

2023 / 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



IKAYUQTIIIT  
Inuit Helping Inuit





## INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT (IQ)

# PRINCIPLES & VALUES

MIA strives to be guided by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) values, based on eight guiding IQ Principles:

- 1** INUUQATIGIITSARNIQ / ᐃᓄᓐᓴᓐᑲᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Respecting others, relationships and caring for people.
- 2** TUNNGANARNIQ / ᐅᓄᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive.
- 3** PIJITSIRNIQ / ᐱᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Concept of serving.
- 4** AAJIQATIGIINNIQ / ᐱᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Consensus Decision Making.
- 5** PILIMMAKSARNIQ/PIJARIUQSARNIQ / ᐱᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Concept of Skills and Knowledge Acquisition.
- 6** IKAJUQTIGIINNIQ/PILIRIQATIGIINNIQ / ᐃᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Concept of Collaborative Relationship or Working Together for a Common purpose
- 7** QANUQTUURNIQ / ᓴᓄᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Concept of Being Resourceful to Solve problems.
- 8** AVATITTINNIK KAMATSIARNIQ / ᐱᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ ᓴᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ  
Concept of Environmental Stewardship.

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## OUR MISSION & VISION

### MISSION

To enhance the lives of Inuit.

### VISION

A solid foundation for self-reliant Inuit



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Manitoba Inuit Association ensured the inclusion of Inuit in the Province of Manitoba's first ever Land Acknowledgment. Drafting and offering this Land Acknowledgment was a historical step for the province, and we were at the table along with First Nations and Red River Métis leaders to help the Government of Manitoba. We were present to witness their Acknowledgment being delivered for the first time at the opening of a sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba on November 29, 2021.

We acknowledge we are gathered on Treaty 1 Territory and that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

Every time they sit down together at the Legislature, the Province of Manitoba now officially recognizes that Inuit have an ancestral relationship with this land, and that the government has responsibilities to advance truth and reconciliation for Inuit in this jurisdiction. This will impact the government's cooperation, inclusion, and support for Inuit. Manitoba's land acknowledgement makes it clear that the province now understands that its efforts toward truth and reconciliation must include Inuit.





## PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR

Greetings on behalf of the Manitoba Inuit Association Board of Directors. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our 2023-2024 annual report, a time of reflection on the extraordinary growth over the last year.

As many of you know, I have had the privilege of serving on the board of the Manitoba Inuit Association and Ikayuqtiit Inc. for years. Stepping into the role of Board President in 2023 was an honor that I wholeheartedly embraced. I also had the pleasure of hosting a 2 day event for staff with teachings of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit societal values, my world travels and passion for reigniting the stories of our ancestors. I very much enjoyed spending this time with all of the staff as well as celebrating their achievements.

This past year, under the leadership of Nastania Mullin, Chief Executive Officer, we have witnessed both organizations achieve significant successes within their programming and delivery of services to the Inuit in Manitoba. Some of the work has been amazing this past year from Strategic Planning, IK to IAM logo/branding changes, along with the addition of many staff to serve to community. Again, this year, the growth and impact of our organization within the Inuit community has been nothing short of phenomenal.

It is a time to reflect on the hard work and the dedication of our team, it is truly inspiring, and I am so proud and grateful to be a part of it. I wish our team and community much health, happiness and success.

**MICHEAL KUSUGAK**  
LΔd.\_drL<sup>b</sup>



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It has been a very busy year for all of us, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the organization at such a pivotal time in its growth and development.

I am delighted to share some of our most recent milestones with you in this report. Over the past year, we have prioritized growing our team and supporting their growth with training and knowledge to further enhance the services we provide to the Inuit community. The growth of the programming, along with staffing has been amazing. Our organization continues to evolve throughout 2023/24 we developed a Strategic Plan, rebranded Ikayuqtiit (IK) to Inuit Association of Manitoba (IAM), held a contest for a new Logo for IAM and continue to grow programming.

In all of this, our success has been grounded in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), which embodies the enduring wisdom of Inuit. Leading with IQ Principles is what has made it possible for us to achieve so much, and it will continue to guide us in all that we do.

I express my gratitude to our incredible team of board members, staff, many partners, and community members. It has been very rewarding to grow alongside the Board of Directors and staff as we work together to navigate organizational changes and support the Inuit community in Manitoba. Again, it is truly an honour to carry that legacy forward with you all as we navigate our way into 2024/25.

**NASTANIA MULLIN**  
a'CsΔLc<sup>a</sup>

# CALL TO THE MANITOBA & NUNAVUT BAR



# “I-AM” A PROUD INUK



**“I-AM” A RESILIENT  
& CAPABLE INUK!**





# MISSING INUIT CHILDREN

## of Residential Schools

The identification of unmarked graves and burials of Indigenous children at former Indian residential schools had had huge impacts for Inuit, and all Canadians. The dramatic increase in public awareness has resulted in the Federal Government offering unprecedented support to help families and communities locate their missing children.

Manitoba Inuit Association’s Director of Missing Inuit Children sits on the working group committee, Together We Will Bring Them Home, with representatives from the Métis federations and First Nations of Manitoba along with the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments on Residential Schools where guidance is provided and working in coordination to locate missing children in Manitoba.

In 2023-2024, we attended two conferences; one in Montreal, Québec and the other in Iqaluit, Nunavut which was hosted by the Special Interlocutor for Unmarked Graves. Manitoba Inuit Association’s Missing Inuit Children of Residential Schools team has been busy with research in the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation’s (NCTR) internal archives. The team is specifically interested in the schools that were in Churchill, Brandon, Assiniboia, Birtle, Cross Lake, Elkhorn, Sagkeeng First Nation, The Pas and Clearwater, McKay 1&2, Norway House, Pine Creek, and Portage La Prairie. Remote training sessions with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation have taken place with the researchers to assist them in the process of researching the archived files from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Manitoba Inuit Association is undertaking this work on behalf of Inuit survivors of residential schools, their families, and their communities, to ensure that Inuit children’s remains found at any, and all, residential schools located in Manitoba are memorialized and commemorated or repatriated. All aspects of Inuit traditions, culture, and values will be followed to ensure that we assist those who have lost their loved one to this tragedy, that we help bring those children home, and that we commemorate and memorialize their lives.

# IKAJUQTIGIINNIQ / ᐃᑲᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ

## Working together for a common cause

### PROTECTING OUR ANCESTORS

The staff of Missing Inuit Children of Residential Schools, along with CEO, were honoured to be invited and provide opening remarks for “Protecting Our Ancestors” being hosted by Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (SVDN). CEO was gifted a beautiful blanket and beautiful wall hangings for his willingness to continue to be a strategic partner on many fronts.

The gifts received have been displayed proudly in the MIA staff offices and shared spaces.



## Inuit Child First Initiative

# JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

## LEGACY OF JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON

Jordan River Anderson was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities and spent his initial years in a hospital. At the age of two, medical professionals recommended that Jordan could be move to a specialized home for his medical needs. Unfortunately, a funding dispute between the federal government of Canada and the provincial government of Manitoba prolonged his hospital stay. Tragically, Jordan passed away at the age of five.

In 2007, the House of Commons enacted Jordan's Principle, a commitment that ensured Inuit and First Nations children would receive necessary services, products, and supports promptly. This principle emerged as a legal obligation, persisting indefinitely. While specific supporting programs may have temporal existence, Jordan's Principle stands as an everlasting support for Inuit/First Nations children, transcending generations.

## PROSPERITY

This year has been a year of rapid growth for the Inuit Child First Initiative. In April of 2023, the Inuit Child First had less than 50 children being supported through the Manitoba Inuit Association. By March 31st, 2024, the number of children being supported has grown to 350

In the 2023-2024 budget year, Manitoba Inuit Association's Inuit Child First Initiative office received, facilitated, and completed over 6000 individual requests. Providing supports related to mental health, education, sports and recreation, emergency housing assistance, emergency food support, land-based activities, traditional clothing, and more.



The Inuit Child First Initiative had many highlights from 2023-2024, including its launch and Country Food Feast in May of 2023. In July, the community came together for a beach day, where families met at Birds Hill Park Beach to enjoy food, games, and good company.

**Home for the Holidays:** 2023-2024 welcomed the 'Home for the Holidays Initiative' where Inuit Child First was able to provide travel for families to connect with their traditional homeland, elders, family, and community.

**Parkas:** Inuit Child First partnered with a local seamstress to provide 200 of traditional handmade parkas to Inuit children.

**Eviction Prevention:** During the 2023-2024 year, no Inuit households with children were in shelter or experienced homelessness. The Inuit Child First Team assisted over a dozen families with transitional wrap around supports and who were successful in transitioning permanently into the Winnipeg housing market.

**Thomspon Junor Hockey Program:** The Inuit Child First Initiative was proud to support eight youth in Thompson, Manitoba in the AAA Junior Hockey Program. Youth were provided wrap around support while away from their families which included tutoring, equipment, billet support, advocacy, and transportation. 2024 will

**Sylvan Learning Partnership:** Manitoba Inuit Association has partnered Sylvan Learning with the Inuit Child First Initiative, connecting over twenty youth with tutoring services with hopes to increase these numbers during the 2024-2025 school year.



## CHURCHILL OFFICE

Manitoba Inuit Association (MIA) and Ikayuqtiit (IK) held events in Churchill to gather community members and foster a sense of togetherness, celebrate local culture, and address community issues. These events included social gatherings, cultural festivals, public meetings, and other activities designed to engage residents and encourage participation in community life. By bringing people together in this northern Manitoba community, MIA and IK strengthened community bonds, promoted local initiatives, and created a connected and supportive environment.





## HUMAN RESOURCES

MIA and IK have created opportunities for people from the Inuit community of Manitoba to assist other members of their community who are in need. Using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) Principles, we have developed internal standardized policies and procedures on top of formal job descriptions. We have become an employer of choice in Manitoba.

We have empowered our team members through various training opportunities including First Aid and CPR, Microsoft Office training, leadership development, IQ workshops, Mental Health First Aid, communication, accountability, and far more. In addition, we have created ongoing long term co-op placements with both the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

### PILIMMAKSARNIQ / ᐱᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ

Development of skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort.



## TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT, & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

*“One of Manitoba Inuit Association’s key goals is to improve education, employment, and training outcomes, to increase Inuit economic participation.”*

The Training, Employment, and Education department is working with Manitoba-based institutions and collaborating with stakeholders across Inuit Nunangat (the traditional homeland of Inuit) to align and promote best practices founded in Inuit Qaujimajatuqanngit (IQ) Principles to meet the following training, employment, and educational objectives:

- Provide Inuit specific educational opportunities;
- Create a safe and welcoming community for Inuit who live and travel to Manitoba;
- Give Inuit opportunities to access and enjoy their culture while they are living/staying outside of Inuit Nunangat;
- Provide Inuit specific educational and cultural gatherings to promote awareness and a sense of community;
- Promote cultural awareness and Inuit perspectives throughout Manitoba based institutions and partners;
- Increase the number of Inuit accessing funding for post-secondary;
- Provide navigational services for Inuit students and families;
- Develop retention services to assist Inuit students to complete their studies successfully;
- Advocate for Inuit as it relates to education, training and employment and create pathways to promote success;
- Increase the number of Inuit accessing employment and training services in Manitoba

## BUILDING AN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDED ON INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANNGIT (IQ) PRINCIPLES

Building community for Inuit through education creates knowledge, confidence, and identity. IQ stems from generations of knowledge where Inuit have thrived in challenging and often harsh conditions. We have always pulled together, seeking balance and harmony so that we may live healthy and productive lives. Education continues to provide opportunities for Inuit to thrive on a global stage that is changing rapidly. Educational opportunities include traditional and contemporary experiences intended to build a strong sense of identity, confidence, and community.

### **Sewing Week:**

Students learned how to sew while getting connected to Elders to acquire traditional skills.



## CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education Connections also provides field trips and presentations for Inuit youth to explore education options and get acquainted with post-secondary institutions and training centres in Winnipeg. Some key highlights were holding information sharing sessions, communicating with students in a variety of ways to provide individualized support, and providing CPR and babysitting courses



## NORTHERN STAR LEARNING CENTRE

We are very excited to be leading this Inuit Learning Centre in Winnipeg.

*"Another step in the right direction and a great addition to the services we currently provide to the Inuit Community. The Northern Star Learning Centre is just the beginning of educational and employment resources that MIA will be offering. We are looking forward to seeing the classrooms full!"*

**- NASTANIA MULLIN, CEO.**



## CAREER PLANNING AND TRAINING

Understanding your strengths and interests helps with career planning. Connecting with prospective education, training or work placements is important. Developing skills required to promote success with establishing a career entails resume writing, practicing interviews, applying for college or university, and building connections with potential employers. We strive to walk with our community members as they explore their paths and build their skill sets.



# INUIT HEALTH RESEARCHER

The Manitoba Inuit Health Researcher provides critical supports and advocacy in many areas pertaining to Inuit-specific health issues and research. The position continues to be a part of research studies, an advisor on committees and boards, and maintains connections with Inuit Elders.

## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alongside the Inuit Health Researcher Assistant, the Inuit Health Researcher is currently involved in the following projects:

- Medical Students Food Insecurity Research
- Keeping the Children Home, University of Calgary
- Indigenous Advisory Council, University of Manitoba
- Indigenous Advisory Circle, University of Manitoba
- Cultural Safety Modules, Advisor, University of Manitoba
- Inuit Health Clinic, Advisory Committee Member
- Women's Health Clinic, Board Member
- Manitoba Cancercare, Board Member
- Public Health of Canada, Vaccine Committee Member

## QANUQTUURNIQ / ᑭᓄᑦᑕᓄᑦᑕᓄᑦ

Being innovative and resourceful

## THE KNOWLEDGE OF ELDERS

It is our priority to include our Elders' perspectives and input on the work we do. We learn so much from our Elders in all respects to the work we do.



# INUIT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Ikayuqtiit’s Inuit Mental Health Program is a collaborative process between the Community Mental Health Worker and the client. This service provides a supportive and non-judgmental environment to help clients and the community work through their challenges and achieve their goals.

The program remains dedicated to enhancing the mental well-being of both rural and urban Manitoba Inuit communities and offers a wide range of comprehensive holistic supports, services and programs aimed at benefiting both individuals and the community at large.

Through the past year these services, supports, and programs, have assisted the diverse and evolving needs of our Inuit community members, nurturing an atmosphere of support and accessibility. Furthermore, these services have cultivated a stronger and healthier Inuit community.

## TUNNGANARNIQ / ᐅᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ

Fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming, and inclusive

### INUIT MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING

- Individual, Group and Couple Counselling Sessions
  - Culturally specific counselling ensures the effectiveness and accessibility to mental health services in a culturally safe space.
  - Group counselling sessions and peer support groups foster a sense of identity and connection among the community, drawing strengths from experiences to promote empowerment and resiliency. This is all experienced with community through sewing, art, and beading
- Remote Counselling Services (Rural Area)

- Remote counseling services tailored to Inuit culture provide ongoing support for individuals residing in remote areas where access to mental health resources may be limited.
- Drop-In Counselling Sessions (Urban Area)
  - Allows for community to walk in and access mental health resources.
- Crisis Phone Counselling
  - Allows community to access services when in crisis.
- Inuit-Specific Cultural Support – elders, sewing, art, beading, journaling, land based
- Case Management
- Access to the knowledge of Elders
- Advocacy & Supports: pre-treatment and continuing support while in treatment, assistance with an aftercare plan and follow up.
- Partnership with Housing and Addiction Supports – advocating and supporting community with key partners in collaboration in their healing journey.
- Community Access to a Non-Judgemental and Culturally Safe Space
- Harm-Reduction Supplies/Program
  - Recognizing the pressing addiction and support needs within the Inuit community, we've initiated a harm reduction program. This endeavor aims not only to tackle immediate challenges but also to promote healthier decisions, safeguarding and improving the well-being of the community as a whole.
- Inuit Specific Cultural Art Therapy

### BELL LET’S TALK DAY 2024

In recognition of Bell Let’s Talk Day, IK provided wellness and support activities for community.



## LOOKING AHEAD

In the year ahead, there is anticipation for further improvements in mental health and wellbeing for the Inuit community. The Community Mental Health Program envisions these services, supports, and programs as essential in transforming the mental health and well-being of the Inuit community, as we remain committed to supporting and empowering the Inuit community on their journey towards healing.

Upcoming goals for our Mental Health Care Program 2024-2025 are as follows:

- Increased in-person counselling in urban, rural, and remote northern areas including at Manitoba Inuit Association's Churchill satellite office.
- Fostering a reconnection, connection, revitalization, and healing of culture through cultural practices, land-based practices, and community building.
- Culturally Specific Youth Programs
- Land-based Healing Trainings and Groups
- Increased Partnerships with Transitional Housing and Violence Shelters
- Increased Collaborative Endeavors with Local Organizations
- Suicide Prevention Plan
- Healthy Relationships Information Packages
- Addiction Support Information Packages
- Increased Access to Cultural Knowledge, Traditional Crafts, Mentorship Programs.



## KATIVIIK PROGRAM

### Inuit Community Support Worker

### PROGRAM MISSION AND PURPOSE

Kativik has continued to provide culturally responsive, community based, trauma informed support for Inuit survivors and families of MMIWG2S+. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a deep impact on the Inuit community and a significant number of Inuit have reached out to IK for support and do not know where else to turn. Over the last year the Kativiik Program has supported over 200 community members.

### SUCCESSES

#### Reducing delays in accessing EIA benefits:

We obtained access to rapid appointments for Inuit at risk of homelessness or recently relocated from Nunavut.

#### Housing and Treatment Partnerships:

We partnered with Main Street Project, Bruce Oake Recovery Center, Behavioral Health Foundation, and Tamarack Recovery Inc. to be able to provide Inuit experiencing alcoholism or addictions rapid access to detox and treatment. IK has also been working with End Homelessness Winnipeg and the Spence Neighborhood Association to address safe and affordable housing for Inuit in and around Winnipeg. Actively involved in the Winnipeg Harm Reduction Network which addresses issues around substance use and addiction and recently became involved with Inuit Synergy in Ottawa which also addresses Inuit homelessness and addictions on a local and national scale.

#### Churchill Trip:

At the end of January we travelled to Churchill, MB - home to over 60 Inuit families. We supported the Churchill office in meeting the Inuit community and assessing their needs and identifying gaps in services.

## LOOKING FORWARD 2024-2025

### Churchill:

Manitoba Inuit Association's Churchill office is currently without a dedicated mental health worker and the recreational worker has relocated south leaving a large gap in mental health support. In the summer of 2024, Winnipeg staff will complete a return trip to Churchill to offer mental health support.

The Churchill office has started the process of offering Inuit land-based cultural teachings with the assistance of local elders and knowledge keepers. The first land-based teaching will be in May of 2024 that will include a goose hunt, blind building, and wild berry picking offered to youth under 18.

### Additional Areas of Need:

As a result of the increased number of requests for support and to better support the Inuit community MIA put out a survey in December 2023 to Inuit living in Manitoba. 115 families and individuals responded, and seven of the twenty-five areas of support requests were as follows:

- 42 respondents want cultural and traditional activities.
- 30 respondents want housing support.
- 28 respondents want counselling and therapy.
- 27 respondents want the ability to access an elder.
- 16 respondents want help navigating Child and Family Services (CFS).
- 16 respondents want legal support and victims of crime support.
- 13 respondents want addictions support.

The community support worker continues to help Inuit experiencing issues like trauma, victimization, complex mental health and addictions issues, domestic violence, housing insecurity and homelessness, food insecurity, healthcare, child welfare agencies, Jordan's Principle through direct support and advocacy. The community support worker also assistance with navigating jurisdictional barriers and challenges. Several workshops are planned for the 2024-2025 fiscal year that will include budgeting, resume building, financial literacy, goal setting, interview skills and career planning. Our organization will also host quarterly ID clinics and a tax clinic in the fourth quarter.

# INUIT PROVINCIAL HAMPER PROGRAM

The Covid Emergency Food Hamper Program began in 2020. In the first year, the program assisted 59 households in Manitoba. As of March 2024, the now evolved Inuit Provincial Food Hamper Program assists 255 households in Manitoba including over 100 children. The need for the Food Hamper Program has increased almost five times over the last four years and provides much needed support to the Inuit Community in Manitoba.

*"The hamper program was extremely helpful in helping me and my fiancée; we had just finished moving to Niverville when the Inuit Association of Manitoba started supporting us with the hamper program and it helped us both immensely. It allowed us to not have to worry too hard about groceries, which is greatly helpful after finishing moving. I can only imagine how much more helpful it was, to other Inuit here in Manitoba. I would like to humbly thank the Inuit Association of Manitoba for aiding us with the hamper program!"* Senna Ooloooyuk in Rural, MB

The households are categorized by the number of people living in the household, such as individual, two-person, and families. The Food Hampers provides healthy food options including fruit, vegetables, pasta, rice, and protein options. The Food Hamper Program purchased shelves, stainless steel tables, and two new industrial fridges to ensure that food is properly handled and stays fresh. Every month a cooking class was held for the Inuit community to teach them what they could make with the food provided in the hampers taught by an elder staff member.

We are also able to provide nutrition to Inuit experiencing homelessness, who come weekly for an emergency hamper that also included gift cards, handwarmers and snacks. These individuals are very vulnerable, and they have found much comfort in knowing that our services continue to support them, especially during our harsh winters.

Within our Inuit Provincial Food Hamper Program, Ikayuqtiit Incorporated was able to purchase two new vehicles so that staff would be able to deliver hampers to anyone who was not able to pick up as well as offering bus tickets for those who are picking up hampers using public transit. These individuals varied from Elders, single parents with no access to transportation or struggled with accessing public transit. The deliveries of healthy food options and opportunity to visit the families and individuals, provided the Inuit Community a sense of security in knowing that they could count on our services during this very challenging time in their lives.

*“The hampers provided from the Manitoba Inuit Association have helped my family tremendously. It's been a struggle for everyone with the high cost in the economy so having some extra support has provided my family with nutritious dinners and snacks for my kids' school lunches. Without the help I'm not sure we would have made it to school with fed little bellies. I'm so grateful for the continuous support from the hamper program.”* – Annie Anguttitauruq in Winnipeg, MB

The Inuit Provincial Food Hamper Program was also able to access Country Foods, such as Caribou, Char Fish, and Muktuk. These traditional foods were supplied by Kivalliq Arctic Foods LTD and hunters in Nunavut, Canada. Providing these country foods to the Inuit Community in Manitoba offers them a celebrated tradition which is in keeping with their Inuit culture.

Hampers were filled with nutritional food from Costco, along with Sobey's Cash and Carry. We were also able to provide Winnipeg households with gift cards from Superstore which may be used for items such as baby formula and pampers. Rural Manitoba households receive Co-op gift cards by mail and Churchill households received credit instore at the Northern store. The amounts depended on the region as the cost of food varies drastically from Winnipeg to Churchill. Two staff members travelled to Churchill, Manitoba in August of 2023 to connect with the Inuit community and to see what it is like living North with the high cost of groceries.

This program has helped many households by providing support within the Inuit community, by the Inuit community, with connection, healthy food options, and outreach from the dedicated hamper program staff. The hamper program offered many benefits to the Inuit community in Manitoba, not only physically but as well as for their mental health and well-being.

We are grateful for the support of our valued funders such as the Indigenous Services Canada for ensuring that the complex needs of Inuit in Manitoba have been supported. This initiative has had a profound effect on the wellbeing of Inuit individuals and families living in Manitoba.

*“When Covid-19 first started in 2019 most employees were laid off work in Canada including in remote areas such as Churchill. Getting some hours to get paid was hard especially when you have a young child to provide for, and it was scary at the time of the pandemic but thankfully Manitoba Inuit Association helped us with food vouchers and it sure did helped us a lot especially to most of us who have minimum wage. We are for ever thankful, and we appreciate the MIA for doing this for our fellow Inuit family.”* – Sherilyn Sewoe in Churchill, MB



## RED CROSS FUNDING

### PROGRAM MISSION AND PURPOSE

Ikayuqtiit Inc. was successful with our proposal for the EMPOWERMENT Project which provided funding to focus and invest in the organization's board, management and staff that supported community during the COVID pandemic. This funding allowed IK to focus inward with strong development in IQ Principles training, governance auditing, strategic planning, and workshops focused on health/wellness.

The focus on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit allowed some of the staff to travel to Arviat where they experienced cultural land-based hands teachings from Elders. This travel was in collaboration with the University of Manitoba Inuit Health Research team. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit continues to be a daily practice within the organization as we strive to be lead by the 8 time-honored values and practices.



## HAPPY 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY NUNAVUT!

Manitoba Inuit Association CEO, board and staff, celebrated the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement which took place on May 25th, 1993. MIA partnered with The WAG in organizing a celebration with attendance by the Premier of Nunavut, PJ Akeegok; Grand Chief Garrison Sette of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO); Chief of the Winnipeg Police, Danny Smyth; CEO of the Winnipeg Art Gallery; Manitoba Inuit Association CEO, Nastania Mullen; Manitoba Inuit Association board member, Michale Kusugak; President and Chair of the Board, Marti Ford; and the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Inuit Association.

Manitoba Inuit Association is proud to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Winnipeg Art Gallery and looks forward to a continuing to collaborate together



# NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

MIA & IK have experienced tremendous growth in 2023-2024, not just in the staffing to meet the needs of Inuit in Manitoba, but also our networking and partnerships with organizations that share our same vision.

**Partnerships have grown to include:**

- Katinganiq Makerspace Network (Nunavut),
- Tamarack Recovery Centre (Winnipeg, Manitoba),
- Bruce Oake Recovery Centre (Winnipeg, Manitoba),
- Sylvan Learning Centre
- CPA Manitoba
- End Homelessness Winnipeg
- Skills Canada
- University of Alberta
- University of Manitoba
- University of Winnipeg
- Children’s Hospital Foundation, CEO member of Indigenous Advisory Circle
- RCMP (insert photos of holiday gathering)
- Kivalliq Inuit Health Centre



### SYLVAN LEARNING CENTRE

Manitoba Inuit Association and Sylvan Learning Centre partnered with a promised of the betterment of education for Inuit families and children. This partnership with Sylvan Learning Centre is another step forward to supporting Inuit children and their families through education. The program developed with Sylvan Learning Centre will provide individualized assessments with opportunities for further services.

### SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION

Manitoba Inuit Associations involvement in community continues to grow locally as well as on a National level. Building partnerships and promoting our Inuit Culture and traditions is imperative and a daily focus in our organization. CEO Nastania Mullin represented MIA at the Skills Canada National competition where a national judge for public speaking and staff lead groups in traditional yo-yo making. Striving to make positive impacts in all interactions is a guiding force within MIA.



### ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The CEO and staff were involved in many events over the year to end violence against women, not only in our programming, but also including 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. This annual international campaign, International Day for Eliminating Violence Against Women- November 25th runs until December 10th, Human Rights Day. It is a call to speak out against gender-based violence and recommit to ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.



December 6th, 2023, staff attended the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women event hosted by WAGE at Red River College Polytechnic. The day is to remember those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who have been lost to it.



### REIGNITING INUIT CULTURE - KAKINIIT

From February 8th to 15th of 2024, we hosted Kyra Kilabuk, who provided free traditional Inuit tattoos (kakiniit) to survivors and members of families who have been affected by the Indian Residential School (IRS) system.

We were overwhelmed with the response by community members and were able to schedule 40 appointments.

It's part of our Inuit culture and it's part of our history, Traditionally, Inuit women inked their skin to represent something of significance in their lives, from marriage to children or spiritual beliefs. The sacred practice was forbidden by Christian missionaries a century ago. Community was very thankful to be given this meaningful gift where each kakiniit held a special meaning to each individual. Now a movement is happening in indigenous culture from Alaska to Nunavut that's bringing back the practice of traditional tattoos, we are very proud to have been able to provide this to community and will ensure it is provided again in the near future.



*"I've been practicing tattooing for 10 years and my current practice is mainly focusing on revitalizing Inuit Tunniit. I believe providing Inuit with their markings is a step forward to healing, to reclaiming our culture and for personal identity." – Kyra Kilabuk*

### THROAT SINGING WORKSHOP

Cultural gatherings have been a priority and we were proud to host a Throat singing workshop for community and stag. Tara Arnatisia-Barneson held a 2 day workshop where she provided a space for participants to learn and experience their artistic expression through throat singing. For many it was their first time and others just enjoyed listening and sitting with community. Laughter, learning and deep artistic expression were just a few of the special moments during this workshop.

### KASUQSIMANIQ

MIA and IK CEO, board and staff are honoured to have created many new relationships throughout 2023 and 2024. Networking with stakeholders and funders has been a priority which has contributed to the outstanding success the organization has seen over the past year. MIA & IK's growth and partnerships, through IQ Principles, ensure that the Inuit are represented in Manitoba and are at the table being heard.



## HONOURING RACHEL DUTTON,

Executive Director/COO 2010-2023

Rachel Dutton. Rachel began working with MIA in 2010 as the sole employee and her commitment and dedication was pivotal in the growth of the organization. ! Manitoba Inuit Association and Ikayuqtiit Inc. thanks Rachel for all her heartfelt work and advocacy for Inuit in Manitoba.





# IN LOVING MEMORY

**SIMONA BAKER - Founding member of Manitoba Urban Inuit Association now known as Manitoba Inuit Association**



was told to move there and work at the Nickel Mine. After he passed on, my uncle told my mother to move back to Arviat (originally called Eskimo Point) since they were separated when they became orphans. I have lived in Arviat until I started to attend Residential School, first in Churchill Manitoba and then Sir John Franklin in Yellowknife. Arviat has a population of just over 3000 people which the majority are Inuit.

My parents had 5 children which I am the second youngest child. I lost both my parents, 2 sisters and a brother who were older than me.

I am full blooded Inuit and speak fluently in Inuktitut and learned English as my second language in school.

I have 4 children which I raised as single parent until I moved down to Winnipeg back in 2004 to support my youngest child who was determined to take a small engine mechanic course at Red River College. At the same time, I was fortunate to be able to take a computer course at Princess Campus. I stayed on in Winnipeg and worked as an interpreter/ translator with Kivalliq Inuit Services and as receptionist with Kivalliq Inuit Centre.

**Written by Simona on July 23, 2024**

My name is Simona Baker and working as Student Support Worker with Manitoba Inuit Association. I moved to Winnipeg back in March 2022 to see if I could get my cataracts removed in both eyes as I was practically blind, waiting over 4 years on one eye and over 2- 1/2 years on the other.

I was born in Chesterfield Inlet but moved to Rankin Inlet when I was about 3 – my father

I have worked as Housing Manager for approximately 14 years with total of up to 50 employees from full-time, to part-time/casual and summer students. We managed about 450 public housing and over 250 people on the waiting list due to lack of housing availability.

I will continue to work as a Student Support Worker, mainly for the Inuit as I personally know how hard it is to come from a small community where you know everybody to an urban living and felt the hardship, uncertainty, and loneliness.



# LIST OF FUNDERS

Graham T. Lount Family Foundation

Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA)

University of Winnipeg

University of Manitoba

United Way of Winnipeg

Federal Department of Justice Canada

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Province of Manitoba, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations (IRNR)

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Heritage

Winnipeg Foundation

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF)

Canada Arts Council

National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc (NICHI)

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)





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