



ANNUAL REPORT
1999.2000

**The James Bay
and Northern Quebec
Agreement
and
The Northeastern
Quebec Agreement**

CREE • INUIT • NASKAPI



Canada

1999-2000 Highlights

During 1999-2000, the following activities highlight the implementation of the JBNQA and NEQA:

Respecting the Cree:

- In 1999-2000, the Cree Operations and Maintenance Agreement was renewed for one year, until March 31, 2001.
- Construction of the access road to Waskaganish began in summer 1999, overseen by an advisory committee and a technical committee. The first proceeded to hire a manager for the project. The second performed a layout of the 102-kilometre-long road. By the end of 1999-2000, two of the three project phases had been completed, for a total of 82 kilometres of road.
- In July 1999, the JBIO set up a sectoral table on the environment made up of representatives of Environment Canada, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and INAC; the table met on a monthly basis, focusing primarily on identifying problems related to the physical and social environment and identifying the best options for defining the territorial development regime.
- In July 1999, the first meeting of the sectoral table on human resources took place under the lead of Human Resources Development Canada. Subsequent negotiations covered the delivery structure for special programs and services in human resources, training and employment.
- Regarding policing services, meetings took place on an intensive basis throughout 1999, pursuant to the five-year tripartite agreement on policing services in Cree communities, agreed to between Canada, Quebec and the Cree on December 8, 1998. The parties produced a draft joint report including recommendations to implement section 1 of chapter 19 of the JBNQA (Cree units of the Sûreté du Québec).
- An INAC-Cree task force identified projects related to water, wastewater treatment and the environment in Cree communities. As well, various projects stemming from "Gathering Strength" designed to improve health and public safety in communities were either negotiated or implemented.
- Tripartite negotiations continued regarding funding for the Cree Trappers Association (CTA). A one-year two-party agreement was concluded between INAC and the Cree in March 2000, which provided \$200,000 for CTA operations and \$100,000 for program management.
- The first payment (\$2,969,000) of the negotiated funding for the purchase of fire protection equipment in Cree communities was allocated.
- JBIO provided funding for a feasibility study towards the setting up of the Cree Arts and Crafts Association and discussions took place towards implementation of the Cree Arts and Craft Association as well as the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association.
- JBIO also provided funding for Cree participation in regional native firefighters competitions, which took place in August 1999, and for a seminar on the use of software designed for local Cree and Naskapi registrars, which was held in Mistissini during September 1999.
- The Department concluded negotiations over funding for training sessions in fire protection and marine search and rescue.
- In May 1999, the Government of Canada accepted from the Government of Quebec final transfer of category IA (Cree) lands.

Respecting the Inuit:

- Work related to phase 1 of the Northern Quebec Marine Infrastructure Program was begun in Kangiqsualujjuaq in 1999. Two breakwater structures and an access ramp were built. Following the success of the first phase, INAC allocated supplementary funding in 1999-2000 to accelerate completion of work through the purchase of a second set of heavy equipment. Makivik Corporation succeeded in obtaining an exemption from the GST and QST in relation to its project. Furthermore, a pilot project was started with a view to harmonizing the federal environmental assessment processes applicable to these projects.
- On November 5, 1999, Nunavik, Canada and Quebec signed the Political Agreement to establish the Nunavik Commission, which has been mandated to develop recommendations concerning the new form of government for Nunavik. INAC collaborated in preparing a work plan for the Commission and organizing and holding the first public hearings in Inuit communities.
- The Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government, the Kativik municipal housing office, the CMHC and the JBIO took part in a series of meetings concerning housing questions in Nunavik, within the framework of the dispute resolution process. This was the first time that this mechanism, prescribed in the 1990 Implementation Agreement, had been used. Quebec also took part in the meetings in the role of an active observer. The Makivik Corporation and JBIO agreed on a common chronology of the events in this file. Intensive negotiations followed thereafter, aimed at producing a five-year housing agreement.
- The Inuit, Quebec and the JBIO agreed to fund a feasibility study concerning the optimal means of construction of new social housing units in Nunavik, and using this construction activity to generate training and employment.
- The Inuit Forum, also established under the 1990 Implementation Agreement, met on three occasions during the year. A number of subjects of importance for Nunavik were discussed, in particular: taxation, eligibility for JBNQA benefits, transportation and airports, funding of the Nunavik Investment

Corporation, Inuit employment, market priorities, the possibility of reactivating the Justice – Solicitor General Working Group, telecommunications and the training and manpower agreement between the KRG and HRDC.

- During 1999-2000, a task force was established with the mandate of revising Schedule F of the 1990 Agreement, dealing with Nunavik economic development. This task force was made up of representatives of Economic Development Canada, Industry Canada, INAC, the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Regional Government. The first meeting took place in Kuujjuaq, and the terms of reference were drawn up for conducting a financial analysis of Nunavik funding organizations.
- Funding was provided for “Gathering Strength” initiatives dealing with educational reform, governance, administration and accountability.

Respecting the Naskapi:

- In conjunction with the Naskapi of Kawawachikamach, the JBIO began and concluded negotiations related to the Naskapi Operations and Maintenance Agreement for a five year period (1999-2004).
- In July 1999, a five-year Naskapi Capital Funding Agreement was signed.
- A first meeting took place in 1999-2000 between the Governments of Quebec and Canada and the representatives of the Naskapi over funding for the Kawawachikamach police station.
- Negotiations between the Naskapi and INAC concerning operation of the Menihék power station and the acquisition of hydraulic rights from the province of Newfoundland continued throughout the year.
- Within the framework of “Gathering Strength,” funding was provided for a project designed to improve Naskapi management skills.