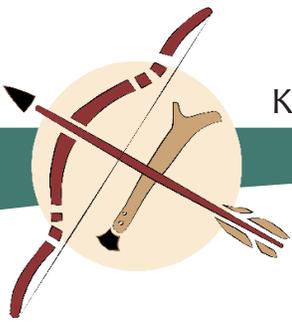




Kitikmeot Heritage Society 2017-18 fiscal year report





In 2017, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society (KHS) finds itself contemplating large-scale changes to its organization, operations, and identity. For two decades, the organization has been a subtle, yet persistent, force in shaping the culture and heritage environment in the Canadian Arctic. KHS has now matured into a recognized and authoritative cultural organization. While this rise has brought success to KHS' profile and programs, it has also required the need to revisit and re-assess the direction and operations of the organization.

Over the course of the year, KHS began laying the groundwork for a new strategic plan to capitalize on its strong reputation in order to create further expansion, partnerships and growth. This new direction has manifest in the building of a new Inuit knowledge centre, the development of a new social enterprise wing of its organization, and increased involvement in research and multi-year programs. The challenge for these new projects, and the year as a whole, has been ensuring that KHS' growth is compatible with the organization's existing staff capacity and core values of sustainability and community wellness.

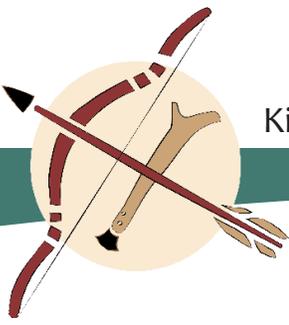
Perhaps one of the largest shifts represented by this year, is the strengthening of KHS' identity as an Inuinnait-focused organization. With an increasing number of cultural initiatives and organizations emerging throughout Nunavut, the KHS has gradually begun to carve out a more narrowly defined identity and specialty as an Inuinnait-focused organization. 'Inuinnait' is a term with multiple historical

and contemporary meanings. If continuing to identify itself with Inuinnait, the KHS felt the need to explore and better determine how local people are adopting the term as part of their lives and identities. This work includes:

- Defining the history and parameters of the term 'Inuinnait;'
- Linking the KHS academically with conversations and research relating to Inuinnait populations;
- Outlining the KHS' organization's responsibilities when bringing Inuinnait culture to a national stage;
- Determining how a focus on Inuinnait identity will impact the rest of the organization's operations, programming, and funding.

In addition to asking new questions of Inuinnait identity, the KHS strategized over the course of this year to further define directions and priorities to assist with its identity transition. This includes outlining the following research objectives for the coming year.

- There are currently no definitive academic publications on Inuinnait identity. The KHS should take the lead on publishing an article relating to historical uses of the term 'Inuinnait' and its evolution into an identity increasingly used by and expanded upon by northern communities. By creating this article, the KHS will set the tone for academic use of the term and become a primary citation for research relating to Inuinnait culture, history and society.



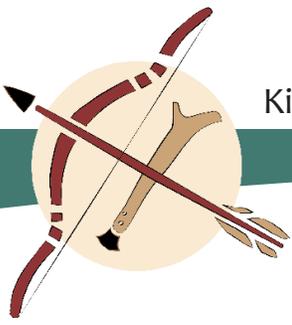
- The KHS should become a prime mover behind cultural and artistic collaboration and programming that brings together Inuinait communities. This will entail the creation of new research and project networks between Iqaluktuuttiaq, Ulukhaktok and Kugluktuk, communities traditionally separated due to territorial boundaries. This network is particularly important for creating ties between families, and for filling gaps in research that result from other organizations not having jurisdiction/funding to work across multiple territories.
- The KHS should create more digital infrastructure to manage Inuinait research design and delivery at a larger scale. The KHS has extensive experience working with developers and can create designs that are adapted specifically to community need. The KHS should consider investing in the development of programs such as archive and collections databases, knowledge atlases, and oral history platforms that can help the organization build capacity in other communities, and situate itself in the middle of important northern research and conversations.

With the pursuit of these future research directions in mind, the KHS prioritized four areas of program development over the course of the 2017-18 year. These include: Museums Exhibits and Programming, Inuinait Cultural Research, Building Sustainability, and Digital Knowledge Strategies. These will each be described in turn.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMMING

The 2017-18 saw the creation of a new large-scale exhibit at the KHS to document history and change in Inuinait culture. The exhibit is titled *Patterns of Change: 150 Years in the Inuinait Parka* and is funded for multiple years through the Canadian Heritage MAP program. Over the course of the exhibit's development, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society held a series of intergenerational workshops during which participants reproduced period appropriate parkas and sewing tools from five distinct time periods in Canadian Arctic history. These parkas and tools will be integrated into a final exhibit and an associated bilingual website that will be launched in 2019. The exhibit will use a series of parkas to speak directly to social, economic and cultural dynamics in Inuinait life during various periods over the last 150 years. The patterns for the parkas will become part of a pattern library maintained by the Society and available for loan to residents of Cambridge Bay. During 2017-18, three workshops were held to research and create patterns and period-appropriate tools to sew parkas illustrative particular periods of time in Arctic history. The parka styles completed represent parkas from 1930, 1980 and a contemporary parka from 2017. This work included community research into accurate materials and sewing techniques, historical and contemporary parka patterns, oral histories, and current events and other stories relevant to the chosen time periods.

A second large-scale exhibit project from this year was the curation of 'Inuinnauyugut: We are Inuinait' at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. This is a community-driven exhibit designed to re-think the



centennial anniversary of Inuinnait contact with the western world. Between 1913 and 1918, the Canadian Arctic Expedition traveled the Central Arctic, documenting the culture and lifeways of a group they called the Copper Eskimo. This encounter opened the gateway to new people, materials and ways of life, and within a matter of years, the world of the Inuinnait was dramatically altered. This exhibit pairs historic Artefacts collected by the Canadian Arctic Expedition with contemporary artworks, stories and perspectives of Inuinnait to meditate on how their world has changed, adapted and persevered over the last 100 years. The exhibit opened to the public in the Museum of Nature's Northern Voices Gallery on June 21st and is scheduled to run until December 2019.

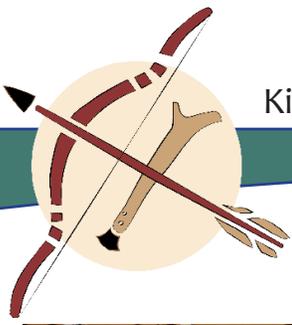
In June 2017, a team of seven artists and Elders from Cambridge Bay traveled to Ottawa to attend

the grand opening of the exhibit. The group spent three days assisting with the finishing detail work of the exhibit's installation and provided media interviews and contributed to public education events surrounding the exhibit. Following an incredibly successful grand opening, the group traveled to Niagara Falls as part of a Canada 150 celebration grant.

In December 2017, KHS staff traveled to Denmark with two Cambridge Bay Elders to pursue further research surrounding the 5th Thule Expedition collection. Over the course of 1 week, Elders and staff examined multiple Inuinnait objects and provided contextual information relating to their function, terminology, and cultural role. All engagements between Elders and the collections were video documented and the footage uploaded into the KHS' 5th Thule digital database.



Elders and Artists from Cambridge Bay attend the grand opening of the Inuinnauyugut exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa.



Bessie Omilgoetok examines an Inuinait parka collected by Knud Rasmussed at the Danish National Museum.

INUINNAIT CULTURAL RESEARCH

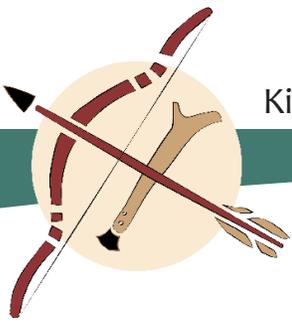
The KHS continued to pursue an intensive cultural research program throughout the 2017-18 year as part of its new Inuinait research strategy. For the 6th year running, the organization held its Elders in Residence program, which hires local Elders to work on-site at the May Hakongak Cultural Centre to provide cultural counseling, assist with program development and ensure that all of KHS' projects remain aligned with Inuinait cultural values and priorities. In addition to working on the Patterns of Change and Inuinnauyugut exhibits, participating Elders researched and designed a set of 3 elaborate wall-hangings depicting 150 years of change in the Cambridge Bay community. These

wall hangings were commissioned by the new Canadian High Arctic Research Station to display in its new building.

In July 2017, the KHS hosted its annual land-camp. This year's camp was held at Bathurst Inlet, and brought together families from the area, Inuinait Elders and youth, and University of Toronto archaeologist Dr. Max Friesen. The land-camp was designed as a pilot for an annual cultural school to bridge oral history, Inuinnaqtun language, land-based knowledge and archaeology to help develop a new generation of Inuinait leaders. The camp was nominated as a finalist for the 2018 Arctic Inspiration Prize, and received 5 years of SSHRC funding to support its future archaeological research.



Participants en route to the land camp at Bathurst Inlet.



Inuinnaqtun language work became an increasing focus for the KHS throughout the 2017-18 year. The organization undertook a project to translate Inuinnaqtun culture documents produced through the 5th Thule Expedition. The Expedition's lead researcher, Knud Rasmussen, documented extensive amounts of Inuinnaqtun language and knowledge through an ideosyncratic writing system that remains unintelligible to most Inuinnaqtun readers. This project sought to work with Inuinnaqtun language experts to re-translate the text back into Inuinnaqtun. The primary document of translation was the research volume *Intellectual Culture of the Copper Eskimo*. This volume contains the texts of 30 songs and 53 stories, and approximately 1800 Inuinnaqtun terms. The KHS worked alongside professional interpreter/translator Gwen Angulalik, and language and song specialists Julia Ogina and Emily Angulalik to revive these songs and stories

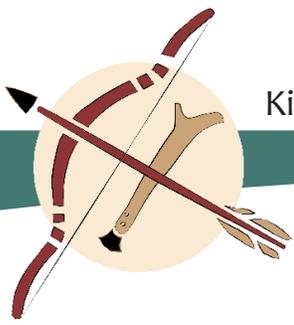
in standardized orthography. The KHS produced both a publication on the results and incorporated many new words into the existing Inuinnaqtun dictionary.

BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY

As a non-profit organization reliant on grant-based funding, the KHS is continually vulnerable to changes in the political and economic environment, research trends, and outside priorities for culture and heritage funding. As a means of minimizing the impact of these forces on the KHS, the organization began a process of diversifying its revenue sources. In 2017-18, the KHS laid the groundwork for two new programs designed to increase financial stability, namely the establishment of a new social enterprise named Pitquhikhainik Ilihainiq Inc., and the creation of a new philanthropy program.



Pitquhikhainik Ilihainiq Inc. board members and KHS staff meet with the team from Beaver Rock Roastery to discuss the Kaapittiaq coffee venture.



Pitquhikhainik Ilihainiq Inc. (PII) was ultimately developed to create more financial independence and dedicated cultural program funding for the KHS. It was also envisioned as a potential new model for cultural sector sustainability in Nunavut. PII was devised as a solution to creating a more reliable and self-managed revenue stream for KHS by donating 75% of its annual revenue to the organization each year.

In April 2017, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society opened discussion with ED&T regarding the funding of PII, and its first business venture called Kaapittiaq coffee. An application for support was subsequently made under the small business opportunities fund, with the specific goals of:

- Working with financial, legal and social entrepreneurship consultants to outline a suitable structure for the business that is compatible with the operations of a non-profit organization.
- Working with consultants to outline a product management structure and marketing strategy, and to develop product branding and labeling.
- Building KHS business capacity and knowledge through academic training, and intensive involvement with both financial and product development consultants.
- Establishing a comprehensive strategy and narrative for the development of Kaapittiaq that can be used to target federal and territorial funding, as well as additional investors

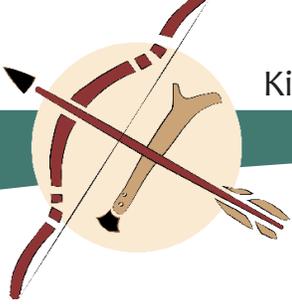
The funding application was ultimately successful, and the KHS formally incorporated PII with an independent board of directors in early April 2018.



Mabel Etegiq and Annie Atighioyak on the *Maid of the Mist* boat tour at Niagara Falls.

In June 2017, PII directors and KHS members visited the projected Ontario-based site of Kaapittiaq production to familiarize themselves with production methods, quality control and key team members in the project.

A second financial initiative undertaken by the KHS was the establishment of a philanthropy program. Throughout the year, KHS staff undertook multiple training courses with philanthropy consultant Dianne Lister to clarify the organization's strategic initiatives, and learn the art of building investor relationships.



Over the course of the year, the KHS continued to develop its plans for a new stand-alone building called the Inuinnait Knowledge Centre. This building is intended to be the Cambridge Bay headquarters for the organization, and was provided with seed funding through Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.. This year's initial phase of planning included the development of key concepts surrounding the building's role and relationship to Inuinnait culture. An extensive concept plan was produced, which includes an assessment of various locations for construction, and inventory of required resources, potential directions for research, a concept map for the building's layout, and case study and cost analyses of three similar heritage centre buildings built in the Canadian Arctic over the last three years.

DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE STRATEGIES

Over the course of 2017-18, the KHS sought to enhance the IT and collections management infrastructure of the May Hakongak Cultural Centre. This included multiple visits to Cambridge Bay by research partners from Carleton University's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre to install IT improvements. In January 2018, a local server was installed in the Cultural Centre along with local versions of KHS knowledge atlases. At the end of March 2018 a 65" touch screen was added to the system which allows local users to access KHS knowledge Atlases directly. The local server allows people in the Centre as well as subscribers to the internet service provider Qiniq in Cambridge Bay to access a local copy of the Atlases, meaning that the performance of the applications is not hampered by speed limitations of satellite Internet. An additional element of the project was a training workshop with a youth from Cambridge Bay and a youth from Gjoa Haven. The two learned how to use the Atlases and worked with Elders to add new Inuit knowledge to the system.



Local High School students engage with the KHS' place names Atlas on a newly installed digital touch-screen.