for and support Inuvialuit children, youth, and families. IRC hopes to begin discussions with Canada and the GNWT on how Inuvialuit will do this and to make sure that the wishes and needs of Inuvialuit communities are respected by governments.

*Below: Chair **Duane Smith** speaks to the collaborators with Digital Library North/U of A responsible for the Inuvialuit Voices Story Telling Gathering and the Inuvialuit Digital Library site who are working with Inuvialuit Cultural Centre to provide online access to archival photo collections, video, audio recordings, and language lessons (see page 8-9).*



IRC hopes all Inuvialuit in their communities will have voted in their CC elections and Elders Committee elections this December. We thank all past and current leadership for their service and will welcome those elected in their communities across the ISR and will expect their strong leadership going forward.

The positive Inuit Crown Partnership process will continue Federally with IRC at the table.

With Territorial government relations, IRC continues to assert definitions for, and respectful processes now needed for any improvement or real co-leadership working with GNWT on our shared priorities.

Internationally, IRC is proud of its youth who have been at the COP25 UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid this month presenting their film "Happening to Us" showing climate change impacts on their home community of Tuktoyaktuk.

Aaŕigaa! Practice in Northern Games will pay off for our youth next summer. We hope to see youth consistently engaged in Inuvialuit Games disciplines in all ISR schools in the New Year so we can look forward to a high level of competition next summer with the 50th year event of Northern Games in our Region.

I want to offer my personal condolences to communities, friends and families who have lost loved ones over these last few months. May you have a blessed Christmas surrounded by family and have a safe New Year.

**Duane Ningaqsiq Smith**

Katimaŕut Atanruŕuq

Chair and Chief Executive Officer

*Below: IRC Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer **Eddie Dillon** (r) congratulates **Lazarus Maring** (l) on his 20 years of service to Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC).*

*During the Board Meeting, Eddie stated he would like to acknowledge IRC Community Support staff who go "above and beyond" and "respond as soon as they have a chance to," which has worked out to the benefit of communities." **Shelly Hendrick**, Community Support Officer is sitting between Lazarus and Eddie in the photo and she works alongside **Jamie Day** who was recently promoted to Community Support Officer and is also highlighted later in this ICG Update with 5 years of service to IRC.*

