



INUVIALUIT
REGIONAL CORPORATION

Inuvialuit Qitunrariit Inuuniarnikkun Maligaksat

Inuvialuit Family Way of Life Law



What does the Law do?

- Implements the **Inherent Rights** of Inuvialuit to govern Inuvialuit children, youth, and families, as established in **UNDRIP** and Bill C-92
- Uses **specific** feedback heard during **consultation with communities** over the past year
- Establishes a **new organization** – Inuvialuit Qitunrariit Inuuniarnikkun Maligaksat –to lead this work
- Title developed by **Elders** representing all dialects

How We Got Here – Feedback and Consultation

- **2018/2019:** IRC participates in co-development of Bill C-92
- **April 2020:** IRC notifies Canada it plans to begin working on law, secures funding for work. Board mandates staff to begin work
- **January 2021:** IRC hires law firm for drafting work; initial work on scoping, policy options
- **March 2021:** Community Tour to all ISR Communities
- **April-August 2021:** Drafting of legislation (OKT) with staff review
- **August 2021:** Board review of draft
- **September 2021:** Community Tour (additional round to all ISR Communities)
- **November 2021:** Law put before IRC Board of Directors
- **January 2022:** Negotiations for coordination and fiscal agreement with Canada and territorial governments
- **November 2022:** Law in full effect

Principles

- The content and focus of the Law was built on **what we heard in the Community tours**.
- **Based on Community priorities**, the law has **4 key principles**:
 1. **Cultural Continuity** and keeping children in community
 2. **Enhancing Supports** to families
 3. **Enhanced Access to** and sharing of Information
 4. Growing **Inuvialuit jurisdiction** – based on Inuvialuit time lines

Cultural Continuity and keeping children in community

• What we heard:

- Inuvialuit Children must always be **connected to their culture**, no matter where they live
- Inuvialuit children must be **kept in their community**, and in the region as much as possible

• How the law does this:

- Defining the “Best Interests of the Child” to include cultural connection (Section 10)
- Setting **specific standards** for Cultural Continuity (Sections 11 & 12)
- Requiring that NTHSSA make **maximum effort** to ensure children living in a Inuvialuit Community must remain living in that community
- Children living outside the ISR must be kept connected to the ISR as much as possible

Enhancing Support to Families

• What we heard

- Families need additional supports, and these supports should focus on **keeping families healthy** instead of only getting involved when something goes wrong.

• How the law does this:

- Existing services to Inuvialuit **must continue** (Section 9)
- IRC and Maligaksat must be involved in child protection cases as **early as possible** to ensure family support (Section 33)

Information Sharing

- **What we heard:**

- We need to know where our **children** are and what sort of care they are receiving

- **How the law does this**

- Maligaksat has the right to receive any information about the Inuvialuit children and youth receiving Child Welfare services (Section 19)
- This information must generally provided with **7 days** for information about individuals, and 30 days for collective data (Section 21(d))
- This includes information about files that are closed (Section 86)

Growing Inuvialuit jurisdiction

• What we heard:

- Inuvialuit should take on more jurisdiction over time, while holding governments accountable in the meantime
- This law should protect and support Inuvialuit wherever they live

• How the law does this:

- Allows IRC to create regulations to easily expand Inuvialuit jurisdiction in the future (Sections 74-79)
- This law applies everywhere (Section 4)

Next steps

- IRC will **immediately serve notice** to the Governments of Canada, NWT, and the Yukon that it has passed a law and wishes to develop coordination and fiscal agreements
- The **coordination** agreement will be with all three governments. This is about **implementing the law**, not negotiating Inuvialuit jurisdiction
- The **fiscal agreement** will be to fund implementation. This will be mostly with the Government of Canada
- There is a **one year time limit** on these negotiations, unless you choose to extend it. **If there is no agreement by then, this law can apply anyway.**

Thank you to the communities for sharing their knowledge

Quyainainni! Koana! Quyanaqpak!

