

Inuvialuit

Final Agreement Annual Report

2018-2021



Inuvialuit Regional Corporation



Yukon

Canada



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Hivuumutdjutikhaq

Aulatdjutikhat Hivumut Ikayuqtigiikhutik Katimayiit una Unipipkaa q nalliutihimayuq ukiungni 2018 - 2019- 2020lu , Inuvialuit Nunataarviani Angirutaini (IFA)Ilihimapkaqtitjutait inungnut ukuaklu ukiungini 2020 - 2021lu.

Umani Unipkangmi nalliutihimayumi hapkuat naunaiyaqtauhimayut Aulatdjutikhat Hivumut Ikayuqtigiikhutij Katimayiit Havangit hulitdjutaitlu tahapkuat ukiungin’ni. Tahapkuat Ikayuqtigiikhutik Katimayiita havaktait uqaritiaqhugit angiqatigiikhutiklu ihivriuqtamingmingnik unipkaaliuqhimayut. Aulatdjutikhat Hivumut Ikayuqtigiikhutik Katimayiit Inuvialuit Nunatarviani Angirutani nalaumayumik aulaniqatitumaplugu havapaktut, tahamna Inuvialuit-Kangigiyaat havaqqatiginiqaqublugu nakuunikhanut hivumut aulapkarumaplugu.

Duane Ningaqsiq Smith

Inuvialuit Regional CorporationKut

Dennis Arey

Inuvialuit Anguhiqiyit Katimayiit

Diane Gunter

Yukonmi Gavamangat

Sahara Morin

Nunatiami Gavamangat

Patrick Barthold/ Monica van Huystee

Kanadami Gavamangat

Sivunmuk

Taamna Taimaaga Atautchikun Savaktuat simaurusuktuaq takunaqtuq ukiuq makpiraat qularaa taimaaga Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) ukiuq 2018 – 2019, 2019 – 2020, suli 2020-2021 mi manik ukiuq.

Ukiuq makpiraat qularaa takunaqtuq isuma savaat taimaaga IFA Taimaaga Atautchikun Savaktuat suli manik ukiuq. Savaat Taimaaga Atautchikun Savaktuat isaktuaq angiaqtuatlu atdjigiiktuk kamagilu. Taimaaga Atautchikun Savaktuat isuma taimagaa taamna Inuvialuit Final Agreement, nakuruallaktuaq Inuvialuit-Pitquyaq atuatchikunlu isaktuaq tutqaanaittuq.

Duane Ningaqsiq Smith

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Dennis Arey

Inuvialuit Game Council

Diane Gunter

Government Yukonmi

Sahara Morin

Government Northwest Territorymi

Patrick Barthold/ Monica van Huystee

Government Canadami

Una iligaat katimarit iĥuarigaat anipkalakamigrũng quliaq ilitchurirraĥraq inuit nunamiktigun agirun (IFA) uumani 2018 – 2019, 2019-2020, ukuatlu 2020- 2021 ukiungit ilitchuriakrat.

Ukuat quliat ilitchuriakrāt hagvirait hiakkait havaating IFA kut katimaéringiha iligaat katimarit ikayuqtigivlugit uumani ukuiumi. Havaaqting Una havaaq itna ilirangat atautchikun iĥuatun iligaat ikayuqtigiikhuting avatqutaqhailivlugu ilirraqting pilautaqrulkugu kinapayaa. Ukuat iliqiruat katimaritn pilautaĥqtut una angaun mik iliqikaming Inuvialuit angautaanik, huamahigait Inuvialuit nunaqarningat avanmun havalahivlugi piiguumatqungitkaat angarniq.

Duane Ningaqsiq Smith

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Dennis Arey

Inuvialuit Game Council

Diane Gunter

Government of Yukon

Sahara Morin

Government of Northwest Territories

Patrick Barthold/ Monica van Huystee

Government of Canada

Foreword

The Implementation Coordinating Committee is pleased to present the annual report on the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) for the 2018 – 2019, 2019 – 2020, and 2020-2021 fiscal years.

The annual report provides an overview of the work done by the IFA Implementation Coordinating Committee during these fiscal years. The work of the Implementation Coordinating Committee is based on consensus and mutual respect. The Implementation Coordinating Committee is committed to the successful implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, strengthening the Inuvialuit-Crown relationship and advancing reconciliation.

Duane Ningaqsiq Smith

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Dennis Arey

Inuvialuit Game Council

Diane Gunter

Government of Yukon

Sahara Morin

Government of Northwest Territories

Patrick Barthold/ Monica van Huystee

Government of Canada

Glossary of Abbreviations & Acronyms

CIRNAC	Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
COGOA	<i>Canadian Oil and Gas Operations Act</i>
CLCA	Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement
CC	Community Corporation
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DND	Department of National Defence
EIA	Executive and Indigenous Affairs (GNWT)
EIRB	Environmental Impact Review Board
EISC	Environmental Impact Screening Committee
FJMC	Fisheries Joint Management Committee
GNWT	Government of Northwest Territories
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
ICC	Implementation Coordinating Committee
IFA	Inuvialuit Final Agreement
IGC	Inuvialuit Game Council
ILA	Inuvialuit Land Administration
IRC	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
IRS	Inuit Relations Secretariat
ISDP	Inuit Social Development Program
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
INAC	Indigenous and Northern Affairs
NIHB	Non-Insured Health Benefits
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)
PC	Parks Canada
WMAC (NS)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)
YG	Government of Yukon

Map of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

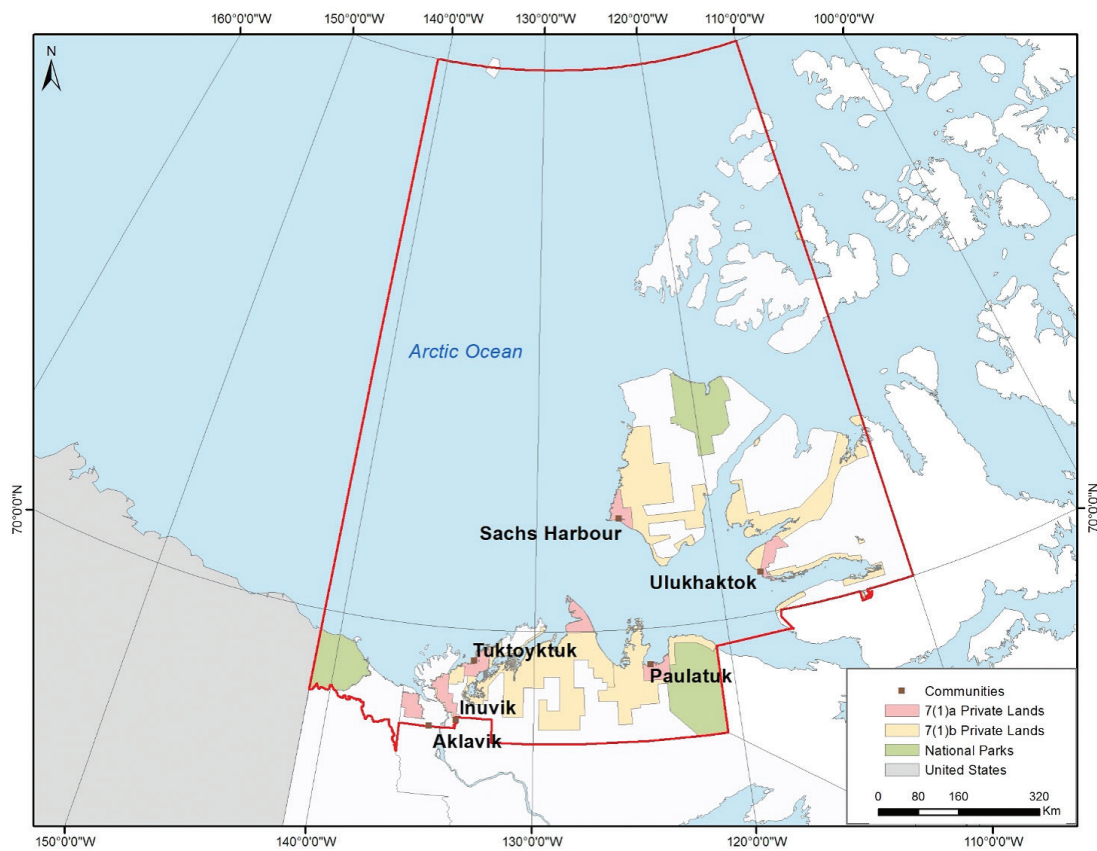


Figure 1 Inuvialuit Settlement Region Map, Courtesy: IRC Website

Chapter One: Inuvialuit Final Agreement at a Glance

Figure 2 Chart showing the structure of different Implementing bodies, signatories, participating governments and Inuvialuit Organizations

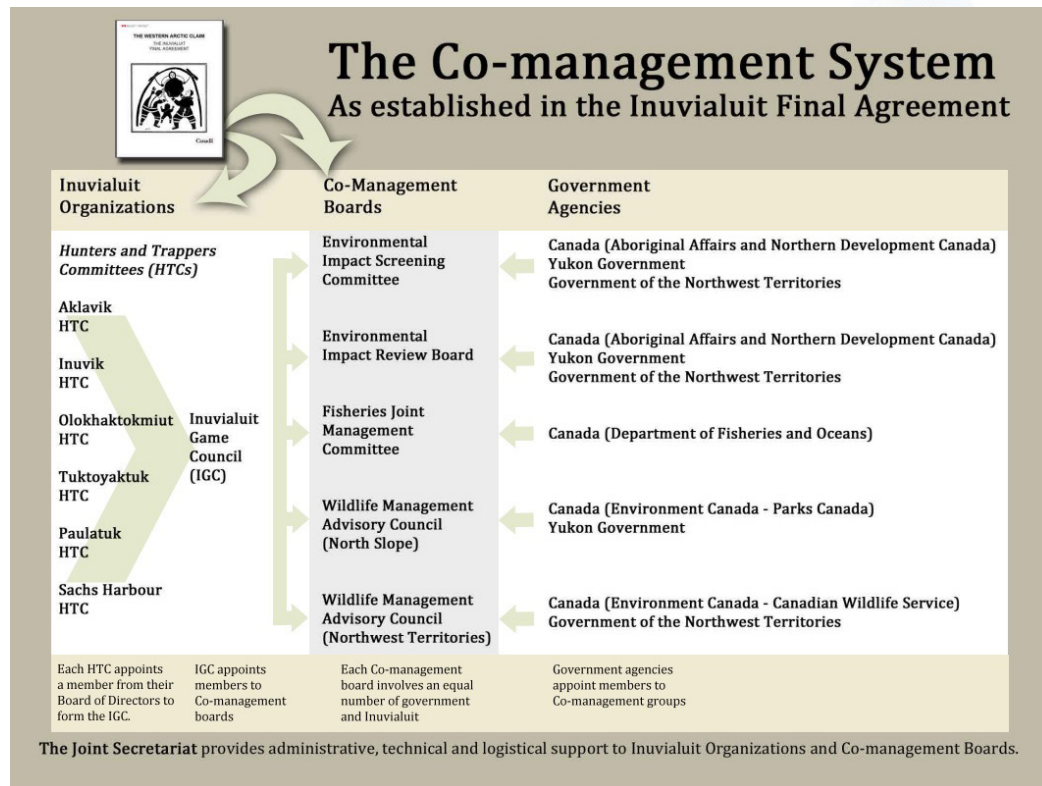


Image courtesy: Inuvialuit Final Agreement report of the Implementation Coordination Committee 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 (CIRNAC updated 2021)

Brief Overview of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement

Background

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) was signed on June 5th, 1984, and came into effect on July 25th, 1984. The Agreement was brought into effect in 1984 through the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act*. It was the first modern treaty to be signed north of the 60th parallel and the second modern treaty to be signed in Canada.¹ The Inuvialuit Final Agreement was made between and signed by Inuvialuit and the Government of Canada. Both the Government of North West Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Yukon (YG) also signed the agreement in recognition of their role in implementing and honouring obligations outlined in the IFA.

This modern treaty provides certainty regarding the ownership, use, and management of lands and resources. It ensures the preservation and promotion of cultural identity, values, and the indigenous people's traditional way of living. The Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), as defined by the IFA, extends over 435,000 square kilometers of land and encompasses the Mackenzie Delta, Beaufort Sea, and the Amundsen Gulf Area.

Overview of the Agreement Provisions

- **Land Ownership:** Through the IFA, the Inuvialuit received fee simple title to approximately 91,000 square kilometers (approximately 35,135 square miles) of land in the Western Arctic Region of the Northwest Territories (NWT). This area includes 13,000 square kilometers of land (approximately 5,000 square miles) over which the Inuvialuit have subsurface rights.
- **Eligibility and Enrolment:** An initial enrollment authority was created with two representatives from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and one Representative from Canada. It was the responsibility of the authority to create and publish the initial list of the beneficiaries of the Agreement based on the eligibility criteria. The IRC has responsibility for ongoing enrollment.
- **Financial Compensation:** Through the IFA, Inuvialuit as represented by the IRC received \$152 million over 14 years as capital transfer² and also received two additional payments in 1984 which included a one-time payment of \$7.5 million to the Inuvialuit Social Development Program (ISDP) and a \$10 million to the Economic Enhancement Fund.
- **Economic Measures:** The economic measures chapter of the IFA mandates the evaluation of progress made towards achieving the objectives set out in section 16.2 of the Agreement including:
 - full Inuvialuit participation in the northern Canadian economy; and
 - Inuvialuit integration into Canadian society through development of an adequate level of economic self-reliance and a solid economic base.An initial public review was conducted in 2000. Section 16 requires an economic measures review to be conducted every five years to assess the progress made towards achieving these objectives.

¹ <https://irc.inuvialuit.com/about-irc/inuvialuit-final-agreement>

² <https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/en/priorities/concluding-and-implementing-land-claim-and-self-government-agreements/inuvialuit>

- **Inuvialuit Corporations:** The Inuvialuit corporations are responsible for managing the compensation and benefits received by the Inuvialuit following the signing of the Agreement. The IRC holds the overall responsibility for managing the affairs of its corporate subsidiaries and achieving the goals outlined in the Agreement.

There are six Inuvialuit community corporations with their elected directors including, Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, and Ulukhaktok. The elected directors are responsible for electing the Chair of the IRC. The Chair of the IRC also fulfills the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the IRC. The elected chairs of the community corporations, and the chair and CEO of the IRC together form the IRC Board of Directors.

The Inuvialuit Land Corporation owns the Inuvialuit lands received under the IFA. The IRC administers Inuvialuit Land Administration (ILA) and holds responsibility for matters related to the management, supervision, and administration of such lands. The Inuvialuit Development Corporation, Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation, and Inuvialuit Investment Corporation carry out business activities and invest settlement funds on behalf of the Inuvialuit.

- **Wildlife and Environmental Co-management:** The Inuvialuit have extensive wildlife harvesting rights in the ISR. They also have a mechanism for settling their claims against developers for harvest losses and for compensation or remedial measures as required. The IFA established structures to ensure Inuvialuit participation in wildlife management, conservation, and environmental protection in the ISR. These structures include community-based Inuvialuit hunter and trapper committees (HTCs) and the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), which consists of members from each HTC.

The IFA also established five bodies that have equal government and Inuvialuit representation:

- **The Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC)** determines whether proposed developments require detailed environmental impact assessments.
- **The Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB)** carries out public reviews of development proposals deemed necessary by the EISC.
- **The Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC)** advises the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on matters relating to fisheries and marine mammals in the ISR.
- **The Wildlife Management Advisory Council – NWT** advises governments and other appropriate bodies on wildlife management and conservation matters in the NWT portion of the settlement region.
- **The Wildlife Management Advisory Council – North Slope** advises governments and other appropriate bodies on wildlife management and conservation matters on the Yukon North Slope including Herschel Island, and makes recommendations to the appropriate Minister on park planning and management for Ivvavik National Park and Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park.

The Joint Secretariat provides administrative, technical and logistical support to the Inuvialuit Organizations (or IGC and HTCs) and Co-Management Groups.

- **Arbitration Board:** Established under section 18 of the IFA, the Arbitration Board has the jurisdiction to arbitrate any difference as to the meaning, interpretation, application, or implementation of the IFA between the Inuvialuit and industry, or Canada.
- **Implementation Funding:** Canada provides annual funding to support the implementation of IFA obligations by federal departments and territorial governments and agencies, and the ongoing work of other IFA implementing bodies.

Chapter Two: Implementation Coordinating Committee

Given the IFA was one of the earliest modern treaties, it did not include an Implementation Committee or Implementation Plan like the modern treaties negotiated more recently. However, following several years of implementing the IFA, in 1994 the IRC and Canada agreed that establishing an Implementation Committee would be beneficial to implement the IFA. The Inuvialuit Implementation Coordinating Committee (ICC) was established on May 11, 1999.

The ICC is comprised of representatives from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Government of Northwest Territories, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Canada. The ICC provides a forum for the parties to discuss issues concerning the implementation of the IFA as well as oversight of the implementation of the Agreement.

This section provides a brief description of the representatives of the Implementation Coordinating Committee:

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)

The IRC was established to represent the rights and benefits of the Inuvialuit and manage the affairs of the settlement outlined in the IFA. The IRC also represent Inuvialuit on the ICC. In addition to their work through the ICC, the IRC is committed to improving the economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of the Inuvialuit through the implementation of the IFA and other available avenues.

During this reporting period, IRC was represented in the ICC by Duane Smith, Chair and CEO of the IRC. More information about the IRC is available online at <https://irc.inuvialuit.com/about-irc>

Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC)

The IGC was established as mandated through section 14.73 of the IFA. It is comprised of a chairman and representative from each of the Hunters and Trappers Committees.

The IGC is responsible for upholding and administering Inuvialuit harvesting rights and also represents the collective interest of Inuvialuit in all matters related to wildlife, the environment, renewable resource management, and conservation in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The IGC appoints Inuvialuit representatives to all the joint wildlife and environmental co-management committees established under the IFA. The IGC also acts as a regional representative of Inuvialuit hunters, trappers, and fishermen.

In March 2021, Dennis Arey became Chair of the IGC replacing Jim Elias who served as Acting Chair from February 2020 until March 2021. Mr. Vernon Amos served as Chair from October 2018 until February 2020, he replaced Mr. John Lucas Jr. as the Chair and representative member of the ICC.



Photo Credit: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Government of Northwest Territories

Until April 1, 2017, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations was responsible for coordinating the GNWT's implementation activities under the IFA. On April 1, 2017, the department merged with the Department of the Executive to form the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA). During the reporting period, of 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, the GNWT was represented on the ICC by Susan Bowie, Director, Implementation Division.

On December 9, 2019, Sahara Morin replaced Susan Bowie as the Government of Northwest Territories representative on the Implementation Coordinating Committee for the reporting period of 2020-2021.

- More information about the GNWT can be found online at <http://www.gov.nt.ca>.
- More information about the EIA can be found online at <http://www.eia.gov.nt.ca>.

Government of Yukon

The Yukon IFA Secretariat is located in the Policy and Planning Branch of the Department of Environment, and is responsible for managing the IFA implementation funding received from Canada and coordinating YG's IFA implementation activities. The Director of the Policy and Planning Branch represents YG on the ICC.

The YG representative from 2018 to 2020 was Jennifer Meurer. In November 2020, Diane Gunter replaced Jennifer Meurer as the Director of the Policy and Planning Branch and became YG's ICC member. Stephanie Muckenheim, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement Implementation and Projects Coordinator is the alternate ICC member.

- More information about the Government of Yukon can be found online at <https://yukon.ca>

Government of Canada

Canada is represented on the ICC by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), formerly known as Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). CIRNAC's mandate includes renewing nation to nation relationships, assisting Indigenous people in capacity building, supporting Indigenous people's vision of self-determination, and advancing reconciliation.

The Department's Implementation Sector is responsible for monitoring and facilitating the fulfillment of the Federal Government's obligations outlined in the IFA. Implementation Sector provides funding to the IRC and its boards and committees, the GNWT, and the YG.

During the 2018/19 fiscal year, Canada's representative on the ICC was Dale Pegg, Director, Treaty Management West, Implementation Sector. During the first half of the 2019/20 fiscal year, Monica van Huystee, Acting Director, Treaty Management West represented Canada at the ICC. During the latter half of the 2019/20 fiscal year, Canada was represented by Patrick Barthold who assumed the position of Director, Treaty Management West.

- More information on the Government of Canada and its departments, programs, and services can be found online at <http://canada.gc.ca/home.html>
- More information on CIRNAC can be found online at <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html>

Chapter Three: 2018 – 2021 Implementation Activities at a Glance

This chapter provides an overview of important news, developments and activities related to the implementation of the IFA between 2018 – 2021 fiscal years. It also provides a synopsis of the key items discussed by the ICC during this period.

3.1 Important news/ changes between 2018 and 2021

Administrative Changes

- **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**

During the reporting period, Samuel Dyck joined the committee as Policy and Program Analyst. Piers Kreps joined as Associate Director, Government Affairs with the IRC.

- **Government of Canada**

During the reporting period, Canada's Implementation Coordinator Janine Flood was replaced by Idris Colakovic.

Other Updates

COVID-19

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. The federal provincial, and territorial governments announced several health and travel restrictions to combat rising infections. Many provinces and territories announced shutdowns of all businesses except essential services like grocery stores, and drug stores.

IFA implementation activities were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There were many challenges presented due to the increased reliability on technology for virtual communication within the Government of Canada, the IRC, the GNWT and the YG. Northern, Indigenous and remote locations were impacted disproportionately due to existing concerns with internet access, healthcare access and food security issues.

The IRC received \$13,051,220 through the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) in form of direct, distinctions-based funding to address the needs of the Inuvialuit in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding allocation was flowed through the Northwest Territories Regional Office of the Government of Canada.

Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park

In 2018, Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park was designated as an Occasional Use Marine Facility and assists Transport Canada in monitoring marine vessels entering and leaving Canada. The Herschel Park Rangers met all vessels visiting the island and recorded the type of vessel, time of arrival/departure, number of passengers onboard, and obtained a passenger list from the captain for Transport Canada.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected both the 2020 and 2021 summer operating seasons at Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park. The Government of Yukon needed to acquire exemption letters from the Government of Northwest Territories to circumvent the mandatory 14-day quarantine when traveling between the two territories for all of the Inuvialuit Park Rangers residing in either Aklavik or Inuvik. Cruise ships and other non-Inuvialuit visitors were not permitted to visit the park to ensure the health and safety of the park rangers and their communities. Annual research activities on Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk undertaken by outside researchers were also cancelled in 2020 and 2021.

Yukon North Slope Conference

The Yukon North Slope Conference is hosted by the Government of Yukon in collaboration with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), to promote discussion amongst Inuvialuit, governments, the general public, and the private sector with respect to management activities for the Yukon North Slope. In 2018, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), and the governments of Canada and Yukon agreed to change conference schedule from a three-year cycle to a five-year cycle.

The last conference was held in 2015. Although a conference was planned for 2021, it was postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next Yukon North Slope Conference will be planned when it is deemed safe to hold a large indoor gathering.

Research Projects Happening in the ISR

During the reporting period, the IRC, YG, the GNWT, and Canada conducted research in the ISR on a wide range of topics. Many projects observed the impacts of climate change on different aspects of the ISR; fluctuating levels of methane gas, the melting permafrost, changing patterns in sea ice are reoccurring issues in the literature. Similar initiatives monitored the health of local fauna, including studies on porcupine caribou, beluga and whitefish populations that are essential to ecosystems in the ISR. In addition to ecological and environmental findings, contributing institutions also considered social trends in terms of education, health and housing prevalent in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Cultural considerations played a large role in many of these social studies, with researchers investigating issues of food sovereignty, heritage management and language preservation. Research that incorporated Inuvialuit traditional knowledge and ways of knowing, often by interviewing Inuvialuit elders and involving Inuvialuit communities, could be found in all fields.

The following section provides a brief overview summarizing selected research projects made possible by collaboration between Inuvialuit organizations, federal departments, territorial governments and academic institutions.

Projects Involving the IRC

Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment

Co-Chair: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Inuvialuit Game Council, Gov. of Canada

The Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA) which aims to facilitate a better understanding of the Beaufort Sea Large Ocean Management Area and contribute to the review included in the December 20, 2016 United States-Canada Joint Arctic Leaders' Statement by (a) promoting engagement, education, monitoring, and research projects in the Western Arctic to support informed decision-making around possible future resource development and management, environmental conservation programs, community sustainable and subsistence activities, and other complementary commercial activities (b) review under which conditions do Inuvialuit endorse oil and gas activities in the Beaufort; and (c) assess how other variables will affect the future of the Beaufort (i.e. invasive species, climate change, transportation).

Socio-Cultural Economic Indicators

The long-term goals of Inuvialuit self-governance and self-direction require a foundation of good social, cultural, and economic data. It is easier to govern well with access to reliable information about topics such as housing, health, social needs, and economic preferences. To support these goals, ISCC are building institutions that will continually acquire, manage, and present regional data on these topics. The work includes forming partnerships with data-holding organizations, developing internal capacity - including policies, systems, and staff training - and cataloguing and making available the data we already have.

The objective of this work is to support evidence-based decision-making in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region by ensuring the best quality social, cultural and economic data is available to decision-makers.

Improving Communication on Climate Change Terminology for Communities and Researchers in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR)

In an effort to help close the growing communication gap between Traditional Knowledge (TK) and climate change research and support the use of Inuvialuktun as the working language within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), IRC will be hosting a series of terminology workshops to continue in the development of standard climate change terminology in all three dialects spoken across the ISR. The workshops will involve translators for all three Inuvialuktun dialects and IRC language professionals.

The results of these workshops will be contained in a Climate Change Terminology Glossary that will be available online and publicly distributed to community members and researchers.

By completing this project, IRC will standardize climate change language and develop a publicly accessible Terminology Glossary. This will ease communication between communities and researchers as they complete work relating to energy and climate change, and will support using Inuvialuktun as the working language within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Projects involving Canada:

Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (BRSEA) (2016-2021)

The BRSEA is a multi-year project developed under the Arctic Regional Environmental Studies (ARES) initiative, led in partnership between the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Inuvialuit Game Council, and CIRNAC. The primary goal for BRSEA was to produce relevant scientific and socio-economic data that would inform project-level environmental assessments and regulatory decision-making for oil and gas activities while strengthening the relationship between environmental assessments and integrated management and planning in the region.

Relying on a complement of traditional knowledge and western science, the Assessment considered factors impacting and valued ecosystem components impacted by potential offshore oil and gas activity in the Beaufort Sea, which forms a significant part of the ISR. The Assessment Report, which was prepared by the consulting firm Kavik-Stantec, is intended to support decision-making around possible future resource development and management, environmental conservation programs, subsistence activities, and other complementary commercial activities. It also takes into account mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts and looks at changes in the state of the ecosystem.

The Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO) and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) also carried a few projects involving the BRSEA as stakeholders namely: *'Local knowledge and new technologies to understand beluga-fish interactions and key habitats in the Beaufort Sea'*, *'State of the Ocean Environment Report'* and *'Regional Coastal monitoring in the ISR: Ecosystem Indicators Part II'*.

Participatory Research To Assess How Diet Contributes To Health, Well-Being And Contaminant Exposure In The Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Canada (2018-2022)

This project was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and led by the University of Waterloo's School of Public Health and Health Systems.

The long-range transport of pollutants threatens food security in the Inuit Nunangat, the homeland of Inuit in Canada, by contaminating country foods that are an important component of the Inuit diet. Beluga meat and maktak were identified as important sources of mercury and organic contaminants in the modern Inuit diet, but also contribute important nutritional and cultural benefits to consumers. The proposed study is a collaborative project that will address health risks and benefits for country food consumption in Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk, NT, CA. This study will address data gaps in the ISR by creating an updated database for nutrients and contaminants in country foods; identifying dietary sources of contaminants and nutrients for adults and children; and, to assess benefits and risks of consumption of country foods. The hypothesis is that country foods continue to provide significant benefits to the Inuvialuit; however, culturally appropriate dietary guidelines are needed to reduce methylmercury exposure associated with the consumption of beluga meat. The consumption of country foods and market foods will be characterized using food frequency questionnaires and contaminant and nutrient concentrations in country foods will be analyzed. Concentrations of methylmercury, organic contaminants and emerging contaminants of concern will be measured in blood samples to identify individuals with exposure above health-based guidance values. Methylmercury in hair will be used as an alternate to estimate exposure to methylmercury. Foods in the diet that contribute to contaminant exposure will be reviewed by the community research team to address how contaminant exposure could be reduced without adversely impacting the cultural and nutritional importance of these foods.

Indigenous Clothing Ensembles: Indigenous Knowledge and Performance Evaluations to Enhance Northern Safe Practices (2020-2020)

This project is funded by National Research Council with stakeholders from Parks Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, Department of National Defense, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Aurora Research Institute, Nunatsiavut Government, Government of Northwest Territories, Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut Development Corporation.

The aim is to investigate the ability of Indigenous clothing to protect the wearer according to its construction and purpose, and how it can provide guidance for the use of harsh weather personal protective equipment (PPE), leading to increased safety and security in Arctic environments. This project's sub-objectives are: to accurately evaluate the thermal protection of various Indigenous-made cold weather garments for use in Arctic conditions; to investigate whether Indigenous clothing ensembles and components could provide a means to meet Canadian Federal fleet and military operational challenges; to investigate how the thermal properties of Indigenous clothing and its ability to protect the wearer according to its construction and purpose can provide guidance for design harsh weather clothing. Outcomes will include: Providing alternative PPE to organizations with operational responsibilities in cold regions; Facilitating economic diversification in communities by improving the opportunities for individuals' small enterprises; Supporting procurement options for Indigenous clothing for staff in cold regions.

In 2020, BRSEA produced a final report that can be found on line at <https://rsea.inuvialuit.com/Resources>. More information on the project can be found on the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment website.

Government of Northwest Territories

Beaufort Sea Coastal Restoration: Exploring the Potential for Using Indigenous Plant Species to Revegetate Coastline Affected by Permafrost Thaw Slumping (2017-2022)

The overall goal of the research is to examine the effects of permafrost thaw slumping and to create a plan to mitigate the effects using indigenous plant species. The research focuses on five permafrost thaw slumps located along the coastal region of Kugmallit Bay, near Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. These sites were chosen in consultation with the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee.

The objective of the research include examining the rate of coastal erosion and/or thaw slump impacts by comparing historical aerial photographs with recent satellite imagery; developing hydrological, vegetation, and ground temperature maps of the coastline within and near disturbed sites; monitoring the effects of coastal erosion and thaw slumping on landscape-level runoff; monitoring the effects of coastal erosion and thaw slumping on the water quality of the near-shore waters; and determining if indigenous plant species can be used to stabilize thaw slumps along the Beaufort Sea coast.

The method used for this research includes: community consultation to identify selected sites; unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) photogrammetry, multispectral, and thermal imagery techniques; sampling of landscape water runoff from slump-impacted terrain; and, collection of local plant seeds for revegetation.

Online Digital Hazard Maps of Landslides along the Caribou Hills, the East Channel of the Mackenzie River, Inuvik (2018-2020):

Climate driven changes are affecting the landscape and the way of life of the peoples of the NWT. The effects of climate driven changes on the landscape are visible along the coastlines, inland to the valleys, water channels, and along the slopes. In order to address this risk, the research project intends to develop an online hazard map of the Caribou Hills, near Inuvik. The main objective of the research is to develop and disseminate hazard maps. Information will be available to inform: regulations, the community of the possible danger, vulnerability assessments, the location or relocations of cabins, transportation, and recreational activities along the Caribou Hills. It will also support the NWT Geological Survey planned geo hazard mapping and geo hazard risk assessment surveys.

Permafrost Geoscience group at the Northwest Territories Geological Survey and scientific research in the ISR:

In support of the Department of Infrastructure's work on the Dempster Highway and the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, the Permafrost Geoscience group partnered with the Inuvialuit Land Administration Commission (ILAC) to train ILAC environmental monitors to recognize and record permafrost related field observations.

Government of Yukon

Identifying Key Wildlife Movement Corridors on Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk (2018 - ongoing)

Qikiqtaruk has a long history of wildlife and plant monitoring, which means numerous rich datasets to inform everything from new research questions to park planning to climate change preparedness. The summer of 2018 was no exception with the continuation of the wildlife movement camera trap project that kicked off in 2016. This Yukon government-led project was also integrated with a parallel Parks Canada initiative. Already, this project has improved knowledge of key wildlife areas on the island, as well as the movement of wildlife areas on the island, as well as the movement of wildlife through these areas—connecting wildlife use of Herschel Island to Ivvavik National Park on the North Slope mainland. Further, this project identifies specific sites that serve critical life functions for wildlife species. In 2018, Yukon College summer student and Inuvialuit beneficiary, Kayla Arey, assisted with this project and in 2019, Bachelor of Science graduate and Inuvialuit beneficiary, Jessica Norris assisted with the project.

Porcupine Caribou Herd Research and Satellite Collaring Program (ongoing for over a decade)

This project is funded with annual IFA implementation funding from Canada. The Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Collar Program is a multi-year program administered by YG in close association with many partner organizations. The Program uses radio and Satellite collars to locate the Herd to study calf birth and survival, over-winter calf survival, and full composition counts. This multi-year project continues to provide site-specific data on Porcupine caribou use of the Yukon North Slope, particularly during sensitive periods in the herd's annual cycle. The collars also form the basis of monitoring and management of the herd. This project is providing quantitative data by increasing the number of GPS satellite collars deployed on both cow and bulls. Field crews deployed satellite collars over a period of several years by switching out traditional VHF collars. YG works closely with the Aklavik HTC on this project.

Permafrost Research on Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk (ongoing for over a decade)

This academic project carried out at Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park, Yukon is led by Dr. Hugues Lantuit of the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) in Germany. This multi-year project focuses on climate change related permafrost thaw and slumping on Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk, a process causing entire stretches of coastline to crumble and fill the surrounding Beaufort Sea with the carbon and nutrients that had become trapped in the soil over the millennia. The AWI has been travelling to Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk for over a decade to undertake their permafrost studies and has amassed a comprehensive dataset. Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021, they were unable to travel to Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk to complete their work.



For a list of research happening in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, please contact, researchISR.researchISR@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

3.2 Report on Activities for the Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019, 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021

This section provides an overview of the key items discussed by the ICC during the 2018 – 2019, 2019 – 2020, and the 2020 – 2021 fiscal years.

3.2.1 Administration and Funding

Board Appointments

IRC is in the process of Inuvialuit Arbitration Board records digitization. Plans are underway to work on creating central and public access, where permissible, to the records.

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement established six co-management boards and committees that are discussed at the IFA-ICC. All of the boards have appointed members that are nominated by a variety of parties to the Agreement. Several appointments were made during the reporting period. New representatives for Canada, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Northwest Territories were appointed on the Inuvialuit Arbitration Board (IAB), and Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC), and the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB).

The Inuvialuit Arbitration Board Chair Stindar Lal retired in 2020 after serving for 30 years. All the parties thank Chair Lal for his service and contribution to the IAB. The former Chair Lal possessed all the arbitration records and Parties agreed to transport them to Inuvik for digitization. Since all the arbitration decisions were unanimous, there was no concern in digitizing them. The IAB records are in the process of being completely digitized by IRC. Currently, IRC is working on central access for all the Parties to the digital arbitration records.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Updates 2018-2021

Bill C-15, An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, was introduced in the House of Commons in December 3, 2020 by the Minister of Justice.

The bill affirms that the UNDRIP has application in Canadian law and provides a framework for the federal government to ensure that its laws are consistent with the declaration. UNDRIP was adopted as a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on September 13, 2007. Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has emphasized the importance of Bill C-15. Canada has continued to inform the IFA Implementation Committee on the progress of the Bill.

Inuit ID Cards

The new Inuit ID Cards which will include N number, Inuit status, preferred language, a photo and other eligibility information. The IRC has been working with a provider who does the Canadian Passport for their ID card production, and has consulted with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) to ensure consistency on a national scale.

In order to increase the accessibility of programs and services outside of settlement areas for Non-Insured Health Benefits (NHIB), especially at southern service providers, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) proposed a multipurpose Inuit Identification Card. These National Inuit Identification cards would include N-numbers (identification numbers used for Inuit to access NHIB) along with other details.

After submitting a work plan and budget for developing ID cards, Canada provided one-time funding in January 2020 to carry out the project. Within this project, the IRC has proposed to establish portable stations that could help create new ID cards and are offered by the Canadian Bank Note Company. At the November 2020 IC, the IRC presented a sample ID card, which included health information such as N number, photo, address, and Indigenous status number. In the future, IRC intends to purchase cards for all Inuvialuit, including Inuvialuit residing in high-density Inuvialuit population centers such as Edmonton. The IRC has reviewed options for moving forward with Inuvialuit ID Cards and have determined that these conversations are best advanced through ITK at the national level to pursue an economy of scale when purchasing the new ID cards.

Implementation Funding

Canada and IRC have ongoing bi-lateral implementation funding discussions with an approach to modernize funding levels that correspond to activities set out under the IFA.

Implementation funding renewal is an ongoing agenda item at all Implementation Coordination Committee meetings. Historically, funding renewals to establish implementation funding levels take place every 10 years with interim agreements should the circumstances warrant. The last 10-year funding level agreement (2004 to 2014) has not been updated. Given that the funding levels were established more than ten years ago, YG and the GNWT have been requesting a mandate from Canada to negotiate a new agreement. During this reporting period, Canada has not had a mandate to negotiate new funding levels with the Territorial governments. The Inuvialuit Final Agreement was one of the earliest agreements signed. At the time, there was no implementation funding plan associated with the agreement which resulted in lower funding to the IRC in comparison to the other Indigenous groups within the Northwest Territories. Over the years, IRC has continually expressed concerns about the implementation funding. Canada has acknowledged this and has been working collaboratively to provide funding that addresses their implementation needs.

Along with bilateral funding discussions, IRC also participates in the M5 process. The M5 funding model is still being discussed by the negotiating parties to determine M5 incremental drivers.

3.2.2 Environment, Lands and Climate Change

Sumps

IRC, Industry (as represented by Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), Government of Northwest Territories, Canada (Northern Affairs Organization) and Government of Yukon held their first meeting in November, 2020, during which they agreed to form a Sumps remediation Working Group that would subsequently be called the Inuvialuit Settlement Region Sumps Management Program Committee.

Drilling waste sumps are pits which have been dug into permafrost, where drilling waste material from oil and gas exploration has been disposed and then buried. There are approximately 223 sumps³ in the ISR. Rapid thawing of permafrost and eroding coastline caused by climate change⁴ has increased the risk of waste products leaching out of sumps into the surrounding environment. This has been a growing concern for the IRC, who have been expressing a desire to remediate and/or remove sumps where necessary.

At the April 2018 IFA-ICC, the IRC expressed concern regarding drilling sumps that were contained in permafrost. Discussions occurred regarding creating a priority list of sumps that need to be addressed for clean-ups or monitoring. On October 27th, 2018, IRC presented a statement of work on Drilling Sumps Failure and Climate Change to seek funding to conduct a sump assessment. In response to the growing concern, the IFA-ICC agreed to engage in a project to review the condition of existing sumps. The Implementation Sector of CIRNAC provided IRC with \$200,000 in the 2019-2020 fiscal year acknowledging the importance of conducting preliminary research into sumps on Inuvialuit lands.

In August 2019, IRC hired Arktis Solutions to carry out the research project and the resulting report was published and shared with all Parties in March 2020. In June, 2020 the IRC-ICC discussed the report findings and options to support IRC's work, such as the formation of a Sumps working group. It was agreed the IRC would organize and coordinate a sumps working group. The sumps working group met in November 2020 with representatives from: the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), Inuvialuit Land Administration, the IRC, the Government of Northwest Territories, the Yukon Government, and the Federal government including Northern Affairs Canada and Implementation sector. At the meeting, the parties agreed to develop a Terms of Reference and a Work plan to guide the group.

Subsequently, the working group has met several times and has progressed to preparing a work-plan and terms of reference. Planning also began for the technical working group which will aim to fill stark data gaps regarding sumps (especially severity of sump conditions) and to plan remediation work as required.

³ Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. (2021, March). Inuvialuit Settlement Region; drilling sumps failure and climate change report. Arktis Solutions. P.6.

⁴ Ibid. p.74.

Environmental cleanup of contaminated waste sites

Contaminated sites in the ISR are mostly a legacy of Dew Line sites and oil and gas activities. The IFA-ICC is a platform for parties to provide updates on the issue.

Contaminated sites are a separate environmental concern often discussed in conjunction with the issue of sumps. The IRC's primary concern is the remediation and continued monitoring of certain NWT and Yukon contaminated sites in the ISR, which are under the jurisdiction of territorial and federal departments outside of CIRNAC such as the Department of National Defence (DND) and Parks Canada. CIRNAC has coordinated meetings between these departments and the IRC during IFA-ICC meetings. At the April 2018 IFA-ICC, DND gave a presentation on the remediation of DEW Line Sites on Yukon's North Slope where IRC was concerned that the erosion of the Yukon coast shoreline would leak hazardous materials into the ocean. IFA-ICC parties are now organizing venues internal and external to the committee for regular updates between federal departments, the GNWT, YG, and IRC on monitoring efforts.

3.2.3 IFA-related matters/items

Section 16 Review

The IFA ICC is undertaking a review of economic measures implemented in the ISR, in accordance with obligations under Section 16 of the IFA. The TOR is in the process of sign-off by all parties. All parties are collaboratively working to advance a request for proposals (RFP) for an independent contractor to conduct the review.

Economic Measures to be published every five years, Following the outcome of the initial public review in the year 2000, the IFA-ICC is currently in the process of completing a second one that will be made available to the public.

A small working group was established in 2011 with members from IRC, GNWT, and Canada; the Government of Yukon was added to this membership in 2019. The original purpose of the working group was to replace the periodic review as a method of assessing economic progress in the ISR, but this changed in May 2017 when the group was tasked with the creation of a second report at the request of the IRC. To this end, the working group meets outside of regular ICC meetings to discuss the Terms of Reference (TOR), framework and methodology, and a request for proposals (RFP) for the Section 16 review.

Finalizing the TOR has been an ongoing effort since 2018 in order to clarify the goals of the Section 16 review and to minimize disagreements between parties that might hinder the completion and implementation of the review's eventual findings. After in-depth negotiation, parties agreed to adopt a holistic approach to the economic measures review exercise that considers the social determinants of economic development while respecting the goals defined in Section 16(2) of the IFA. Examples of social indicators are factors such as education and the cultural outcomes of social programs. The TOR is in the process of sign-off by all parties.

Other elements in the preparatory stage of the Section 16 review include consideration of a framework and methodology, developed by the GNWT in 2019. In the effort to hire a third-party consultant to carry out the review, all parties have also committed to completing a request for proposals. The next steps involve contracting a consultant and deciding the socio-economic indicators and the methodology to be used.

IFA 101/201

IFA 101 is a publicly available e-Learning website created by the IRC with funding from Canada to educate beneficiaries, industry and government staff about their responsibilities under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Following its completion in 2019, IFA-ICC members expressed interest in developing an IFA 201 module which is still being spearheaded by the IRC.

Work on IFA 101 started in 2018, with the idea of creating an online tool to improve general understanding of the agreement's provisions among the members of Inuvialuit co-management boards and committees, as well as territorial and federal government officials. The website was launched in December 2019 with four modules providing a basic overview of the Agreement and the Inuvialuit. It has since been incorporated into the training plan for the YG Department of Environment. A second installment focusing on wildlife management bodies and their mandates was proposed in 2020, with the potential for periodic expansion. The development of IFA 201 is ongoing, as led by the IRC with support from other IFA-ICC parties.

IFA Amendments

The IFA-ICC members are working to edit the official and consolidated versions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. This is a long-term, ongoing project that began before the time period captured by this report.

There is a need to update the IFA with technical, and clerical amendments that incorporate concepts introduced after the agreement was first signed and address errors found in the document by IFA-ICC parties in 2005. The editing procedure varies based on the version of the IFA being discussed. Due to its legal nature, proposed amendments for the official IFA must first be translated into French before it can be approved through formal Order in Council (OIC) procedures. Changes to the consolidated version can be approved directly by the Implementation Coordination Committee. The current round of amendments will focus on clerical corrections to the consolidated IFA annexes. The IFA-ICC is continuing to finalize the list of proposed amendments and the appropriate approvals process.

Annual Reports

As a part of the agreement between the IRC and Canada that established the IFA-ICC, Canada publishes annual reports on the activities of the committee to monitor implementation issues.

In the period encompassing 2018-19 to 2020-21 fiscal years, the IFA-ICC undertook efforts to standardize the process of creating annual reports going forward. The responsibility of drafting reports passed from GNWT to Canada. The IFA-ICC parties agreed to translate future annual reports to Inuvialuktun in phases to minimize the costs of translation and the delays to publication, assuming we can find a translator willing to do the entire report. The IFA-ICC also improved the reporting process by creating a new report framework with standard elements common to all future reports as well as a template for parties to provide their input, both designed by Canada. Going forward, the IFA-ICC will continue to adapt the annual reports to the needs of the committee and advance translation initiatives.



Photo Credit: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Chapter Four: Implementation Funding

During the reporting period, in addition to its core implementation funding, the IRC received the below funds for various activities like the Arctic Regional Environmental Studies (ARES) initiative in the Beaufort Sea, Inuit Identification Card project, Supplementary funding to assess sumps conditions within the ISR. The GNWT and YG received the below funding to contribute to implementing the IFA. The Inuvialuit Arbitration Board also receives core funding from Canada to conduct its activities.

Organization	Funding Received Fiscal Year 2018-19	Funding Received Fiscal Year 2019-20	Funding Received Fiscal Year 2020-21
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	\$9,015,996.00	\$10,355,120.50	\$9,071,640.00
The Government of North West Territories	\$4,814,337.00	\$4,876,399.00	\$4,982,987.00
The Yukon Government	\$1,478,037.00	\$1,497,090.00	\$1,529,813.00
Joint Secretariat (serves the IGC and Co-Management groups)	\$3,426,903.00	\$3,596,079.00	\$ 3,678,342.47



Photo Credit: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation





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