ANNUAL REPORT 25 26



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ANGUVIGAQ

Note: This Activity report is not intended to report on finances. Financial reports are presented at the Annual General Meeting and at Board Meetings.

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ANGUVIGAQ

PO Box 40
Tasiujaq (Quebec)
J0M 1T0

Tel: 844 964-4382
www.anguvigaq.ca

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MANDATE

We are a nonprofit association mandated to protect the harvesting rights of Inuit while ensuring that it is done sustainably. We act as an umbrella organization for all wildlife issues and provide direction on harvesting, conservation, and research.

We support the Anguvigait, which are elected in each of the fifteen Inuit communities for the purpose of local wildlife and harvesting management. In each community, Anguvigait board members are hunters, trappers, or fishermen whose knowledge and expertise allow them to represent community wildlife priorities and concerns. They determine local management actions and communicate concerns to the regional level.

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TEAM

Updated as of March 2026

EXECUTIVES



EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT

Billy Palliser



ACTING VICE PRESIDENT

James May



EXECUTIVE TREASURER

Daniel Oovaut



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Billy Dan May

STAFF



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Adam Gardner



WILDLIFE SECRETARIAT MANAGER

Joy Aragootak



DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE POLICY AND RESEARCH

Mikhaela Neelin



HARVEST MONITORING COORDINATOR

Shirley-Ann Ekomiak



REGIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR

Alec Niviaxie



COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Kathy Aputiarjuk



ANGUVIGAIT FINANCE OFFICER

Martha Amidlak Berthe



REGIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Mary Berthe

GRADUATE TEAM MEMBERS



PHD – BIRDS

Catherine Geoffroy



PHD – BELUGAS

Jacob Seguin

ANGUVIGAIT

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Kangiqsualujjuaq

PRESIDENT: Jaiku Arnatuk
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Claude St-Aubin
BOD: Elijah Baron
Jamie Annanack
Charlie Annanack

Kuujjuaq

PRESIDENT: George Peters
VICE-PRESIDENT: Emma Cain
BOD: Bryan David
Tiivi Dupuis
Norman Cooper

Tasiujaq

PRESIDENT: James May
VICE-PRESIDENT: Johnny Cain
BOD: Billy Dan May
Charlie Angnatuk
Jusipi Kauki

Aupaluk

PRESIDENT: Ituk Akpahatak
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Aloupa Grey-Eetook
BOD:
Charlie Hashempour Bonabi
Willie Akpahatak
Edward Iggyook

Kangirsuk

PRESIDENT: Tommy Kudluk
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Edua Lucassie
BOD: Allen Augiak
Jobie Nuvuuka
Collin Kauki*

Quaqtaq

PRESIDENT: Matthew Okpik
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Willie Jararuse
BOD: Lucy Kritik
Janice Keleutak
Daniel Oovaut

Kangiqsujuaq

PRESIDENT: Aquujaq Qisiiq
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Simon Qumaaluk
BOD: Piari Kulula
Putulik Jaaka
Willie Alaku

Salluit

PRESIDENT: Masiu Alaku
BOD: Eli Quananak
Johnny I. Kadjulik
Noah Qumak
Bobby Ilisituk

Ivujivik

PRESIDENT: Ali Qavavauk
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Charlie Paningajak
BOD: Daniel Jaaka
Juanasi Sirqualuk
Saviarjuk Paningajak

Akulivik

PRESIDENT: Juusi Aliqu
BOD: Eli Angiyou*
Samisa Qinuajuak
Harry Qullialuk
Nowrapik Tukai

Puvirnituq

PRESIDENT: James Napartuk
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Juani Beaulne
BOD: Jean-Marie Beaulne
Adamie Angiyou
Jackusi Ittukalak

Inukjuak

PRESIDENT:
Jobie Oweetaluktuk
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Saumik Inukpuk
BOD: Laz Tukai
Charlie Elijassiapik
Samwillie Amidlak

Umiujaq

PRESIDENT: Aliva Tookalook
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Sarowillie Anowak
BOD:
Jaco Sammy Harry Crow
Jack Niviaxie
Samson Crow

Kuujjuaraapik

PRESIDENT: Mary Silarqi Sala
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Joana Fleming
TREASURER/SECRETARY:
Jeffrey Menarick
BOD: Silas Cookie
Willie Novalinga

Chisasibi

PRESIDENT: Benjamin Monger
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Ruby Menarick
TREASURER/SECRETARY:
Nutta Koperkualuk
BOD: Charlie Fleming
Davidee Shauk

**We want to acknowledge Eli Angiyou (Akulivik) and Collin Kauki (Kangirsuk) who passed away this year. Both were on the Boards of their local Anguvigaqs in 2025-2026. Eli, on top of being a local Board of Director, was also in the past an Executive of the Regional Anguvigaq. We want to recognize both Collin and Eli for their commitment of serving Anguvigaq, the wildlife, their communities, and the hunters at local and regional levels.*

EXECUTIVE REPORTS



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BILLY PALLISER

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT

I would like to begin by thanking the Board of Directors, our local Anguvigait, management, and staff for their continued commitment throughout the past year. As President, it remains a priority for me to ensure that Inuit voices, knowledge, and harvesting practices are meaningfully represented in the decisions that affect wildlife management across Nunavik.

Over the past year, Anguvigaq has continued to grow both in its responsibilities and its involvement in wildlife management. One of our priorities has been to strengthen our relationship with the local Anguvigait and ensure they have a clear understanding of their mandates and responsibilities and held introductory discussions with local Anguvigait and continued working towards providing them with the support they need.

Beluga management remained one of our most important files throughout the year. I continued to participate in the Beluga Working Group and the annual review process under the Nunavik Beluga Management Plan. With new information continuing to emerge from DFO science regarding Eastern Hudson Bay beluga, it is increasingly important that Inuit knowledge and the experience of our harvesters remain an important part of management discussions. Anguvigaq continues to follow this work closely and to ensure that local Anguvigait are informed and prepared to participate in future management processes.

I also continued to participate in the Caribou Protection Plan and related discussions concerning the management and protection of Nunavik's caribou herds. These discussions remain important to our communities and Anguvigaq continues to emphasize the importance of Inuit knowledge, and meaningful community involvement when management is being considered.

Research has remained an important area of our work. Our Board of Directors held a research-focused meeting in Kangiqsujuaq in March, providing an opportunity to discuss research priorities and how Anguvigaq and local Anguvigait can play a stronger role in wildlife research. I have continued my involvement with Atanniuvik through Anguvigaq's appointment. As Nunavik develops greater capacity and leadership over research, it is important that Inuit have a meaningful role in determining research priorities and how knowledge and information from our communities are collected and used.

Internally, Anguvigaq continues to develop as an organization. With that growth comes the need to strengthen our governance, internal structures, policies, and procedures. During the year, we began working with professional advisors to review these areas and identify ways to improve the organization while also strengthening the support available to our local Anguvigait. This work will continue as Anguvigaq takes on greater responsibilities throughout the region.


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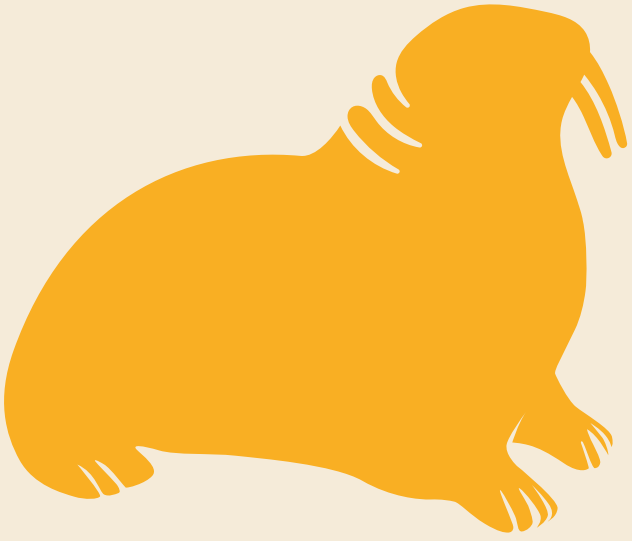
I continue to attend our Board of Directors meetings and remain actively involved in the different committees and working groups where Anguvigaq is represented and continue to participate in the regular meetings of Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board. The amount of work taking place across wildlife management, research, governance, and regional issues continues to grow, and it is important that Anguvigaq maintains a strong presence wherever decisions affecting Nunavik Inuit and our harvesting practices are being discussed.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the dedication and commitment of our management team and staff. Much of the work of Anguvigaq takes place behind the scenes, and their continued efforts make it possible for the Board, local Anguvigait, and the organization as a whole to carry out our responsibilities.

There remains much work ahead, and I look forward to continuing to strengthen Anguvigaq together with our Board, local Anguvigait, staff, and communities. Our continued goal is to ensure that Nunavik Inuit have a strong voice in wildlife management and that Inuit knowledge, harvesting practices, and the priorities of our communities continue to guide the work we do.





JAMES MAY

ACTING EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

To begin this letter, I would like to thank the Anguvigaq Board of Directors for their confidence in me over the past nine years. In October 2025 I stepped down from my position as President due to family reasons. The travel required in that position was difficult to maintain with the family commitments that I have. My retirement ended very quickly, however, as the Board selected me for the role of Acting Vice President. I am grateful that the Board has confidence in me, and I have been committed to representing Anguvigaq well in my new position. I have decided that I will be running for the position of Vice President in the coming elections, with the support of my amazing wife who believes that our work at Anguvigaq is for the better future of Nunavimmiut, harvesters, and wildlife. When it comes to this type of Executive position, it takes the commitment of the whole family. I am grateful to my family for their support.

This year has been an adjusting phase for me. I have continued to take care of many different files, committees, and projects that I was already participating in, and I have also been very committed to ensuring that our staff has support from us Executives. I have made a priority of receiving and responding to community concerns and have worked hard to support the local Anguvigait in resolving problems as they arise.

A lot of work has been done on the Nasivvik project this year alongside Makivvik, and we hope that the Anguvigait will continue to be engaged in this project. The app and the weather stations will be very useful tools. We ask that community members be patient with us as we are finalizing details and repairing hiccups, with the expectation that there will soon be a full roll-out and weather data that will be useful for harvesters' safety on the land.

I have also been working on the caribou file, which includes progress towards an Inuit-led Caribou Protection Plan. We have been advancing the development of this plan alongside a group of Inuit experts and have been participating in many meetings. We had a difficult year with the passing of an important and respected member of our committee, Sammy Unatweenuk, on April 30th, 2025. He provided valuable knowledge and lived with caribou his whole life. He saw the decline of the George River herd and the rise of the Torngat herd and brought his diverse knowledge of caribou to the table to advance Inuit-led management planning. I would also like to thank Bobby Tayara of Salluit for accepting our invitation to join the committee. We continue to make headway, although it is not an easy file. Stay tuned for more updates from the Caribou Protection Plan Working Group.

This year has been challenging for many of the Anguvigaq staff and Executives, with many losses and hardships. I try to fill in roles and responsibilities in order to support my colleagues as they take time away during those difficult times. Through all of our work, we aim to be a team that supports each other while working towards our mandate, to ensure that Inuit voices are heard in wildlife management.



DANIEL OOVAUT

EXECUTIVE TREASURER

Hello fellow Inuit,

I would like to acknowledge the good work done by the Anguvigaq staff and Board of Directors; our work is important for now and for future generations. Our mandate has been growing to adjust to the evolving wildlife management landscape in Nunavik, as the management plans are constantly changing.

We have been trying to find ways to streamline our work, so that the organization runs as smoothly as it can. Our staff try to help support the local Anguvigait, especially by bringing the administrative and financial work up to date. We have also been holding meetings and trainings to improve the structure and finances of the regional Anguvigaq. There have been efforts to secure more long-term operational funding for the regional and local Anguvigait, as we have been reaching the end of most of the project funding we rely on. This includes meeting frequently with Makivvik to try to find the best ways that we can serve our members through our collaboration.

We have a lot of projects which we work on, and not enough space in the report to go over them all. This past year, I spent time working with our staff and consultants (JP Brochu and Cloudberry) to document Inuit knowledge of Beluga in preparation for the Beluga Public Hearings. Beluga discussions have been ongoing, since the management plan was extended by a year. There will be further work and important decisions to be made. We want the best possible outcome for hunters. We keep fighting for our fellow Nunavimmiut.

We also tried to host a bowhead hunt in Quaqtaq. Although we sighted quite a few, we were unfortunately not able to harvest any this year. Discussions are underway about the future of bowhead harvesting efforts in Nunavik for the coming years.

There have been research projects around Nunavik in partnership with Makivvik's Nunavik Research Centre. One of these projects is the Phycotoxin program, which aims to measure levels of harmful algae that could produce toxins which can impact marine animals, especially mussels, and cause sickness in humans. I have been involved in discussions about the sampling program, which are being done in Quaqtaq and Umiujaq.

In the winter our team was also touring and promoting the Nasivvik app, which we have been creating with Makivvik. We are encouraging the use of the app by hunters to provide harvest information for decision-making.

Other meetings I have been involved with are meetings with the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board, All Organizations meetings hosted by Makivvik, Anguvigaq staff and executive meetings, Beluga Working Group meetings, Anguvigaq Board of Director Meetings and many virtual meetings with our partner organizations.

Our work is never done, and always changing. It is all of our responsibility to be stewards of our land and waters. Be safe!



BILLY DAN MAY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Hello, fellow Nunavimmiut,

I hope everyone had a good spring, summer, and winter. I would first like to take a moment to recognize and thank the hunters of Nunavik for the important role you continue to play in our communities.

Your dedication to providing nutritious traditional food and supporting food security throughout Nunavik does not go unnoticed. Many of you spend time away from your families, travelling on the land and water, and facing the challenges that come with hunting in our territory. Your efforts help feed not only your own families, but also your fellow Inuit, and for that, I would like to express my sincere appreciation.

This past year has been a very busy and productive year at Anguvigaq. In my role as Executive Secretary, I have been responsible for a wide range of administrative duties and organizational responsibilities. This has included reviewing and following up on resolutions, signing important documents, signing payment requests, authorizing payments, and helping with the day-to-day operations of the organization.

I have also had the opportunity to work on and support various projects and initiatives, including the Nasivvik App. I have participated in the community tours for the launch of the App, and attended numerous meetings, both in person and virtually, whenever my participation was required.

As Executive Secretary, I always try to remain open, available, and ready to take on the responsibilities that come with the position. Whether it is administrative work behind the scenes, helping staff and the organization move projects forward, or participating in meetings and community activities, I understand that every part of the job contributes to the work we do for Nunavimmiut.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position and to contribute to the work of Anguvigaq. There is always more work to be done, and I look forward to continuing to support our organization, our communities, and the people of Nunavik in the year ahead.

I would also like to thank the Anguvigaq Board, staff, community members, hunters, and everyone who has contributed their time, knowledge, and support throughout the year. Your continued involvement is what helps make our work possible.

Nakurmiik to everyone for your continued support, and especially to the hunters who continue to provide for our communities and strengthen food security across Nunavik.

I look forward to another productive year and to continuing this important work together.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration Team at Anguvigaq keeps everything we do running. In 2025-2026, Joy Aragootak and Adam Gardner, with Mikhaela Neelin's support, managed most of that work on a day-to-day basis. They provide the structure for the Anguvigaq Executives and staff to be able to do their jobs, and also assist the Anguvigait in their operations.



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This work takes on many forms:

- Planning large events like the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Research Meeting,
- Planning Anguvigait Manager Trainings,
- Assisting the Anguvigait Managers in their day-to-day operations,
- Assisting the Anguvigait Managers with local elections,
- Booking travel and accommodations for Anguvigaq Executives, Staff and the Anguvigait,
- Creating agendas, resolutions, and taking minutes for BOD and Executive meetings,
- Assisting with the creation of resolutions for the Anguvigait,
- Managing files and communications internally and with the Anguvigait,
- Applying for funding and reporting to funders,
- and much, much more.

The Administration Team is also working closely with the growing Finance Team. Daniel Oovaut is responsible for the overall Anguvigaq finances as Executive Treasurer. Mary Berthe acts as Finance Officer focused on Anguvigaq files. And Martha Amidlak Berthe is the Anguvigait Finance Officer. In this role, she helps the Anguvigait develop sound and transparent financial structures and procedures.

In 2025-2026, a priority was, reviewing our internal structures to be able to ensure we are operating well as an organization, and that we are able to assist the Anguvigait to the best of our abilities. External consultants were brought on to assist with HR, Governance and Strategic Planning. This work will continue in 2026-2027.

Thank you so much for the work that our Administration and Finance Teams do! As the work is often in the background, they do not always get the recognition they deserve. But without them, nothing we do would be possible.





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DATES AND MEETINGS

APRIL 8-10	Manager Training	Montreal	Adam, Joy, Martha, Shirley-Ann, Alec
APRIL 8-12	All Organizations Meeting	Montreal	Daniel, James
APRIL 14-16	Inuit Climate Leadership Meeting	Kuujjuaq	Adam, Mikhaela, Billy Dan
APRIL 23-24	Caribou Protection Plan Meeting	Montreal	James, Billy, Mikhaela (virtual: Billy Dan)
APRIL 25	Harvest Monitoring App	Montreal	Mikhaela, Adam, Shirley-Ann
MAY 5-9	Management Meeting	Tasiujaq	Adam, Joy, Mikhaela, Billy Dan, James, Daniel (virtual: Billy)
MAY 6-8	SIKU workshops	Inukjuak	Alec
MAY 25-30	Packing container for renovations	Montreal	Mikhaela
JUNE 2	Virtual Beluga Working Group Meeting		
JUNE 3-4	Start of the Ungunniavik research camp		Jacob, Kathy, Catherine
JUNE 3-JULY 28	Hydrophone/bird recorder deployments		Catherine, Tony
JUNE 3-5	NMRWB Meeting	Virtual	James, Billy, Billy Dan, Adam, Mikhaela
JUNE 3-5	Polar Bear research training	Kuujjuarapik	Alec
JUNE 6	Harvest Monitoring App Meeting	Montreal	Mikhaela, Adam
JUNE 9-10	NMRWB Polar Bear deliberations	Gatineau	Billy, Mikhaela, Adam (virtual: James, Billy Dan)
JUNE 11-13	NMRWB Beluga Annual Review	Gatineau	Billy, Mikhaela (virtual: James, Billy Dan)

JUNE 17	Anguvigaq Administrative Meeting	Inukjuak	Sasha, Adam, Joy
JUNE 18-19	NMRWB-Anguvigaq Meeting	Inukjuak	Adam, Joy, Martha, Sasha
JUNE 25-26	Meeting with Mylene Lariviere for Legal Purposes	Quebec City	Adam, Joy
AUGUST-NOVEMBER	Anguvigaq office renovations	Tasiujaq	
AUGUST 5	SIKU training	Akulivik	Alec
AUGUST 19	Board of Directors meeting	Virtual	
AUGUST 25-26	Beluga Meeting	Kuujjuaq	Mikhaela, Billy Dan, Dan (virtual: Billy)
AUGUST 27-28	Finance meeting	Montreal	Adam, Mary, Martha, Joy, Dan (virtual: Mikhaela)
SEPTEMBER 4	SIKU training	Ivujivik	Alec
SEPTEMBER 9-11	Caribou Meeting	Kuujjuaq	Billy (virtual: James, Billy Dan)
SEPTEMBER 9-11	Manager Training	Montreal	Mikhaela, Joy, Adam, Martha, Elena
SEPTEMBER 16-17	Harvest Monitoring Meeting	Quebec City	Elena, Adam, Mikhaela
SEPTEMBER 24	Virtual BOD meeting about elections		
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2	NMRWB Meeting	Online	Mikhaela, Dan, Billy Dan, Billy, James, Jacob, Catherine
OCTOBER 1-3	Beluga validation workshops	Puvirnituq	Billy, Kathy, consultants
OCTOBER 6-7	Beluga validation workshops	Tasiujaq	Billy Dan, Kathy, Mikhaela, consultants
OCTOBER 7	Community Impact Assessment Workshop	Kuujjuaq	Virtual: Adam
OCTOBER 9-10	Beluga validation workshop	Kangiqsualujjuaq	Billy Dan, Kathy, consultants
OCTOBER 14	Assisting Kuujjuaq Anguvigaq with finances	Kuujjuaq	Martha, Mikhaela
OCTOBER 14-19	Arctic Circle Assembly	Rekyavik	Kathy
OCTOBER 15-17	Assisting Salluit Anguvigaq with finances/election preparations	Salluit	Mikhaela (virtual: Martha)
OCTOBER 21-23	Annual General Meeting	Puvirnituq	James, Billy Dan, Billy, Dan, Adam, Mikhaela, Joy, Alec, Martha, Mary, Kathy, Jacob, Catherine (virtual: Sasha)
NOVEMBER 1	Anguvigaq Monitoring Project/ SIKU app training	Aupaluk	Alec Niviaxie
NOVEMBER 3	Nunavik-DFO-CCG Arctic Region Table meeting	Virtual	Billy Palliser
NOVEMBER 4-5	Off-boarding	Inukjuak	Joy
NOVEMBER 3-6	Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee	Kuujjuaq	Mikhaela

NOVEMBER 3-8	Arvik Hunt 2025 preparation	Quaqtaq	Alec Niviaxie, Dan
NOVEMBER 9-12	Anguvigaq Monitoring Project/ SIKU app training	Kuujjuaraapik	Alec Niviaxie
NOVEMBER 13-16	Anguvigaq Monitoring Project/ SIKU app training	Inukjuak	Alec Niviaxie
NOVEMBER 17-18	Anguvigaq Monitoring Project/ SIKU app training	Umiujaq	Alec Niviaxie
NOVEMBER 12-17	Setting up Tasiujaq Anguvigaq office	Tasiujaq	Joy, Mikhaela
NOVEMBER 17-20	HR conference	Kuujjuaq	Joy, Adam
NOVEMBER 20	BOD meeting to appoint VP		
NOV 24 – NOV 28	Beluga workshop with Anguvigait (Nov 24) and NFR meeting (Nov 25-27)		
NOV 30-DEC 3	Beluga Inuit knowledge interviews	Aupaluk	Kathy, Victoria Simigaq, consultants
DEC 3-7	Beluga Inuit knowledge interviews	Kangirsuk	Kathy, Victoria Simigaq, consultants
DEC 7-12	Beluga Inuit knowledge interviews	Kuujjuaq	Kathy, Victoria Simigaq, consultants
DEC 9-11	NMRWB meeting	Montreal	Adam, Billy, Jacob (virtual: Dan, Billy Dan, James)





DEC 15-18	ArcticNet	Calgary	Mikhaela, Billy Dan, Jacob, Kathy, James, Martha, Mary, Alec
JAN 8	Nasivvik Presentation	Tasiujaq	James, Billy Dan, Elena, Mikhaela, Martha
JAN 12-16	Team Meeting	Tasiujaq	James, Billy Dan, Billy, Dan, Adam, Mikhaela, Alec, Martha, Mary, Kathy (Virtual: Joy)
JAN 19-24	Nasivvik Community Tour	Aupaluk, Kangirsuk, Quaqtaq	Mikhaela (Aupaluk only) Elena, Dan, Makivvik
JAN 26-31	Beluga Inuit knowledge interviews	Salluit	Mikhaela, Kathy, Consultants
JAN 31-FEB 7	Beluga Inuit knowledge interviews	Quaqtaq	Kathy, Consultants
FEB 3-5	Marine Planning Forum	Montreal	Mikhaela, Billy Dan, James, Alec, Billy
FEB 10-12	Nasivvik Community tour	Umiujaq, Kuujjuarapik, Chisasibi	Adam, Alec, Billy Dan, Makivvik
FEB 10-13	Nasivvik Community tour	Kangiqsualujjuaq	Elena, Mikhaela, James, Makivvik

FEB 17-19	Nasivvik Community tour	Kuujjuaq	Elena, Mikhaela, James, Makivvik
FEB 16-20	Nasivvik Community tour	Puvirnituq, Inukjuak, Akulivik	Alec, Billy, Makivvik
FEB 18-19	HFTCC	Virtual	James
FEB 22-27	Hudson Bay Summit	Ottawa	Alec, Billy, James
MARCH 2-6	Hudson Strait Shipping Meeting	Salluit	Billy, Mikhaela
MARCH 9-13	Research Board Meeting	Kangiqsujuaq	Everyone
MARCH 16-19	NMRWB meeting	Kangiqsujuaq	Jacob, Catherine
FEB 24-27	Nasivvik Community tour	Salluit, Ivujivik	Elena, Makivvik
MARCH 23-27	HFTCC Caribou Workshop	Montreal	Billy Dan, James, Billy, Mikhaela

**Note: This list aims to account for the activities of Anguvigaq regional staff. Contractors and Anguvigait members are not named, although they have been involved in many of these meetings and events.*



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PROJECTS



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MARRALIK-UNGUNNIAVIK CAMP

The Marralik-Ungunniavik beluga research program continued to grow in 2025. The project began in 2021 when Anguvigaq initiated a youth hunt camp and included some research training. In 2023 Anguvigaq asked a PhD student from McGill University to come and help make the research more impactful. Jacob Seguin came to Ungunniavik for the first time in 2023 and has been learning Inuit perspectives of belugas in Marralik and Ungunniavik. By partnering with the Anguvigait of Kuujjuaq and Kangiqsualujjuaq, together the Anguvigait and Jacob have installed recorders called hydrophones in the estuary every year since 2023. We are learning that there are big differences in how many beluga recordings we get each year, and also depending exactly what part of the estuary you are listening to. Some areas have more recordings than others, and some years have more than others. The hydrophones do not make any noise, they are completely silent and they are able to record the clicks and calls that belugas make when they are nearby.





The hydrophones are installed each year in June, and they stay in the water until November. This way we can monitor if belugas come to Ungunniavik during migratory periods, or all summer long, or both.





In 2025 the team also lived on a small island where belugas can be seen passing close by. This allows them to count the number of belugas that are being recorded by a nearby hydrophone. It could be possible to calculate the number of belugas that passed based on how many calls the group makes, but to try this we need to count beluga group sizes, and then download the hydrophone to see how much sound each group makes. In 2025 we observed and counted belugas for 432 hours over a period of 41 days in June and July. This is typically when the hydrophones get the most recordings, so we watch during this period to increase our chances of observing groups. We saw 24 belugas on 10 different days using this land-based observation camp.



During the hunt camps, members of the research camp move in with the hunters to document where and how often the hunters see belugas.

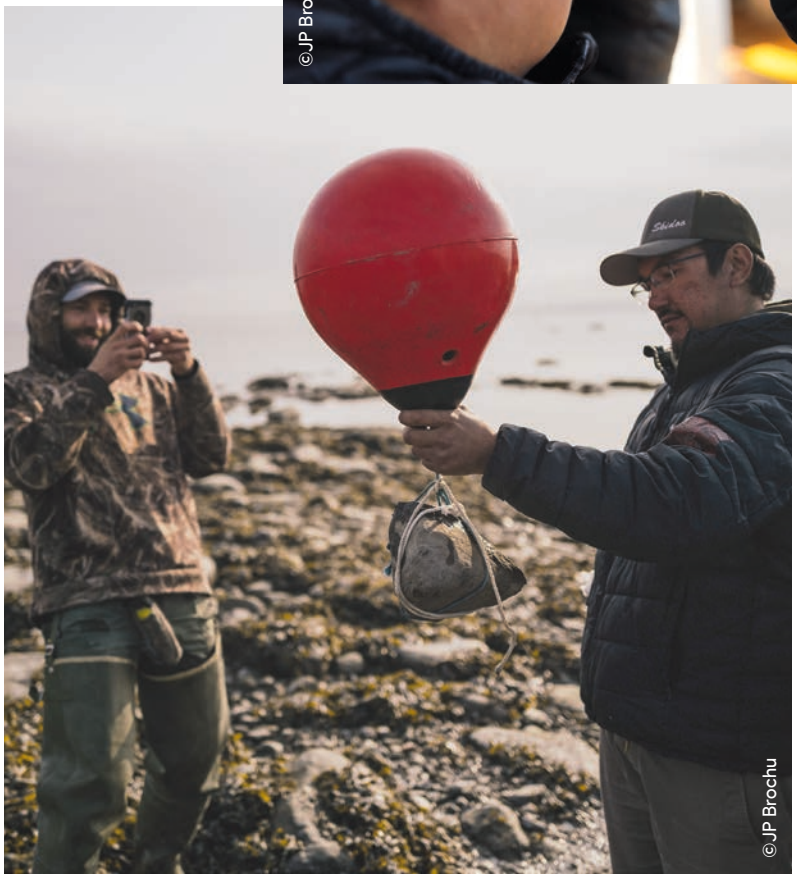
This resulted in 30 more belugas being seen, for a grand total of 54 sightings in summer 2025. We don't know if these are all different belugas or if some get counted twice by multiple people, so these numbers are not the best way to measure if one year has more belugas than another. The hydrophones are spread apart over the estuary and can tell what area and when belugas are present, making it easier to tell if there are belugas in more than one place at a time, which human observations can't do since we can only watch one spot at a time.



In December 2025, Kathy Aputiarjuk and Jacob travelled to Calgary to present the project at a scientific conference called ArcticNet, they were joined by Emma Cain, member of the Niqliit Board of Kuujjuaq. Together the three of them co-presented the project from the perspective of the Niqliit Board, a researcher, and Kathy's point of view as a project staff who began as a youth researcher and who is now growing into a senior staff of the project.



The Kuujjuaq hunt camp was able to harvest a large old male beluga, which was later aged by Peter May at the Makivvik research centre (NRC) in Kuujjuaq. Peter is able to count the rings in the beluga's teeth to determine its age, as with all harvest samples that are sent to Makivvik each year. Our beluga this year was one of the oldest on record at 73 years old. This type of information is important because it can help understand what groups of belugas are using this estuary. For example if only young females were being harvested it might give clues about this being a birthing area or a place to bring calves, but if only old males are being harvested then there is less evidence of Ungunniavik being a reproductive area. We can't make these types of conclusions from only one harvested beluga, so the long-term commitment of the Anguvigait to run this camp is an important aspect of the project. We need long-term measurements of where, when, and what ages/genders of belugas come to Ungunniavik in order to find patterns or to measure how much difference there can be from one year to the next. For example, even though it is different each year, it appears that early summer, June and July, have more recordings than late summer, like August and September. The more years this is monitored, the more we can see if this pattern is reliable.



BIRD MONITORING PROJECT

In 2023, the Anguvigaq began leading a bird monitoring project because of community concerns about changes in bird presence in certain areas and unfamiliar species appearing. Since 2025, Catherine Geoffroy joined our team as a PhD student to help understand how climate change has been impacting the birds that are found in Nunavik. Nunavimmiut visiting the Marralik-Ungunniavik region, where we lead an ongoing beluga project, have been observing changes in bird distribution, including new species, and abundance in recent decades. This multi-year project seeks to document and understand these changes. This project is done in collaboration with the Kuujjuaq Niqliit Board and the Kangiqsualujjuaq Anguvigaq, along with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada, Birds Canada, and McGill University.

In 2025, our team started to monitor birds using audio recorders and deployed 31 recorders between June and July, while also recording every bird sighted during the deployment. The recorders are distributed along the coast between Kuujjuaq and Kangiqsualujjuaq and record from April until October. This helps cover an extended area and period of time that includes the nesting season as well as spring and fall migration.

At the end of the summer 2025, data from 6 recorders from the Marralik-Ungunniavik region were retrieved for preliminary analyses.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Together, these 6 recorders detected 41 bird species, including small passerine birds as well as ducks and shorebirds, with the Fox sparrow being the most abundant species. Based on visual observations from the summer field season, our team detected an additional 65 species, for a total of 106 bird species seen by the team or heard by the 6 recorders. The recordings from the remaining 25 recorders are currently being analysed to see how many more species will be detected and which ones.

In March and April 2026, the recorders were visited by snowmobile to retrieve the rest of data from 2025 and set them up for the 2026 season. Our team went out again in the summer of 2026 to retrieve data for the second year and maintain the recorders.


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The observations and recordings will provide information on which and when species are present in the area, and how many there are. It is the first step to help understand changes in bird distribution observed by Nunavimmiut in the area, but also more widely throughout Nunavik. This information will also contribute, along with other data sources, to create a book about birds found in the Ungava Bay area.

BELUGA INUIT KNOWLEDGE GATHERING


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At Anguvigaq, we have gathered Beluga Inuit Knowledge in Nunavik since April 2023, to May 2026. With the help from consultants such as Cloudberry and JP Brochu (UBIQUE) we recorded beluga knowledge alongside the mapping of hunting areas, migrating patterns, etc. to then write them into reports and make videos on different beluga topics on this region wide project. With this, we wanted Inuit in Nunavik to voice their concerns and to implement Inuit laws to the management decisions that will be renewed soon.

In April 2023, Billy Palliser had begun doing these interviews in the Eastern Hudson Bay (EHB) arc to find a way to ease the beluga hunting restrictions by recording Inuit knowledge and creating reports to present at meetings that determine the laws to be implemented. Billy's project reached 41 interviewees at the 19-day tour from 3 communities from EHB.


©Cloudberry-Graham


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In May 2026, the Beluga Knowledge Interviews had finished going to the rest of the 11 communities, where 92 knowledgeable people were interviewed across Nunavik.

Altogether, 133 people were interviewed and shared the oral knowledge that was passed down to them in this project called Beluga Inuit Knowledge Gathering.



SIKU

Project Overview and Data Collection

- The Anguvigaq Monitoring Project uses SIKU to document wildlife, weather, sea ice, land use, and environmental changes across Nunavik.
- Since 2021, over 12,900 posts from 152 members, including wildlife harvests and observations, have been contributed, supporting community-led research.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building

- 140 Nunavimmiut trained since 2021, with 237 workshops across communities, supported by local Anguvigait Managers.
- Training enhances regional capacity for land use monitoring, conservation, and climate leadership, with honoraria incentivizing participation.



Data Sovereignty and Privacy

- Users retain ownership of their posts; data is stored in Canada and protected under Inuit-led sovereignty frameworks.
- Posts can be private, shared with groups, or publicly visible, with users controlling location and privacy settings.

Wildlife and Climate Monitoring Outcomes

- Inuit-led data tracks migration, food web changes, and species distribution, informing regional wildlife management.
- Contributions include migration timing, food web indicators, and tracking invasive species like beavers, supporting long-term ecological understanding.

Species and Harvest Tracking

- Harvest data covers key species such as caribou, polar bears, beluga, and Arctic char, with spatial and temporal patterns visualized for decision-making.
- Monitoring reveals shifts in species distribution, predator-prey relationships, and harvest levels across Nunavik.

Environmental and Safety Observations

- Ice and dangerous ice posts inform travel safety, with Inuit terminology enhancing situational awareness.
- Land use data from trips helps assess impacts of development and environmental change on harvesting patterns.



Food Security and Socioeconomic Benefits

- Harvest posts estimate food security value, with a 14:1 social return on investment based on harvest data.
- Honoraria support subsistence hunting, community well-being, and youth engagement, reinforcing traditional practices.

Technology and Map Resources

- SIKU provides real-time satellite imagery, Inuit placenames, bathymetry, and offline map tiles to support navigation and safety.
- Community-driven bathymetric mapping improves local navigation and travel safety.

Future Developments and Platform Improvements

- Version 3 of SIKU introduces open project stewardship, simplifying contributions and enhancing data sharing.
- Ongoing feedback aims to improve tools, interoperability, and respect for Inuit data sovereignty.

Wildlife Monitoring and Data Collection

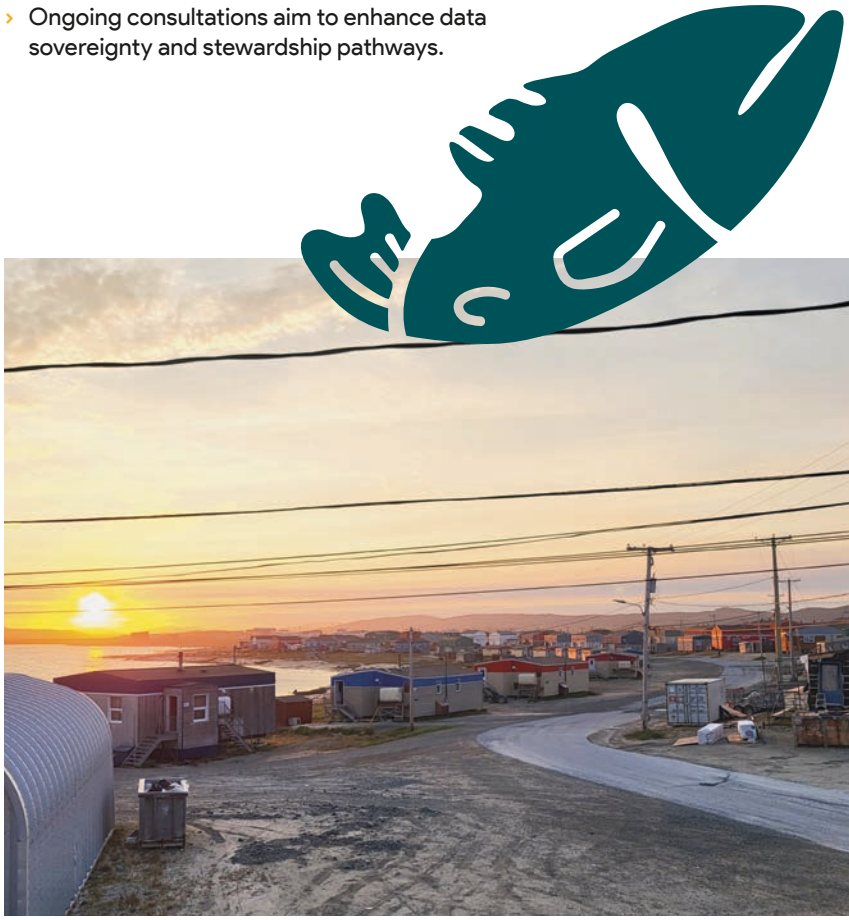
- Projects provide key demographic, health, migration, and climate change data.
- Data supports Inuit-led monitoring, food security, and regional decision-making.

Technology and App Development

- SIKU Version 3.0 will improve mobile and web tools for data management.
- New features include environmental impacts, security, and sovereignty indicators.

Indigenous Knowledge and Capacity Building

- Projects strengthen Inuit knowledge, training, and subsistence lifestyles.
- Ongoing consultations aim to enhance data sovereignty and stewardship pathways.



NASIVVIK – HARVEST MONITORING



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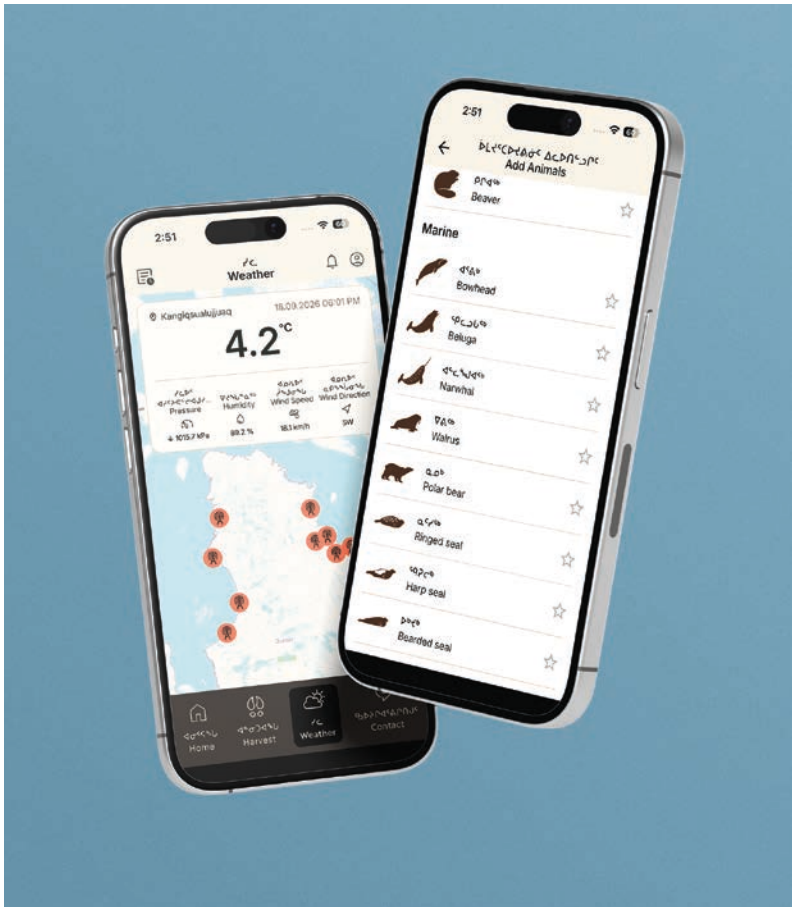
This harvest monitoring project was initiated in 2021 by Makivvik and Anguvigaq to advance self-determination in wildlife management. The project's primary goal was to place harvest monitoring data in the hands of Inuit communities, thereby strengthening their voices at wildlife management tables. To do this, we developed an app that is engineered to be simple to use, intuitive, and capable of providing quick harvest summaries.

Consultations and a vote by Nunavimmiut through Facebook established the name for the app: "Nasivvik". Nasivvik is the Inuktitut term for a vantage point, from which hunters are able to see far and wide, in order to effectively hunt. Like the word, this app and harvest monitoring system allows us to see the landscape of harvesting in Nunavik, giving us a broad picture of the current situation.

After meeting with a few app developers, we decided to partner with the Intelli Network, an Indigenous software development firm. We wanted the app to be simple, user-friendly, and intuitive. The first version of the app, while functional, was not as clean and easy to use as we hoped.

We onboarded a graphic designer to achieve our visions, and the designer and app developers began working hand in hand to enhance the app for community members to be able to truly enjoy the experience of using this application.

Here are some photos of the updated version of the app:





We held multiple meetings with our local managers from all Inuit communities in the region, in order to train them on how to use the app and to receive feedback on it. They had many recommendations, such as species to include, translations, and ease of use.

We also developed a booklet to accompany the app.

This booklet allows elders, who do not have access to technology, to participate in harvest monitoring. They fill in the booklet with their harvest, bring it to the local manager, and the local manager enters the data on their behalf. Those who have phones with batteries that run out can also use the booklet as a backup, to ensure that they do not forget their harvest.

We consulted the communities and received their input on the (almost) final app through a community tour that we planned for all 15 communities. In each community, we would arrive and meet with the local coordinators, then with the local elected Anguvigait boards, then we would go on the local radio to announce the public presentation. We spent the afternoon preparing for the presentation and then held the public portion in the evening. If some hunters were away and we happened to be in town for the next day, we sometimes offered follow-up sessions the following day. When possible, we would also hold a full radio show to allow those unable to attend to give their feedback to our organizations.


TASIUJAQ VISIT


AUPALUK VISIT


UMIUJAQ VISIT



KANGIRSUK VISIT

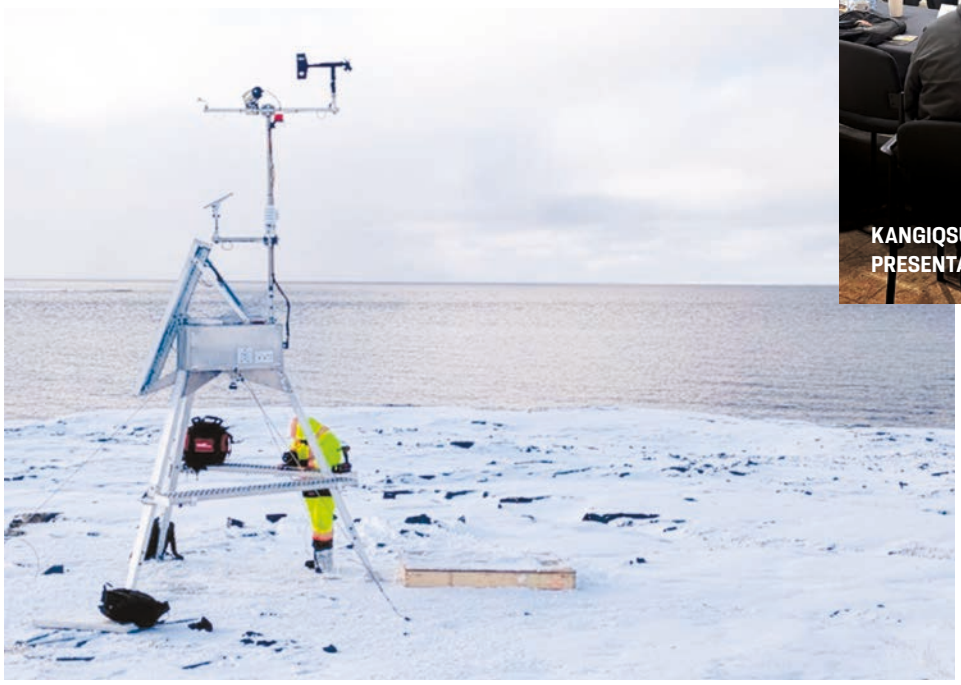
In parallel with the development of the Nasivvik app, Makivvik and Anguvigaq have been advancing the Nunavik Meteorological Stations Network (NMSN), a project designed to support traditional travel in Nunavik by providing real-time weather information.

Access to real-time meteorological data along key travel routes is essential to enable Nunavimmiut to make informed decisions regarding the timing and safety of their travel. To address this need, a project was initiated last year to establish a network of real-time meteorological stations along major travel routes between communities.

Each meteorological station is strategically installed along frequently used travel routes selected by each community. The data collected from these stations is transmitted in real time and made accessible through the Nasivvik app.



KANGIQSUJUAQ PRESENTATIONS



UPCOMING EVENTS

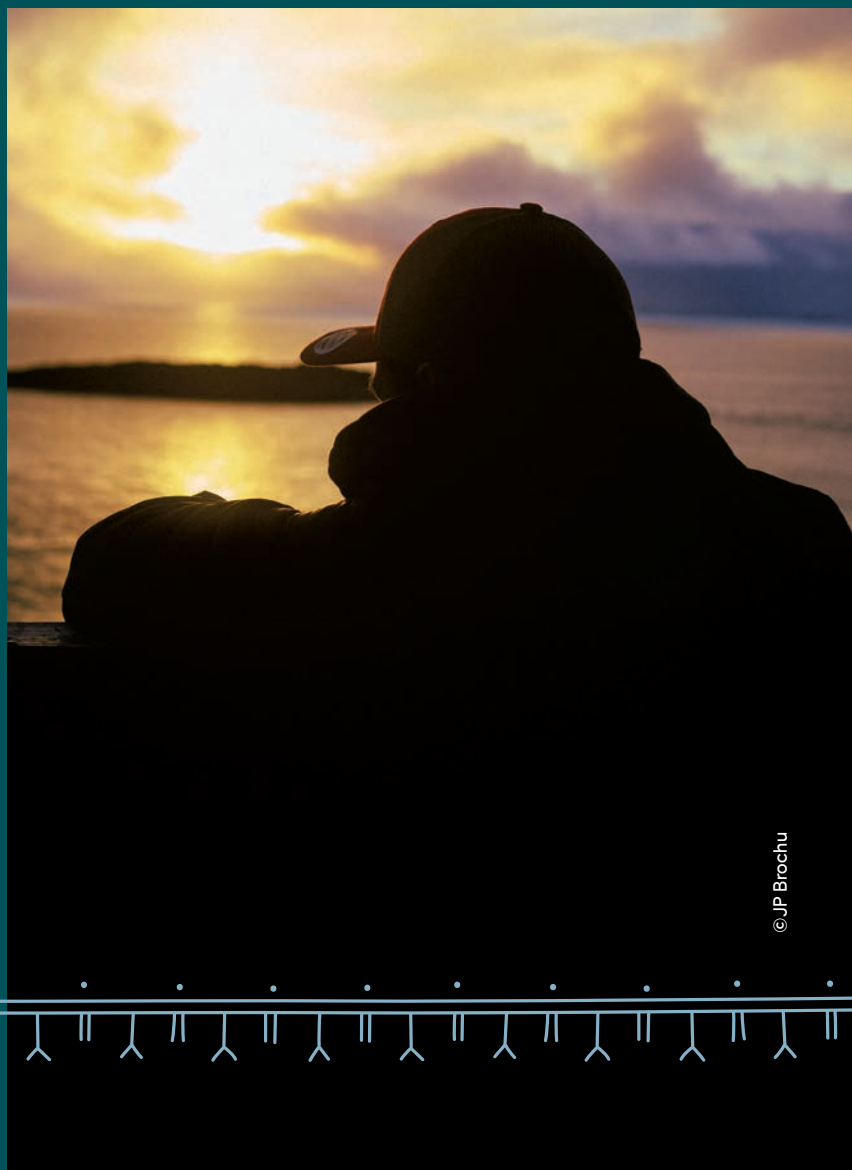
We have a busy year ahead of us! Aside from our usual meetings and projects, we will be preparing for a new Beluga Management Plan, and continue to grow and improve our small organization. Watch out for:

OCTOBER 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Oct 27-29)

Our Annual General Meeting will be hosted in Salluit. All Nunavimmiut can tune in on TNI to hear updates about our organization, wildlife management, and our activities. This will also be the time when Board Members vote on the Executive positions of Vice President and Treasurer for the Anguvigaq.



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THANK YOU



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