

Let's remember that *The Makimaniq Plan* was written and approved on November 30, 2011, by participants in the territory's first poverty summit. Its authors -community representatives, Inuit organizations, business partners, many involved individuals, and the co-sponsors of the public engagement process - recognize in this plan a broad spectrum of interests to develop a collaborative, multi-sector structure that links community initiatives to potential allies in the public and private sectors.

And this means that this is not a plan to be implemented *for* the communities. On the contrary. Building partnerships among communities, organizations, business and government can only be done through ongoing dialogue and learning. All participants recognize this to be the path to identifying clear roles and commitments.

The next steps: Reconvening of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction; Communities conduct dialogues on how to address issues at the root of poverty and identify the partnerships needed to address their poverty reduction priorities.

Sanikiluaq to Create Poverty Reduction Committee



Mayor Elijah Sala, Sanikiluaq, reports:

In Sanikiluaq, many families struggle to meet their basic needs and live in overcrowded homes. Our young people struggle to find employment and many times encounter obstacles and lack of opportunities to their personal development. While we may have our disagreements, we are a close community, and we often find ourselves helping each other with the many difficulties we face.

Still, we in Sanikiluaq believe in our future and know that through collaboration we will find partners with whom to work toward a better quality of life for families, elders, our young people, and the next generations.

We are creating a committee that will be dedicated to made-in-

take the lead?

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Sanikiluaq poverty reduction ideas. This committee will work with the HTO and with community leaders to develop these ideas.

We join with communities and organizations across Nunavut in taking action to reduce poverty, and we call on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction to accompany our effort.

Elijassie Sala,
Mayor.

Partners Discuss Terms of Reference



In order to prepare the next stage in the public engagement process - the implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan* - partner organizations of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction met in Iqaluit to assess the effectiveness of their collaboration to date.

Partners identified the need for a framework with clear guidelines - a draft Terms of Reference (TORs) - to help them meet their internal accountability requirements. The importance of these TORs is, as well, that they will help participants manage their mutual expectations.

This collaborative framework will have to consider the challenges of working across organizations, disciplines, and with communities and their priorities for poverty reduction.

It is the responsibility of the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat to ensure that this draft TORs is discussed and approved by all roundtable partners before the end of the current fiscal year, on March 31st. 2012.

Sanikiluaq Holds Community Dialogue on Poverty Reduction



More than fifty adults and many young people gathered at Nuiyak School library to share their ideas.

It was a full house at Nuiyak primary school library, where elders, parents and their children, the Mayor and other authorities - and their guest from the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat (me)- gathered to hold a community dialogue on poverty reduction.

Once we were all in the room, we decided to sit on the floor, as did the children, many of whom were very well behaved grade-schoolers who stayed close to their parents. We joined an elder's prayer and heard the Mayor's welcome to the meeting, and later the guest introduce himself to everyone.

Some people had seen me around a few days earlier, and many had heard that there was a visitor from Iqaluit in the community, who had come to "talk about poverty". But, we were not going to begin that conversation until some questions were first answered. One person wondered aloud about my Inuit looks: "What community are you from?" - "San Miguel", said I, to the friendly laughter of Sanikiluaqmiut

I explained the purpose of my visit was to participate in the community dialogue as one of its facilitators. The Mayor and Dinah Kavik, who helped me follow the conversations (I have to learn Inuktitut) explained our proposed activity. Everyone seemed very happy to come together to discuss a topic that is important to every family in the community.

Groups of roughly ten people were formed. Each one worked on the same questions, which invited everyone to imagine Sanikiluaq "free of poverty". This meant thinking about what each person, each family, and the community as a whole can do right now to take full advantage of all the good things about the community. Groups invested a lot of time in this discussion. Most of them concluded that a lot can be achieved by just coming together and sharing resources.

Another part of the evening was spent on identifying changes that could happen at the territorial level. Groups discussed the issue of access to resources and opportunities.

One concern that people expressed many times is for the well-being of their elders. The youth who were present at this community meeting, some of whom I had met earlier that day in one of their classes, were especially aware of the needs of their elders. A few younger participants insisted that their grandparents were getting bored and needed more activities, along with help getting around. "We need free taxis or a bus for them" - one said.

In an earlier exercise, many young people shared ideas to make Sanikiluaq more youth-friendly, such as building a skating rink and having a radio station for youth, by youth. They had many others, too numerous to include here. Their ideas and their excitement are contagious!

The Sanikiluaq community dialogue on poverty reduction wrote down ideas that are strongly rooted in local reality. There is expectation to see what will be accomplished next and in how long.

There will be news from Sanikiluaq on the poverty reduction front!

*Andres Ibanez,
Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat.*

New Collaborative Platform in the Works!



The Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat began the development of a new website to meet the communication needs of community initiatives and Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction partner organizations.

This new website is intended to serve as a 'live' collaborative platform where communities can share their poverty reduction work and communicate directly with the member organizations of the roundtable. It will feature a main portal with a message board linked to social media tools, as well as a highly visible announcements and video section.

Alongside these elements, the website will allow community facilitators who are engaged in poverty reduction initiatives to directly upload information. It will also contain a searchable database with initiatives from every community, lists of contacts, useful documents, and communication links with each of the roundtable partners.

The first projected test-run of the new website of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction is mid April, 2012. At that time, everyone will be invited to explore its features and to use it as a platform for showcasing ideas, sharing information (including videos!) and managing relations among poverty reduction initiatives and existing programs.

The more we use the site, the more completely its advantages and shortcomings will be revealed, and the more useful it will become.

Stay tuned for updates! Visit the current website: www.makiliqta.ca



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