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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Pre-Budget Submission 2018

About Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the national representational organization for Canada's 60,000 Inuit, the majority of whom live in four regions of Canada's Arctic, specifically, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). Collectively, these four regions make up Inuit Nunangat, our homeland in Canada. It includes 53 communities and encompasses roughly 35 percent of Canada's land mass and 50 percent of its coastline.

The comprehensive land claim agreements that have been settled in Inuit Nunangat continue to form a core component of our organization's mandate. These land claims have the status of protected treaties under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and we remain committed to working in partnership with the Crown toward their full implementation. Consistent with its founding purpose, ITK represents the rights and interests of Inuit at the national level through a democratic governance structure that represents all Inuit regions.

ITK advocates for policies, programs and services to address the social, cultural, political and environmental issues facing our people.

ITK is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the following members:

- Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- President, Makivik Corporation
- President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- President, Nunatsiavut Government

In addition to voting members, the following non-voting Permanent Participant Representatives also sit on the Board of Directors:

- President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
- President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- President, National Inuit Youth Council

Introduction:

This pre-budget submission recommends that an Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy be adopted and implemented by the federal government. It argues that implementing an Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy is necessary for federal budget investments to benefit Inuit and all Canadians.

Inuit Nunangat: The majority of Inuit live in 53 communities spread across Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland that includes the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). Inuit Nunangat makes up 38 percent of Canada's landmass and 50 percent of its coastline. It is a distinct geographic, political, and cultural region that is co-managed by Inuit and the federal government through governance structures established by four comprehensive Inuit land claim agreements (Inuvialuit Final Agreement; Nunavut Land Claims Agreement; James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement; and Labrador Final Agreement). Inuit Nunangat is unified politically by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, whose board of directors are the democratically elected leaders of the four Inuit regional organizations.

Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy: An Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy requires balancing two principles: recognition that Inuit are one people; and, respect for the distinct governance structures adopted by the four Inuit regions. Applying an Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy entails that federal budget allocations that implicate Inuit are made directly to each of the four Inuit regions rather than to the provinces and territories or aggregated into broad funding envelopes targeting Indigenous peoples. These topical areas include but are not limited to federal financing for housing, select health programs and initiatives, and cultural initiatives.

Application of Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy in Budget 2018: Inuit in Canada have elected to exercise our right to self-determination by negotiating constructive arrangements with Canada that situate Inuit firmly within the Canadian political fabric. The objective of the land claims and self-government agreements which Inuit have negotiated is to preserve Inuit culture and ensure Inuit prosperity within the broader Canadian and international fabric. Budget measures should reflect this ambition.

The federal budget should ensure programs, services, and funding which target Indigenous peoples are accessible by Inuit organizations rather than public governments. The diversity of governance arrangements throughout Inuit Nunangat means that Inuit land claims organizations, Inuit governments, the federal government, provincial governments and territorial governments should be encouraged to work together to ensure that both Inuit and Canada realize their self-determination and that

Inuit across Inuit Nunangat are able to progressively improve our social and economic status while achieving cultural continuity.

Benefits of an Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy: Inuit regional organizations are uniquely placed to use federal investments in concert with other initiatives to maximize both direct and collateral benefits from them. Federal policy and program frameworks which centralize key aspects of program criteria, delivery methods or surveillance do not generally recognize the realities of program and service delivery in Inuit Nunangat. For example, Inuit have been effectively excluded from some programs and services which target Indigenous peoples because travel costs in Inuit Nunangat is prohibitively high. Inuit have the greatest information on the nature of the issues affecting Inuit, the best ideas for how to address those issues and the greatest incentive to develop innovative solutions for Inuit.

Applying an Inuit Nunangat fiscal approach in the area of housing has been successful. For example, in Nunavik, Makivik Corporation's construction division continues its innovative model of building social housing units on a non-profit basis. Funding provided directly to Makivik in Budget 2016 enabled Makivik to begin to address the 1,000 housing unit backlog. In all, 144 housing units will be delivered to Nunavik families by Christmas 2017. While these units will improve housing outcomes for some Nunavik families, overcrowding with all of its consequent social and health implications continues. A further \$300 million is required to complete the task.

In the Inuvialuit region, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation are working in partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement to ensure the effective delivery of Budget 2016 housing investments in Inuvialuit communities. Nappaq, an Inuvialuit-owned construction company is constructing these units, which allows Inuvialuit to ensure that economic benefits stay in Inuvialuit communities and local capacity is enhanced. This also permits the incorporation of design elements that ensure the units are culturally relevant and appropriate for the local environment. Finally, this supports the objectives of the Section 16 Economic Measures provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

In Nunatsiavut, the Nunatsiavut Government is implementing a targeted housing repair program as well as additional initiatives aimed at achieving affordable warmth and increasing home energy efficiency. Geotechnical assessments have now been completed in all Nunatsiavut communities and these will inform lot development for future builds, and a number of new, single family and multi-plex housing units are being constructed to help address the diverse, yet significant needs in Nunatsiavut communities.

Applying an Inuit Nunangat fiscal policy in Budget 2018

Budget areas:

1. Implementing an Inuit Nunangat policy

Budget announcements should reflect the distinctions-based approach the government has adopted for its relationship with Indigenous peoples. This means that within the federal budget document itself, Inuit and all Canadians should be able to distinguish between funding which is allocated towards Inuit priorities within the broader Indigenous envelope.

Similarly, Canada should ensure Inuit-specific funding which would otherwise be included in an overall transfer to a public government should be allocated directly to Inuit governments and service providers. In the event that the federal government must continue to allocate Inuit-specific funds through transfer arrangements with provinces and territories, it should specify the minimum expectation in terms of allocated funding provinces and territories will expend on Inuit priorities, as well as identify a performance management and reporting framework to assess compliance.

2. Funding Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) priorities

On February 9, 2017, Inuit leaders and the Prime Minister jointly signed the Inuit Nunangat Declaration on the Inuit-Crown Partnership. On May 18, 2017, an Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee of Inuit leaders and federal Ministers agreed to a joint workplan to implement the Partnership Declaration. The workplan contains seven broad thematic areas:

- Land Claims
- Inuit Nunangat
- Housing
- Inuktitut revitalization, maintenance and promotion
- Reconciliation Measures
- Education, early learning and skills development
- Health and Wellness

At the time of this submission, activities to advance this joint workplan for 2017/2018 and beyond have yet to be costed. While ITK fully expects the Department to request funds to advance the workplan in 2018/19 and beyond, we reiterate that action within

many of these areas requires potential changes to policies, program criteria and, quite likely, increases in funding of existing programs or creation of new programs.

3. Inuktitut (Inuit language)

Budget 2017 resulted in the substantial expansion of the Aboriginal Languages Initiative. In addition, the Department of Heritage Canada has been working with ITK in order to reform the program criteria to the ALI to enable Inuit to access funding.

ITK is currently working to unify the Inuit language. This project requires a special investment of \$5.5 million over 3 years, beyond what is currently contemplated by the Aboriginal Languages Initiative, [which is focused mainly on community-based projects, as opposed to national-level initiatives].

4. Inuit Self-determination in Research

Inuit self-determination in research means that Inuit have oversight in setting the research agenda in our regions and communities, work as equal partners in the design, implementation and dissemination of research and have access to and --- as appropriate --- control over how information about our population is used and disseminated. Among national Indigenous organizations, ITK is a leader in proposing, conducting and communicating the results of research.

ITK is currently developing both a National Inuit Research Strategy and a joint workplan with the Ministry of Science. As with the ICPC workplan, while budget asks related to the joint workplan have not yet been completed, ITK anticipates that the Ministry of Science will also submit a request to complete the workplan later in 2017.

One immediate budget investment for 2018, and going forward, is the development of a sustainable Inuit Health Survey (IHS). ITK currently estimates that a second round of an IHS would require approximately \$40M for the next round of the IHS; however, since the importance of up to date information on the health status of Inuit is unlikely to diminish over time, ITK would request that budget 2018 announce that future rounds of an Inuit Health Survey become a permanent and ongoing activity.

5. Housing – Inuit Housing Strategy

Budget 2016 announced a new federal approach to housing, one which utilized Inuit organizations as service delivery agents for federal housing programs. As noted above, this approach has proved to be remarkably effective, not only in terms of program outcomes, but also in terms of collateral and spinoff benefits (related to economic development, jobs, etc). The approach to Inuit housing in Budget 2017 was more ambiguous. While it appears that a National Inuit Housing Strategy may restore the ability for Inuit organizations to delivery housing funds which target Inuit, ITK would

request that Budget 2018 expand both the amount of funding, and flexibility in funding arrangements.

6. Early Child Care and Education


Enhancing Inuit engagement in the labour force requires a substantial investment in early child care and education. The importance of early childhood education to the long term future of Inuit Nunangat was highlighted by the Ministerial Special Representative in the Shared Arctic Leadership Model report of March 2017. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Tungasuvvingat Inuit are currently working on a joint submission to Employment and Skills Development Canada regarding the National Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare Framework.


Consistent with the Inuit Nunangat policy, Budget 2018 should provide adequate, integrated, multi-year funding directly to Inuit organizations through transfer agreements so that Inuit-defined, high quality Early Learning and Childcare is available in each community in Inuit Nunangat.


Similarly, Early Child Care and Education provides an example of an issue in which the federal government can and should think creatively about how to support Inuit in negotiating effective regulatory and licensing changes with provinces and territories, to ensure federal investments actually result in Inuit-defined, high quality early learning and childcare throughout Inuit Nunangat.




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