



News About Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan

30 March 2011

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Welcome to the fifth edition of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Newsletter!

Reminder: Community Action Meeting in Iqaluit Tonight!

Join us on Wednesday, March 30! for Iqaluit's first community workshop on poverty reduction and community development. It's time to share our perspectives and experiences, support each other, and pool our resources and ideas. Together, our voices are strong. Together, we can move forward. *Makiliqta!*

Wednesday, March 30
6:30 - 9:30 pm
St. Jude's Parish Hall, Iqaluit

Everyone is welcome. Everyone is needed!

For more information, please contact [Kerri Tattuinee](#) at 975-7807. Or, drop by and see what it's all about. Enjoy the company of others and some local country food and other refreshments.



NEW DATE for Apex Meeting - Monday, April 4

Out of respect for the people affected by the Iqaluit fire and other recent tragedies the community, the workshop on poverty reduction that was scheduled to take place in Apex on March 24 has now been changed to:

**Monday, April 4
6:30 - 9:30 pm
Obe Okpik Hall, Apex**

We apologize for any difficulty this postponement has caused, but look forward to sharing ideas with you on Monday! Everyone is welcome. Everyone is needed! Local country food and other refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact [Kerri Tattuinee](#) at 975-7807.

Thank you, CreateAction!

Thanks to the support of [CreateAction](#), Kerri Tattuinee has had an internship with the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat for the past six months. Kerri is a [Nunavut Sivuniksavut](#) graduate from Rankin Inlet. She has been an essential member of the team here, supporting community dialogue workshops across Nunavut and organizing photo-voice workshops with youth, amongst her many other responsibilities.



The Canadian Community Economic Development Network's *CreateAction* program is a work experience program that provides paid learning opportunities for youth involved in community economic development (CED) in their own communities. This internship program is funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada through their Youth Employment Strategy Career Focus program. For more information about *CreateAction* and how to apply for internship funding, [visit their website](#).



Photo: Kerri working at the Rankin Inlet community dialogue facilitators' workshop (with Tim Stiles, Bobbi Jo Saviakjuk and Joyce Lahure). Kerri's bright spirit and commitment to Nunavut have contributed greatly to the success of the facilitator workshops.

QIA Youth Leaders Rock! Clear Visions, Good Ideas, Great Discussion



Qikiqtani Inuit Association youth leaders joined members of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction last week for a dialogue workshop on poverty reduction and community development. Thank you to QIA's Regional Program Coordinator, Thomas Johnston, and Youth Programs Coordinator, Becky Kilabuk, for organizing the workshop.

The group discussed visions for Nunavut communities in the near future. We asked, *when we imagine our communities, healthy and free of poverty, what do we see?* The group saw "happy and healthy children," "little kids speaking Inuktitut," and "all kids equal" in physical and emotional security. One participant said that he envisioned the "animals coming back," so there is good hunting, and another participant said that he envisions communities in which we all feel that we

belong. (Some other suggestions included: "Thomas Johnston is Prez of the USA," "major sports team (NHL)," and "creativity, colour, and laughter.")

After sharing our visions of healthy, poverty-free communities, we worked in small groups to identify key issues and ideas for action that would move us toward our visions. We brainstormed actions that could be taken at the individual/family level, community level, and at the territorial level. The group came up with insightful and do-able actions, demonstrating clear understanding of the complex challenges of poverty. We look forward to having this group involved in discussions at the regional roundtables in May!



Photos: Becky Kilabuk and Arna Audlaluk (above); QIA youth leaders workshop participants.



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Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Community Dialogue on Poverty Reduction in Sanirajak (Hall Beach)

Key Ideas: Focus on healing, increase addictions treatment resources

Mayor Ammie Kipsigak and Jayko Simonie, Chair of the Sanirajak Poverty Reduction Committee, facilitated a community dialogue workshop on Thursday last week for 26 other Sanirajamiut. Thank you to Ammie and Jayko! And, thank you to all Sanirajamiut who were able to participate. Ammie and Jayko are compiling notes from the meeting so that participants' ideas are heard at the regional roundtable meeting in Pond Inlet in May.

Here are some of the main topics of discussion that they have described so far:

- Participants discussed the importance of supporting children and youth to feel more confident in their lives and to be more engaged in school. It was suggested that it is time to focus on the capabilities of young people in Nunavut rather than deficits. For the benefit of youth and the whole community, participants also said they want to support youth to connect with elders, so that values, discipline and confidence are passed on to youth.
- One of the main issues discussed at the community workshop was the relationship between addictions and the challenges of poverty. Participants called for treatment programs to be established in every community in Nunavut, so that Nunavummiut don't have to leave their home community to seek support.
- Participants also discussed the controversial matter of marijuana use in their community and the amount of money that is spent on marijuana by people who rely on it to alleviate the pain of other challenges and addictions. Some participants said that marijuana use is a reality in their community that must be openly discussed, especially in relation to healing and recovery from trauma and addictions.

We would like to commend the workshop group for having such a frank and brave discussion on these complex and emotional issues. It is honest dialogue like this that will lead to truly effective solutions, driven by community members.

CBC Reports...

From a CBC Radio One report on the event, aired on Friday, March 25, 2011:

People in Hall Beach are looking for ways to reduce poverty. Jayko Simonie is the Chair of the local poverty reduction committee. He says 26 residents attended a recent meeting about the issue. And he says people said there should be help available locally for addictions such as drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and gambling.

"We also talked about maybe legalizing the softer drugs like marijuana for example. Because we're not going to be able to stop anyone from taking marijuana or we're not going to be able to stop marijuana from coming to the North."

Simonie says a lot of money is spent on things like cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol that could be used for other things. He says others at the meeting spoke of bringing back traditional Inuit values as a way to curb hunger. Simonie says people used to share food with those who did not have any.

Meet the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat - Ed McKenna



My work as director for the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat began a year ago.

I am thankful for many things in this job. First, there's the great people I work with, and then there's the type of work we get to do together.

My background is in community development work, and I came to Baffin Island in 1989 to help establish a not-for-profit community-owned Inuit art business. Eleven years ago I joined the new government, where I have worked primarily in policy and planning. So it's terrific now to have come full circle and return to a job in which community development is again the primary goal.

Our work in poverty reduction is very challenging, but always exciting. Each day brings reward and promise, and the uncertainty and dilemmas that accompany work on a complex problem. No plan remains unchanged for more than few hours, and blind faith often provides the only basis for the decision to take another step forward.

But we *are* moving forward, buoyed by the shared belief that in Nunavut, "everyone should have their basic needs met."

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