



**Kitikmeot Regional Gathering Report**

**Implementing**  
*The Makimaniq Plan*

**Cambridge Bay**  
**June 12, 2012**





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Elders Aiolah and Sarah Takolik from Taloyoak, who reminded us that when it comes to our values and culture “all you have to do is ask [the Elders].” Thank-you for accepting to come to this gathering.

Georgina Porter of Gjoa Haven, a participant since the start of this process. Georgina introduced us to elder Susie Konana, whose voice echoed the powerful wisdom of the Elders.

Angela Nuliyok, whose commitment underscores the promising potential of the youth of Nunavut.

Leona and Sharon Krejunark, who contribute to poverty reduction by applying their knowledge in the important roles they fulfill in the community of Kugaaruk. Your incredible insight proved useful in our group discussions.

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The local Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre staff: Margo Neglak and Elizabeth Kaosoni, who provided incredibly valuable experience with community initiatives currently in place. Your expertise was of great value to our discussion.

Julia Ogina, Sarah Jancke and Helen Larocque from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Your efforts in personal empowerment and identity-strengthening with Inuit in the region is an encouraging example to the region and the territory.

Brenda Jancke, Eileen Grady, Dave Crockatt, Alex Buchan and Harry Maksagak, whose contributions played a large role in this meeting, and were both practical and helpful.

The Arctic Island Lodge, which catered our meeting.

Our dedicated and reliable interpreter Josie Tucktoo-Lacasse. Your hard work ensured everyone was included in the meeting.

And to the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat staff, Ed McKenna, Andres Ibanez, and Kerri Tattuinee, who organized the Kitikmeot Regional Gathering in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.

*Quana!*

## Introduction

This draft report documents the information shared at the Kitikmeot regional gathering on poverty reduction, held in Cambridge Bay on June 12, 2012, with representatives from four of the five communities of the region.

Also documented are participants' ideas in relation to the dissemination and implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan*, Elders' reflections, and information about poverty reduction initiatives throughout the region.

## Elders' reflections

Our elders are the keepers and teachers of our ancestral knowledge, which is key to our wellbeing. At this regional gathering on how to implement *The Makimaniq Plan*, we were able to hear from elders about why they accepted the invitation to join us.

The following section contains reflections our elders generously shared with us. Many thanks to Kerri Tattuinee for taking these notes:

*“We need for young people to get to a more positive, forward-looking place, to plan for the future!”*



*Aiolah Takolik, Sarah Takolik, Susie Konana and Brenda Jancke listen during closing remarks.*

### Aiolah Takolik:

It is good that we are back together here meeting again to talk about the poverty reduction work. I am very proud of our youth represented here. I want to ensure that our leaders listen to them. We as elders won't be here forever, but we have to think of our future generations because they are going to be replacing us and they are going to be the ones to initiate the plan.

Before we were born, our past generations lived in igloos and that was “free housing,” but once southerners started to come up north, there was an issue with Inuit owning dog teams, so the RCMP shot them all, and it was a way to assimilate the Inuit into settlements. Youth today do not **know the history of our people**, and the history of our communities. Now there are so many distractions in our lives today, such as drugs and alcohol, but there are some of us that know how to live on the land, but there are some people that do not know how to hunt and live

out on the land. While we also need to keep up with the rest of the world, we are dealing with issues such as housing and income support.

As a youth in my time, we didn't really have a problem with living off the land, but right now there is so much disposable income, and too many people mismanaging the money they earn. There are so many disposable items, such as diapers, disposable diapers.

The elder's aren't represented here. There are only three of us here. They have to be more involved. Perhaps we could have 3 or 4 representatives from each community; this would be the ideal amount of elder representatives.

Also, the winter is the ideal time to meet, but this is the time of year [June] where we start to gather and prepare our food. April would be the ideal time to have these meetings.

April is a good month to fly in and out of the communities. Have meetings in September as well, as we start to come back to the communities from the summer camps. These two months should be set aside for these meetings.

Harry mentioned that there are no highways here, no paved roads, but in our community, I have a highway that we use with our ATV's that we travel on in the summer months. Some of it is smooth, some of it is wetland, but this is our own high-way.

**Susie Konana:** I want to say thank-you for inviting me here. We were preparing to go away for the spring camp, and I received a phone call from the hamlet asking me to participate in the meeting, and I didn't want to refuse the offer to attend these meetings. I wasn't sure what the meeting was about, but I decided to come into the meeting, and I am glad that I did.

We, elders, have this old life style, which was everyones'. We didn't have too many distractions back then, and once in a while our parents would provide helpful advice, and this is how we lived our lives. [Now] there are many different situations and meetings to attend, and some youth are unable to go out onto the land.

Youth aren't involved in **cultural events**. But I am pleased that the youth representatives have done a very good job of representing the youth, and recognizing the needs and desires of the youth.

I have a hard time raising my children, I love them, and I have raised them. I don't tell them what to do, especially in a larger crowd. I usually talk to my children when we are at home as a family. To tell a child "do this – do that" is not a good way. You have to tell them *why* you offer the advice that you do. We shouldn't tell our youth what to do in front of everyone, but instead tell them in private what to do and why things are done this way.

Once in a while I hear on the radio, parents complaining about their children and the youth in the community. It is disheartening to hear people in our community talking about our youth like this on the local radio. We have to encourage our youth to do better. We have to know that they

*I am not saying  
young people are  
unwise, but the  
elders have fought  
for their lives.*

will not always lead their lives down the direction that we want them to go.

I am very pleased with the way the meetings went. Our facilitator brought up many things on the agenda that will be helpful for us down the road.

**Sarah Takolik:**

I am very pleased to be invited to these meetings. It is useful to meet together as a group, here, like this. We learn so much individually, and as a group. I am very happy that I can attend these meetings; I will go home with a positive mind-set after these meetings. It is going to help our people in our communities to go back home with a **positive light**. This is one thing I wanted to voice. Yes, we have to help each other.

*The way we were raised is very different to the way children are raised today. Sometimes it is very difficult for me.*

As elders, anyone can approach us, if they have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to come to us. We can only answer you if you give us questions, and bring questions to us. I am not saying young people are unwise, but the elders have fought for their lives.

We have always been hunter-gatherers – making our own clothing. The way we are raised is very different to the way children are raised today.

Sometimes it is very difficult for me. I would say, please try to lead your lives in a good way.

Thank-you for allowing me to attend these meetings, and have a good spring! We'll see you next time!

**Leona Krejunark:**

Thank-you for inviting me here. This is coming from me, and from other people as well. I have heard people from my community say that housing is a big problem in our communities, and drug dealers and bootleggers are taking money from people who are addicted to the substances. These people are suffering the most. Their children are suffering, often with no clothes and no food to eat.

Also, we need people who can speak for our community, because sometimes, the wrong people are sent to these regional meetings, and AGMs. There needs to be **proper decision making**. Taima, qjannamiik.

**Julia Ogina:**

Addictions are taking away from “what could be” in our communities. These are some things that are taking advantage of our potential. I remember something like ten years ago. I went around town visiting, just because I wanted to find out what was going on. I remember walking into some homes. They would even have an entry fee to come into the houses to play cards and gamble.

We need to support families integrate more successfully, so that we have less repeat offenders, as another way in being involved in a plan that is already structured. We just need to be more involved. We are fortunate here, to have road **access to the lakes and coast**, in terms of mental **wellbeing**, for harvesting and freedom to access. There should be a way to recognize those groups of people that clear the roads up for people to have access to fishing and to reach their cabins.

I'm not sure how **climate change** fits into this agenda, but this past year, our bridge was almost washed out due to climate change. This year's animals are much different than last year. This year we went out egg picking. We took 2000 eggs, and now we are seeing more geese, and climate change is having an impact on our lands and animals. Somewhere along these talks, we need to have these discussions.

[We need to discuss] the **migration routes** of caribou. This year, the route was changed and we no longer have access to them. They are not there any-more. This fall, routes might be different too. So we need to teach young people about migration routes.

I hope this plan is not the final document because there are so **many gaps**. I'm looking forward to the next level, and the next stage of this process and plan thus far.

#### Harry Maksagak:

You all have something very special to give. It is very difficult to stand up alone and offer your gift, but when you take all the gifts that you have and bring it together like we do in this group, it'll make your gift even more special.

You as an individual have so much to offer, but even more so as an individual within a group. Let me give you an example: The strength of the group of muskox. Like a defensive mechanism – taking that same picture into a group of people – as we “melt” together, of not only looking after our own, but looking after others, but as little as you have, it adds a lot to the group.

Change only happens if there is a plan. A plan only works if we say “this is what I am going to do, what are you going to do?” We need to do this in this fashion. Nunavut is a large chunk of land, with few people. We need to be reminded of the muskox analogy.

*...It starts from the inside and moves on outwards. This is the way this plan will work.*

#### Mary-Rose Magsagak:

Where are the most vulnerable people? There was a social worker at the **inter-agency committee** meeting, where are the people that we are talking about? The church did a lot of work in the community, with healing and feasts. Don't be afraid to look to the church.

Where is the spiritual side of this poverty meeting? Then we turn to drugs and alcohol, and we need to find ways to help them. We need to help these people and not judge them for what they do. “God helps those who help themselves” – we came out of alcoholism,

Harry and I both. I remember asking Harry, “our kids are pitiful, why are we like this?”

So I quit that way of life. Once we got out of our selfish ways, we started to see an improvement in our family lives. Our children were full, and succeeding in school. All of these things need to be talked about in the home. We should do something as a church group about this. Think of ways to help the communities in our homes.

How are we contributing to the community? What are you doing about this anti-poverty strategy? We need to share our leftovers with families who do not have much food. We need to think about how it starts from the inside and moves on outwards. This is the way this plan will work.

## Community Reports

This section outlines current activities and programs that reduce poverty and fall within the themes of *The Makimaniq Plan*. Please send any corrections and/or new information to [aibanez@gov.nu.ca](mailto:aibanez@gov.nu.ca).

Current programs and activities in the region include:

Available in all communities:

- ✓ KIA hosts regional women’s gatherings, annually.
- ✓ Trade show & high school student programs help with job training and attainment, annually.
- ✓ Post-secondary tour for high school students, hosted annually.
- ✓ Trades programs/courses in high school.
- ✓ Kitikmeot School Operations.
- ✓ Health/wellness committee.
- ✓ Recreation committees.
- ✓ Community feasts.
- ✓ Heritage Society.
- ✓ Moms + Tots programs.
- ✓ Prenatal Programs, through the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program.

## Cambridge Bay

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### Community initiatives

- Hunter support program, managed by volunteers through the local Hunters and Trappers Organization & local hunters sharing their harvests.
- Northern store now puts dairy products on sale before expiry dates.
- Northern Stores/Co-op Stores donate food baskets for grieving families.

- Community sewing classes – organized through the Kitikmeot Heritage Society.
- “People helping people” – informal sharing networks between local residents.
- Participating in the creation of the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Strategy, hosted community dialogue sessions in the spring of 2011.
- Kitikmeot Foods fishing season.
- Community-organized hunts.
- Community Facebook pages: Cambridge Bay sell/swap with community events, and sales/sharing of baked goods, harvested food.
- CHARS (Canadian High Arctic Research Station): potential employment opportunities for community members.
- Sports hunting (musk-oxen) and donation of meat to the local HTO.
- Emergency Food bank programs on Monday afternoons, during the school year.
- Spring and Fall “Hunt & Heal” programs, organized in partnership with the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre and a therapeutic counselor who visits Cambridge Bay regularly.
- Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre Programs:
  - [Food Bank and Food Vouchers for NAC students in Cambridge & Kugluktuk](#)
  - [Youth Centre.](#)
  - [Community Breakfast Program, every Friday morning.](#)
  - [Clothing/Household donations.](#)
  - [College Student “Start-up” packages for incoming students.](#)
- Sports Organizations: *The Wolverines*: Soccer, hockey, basketball leagues.
- Elks offer various funding opportunities and donations.
- Camp Cook program (NAC/Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre/HTO). Teaches cooking and etiquette, donates food to the food bank and to families.
- Cambridge Bay Childcare Society offers daycares services for working parents.

#### Active programs

- Breakfast program for students at school.
- CPNP: Pre/post natal nutrition program, teaches healthy cooking and living.
- Local Justice Committee.
- Recreation Committee.
- Health & Wellness Committee Meetings.
- Income support.
- Social Services Worker program, offered through the Nunavut Arctic College.
- Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association women’s gatherings.
- Trade Show events, and job shadows for high school students, annually.
- Post-Secondary tour for high school students, annually hosted in Edmonton, organized through the Kitikmeot Regional School Operations and Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

- Trades programs/courses in high school.
- Moms & Tots Programing.
- ASIST programs (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training): First Aid Mental Health training programs over 2 days, “highly interactive, practical, practice-oriented workshops.”

## Gjoa Haven

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### Community initiatives

- Catholic Church organizes clothing and household items at-a-discount or for donations.
- Local Sports organization called *The Snowy Owl Association* helps with skills development.
- *The Kiggavik Elders Group*, offers an opportunity for elders to meet on a regular basis.
- *Amauligak* Dancers’ Group coordinated for all ages by community volunteer Elizabeth Anavilok and music from the Gjoa Haven Band. Spring festivities host dancing competitions annually, usually in April.
- *Tuvaag* Seal Committee runs fundraising activities year-round for the traditional *Seal Hunt Derby* prizes (traditionally 8 prizes), celebrating traditional hunting practices, and on-going community participation throughout the year.
- *Agluak* Fishing Committee, fundraising activities year round for the annual fishing derby.
- Outdoor Summer programs organized by hamlet, for school aged students.
- Mayor Allen Aglukkaq hosts a daily morning radio show from 8-9:00 to broadcast community news and events.
- Community Facebook pages – Gjoa Haven sell/swap pages that offer community events, and selling of baked goods, offerings of harvested food.

### Active programs

- Breakfast program for students at school.
- CPNP: Pre/post natal nutrition program, teaches healthy cooking and living.
- Local Justice Committee.
- Recreation Committee.
- Health & Wellness Committee Meetings.
- Income support.
- Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association women’s gatherings.
- Post-Secondary tour for high school students, annually hosted in Edmonton, organized through the Kitikmeot Regional School Operations and Kitikmeot Inuit Association.
- Trades programs/courses in high school.

## Kugaaruk

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### Community initiatives

- People are more open to speaking about addictions with alcohol & drug workers available in Kugaaruk.
- Community Facebook pages – Kugaaruk sell/swap pages that offer community events, and selling of baked goods, offerings of harvested food.

### Active programs

- Breakfast program for students at school.
- CPNP: Pre/post natal nutrition program, teaches healthy cooking and living.
- Local Justice Committee.
- Recreation Committee.
- Health & Wellness Committee Meetings.
- Income support.
- Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association women's gatherings.

[Kugluktuk](#) – Call Nancy Kadlun (867-982-4063) for more information about these initiatives.

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### Community initiatives

- The Hamlet office is a principal source of information about programs and benefits for the community.
- Kitikmeot Heritage Society.
- Community Facebook pages – Kugluktuk sell/swap pages that offer community events, and selling of baked goods, offerings of harvested food.
- Nunavut Arctic College programing & Food Vouchers for incoming students.
- Kugluktuk Radio Society: Mike Webster, radio programing & host.

### Active programs

- Breakfast program for students at school.
- CPNP: Pre/post natal nutrition program, teaches healthy cooking and living.
- Local Justice Committee.
- Recreation Committee.
- Health & Wellness Committee Meetings.
- Income support.
- Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association women's gatherings.

### Community initiatives

- School council committee prepares and gives food out to disabled/elders/home bound persons in the community over special holidays (Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day hampers).
- Elders take youth out on the land to teach food preparation: Cooking, preparing/cutting meat at camps, how not to waste meat, and which cuts of meat to leave on the land and sea. Traditional practices encourage youth to share their catch of fresh meat and fish with their community.
- Community feasts, used as a teaching technique during community gatherings.
- Public discussions through local radio stations on housing concerns, and suggestions on how to care best for your home.
- Clothing is often donated or passed down to relatives.
- Community Facebook pages – Taloyoak sell/swap pages that offer community events, and selling of baked goods, offerings of harvested food.

### Active programs

- Breakfast program for students at school.
- CPNP: Pre/post natal nutrition program, teaches healthy cooking and living.
- Local Justice Committee.
- Recreation Committee.
- Health & Wellness Committee Meetings.
- Income support.
- Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association women's gatherings.

## Featured experience: Amauligak Mumiqtii Group

The Amauligak Mumiktiit group is a square dance group from Gjoa Haven. They have travelled across Nunavut to perform their own distinctive square dance routines, which are a mix of square dances from different regions.

The group was established by Elizabeth Anavilok and her late husband Allen Anavilok.

Along with having amazing performing skills, the group is always eager to give back to the community.

The group does its own fundraising events to pay for travel when they perform in different communities.

And they share with the community a portion of the money raised.

The Amauligak dancers enjoy organizing fun games – with cash prizes – and cultural activities for the community.

And while these include relay races, jigging and dancing competitions, and community feasts, what the group is best known for is its sense of humour. Particularly during the community's "wipe-out" competition.



*Amauligak Dancers – Gjoa Haven*

As the Gjoa Haven Band plays the well-known "Wipe-out" song, community members are invited to take the floor and dance a wild dance. The object of the competition is to make the crowd laugh, and the person that fills the community hall with the most laughs wins a cash prize. Every event the Amauligak dancers organize involves lots of laughter.

The group also inspires people to take up square dancing, a unique part of Inuit heritage. Gjoa Haven community members say that they have never felt more motivated to participate in square dancing and jigging than with the creation of the Amauligak Mumiktiit group.

From the youngest to the oldest, community members are always eager to take to the floor to dance.

The Amauligak Mumiktiit group is a proud achievement of the community of Gjoa Haven.

## Featured experience: Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre

The *Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre* exists to provide “counsel, educate and help people to live healthy, happy and prosperous lives”.

The centre offers emergency services and strict confidentiality to community members in need, such as shelter for victims of family violence.

A range of other community-based supports are in place, which were designed to complement the community’s available educational, cultural, legal, economic, and health care services.

Beyond these supports to the overall wellbeing of community members of all ages, the staff consider that their main objective as a community-based organization is to work closely with individuals, and families, to encourage people to make positive choices, and to develop positive outlooks.



*The Wellness Centre is busy with many community activities throughout the year.*

Programs currently being used by members of the community include:

A food bank; Nutrition and cooking classes; addictions counseling; family (and victims of family violence) counseling; pre and post natal support; and childcare and children’s activities.

The centre also works with the local Justice Committee, and staff members participate in suicide prevention work.

For more information, contact:

*Marie Ingram*  
Director of Community Wellness  
P O Box 16  
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0  
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E-Mail: [mingram@cambridgebay.ca](mailto:mingram@cambridgebay.ca)

## Managing Information: How are we communicating?

Our organizations and community-based efforts do communicate, but not in a systematic way. This section highlights how poverty reduction work links to elders, youth, and our various organizations and briefly outlines how individuals and families are able to access information that helps them meet their needs.

There were two principal means of communication mentioned as important to individuals and families:

### [Radio:](#)

Judging by how frequency it was mentioned, local radio is by far the most common of the ways in which information is passed around within each community.

Public service announcements; a daily morning radio show hosted by a Mayor; and phone-ins were highlighted as good examples to emulate elsewhere.

### [Internet:](#)

Many community members have access to the Internet through computers located in the schools, and sometimes in the hamlet offices.

Regionally, *Facebook* is widely used in the larger communities for keeping in touch with friends and family. This service is also used as a community bulletin board that, along with radio, helps people broadcast messages to the community. Furthermore, new online communications services can support the work of communicating and coordinating poverty reduction efforts to include people who are good at communicating with their community.

Many of you suggested that given the wide use of Internet-based communications, there is no reason to not involve and engage community members in decision-making regarding programs, services and initiatives for poverty reduction.

It was suggested that a **video** be made explaining *The Makimaniq Plan*, as it would likely be watched by many Nunavummiut who have Internet access at home. The secretariat recently purchased a video camera and editing equipment for this purpose, but it hopes community groups will take the lead.

### [Involving our Elders](#)

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We welcomed the active participation of elders at this gathering. Elders are practitioners of Inuit values, and their presence at this gathering helped us understand what that phrase means in the context of community-based poverty reduction work.

When we reviewed *The Makimaniq Plan* together we saw that one of the major themes of the plan is to promote *healing*. This partly means collaborative decision-making, access to the land, and living according to Inuit values.



*It takes a whole  
community to work  
things out*

As we have seen, when our elders came to this gathering, they spent a great deal of time listening and observing everything that was said and done.

*Let me give you an example. The strength of the group of musk-oxen.*

*When we 'melt' together, we look after our own, and after others*

When we asked our elders to share their thoughts on the gathering, they were grateful for the time and attention they received from the rest of the participants, and told us what they felt was important for the rest of us to hear.

By spending this time together with our elders, we strengthened our mutual relationship:

"It is very useful when we meet together as a group. We learn. I go home with a positive mindset, after I go to these meetings. This is going to help our young people, as we have to help each other".

As our elders repeated often, everyone in our communities is important, elders, adults, youth, children, as is all life on the land and in the sea. In other words, "*we need each other*" to live in a healthy community. Mutual aid and reciprocity must be our core values.

### Inter-Agency Committees

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The need and advantage of holding inter-agency meetings, on a regular schedule that everybody knows about, would make it much easier to keep each other informed about what each agency or organization is doing and needs help with.

The key word that was mentioned often was 'coordination'.

And the idea was also brought up that an inter-agency committee could also put together a 'poverty reduction award' to recognize both individual and organizational efforts in poverty reduction.

### Youth

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While there were not many youth present at this gathering, everyone was impressed by the youth who did arrive. In a focused, accessible and positive presentation, they reflected critically on the way issues were being discussed:

"We thought one question to ask could be how groups can be involved, and not just emphasize what individuals can do.

"Groups should motivate, encourage and support individuals [...] People should feel they have choices, and along with that comes realizing their skills and talents".

It was also said, during the plenaries, that *The Makimaniq Plan* fails to mention youth and the challenges they face.

The lack of a focus on youth, many of you felt, is also evident in the need for more support for young parents, including access to family planning and education in **home economics**.

*There is not enough focus on teens, on 'twenty-somethings' ... This is possibly sixty percent of our population*

The concern emerged from the group-work sessions that a narrow meaning is given to the word 'healing'. That is, many think of healing as 'looking backwards'.

There needs to an emphasis that includes youth, "who have not lived through the cultural trauma of colonization" in the way that earlier generations have.

Inuit values, and traditional knowledge, have to be present in every young person's life, not as a cultural relic, but as an element of wellbeing, identity, and adaptability to the challenges of the present.

Most of you felt strongly that, because youth are so important, the term 'Youth' should be included as a theme in *The Makimaniq Plan*.

## Food Security

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Access to nutritious and affordable food is another topic that cuts across the discussions had at this gathering. Adequate access to good food came up in conversations about healing, hunting, education and Inuit identity and values (especially sharing), and collaboration.

From the conversations had, it is clear that what is meant, and expected, by the use of the term 'collaboration' is most explicit in the discussion about food security. By extension, if collaboration can be effective and constant in the area of food security, it can be in other areas as well.

A Nunavut Arctic College cooking course – "Can Cook" – was mentioned as an example of what an organization that does not deal with Nunavut's food supply can do. The Can Cook course introduces people to budgeting and menu planning by going shopping and then cooking together. The students in the course also conduct a 'meals on wheels' service.

Community Elders Committees across the region – and the territory – plan and operate "cultural camps" designed for "the middle group and the youth".

Hunters and Gatherers Organizations connect with sports hunters to arrange for the pick-up and processing of hunted animals.

## Scope of *The Makimaniq Plan*

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Our collective review of what is in *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction* showed that poverty reduction work happens in every community, and that it takes many forms, including age-less Inuit cultural practices.

The group-work sessions brought up the point that the phrase “address the root causes of poverty” is at the heart of this plan.

As one of you stated: “you can probably count them [the root causes of poverty] in one hand”.

Focusing on root causes of poverty involves promoting opportunities for *healing*, such as those that take people out on the land. The importance of access to the land cut across the range of ideas shared. Access to the land is the doorway to healing, and to acquiring self-knowledge in relation to one’s community, to the land, to the past, and to the present.

Access to the land is more than an opportunity to acquire technical skill in survival and hunting. It is about enjoyment and wellbeing.

We agreed that implementing this plan means collaborating with each other. That is, promoting our community-based initiatives by telling each other about them and by helping each other to make new connections and make more friends and find allies in different organizations, including government departments.

## Next Steps

### Promoting *The Makimaniq Plan* in our communities

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The Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat exists to facilitate ongoing collaboration among all those organizations, institutions, businesses, and individuals working to support community initiatives that fall within the six themes of *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*.

Contact the secretariat to:

- Access support in organizing a community meeting, including covering the cost of refreshments and other necessities.
- Obtain extra copies of *The Makimaniq Plan*.
- Find information about – or prepare an application to current programs, such as the Country Foods Distribution Program, the Community Freezers Program, and others.

Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat:

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TEL: 867-975-7821  
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## Participants

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Aiolah Takolik.....	Taloyoak
Alex Buchan.....	Cambridge Bay
Angela Nuliyok.....	Gjoa Haven
Brenda Jancke.....	Cambridge Bay
Dave Crockatt.....	Cambridge Bay
Eileen Grady.....	Cambridge Bay
Elizabeth Kaosoni.....	Cambridge Bay
Georgina Porter.....	Gjoa Haven
Harry Maksagak.....	Cambridge Bay
Helen Larocque.....	Cambridge Bay
Julia Ogina.....	Cambridge Bay
Leona Krejunark.....	Kugaaruk
Margo Neglak.....	Cambridge Bay
Mary Rose Maksagak.....	Cambridge Bay
Sarah Jancke.....	Cambridge Bay
Sarah Takolik.....	Taloyoak
Sharon Krejunark.....	Kugaaruk
Susie Konana.....	Gjoa Haven

## Interpreter

Josie Tucktoo-Lacasse.....	Cambridge Bay
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Group 1.

**Question 1: What initiatives are reducing Poverty in my community?**

1. Cambridge & Kugaaruk: daily breakfast program during the school year.
2. Emergency Food Bank programs given out on Monday afternoons, during the school year.
3. CPNP: pre/post natal nutrition program, teaches healthy cooking and healthy initiatives.
4. Seasonal Hunt + Heal programs, coordinated through Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre.
5. KIA funded programs aim to enhance cultural/land/language skills in all communities.
6. Northern stores put dairy products on sale before expiry dates.
7. HTO provides country foods to the community in Cambridge Bay & Kugaaruk.
8. Community sewing classes in Cambridge Bay.
9. Local hunters sharing their harvests.
10. "People helping people" - informal volunteer practices.
11. Youth + Elder camping/sharing sessions.
12. People are more open to asking for clinical help, with the Human Services program available in Cambridge Bay.
13. People are more open to speaking about their addictions, with A&D workers available in each community.
14. Creating of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, as per hosting community dialogue sessions, starting in 2011.

Group 2.

**Question 1: What initiatives are reducing poverty in my community?**

Food

1. Available in schools through the breakfast program.
2. Healthy food start cooking classes in Taloyoak.
3. School council committee gives out food to disabled/elders/home bound persons in the community during special holidays

(Christmas, Easter, Valentine's time hampers).

4. Elders teach food preparation eg: Cooking, preparing/cutting meat at camps, including how not to waste meat, and which cuts of meat to leave on the land.
5. Teaching youth to share their catch of meat & fish to the whole community.
6. Community feasts, also used as teaching tool for community gatherings.

Housing:

1. Concerns are raised and brought to the public, and suggestions on how not to wreck the homes we are renting because it will ultimately add to the collective cost of rent in Taloyoak.

Education

1. Clothing is donated to those who need them, and shared with relatives.
2. The NAC fur fashion workshops has been a big help to the youth and older people involved in how to make their own traditional clothing.

Group 3.

**Question 1: What initiatives are reducing poverty in my community?**

In Gjoa Haven:

- Sports organizations called *Snowy Owl Association*, helps with
  - Skills development for youth - related to *The Makimaniq Plan* Theme 2 (Healing & Wellbeing) and Theme 1 (Community Participation).
- *Kiggavik* Elders group
- *Amauligak* dancers group (starting with pre-school and Kindergarten aged children, including all age groups have an annual square dance "show down" in April, organized by Volunteer Elizabeth Anavilok, and the Gjoa Haven King William Island Band).
- Catholic Church offers clothing + household donations in Gjoa Haven
- Playground programs for school aged students in the summertime - ran by the hamlet through summer student hires in Gjoa Haven.
- *Tuvaaq* Seal Committee in Gjoa Haven fund raise year round for 8 prizes for the traditional seal hunt season.

- *Agluak* Fishing Committee in Gjoa Haven fund raises year round for the annual spring fishing derby.
- Mayor Allen Aglukkaq hosts a daily radio program, an 8-9 AM show to announce daily activities, and fund raising opportunities.

In Cambridge bay:

- Wellness Centre
  - Food bank, youth center, community breakfast program every Friday, clothing/household donations and offerings.
- Sports organizations: The “Wolverines” soccer, hockey, basketball, hockey leagues.
- Elks offer community donations.

Group 4.

**Question 1: What initiatives are reducing poverty in my community?**

**Question 2: Are these initiatives supported in *The Makimaniq Plan*?**

1. Cambridge Bay Food Bank (Theme 4).
2. Wellness Centre programs: Breakfast food programs for all ages (All Themes).
3. Active Day Care (Theme 3).
5. Parenting Programs:
  - CPNP: Parenting/prenatal/cooking programs (Theme 3).
  - Community Mental Health Worker.
  - Healthy Children’s Initiative.
6. Community Organized Hunts (All Themes).
  - Seal hunting training (and other training).
  - Elders & youth organized “on the land” programs.
  - Active elder facilities.
7. ASIST programs throughout the territory.
  - First Aid Mental Health Programs (Theme 2).
8. Facebook Community pages.
  - People selling baked goods.
  - People sharing harvested food.
9. Exploration Companies could help support community initiatives.
10. Arts & Crafts Shops on Hope Bay site (Theme 6).
  - Employees sell carvings in a specialized tourist area there.
11. Informal sharing networks.
  - Buy gas to help hunters.

- Hunter naturally shares part of their catch with community members.
- 12. All Housing should be completed and occupied in every community (Theme 5).
- 13. Rent Scale Review needed.
- 14. CHARS (Canadian High Arctic Research Station) Planning.
  - Potential Employment Opportunities (estimated 400 jobs to be created).

Group 5.

**Question 1: What initiatives are reducing poverty in my community?**

1. Wellness Centre: Community food bank + restorative justice, CUBS, Fundraising & Donation sessions, community breakfast programs that start in September, Hunt & Heal programs, Community Christmas programs, College student “start up” packages for students moving into Cambridge Bay, CPNP, CAPC: food vouchers in Cambridge Cay and Kugluktuk for students.
2. Kullik School: Breakfast programs.
3. Nunavut’s Harvester Support Programs.
4. Nunavut Arctic College: Camp Cook Programs.
  - a. Planning meals, budgets, preparation, and a pilot project called “meals on wheels: delivering food to families”
5. Northern Store and Co-op sometimes donate food baskets to families grieving, in case of a loss in community.
6. Cultural Camp Programs, especially for youth and middle-aged persons within the community.
7. Sports hunting: have donated meat to the HTO in the community, announcements on local radio “pick up fresh meat.”
8. Local harvesters are traditionally taught to share their catch with Elders and people that do not have means to harvest on their own.
9. Income Support & NHSP need to enhance and harmonize their local services in communities.2

Group 1.

**Questions 2: Are these initiatives supported in *The Makimaniq Plan*?**

**(As they correspond with the answers above)**

1. Food Security
2. Healing & Wellbeing/Food Security

- 3.
4. Food Security/Healing & Wellbeing/Education & Skills Development
5. Healing and Wellbeing/Food Security
6. Collaboration & Community Participation/healing & Welling, Education & Skills Development
7. Collaboration & Community Participation/Food Security
8. Collaboration & Community Participation
9. Education & Skills Development/Healing and Wellbeing
10. Collaboration & Community participation/Food Security
11. Collaboration & Community Participation / Food Security
12. Education & Skills Development/Collaboration & Community Participation
13. Healing & Wellbeing
14. Healing & Wellbeing
15. All of the initiatives

Group 2.

**Question 2: Are these initiatives supported in *The Makimaniq Plan***

Food: Theme 4: B: Enhancement of healthy breakfast programs in schools.

Theme 4: C: Increased support for community driven food security initiatives (community harvest, sharing of country food).

Theme 3: Education & Skills Development  
Need for Inuit language + Literacy skills.

Group 3.

**Question 2: Are initiatives supported in *The Makimaniq Plan*?**

- Collaboration & Community Participation
  - A need for structure & process systems that support community initiatives that ensure volunteer programs run most effectively, with a training component for participants and young people involved.
- A need for practical “Food Education”- to help with choosing healthy food choices.
- A need for “family education”
  - Increased support + education for parents in raising healthy families.
  - Family planning.

- A need for more focus on proactive measures rather than reactive measures implied in *the Makimaniq Plan*.
- A need for more focus on our youth, by:
  - Providing educational encouragement.
  - Guidance and support, informally as well as outside of schools (KIA often helps with this).
  - Creating more opportunities for young people to be involved in community development projects.

Group 5.

**Question 2: Are these initiatives supported in *The Makimaniq Plan*? (As they correspond with each answers above)**

1. All themes within *The Makimaniq Plan* are supported by the Wellness Centre in Cambridge Bay.
2. Theme 1: Collaboration between NTI + NHSP Nunavut Harvesters Support Program.  
Theme 4: Food Security.
3. Theme 3: Education/Skills Development, Guide Training Certification through hunting programs.
4. Theme 4: Food Security for hunting.
5. Theme 2: Healing and Wellbeing.
6. Theme 2: Healing and Wellbeing.
7. Theme 3: Education & Skills Development & Theme 6: Community & Economic Development.
8. Theme 1: Collaboration & Community Participation.

Group 1.

**Question 3: How can I promote *The Makimaniq Plan* in my community?**

1. Go on the Radio to report the information in the local dialect & in English.
2. Create information posters in the local dialect & in English.
3. Host community, regional & territorial meetings.
4. Post information on “Facebook.”
5. Send student notices to all the schools for students to take them home to their parents.
6. Post ads on local co-op TV channel.
7. Get the Community Health Representative involved: often, they do

- school presentations on educational programs and pre-natal courses.
8. Do presentations at KIA regional board meetings.
  9. Produce a CD or DVD information package.
  10. Get hamlet councils more directly involved, and form community networks.
  11. People in need should definitely get involved, for they are the ones with the "1<sup>st</sup> hand knowledge about poverty" and how it affects them, personally.

Group 2.

**Question 3: How can I support initiatives in my community? In the Kitikmeot Region and in Nunavut?**

**In our Community:**

- Have food available for community feasts.
- Attend public meetings.
- Listen and start talking to our elected officials.
- Announce on the local radio what is available that will help people in the communities.
- Send flyers to our councillors in our communities including the schools
- We need to see more men come to these gatherings. More men, more young people, more elders

**In the Kitikmeot:**

- Phone people about meeting including announcements on the local radio.
- We need to tell Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and Economic Development & Transportation Regional office.
- Everyone should be well informed and work together. Set up public meetings and visit the schools.

**In Nunavut:**

- Write letters and phone our MLAs to get some actions on things we need.

Group 3.

**Question 3: How can I support initiatives in my community, in the Region and in Nunavut?**

- Get the word out, educating each other to ensure everyone is aware of these initiatives.

- Strengthen the ties of the different levels of operation, and the different avenues that government, school systems, Inuit Organizations, IPG's work.
- We each have such a diverse background, it's important for everyone to have a voice.
- Have a support system to encourage involvement, in initiatives like this, and voice of concern.
- Having conviction in our actions and decisions, much like the Poverty Reduction initiatives. When we first were involved in this process, we weren't sure if this was going anywhere, but now that we are involved in this phase of the process, we are convinced that this is going somewhere.
- Having a positive mindset and approach to initiatives: using the "Embrace Life Council" as an example, instead of calling it the Suicide Prevention Strategy, we decided to call it the Embrace Life Council. "The law of attraction" is an example, where the first impression of the title makes a big impact on people's reaction to the subject, especially if you want public input.
- A need for "Guiding Principles" to ensure that all levels and all people function cohesively to achieve the same goals stated in *The Makimaniq Plan*, rather than conflicting and competing for similar funds for similar goals.
- Recognize our human resources, and natural assets that are already in our communities, and take advantage of their potential.
- Empower people. Show them that these programs and policies will have a positive impact on their lives, to allow them to realize their skills and talents.
- Recognizing those people in the community that do good, so as to recognize them as positive role models in their community.
- Another question would be: what could organizers/groups do to involve the general population? How could we encourage people to be involved?
- Support the development of different demographic groups, such as women's groups, men's groups, and youth groups, elder's groups.
- Ultimately, all of it comes down to building community capacity to work together.

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Group 4.

**Question 3: How can we support initiatives within our communities, region, across Nunavut?**

1. Translate the materials to the appropriate dialect.
2. Have monthly inter-agency meetings in each community.
3. Government should do a better job of coordinating itself and its programs to work together.
4. Realize and share the understanding that people cannot just rely on government. They need to work together to find their own solutions.
5. List out priority needs in the community, so that priorities are supported by industry, and communicate priorities to the company through NIRB processes, KIA meetings and Hamlet council meetings.
6. Employees should be given recognition for the good work they do in reducing poverty at all levels.
7. Communicate what each group within the community is doing.

Group 5.

**Question 3: How can I support initiatives in my community, in the region and across the territory?**

Need to reach “The target group” – Age 30-60 – Julia Ogina starts the presentation:

- Need to start Networking: Planning and sharing similar goals, and deciding to implement *The Makimaniq Plan* together.
- Educate the youth and young families on the importance of school, and learning within the community, and making the connections between the school – family – Community.
- Formal & informal schedules: connect the community population that works from 8:30-5:00, and the part of the population that lives outside the 8:30-5:00 schedule in the community and in the home. There needs to be a suitable community plan of schedules that suite the needs of the community.

- Traditional training for men, women, children – in schools and outside of schools.
- Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun, in addition to the traditional roles and responsibilities, communication and learning.
- Full Participation of Elders, Women, Youth, & Men’s groups: Julia said: “We are losing our people before they even know who they are. We are losing them to addictions and suicide, even before they have figured out who they are as people. I often hear people say ‘I may look Inuk, but I don’t know how to feel Inuk’ and that breaks my heart. We should be reaching out to our people, and having empowerment workshops for people to learn about their identity.”
- Identifying gaps: There is a need for more Men’s programs and Restorative Justice Programs in Nunavut, rather than the disconnected court processes currently in place.
- “The identity crisis” – the role of men and the role of women has changed dramatically, in the last 20 years.
- We’ve had repeat offenders. Harry Maksagak often asks repeat offenders: “Why are you here? We gave you a problem to work on; we gave you a situation to work on. Why are you here?” Often the response is, “I don’t know, I don’t have the Inuk heart.” Harry Maksagak goes on to say: “There’s got to be more emphasis with men’s groups, to bring the men back in their rightful role as leaders in the home, and leaders of the community. We need the men to say ‘this is my role, this is what I think, this is what I feel.’ If they are unable to do this, the repeat offences will continue. We should ask ourselves, ‘how can we mend and prevent these issues from happening again?’ WE need to get to the root cause!” (...of poverty, and of problems in our communities). We need to identify who we are, and what our role is within the community.”
- Harry explains: “Elders are here. The Youth are here. Where are the middle aged groups? These people don’t even know where they are. They are being pushed aside because they do not know where to go with their own lives. They are

the ones who end up in court.”  
Think about how we can tackle the root cause of poverty.

From Arctic Bay to Kugluktuk – we have instances of alcohol abuse, and drug abuse.”

- “Letting people abuse alcohol and drugs is like letting people not know who we are.”
- “Take a look at our historical significance and how it was back then. If the group did not work together, no one survived”  
Now we apply these aspects of working together to implement *The Makimaniq Plan*. You are here because you want to be part of the change. I am here because I want to be a part of the change. This is what we are here to do.  
Let’s implement the principles of what it’s like to live on the land, and implement those into our communities today.”

Group 2.

**Question 4: How can I promote *The Makimaniq Plan* in my community?**

1. Announce on local radio, through newsletters and flyers.
2. Don’t just talk about it, start an action.
3. Use the computer to inform people.
4. Local TV advertising.
5. Have public meetings.
6. Local Education Authority and Nunavut Education Authorities

Group 3.

**Question 4: How Can I promote the Makimaniq Plan?**

- Provide something like the plan to groups and give them direction in their desired actions.

- Educate people about the plan. Tell them that this exists, and this is an initiative supported by government, by NTI, and really is the mandate for RIO’s and social development.
- Create the foundation to properly put into action the plan.
  - Ensure that the groups are properly structured to carry out plans, even starting with the Youth Groups and teaching people to carry out meetings like these. (The Community Dialogue Toolkit is helpful).
- Establish a good communication ground, and systems and processes within the group to properly administer the plan, and set out goals they need to achieve.
- Build the pride and self-confidence in the communities, and the leadership skills needed to implement the plan.

Group 4.

**Question 4: How can I promote *The Makimaniq Plan* in my community?**

1. Promote the document, read it out loud on the local radio station, with the local dialect.
2. Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, Community blogs.
3. Provide more presentations to youth & in schools.



