

# UVIKKAIT ULLUMI



2023-2024

ISSUE

N° 12

QARJUIT YOUTH COUNCIL – 819 964-1127  
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – KANGIRSUK

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## GENERAL 2023 ELECTION

Each year, all James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) beneficiaries aged 15 to 35 years old are called on to vote.

This year, 2 positions were filled by acclamation. QYC was looking to elect a V-P and 2 HS Representatives. We received 1 candidate for Hudson Strait Representative seats. **As it stands now, there is a vacancy for 1 position representing the Hudson Strait coast.**

The elections were held on October 11, 2023, and the Call for Nominations which must be at least 20 working days before the Election date according to QYC by-laws, was launched on September 13, 2023 via Facebook and also local and regional radio announcements.

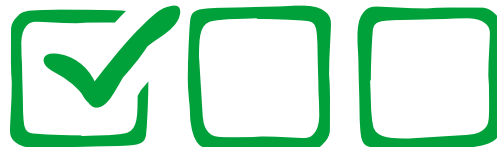
Ms. Alison Mesher, 28 years old from Kuujjuaq, Qc. and Lena Ezekiel, 31 years old From Quaqtaq, Qc were acclaimed since they were the only nominations for this year's elections. Ms. Mesher has the Vice-President seat until October 2026

and Ms. Ezekiel the Hudson Strait Representative seat also until October 2026.

Finally, Ms. Elena Mesher, from Kuujjuaq will soon be joining the Board after her maternity leave since last November, and she will be representing the Ungava coast, with Ms. Anita Annanack, until October 2025.

Special thank you to Ms. Megan Gordon who was hired as Chief Returning Officer on September 9, 2023 to manage externally all the election process.

*Our organization is very pleased with its new dynamic leadership team and we are hopeful and excited for the future of our organization!*

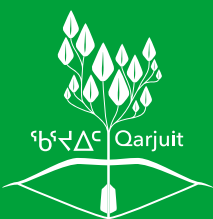


## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – KANGIRSUK

QYC held its Annual General Meeting last August in Kangirsuk, from August 28 to September 1, 2023. It was another great occasion for Qarjuit to gather with youth and learn from them. We had fruitful roundtable discussions, traditional activities and throat singing performances with a special cultural day at the end of the 3-day meeting. Again, nakumiimarialuk to Kangirsumiut for the beautiful welcome in your community.

**We are very thrilled to go next year, in September 2024, on Hudson Coast this time, in Inukjuak, for our 9th edition of the QYC Annual General Meeting.**

## ABOUT US



Launched in September 2015, Qarjuit Youth Council is an ethnic, non-for-profit organization which represents Inuit youth of Nunavik and Chisasibi from the ages of 15 to 35. We exist to empower Inuit youth by providing them with exposure opportunities and giving them the voice they deserve in the modern society we currently live in.

This newspaper aims to feature a wide range of inspiring projects, opportunities, training, community role models and the voices of young leaders from the local, regional, national and international levels. By working with all organizations that develop positive actions for the youth, this tool is a great reference for everyone to acknowledge.



Follow Us  
On TikTok!



tiktok.com/@qarjuityouthcouncil

## Upcoming Regional Consultation Tour

# QYC IS COMING TO YOU!



Did you know that Qarjuit Youth Council is planning a regional youth consultation tour soon? The latest consultations the Council held were back in September 2019, along two complete days of activities. A total of 30 youth participated, representing the 14 communities of Nunavik and Chisasibi. The event was organized in Quaqtaq with the support of Exeko. The first ever consultations QYC planned were in 2016, in order to establish the youth priorities of the Council. We generally tend to hold consultations every three-four years to revisit our main priorities. This gathering with youth is very useful to continue building bridges with QYC members. Indeed, this tour allows us to hear about needs, ideas and concerns of youth in order to make them reflected in the work we do daily.

**As expected, this coming January 2024 will be time for Qarjuit to touch base with youth throughout the region, by holding our third round of consultations and making sure we reflect the youth vision at the grassroots level along the growth and the development of QYC, as we start our 9<sup>th</sup> year!**

Qarjuit exists, as you know, to represent the voice of Inuit youth, aged 15 to 35 from Nunavik and Chisasibi. This means we aim to represent approximately 4 400 youth. In the past, when we held consultations, we had to select a specific number of participants allowed to travel to this important event. The selection was made upon the reception of an application form, based on the youth interest. Usually, 2 youth from each community were invited to come which, unfortunately is not enough to represent the diverse range of youth issues in each community. This year, QYC decided to do things differently by holding an unprecedented regional tour. Starting in January 2024, our Board of Directors, along our Executives will have the chance to go along the three coastal areas we aim to advocate for to meet with youth from each of the 15 communities.

### What is a consultation and how can I get involved?

A consultation is made to create a safe space with youth where great discussions and reflexion may raise above. Specific questions will be asked in order to make you reflect on what grounds you, what your skills and knowledge are, what your dream and hopes are on a smaller or larger scale, etc.. Using a variety of games, activities and discussions, we want to hear you and make sure, what we determine as priorities for the next few years within QYC, are indeed your priorities.

### 2016 Priorities



Mental health



Education



Intergenerational relationship and culture



Youth network

### 2019 Priorities



Mental health



School perseverance



Inuit identity



Youth network

Are these priorities still resonating with you? Are they reflecting the daily work you want QYC to engage in? Are there any other important needs you would like our team to focus on? This is the kind of conversation we want to engage in with a maximum of youth in each community. We can only have a powerful and relevant impact toward all levels of government – regional, provincial and national - by knowing your opinions, by hearing your voices and ideas and by making sure that we share it out loud, ensuring that actions are taken to improve the quality of your lives.

Stay tuned for more information about the upcoming QYC regional consultation!

**CAROLINE MARTEL**



# WELCOME TO OUR TEAM



## DAPHNE CALVIN

Project Manager

Hello, my name is Daphne Calvin. I was raised my whole life in Kuujuaapik, QC and currently reside in Montreal, QC to support my common-law of 13 years for his educational pursuits. I am a mother of 5 children. I am also a Seamstress; Photographer and I love tradition.

I am the new Project Manager for Qarjuut. I was hired September 25, 2023 and I am excited to be joining the team!

**Becoming a team member for Qarjuut Youth Council as their new project manager has been something I've been very excited about as I feel I will be a great asset. I have knowledge in working with social media and also working with people.**

My previous position as the Cultural Director for the Katittavik Center has given me some knowledge on managing projects for my community in Kuujuaapik and I am excited to help youth start their own projects in Nunavik. I would like to say thank you to the Board of Directors for entrusting me to fill this position and I appreciate the team that have been wonderful to work with. I cannot wait to venture and be as reliable as possible.

Thank you/ Nakurmiik

**DAPHNE CALVIN**  
QYC Project Manager



## KAREN FERGUSON

Human Resources Officer

"I am excited to be the new Human Resources Officer."

With a good understanding and interest in supporting QYC's structure and mission, I felt this was a great opportunity to contribute to its growth and development. I have worked in the North for 20 years for Social Services and Youth Protection. Throughout my career, I have acquired extensive understanding and a skill set to ensure legal compliance, conduct investigations, advise on conflict resolution, maintain records, and represent the organization at hearings.

The members of the board have been very welcoming and supportive of me. They are a great bunch of people to work with, and I am excited about the future of QYC!

**KAREN FERGUSON**  
HR Officer



## DYLAN GORDON

General Manager

Hello, my name is Dylan Gordon. I started working for Qarjuut Youth Council in August and I'm thrilled to be a part of our wonderful team. I would like to thank QYC for giving me this opportunity and believing in me to be the General Manager.

Youth are the hope for the future and the catalyst for positive change in the development of the future of our society.

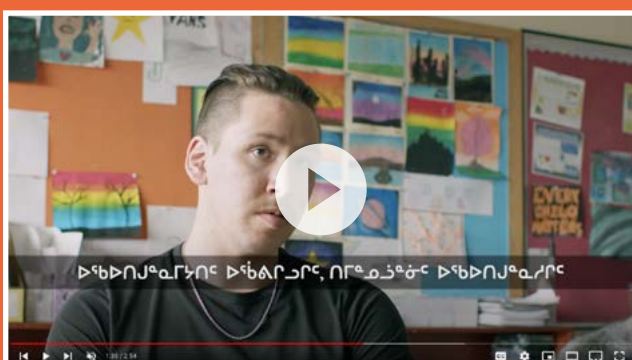


## MEGAN GORDON

Chief Returning Officer

My name is Megan Gordon, and I am the Chief Returning Officer for the 2023 General Elections.

My experience working at Qarjuut was amazing even though it was for a short period of time, I came into this position with no direct experience but with the help of the team at Qarjuut I gained more skills and knowledge on the of Elections, I encourage all youth to step out of their comfort zone and try something new!



## HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP AND CONSENT BY QARJUIT



Scan the Qr code to watch the video series on YouTube

# SPOTLIGHT ON INSPIRING YOUTH

## ROSE VICTORIA ADAMS

**Who are you and how did you start with the career that you are currently in? What were your dreams or aspirations when you were younger?**

My name is Rose Victoria Adams. I am originally from Kuujuaq but I have grown up and spent most of my life in Montreal for my education.

I became a lawyer a year ago. Ever since then, I have been working at Dionne Schulze, a Montreal law firm which provides legal advice and representation to Indigenous governments, organizations and individuals, in all areas of law.

When I was in college, I worked at Makivvik for a few summers. I saw the work that the lawyers at Makivvik were doing, and it was then that I decided that I wanted to become a lawyer. I wanted to be able to advocate and fight for the rights of Inuit and other Indigenous peoples.

**Is there anyone in specific that you looked up to with the current career that you are in?**

The work that Siila Watt-Cloutier has done in Canada and internationally to defend Inuit rights has always been a great source of inspiration to me.

I also look up to the signatories of the JBNQA, who managed to represent the Inuit of Nunavik and do great work in the face of oppression, with very little resources. I got to know the late Tommy Cain Sr. when I was a child, and I have a great amount of respect for him.

**Do you have any advice to the youth who may want to become a Lawyer?**

Be patient. Becoming a lawyer takes a lot of time. After high school, I went to college for two years. After college, I was lucky enough to be accepted into law school at McGill University straight away. The

law program at McGill is a joint degree – meaning that you graduate with two degrees – so it took me four years to complete. After that, I had to go to Bar school for half a year and pass the Bar exams, and then do a six-month internship, which is required to become licensed to practice law in Quebec. All in all, it took me seven years to become a lawyer!

Not only is it important to be patient, but it is also very important to have a strong support system. I couldn't have done it without my family and friends, that were there to lift me up when I was feeling discouraged. The financial support from KI was also invaluable.

**Besides all the work you do, what is the thing you love to do when you have your time off? Few examples (Go boating, sewing, go for walks, etc..)**

I like to read books and go for walks with my dog, Birdie. I also love to spend time with my family when I can, especially my 5-year-old sauniq, Tiana-Rose.

**Would you like to share anything else to youth in Nunavik?**

Your traditional knowledge is just as valuable – if not more – than any degree. Before Qallunaat laws and education systems came into Inuit Nunangat, Inuit had their own systems of customary laws and knowledge. By getting a Southern education, I unfortunately feel like I missed out a lot on learning about my culture. Try to learn from your elders while you can, their experience and knowledge is precious.

That being said, I hope more Inuit will become lawyers!



## NICOLAS KULULA-LANCE

**Who are you and what program were you studying?**

My name is Nicolas Kulula-Lance and I'm studying in Physical Education at the University of Sherbrooke.

**Is there anyone specific that you looked up to with the program that you studied in?**

I can't say I really looked up to anyone in the program that I'm in. It was mostly when I realized that I wanted to continue my studies in Physical Education that I started to admire some teachers that I had and the teachers that I encountered and engaged with.

**Do you have any advice to the youth who may want to go into the program?**

Just go after it. Just like any program or any studies, you have to be ready to commit and give it your best shot. Also, stay active for the fun of it, because you are there to do that :)

**Besides all the work you do what is the thing you love to do when you have your time off? Few examples (Go boating, make crafts go for walks, etc..)**

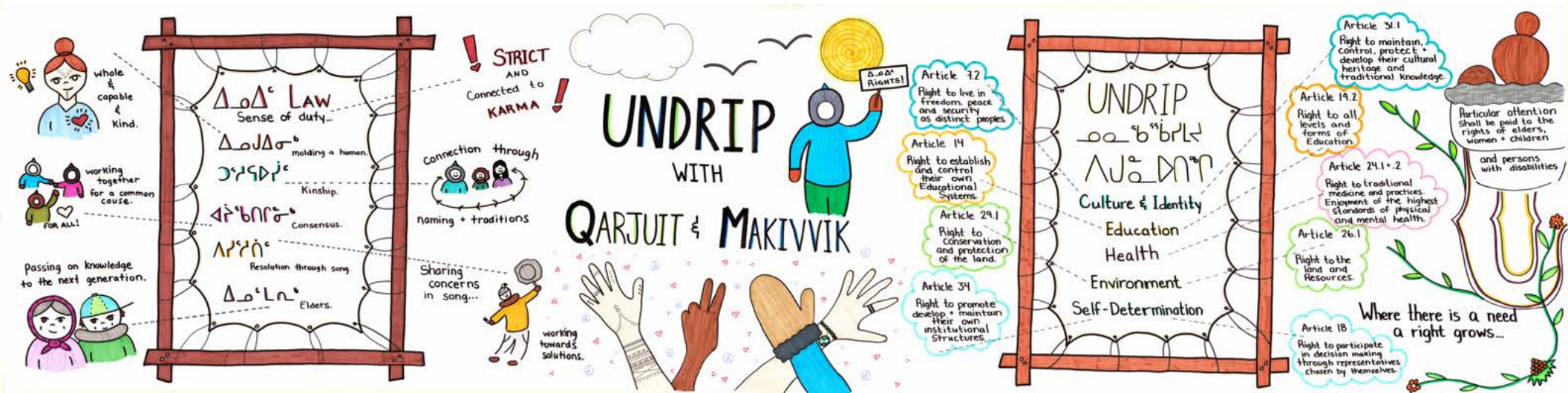
When I'm not studying or being involved with schoolwork, I like to play some guitar, play some sports, and work out that the gym. What I love most is during long breaks, I go back to Quaqtaq and hunt, fish, canoeing, all that fun stuff.

**Would you like to share anything else to youth in Nunavik?**

I would say get involved in something that you like. It could be anything, hunting, sports, music, sewing, animating, etc. As long as you like what you are doing and it keeps you going, I encourage you to continue doing so.



Do you have a friend, colleague or relative, aged from 15 to 35 years old, who inspires you by his/her achievements, outstanding support or community involvement? We'd like to give you the opportunity to nominate someone to be featured in our next issue. Email us at: [communication@qarjuut.ca](mailto:communication@qarjuut.ca) as soon as possible!



OLIVIA CHRISTIE IKEY DUNCAN

# OUR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## MARCH 2023

**Held, in collaboration with Makivvik and Exeko, a workshop on the preparation of the new Canadian Action Plan under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

Qarjuit Youth Council stands for creating interesting non-formal spaces where youth can learn in a safe and pleasant way. This is why, back in March 2023, we organized, in a great collaboration with Makivvik, Exeko and many great advisors, a workshop dedicated on rights and actions following the creation of a new Canadian Action Plan under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indeed, we brought our community leaders together to reflect on their rights and the different articles under the UNDRIP, opening the floor for discussion on where our governments should reinforce the focus for improvement, notably for four different sectors: Health, Education, Inuit Practices and Environment.

QYC believes it is time for youth to express their needs and mobilize their force (72% of the population is under 35 years of age) in order to be the change they want to see in their environment and for the further generations.

Would you like learning more about the indigenous rights contain in the UNDRIP, what is coming up in terms of federal actions in the close future, and how you can be involved expressing your voice and supporting our work of advocacy: please read our UNDRIP booklet and/or share any drawings, thoughts or concerns. Get inspired first looking at the beautiful drawings our regional representatives created to spark some ideas and connections!

## JULY 2023

**Attended, with Inuit Circumpolar Council delegates, an Arctic Peoples' Conference, where QYC participated in the drafting committee for the declaration form under "Our future" and moderated the youth roundtable discussion in Ilulissat, Greenland.**

It was my first time traveling outside of Canada alone to Ilulissat, Kalallit. It was pretty scary, but I kept calm and asked for directions, which immensely helped when I needed support. I got stuck in Reykjavik, Iceland, for one night the same week the volcano exploded! (If I had known about the explosion, I would have chickened out!)

All in all, the purpose of this gathering was to reflect on ICC's progress. Bringing together Inuit Circumpolar Council delegates and youth delegates from Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

My experience working with the youth around the Inuit circumpolar region was a great learning process. There's much to learn and bring back to your community from different regions with different perspectives. It only gets better. We are all fighting for the same rights as indigenous people, so working together toward a brighter future for future generations is very important.

Sitting at the table with Makivvik, who we work closely with, was truly inspiring alongside many leaders! From my perspective, all the Inuit organizations must work together as we work towards the same values and missions, especially having a youth representative from Qarjuit. Inuit are known to regroup together and work towards solving solutions when problems arise. So, working with ICC, which is known to represent the circumpolar Inuit, is a traditional way of regrouping at the national and international levels.

Ilulissat is deeply engraved in my heart. The community inspired me to speak my language with pride, and I've taken that seriously since my arrival home.

**JANICE PARSONS**  
QYC President

**Many copies are still available. Would you like getting one, write to us !**

**Are you interested in this topic and would like to read more?**

**The Text of UNDRIP:**  
[https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf)

**The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) :**  
<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/U-2.2/page-1.html>

**The UNDA Action Plan:**  
<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/ap-pa/ah/p4.html>

**The UN Guide on UNDRIP for Youth called "Know Your Rights":**  
<https://un-declaration.narf.org/wp-content/uploads/un-adolescents-guide2013.pdf>

**Justice Canada's interactive website on UNDRIP includes videos and lots of information):**  
<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html>

**CAROLINE M.**



# FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR OUR YOUTH

In this edition, get to know more about:



**SUSIEANNE  
KUDLUK**

former Vice-President for QYC

Hello, my name is Susieanne Kudluk from the Ungava coast in a beautiful little community called Kangirsuk. I am 25 years old, and I have been advocating for Inuit youth within our region as the Vice President of Qarjuit Youth Council since October 2021. I first started as a Board of Director of Qarjuit Youth Council representing the Ungava coast back in October 2020.

I am very passionate about the work that I do for youth. Being a part of something bigger than myself and to give youth across the region a voice so that their issues and concerns may be heard, and to push positive change for the lives of, not just youth, but of the lives of Inuit everywhere. Since I was elected to the National Inuit Youth Council, I would like to work towards getting more mental health resources for Inuit youth across Canada.

**Mental health is a broad spectrum. Mental health can be, better housing, better healthcare services, more clean water, trauma-based healing, cultural preservation etc. These are all related to mental health. I would like to work on these issues that Inuit youth face in modern society, and I believe I have the capability to do so.**

I am so thankful to be given the opportunity to advocate for Inuit youth across Canada! Exciting work ahead for the National Inuit Youth Council during my term as President. STAY TUNED!

I encourage Inuit youth of any background to go after what they want and to work hard for what they believe in! Let's all collectively work together for the betterment of our Inuit children's future!

Nakurmiik!



**LUCINA  
GORDON**

former Ungava Representative

**Who are you and where are you from?**

My name is Lucina Gordon and I'm from Kuujjuaq.

**What position did you take on with Qarjuit Youth Council?**

I was one of the Board of Directors for Qarjuit representing the Ungava coast.

**Would you like to give a bit of insight of how your experience went?**

I really enjoyed working with the QYC team for the short period I was a Board of Director. The team is dynamic, and we were all eager to learn new things. I believe in QYC's goals. The work being done by the organization is empowering and I am happy that I got to delve into the organization's mission. I regret that I could not stay for the one year that I agreed to be interim B.O.D but I am going back to school this coming fall, so I had to let go of this amazing opportunity to focus on my studies.

**What word of encouragement would you give to those people that would like to join Qarjuit as a representative for the Ungava?**

I encourage anyone from the Ungava coast to apply to be a B.O.D member as it gives anyone a platform to be able to advocate from the betterment of our future as Nunavimmiut.

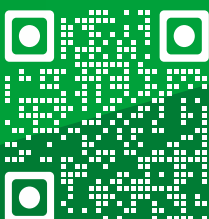
**Would you like to share anything else to youth in Nunavik?**

Being a part of QYC was a humbling experience and it taught me skills that I know I will continue to use in the future.



**Congrats to you ladies for your courage pursuing your dreams and ambitions! You are inspiring!**

## LOCAL YOUTH ACTIONS FUNDING



**You want to receive funding for a youth project in your community?**

**APPLY NOW!**

# INUIT CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST 2023



AIVA LINGARD



DESTINY WATKIN



EILEEN EMUHLUK



SARALIKITAA ANGNATUK



ELAISA TUNIQ



ELAISA ITTUKALLAK



ELISA TOOKALOOK



JANA PETAGUMSKUM



LISA SARAH ANNANACK



MAE ARPJUK GEENA  
GINA-MAE ANNANACK



JANICE KELEUTAK



DIANE INUKPUK



KATRINA FLEMING



MURIEL KAUKI



EVA KUDLUK



TOMMY SEQUALUK



NIKITA ETOK



NIIVI SNOWBALL



NOEMIE ARNGAK



CHEYANNE WEETALUK

# INSPIRING YOUTH FROM NUNAVIK

Youth from Kuujuaq, Puvirnituq and Quaqtaq wrote powerful songs with incredible help from N'WE Jinan and the Western Arctic Youth Collective!

QYC wants to acknowledge their incredible work!

*Nunavik youth are outstanding, and they deserve nothing but kindness with hopes and dreams for a brighter future.*

Janice P.

N'WE Jinan page: [facebook.com/nwejinan](https://facebook.com/nwejinan)

Kuujuaq  
«We Love Each Other»



Puvirnituq  
«You're Not Alone»

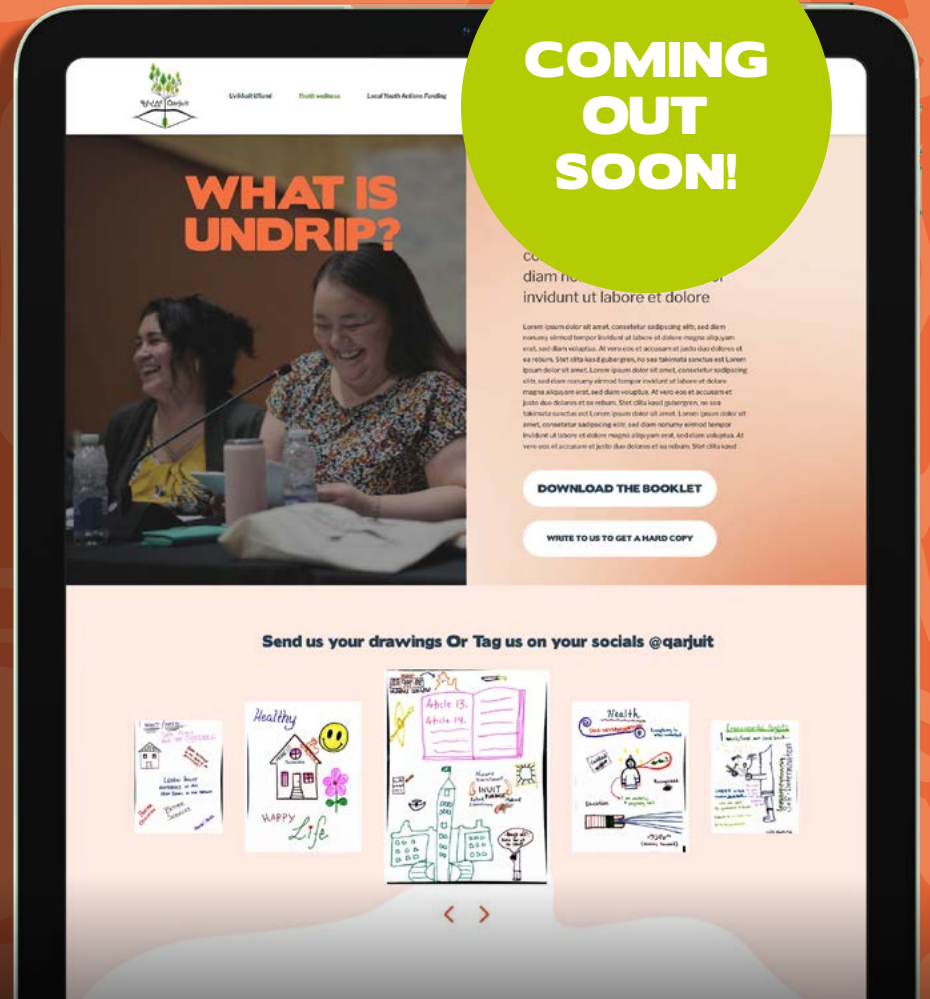


Quaqtaq  
«Shine Bright»



## STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEW UPGRADED WEBSITE!

COMING OUT SOON!



# OUR SPECIAL THANKS & APPRECIATION OF OUR KEY PARTNERS

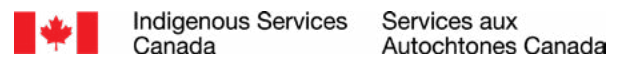
## Our Funders



Makivik Corporation  
(through the Sanarrutik Agreement)



Government of Quebec  
(through the *Secrétariat à la jeunesse*)



Government of Canada  
(through the Youth Hope Fund)

## Our Partners



Kativik Regional Government  
(Sustainable Employment Department)



Air Inuit



Canadian North

## Our Collaborators

Apatakaa Translations - Inuktitut Translation | LMG audace & créativité Visual Production & Design  
 Spektrum Media Web Development | La Clique Web Development | Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton Bookkeeping  
 Simply Voting Online Election | Tumiit Media Printing | CIUSSS - Youth team Training  
 Kativik Ilisarniliriniq Treaty Simulation | Nunavik Regional Board on Health and Social Services Treaty Simulation  
 Nunavik Park | Nunami's Program | Force Jeunesse | Lorraine Brooke English Revision