



**Response to the Standing Committee on  
Oversight of Government Operations  
and Public Accounts' November 3, 2015  
Report on the Review of the 2009-2012  
and 2013-2015 Summary Reports of the  
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.**

Pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Nunavut to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' November 3, 2015 *Report on the Review of the 2009-2012 and 2013-2015 Summary Report of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*.

The Government commends the members of the Standing Committee for their valuable study examining the *2009-2012 and 2013-2015 Summary Reports of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*. The Government has thoroughly reviewed and given careful consideration to the Standing Committee Report as a whole and to the Standing Committee's recommendations pertaining to the work of the Government contained therein.

The Government finds that these recommendations are consistent with the work of advancing our Government's mandate to develop and implement policies, programs and services aimed at strengthening the culture, language and heritage for all Nunavummiut.

The Government welcomes the four recommendations directed at our work. The following sections provide information on the Government's responses to these recommendations.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #1:**

***The Standing Committee recommends that the terms of reference for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit be revised to explicitly clarify its requirements in the following areas:***

- ***The total number of meetings held by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee each year;***
- ***The Departments or public agencies to which its recommendations are directed; and,***
- ***The priorities, goals and objectives of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.***

***The Standing Committee further recommends that the Minister of Culture and Heritage begin the practice of tabling the annual reports of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit on an annual basis in a timely manner.***

## **Response:**

The Terms of Reference in use at the time of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit appearance before the standing committee had been revised and approved on May 21, 2015. Several changes were made to the TOR at that time to better reflect the role of the Katimajit, as well as changes to several issues of a technical nature and to the terms of appointment.

Having acknowledged this, it is apparent since the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit appearance before the standing committee that further clarification is needed regarding the production of annual reports, the content of the annual reports and the number of members that may be appointed to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

As a preface to addressing these three issues, it is imperative that the process of reporting of the information collected at the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit meetings toward the creation of annual reports be thoroughly communicated.

The process as it stands is as follows:

1. The Deputy Minister of the Department of Culture and Heritage sends a memo to all departments informing them of upcoming Katimajit meetings. This memo includes an invitation for departments to request time on the agenda to review the development and delivery of any projects, programs, and/or policies to seek advice about their Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit approach.
2. During the meeting with the Katimajit, departments on the agenda present their project, policy or service for review by the Katimajit of their IQ approach. The Katimajit's advice is given immediately.
3. As per the TOR, the Director of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit provides "logistical and records management support to the Katimajit". The meeting is facilitated by the Director of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and is recorded, and notes are taken by both the presenting group and a staff member of the IQ Division. In the weeks following the meeting, the recording is transcribed and compiled into a summary report.
4. Within 30 days following the meeting, the departments on the agenda are requested to submit to the Director of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit a summary report with their analysis of the meeting and the recommendations they received from the Katimajit.
5. Within 45 days of the IQ Katimajit meeting, the IQ Division provides a summary report of the entire 3-day meeting to all participants, as well as to the Deputy Minister of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

In response to the report by the standing committee, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Division has created one more point of contact between the Division and the Departments who sought advice with the IQ Katimajit.

6. A further follow up will be initiated within 60 days with these departments, and within 120 days a report on the status of the implementation of the recommendations will be required by departments.

### **Production of annual reports**

An annual report of the information gained from these meetings is compiled at the end of every fiscal year. This report compiles the three summary reports from the IQ Katimajit meetings into one omnibus report to be submitted to the Minister of the Department of Culture and Heritage for distribution to Departments.

It is important to highlight that until now the summary reports have been considered “informational items” to Cabinet, and were distributed as such.

### **Content of the annual report**

The content of the annual report is a summary of the information collected at the three meetings of the Katimajit from the previous year, as well as a list of their recommendations and advice.

With regards to making explicitly clear “the departments or public agencies to which its recommendations are directed”, it should be noted that when a department meets with the Katimajit for advice, that advice is given immediately. The details of the meeting are recorded by both the department seeking advice and the Department of Culture and Heritage. The notes from these meetings are compiled to form the annual reports. However, in response to the standing committee’s request, the annual reports will be organized as such that the recommendations and advice given by the Katimajit will be clearly distinguished along with the Department to which it is being given. The formal responses given by Departments 30 days and 120 days after meeting with the Katimajit will be included in these reports and clearly identified.

In regard to the standing committee request that “annual reports provide explicitly clear information about the priorities, goals and objectives of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit”, it should be noted that as per the TOR, the Katimajit is to “provide advice and assistance with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to the Government of Nunavut”, and are an “advisory resource for all departments to consult on their Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit initiatives”. The Katimajit has been operating in the spirit of this directive in their interactions with GN departments; departments are notified that there will be a meeting, and it is up to them to utilize this resource. In short, the Katimajit does not create priorities, goals and objectives in this manner.

Recommendation #1 by the standing committee concludes with reference to the tabling of reports. The IQ Katimajit annual reports have been presented as “informational items” to Cabinet. Future reports will be tabled on an annual basis with the Legislative Assembly.

## **Number of members in the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit**

As pointed out in the response from the standing committee the current Katimajit has more than nine members, which contradicts the current Terms of Reference that states that a “minimum of six and a maximum of nine members” will make up the committee. A 10th member was added to this sitting because it was noted that there was no one on the committee who spoke Inuinnaqtun.

In response to this discrepancy, the Department of Culture and Heritage is pleased to report that it has revised the TOR to state that a “maximum of 10 members” will be appointed to the Katimajit to represent Nunavut “geographically and linguistically”. The revised TOR are attached to this Response.

In response to the remainder of this recommendation, the Department of Culture and Heritage will revise the annual reports to make explicitly clear:

“The total number of meetings held each year”: This information will be given along with the date of each meeting.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #2:**

***The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide formal responses to each of the thirty-four recommendations that have been made by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit since 2009.***

***The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut begin the practice of providing formal responses to the recommendations of the Inuit Katimajit on an annual basis.***

***The standing committee further recommends that the Premier, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut as a whole, begin the practice of tabling the Government of Nunavut’s formal responses to the recommendations of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit in the Legislative Assembly.***

In response to this recommendation, the Department of Culture prepared a tracking document with the IQ Katimajit’s thirty-four recommendations. This document was distributed to departments for their responses and comments.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #3**

***The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a clear timeline by which it plans to complete and make publically available its Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Strategy.***

***The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, indicate what specific tools for monitoring and implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be included in its Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Strategy.***

***The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a clear timeline by which it plans to develop and produce the following mechanisms:***

- ***Department-specific goals and objectives that will guide government staff in incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in its delivery of services and day-to-day operations;***
- ***Policies and procedures by which it will ensure that its laws, policies programs and services reflect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit;***
- ***Benchmarks and criteria by which it will measure its progress to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in its laws, policies, programs and services.***
- ***Oversight measure that it will implement to ensure that its Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit legislation and policies are adhered to an implemented and that its programs and services are delivered through an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit approach.***

As a preface to the response to this recommendation, it should be noted that the “Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Strategy”, as it is referred in this recommendation, is now being presented as a “Framework”.

Facilitated by the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Government of Nunavut aims to present a draft of the GN-wide Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Framework at the end of **March, 2016**, a projection date that is reflected in the Business Plan for the department. This draft will largely reflect the work of the interdepartmental IQ Framework Committee, and will include the specific tools for monitoring and implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the Government of Nunavut.

This Framework will be set for tabling in the fall session 2016, after which time it will be made public and distributed to all GN departments.

In response to the final recommendation in this section asking that the IQ Framework include “oversight measures that it will implement to ensure that its Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit legislation and policies are adhered to and implemented and that its programs and services are delivered through an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit approach” it should be noted that there is no Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit legislation in place currently. This Framework will be the policy to guide departments in the creation of their programs and service delivery.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #4**

***The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut revise the terms of reference of the Tuttarviit Committee to:***

- ***Require each department and public agency to appoint a representative to the Tuttarviit Committee;***

- ***Clarify the circumstances under which the Tuttarviit Committee must consult with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit;***
- ***Clarify the circumstances under which the Tuttarviit Committee must follow-up on the recommendations of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit; and***
- ***Clarify how often the Tuttarviit Committee is required to meet.***

Through the Deputy Minister of Culture and Heritage, the Government of Nunavut ensures that departments are urged to appoint a representative to the Tuttarviit Committee. Government of Nunavut departments and agencies are not accountable to Culture and Heritage, and this action remains a request. At the time of the IQ Katimajit appearance before the standing committee, 11 departments had active members in Tuttarviit. In response to this recommendation, a further request was sent to departments urging them to appoint a member to the Tuttarviit Committee.

In addition, the Government of Nunavut is pleased to report that it has amended the Terms of Reference for the Tuttarviit committee to more clearly communicate the ways by which Tuttarviit and the IQ Katimajit interact. The amended TOR are attached to this Response.

I would like to thank the Standing Committee for their time in dedicating to review the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.