

ANNUAL REPORT ²⁴₂₅





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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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A group of belugas swimming in dark water with ice floes. The whales are white with dark stripes, and the water is dark blue with scattered white ice floes.

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.

TEAM

Updated as of July 2025

EXECUTIVES



**EXECUTIVE
PRESIDENT**

James May



**EXECUTIVE
VICE-PRESIDENT**

Billy Palliser



**EXECUTIVE
TREASURER**

Daniel Oovaut



**EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY**

Billy Dan May

STAFF



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Adam Gardner



**WILDLIFE
SECRETARIAT
MANAGER**

Joy Aragootak



**WILDLIFE
SECRETARIAT
ADMINISTRATOR**

Sasha Kokiapik



**DIRECTOR OF
WILDLIFE POLICY
AND RESEARCH**

Mikhaela Neelin



**HARVEST
MONITORING
COORDINATOR**

Shirley-Ann
Ekomiak



**REGIONAL
PROJECT
COORDINATOR**

Alec Nivaxie



**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

Kangiqsualujjuaq

MANAGER: Julianne Imbeault
BOD: Jaiku Angnatuk
Kenny Angnatuk
Elijah Imbeault
Willie Annanack
Ned Lidd Annanack

Kuujjuaq

MANAGER: Winnie Napartuk
BOD: George Kauki
Bryan David
David Dupuis
Sailasie Kooktook
Emma Cain

Tasiujaq

MANAGER: Chesley Mesher
BOD: Johnny Cain
Billy Dan May
James May
Arthur Munick
Jusipi Kauki

Aupaluk

MANAGER: Annie
Grey-Salawatseak
BOD: Johnny Akpahatak
Aloupa Grey-Eetok
Charlie Hashempour Bonabi
George Eetook
George Akpahatak

Kangirsuk

MANAGER: Johnny Nassak
BOD: Noah Eetok
Zack Tukkiapik
Edua Lucassie
Billy Airo
Zebedee Annahatak

Quaqtaq

MANAGER: Barbara Oovaut
BOD: Johnny Oovaut
Daniel Oovaut
Stevie Puttayuk Page
Jusipi Kulula
Maasiu Uppik

Kangiqsujuaq

MANAGER: Natasha Irniq
BOD: Aquuja Qisiiq
Michael Qisiiq
Mary Qumaaluk
Simon Qumaaluk
Annie Tertiluk

Salluit

BOD: Eli Quananak
Adamie Kaitak
Adamie Papigatuk Jr.
Irsutuk Usuituijuk
Masu Alaku

Ivujuvik

MANAGER: Salomoni
Qavavauk
BOD: Paulusi Tarriasuk
Daniel Jaaka
Simiuni Usuarjuk
Jusi Saala
Savirjuk Paningajak

Akulivik

MANAGER: Adamie Alayco
BOD: Eli Angiyau
George Weetaluktuk Qaqutuk
Qalingo Amamatuak
Timothy Aliqu

Puvirnituk

MANAGER: Caroline
Tulugak Napartuk
BOD: Aisa Surusilak
Jackusi Ittukalak
Simon Irqumiaq
Adamie Angiyau

Inukjuak

MANAGER: Jackie Williams
BOD: Jobie Oweetaluktuk
Daniel Aculiak
Charlie Eliasiapik
Ricky Moorhouse
Lazayusi Tukai

Umiujaq

MANAGER: Eddie Qumaluk
BOD: Johnny Kasudluak
Jack Niviaxie
Simeonie Naluktuk
Markusie Nunga Aragutak
Sarowillie Anowak

Kuujjuarapik

MANAGER: Salamiva Weetaltuk
BOD: Mary Silarqi Sala
Lizzie Calvin
Serena Weetaltuk
Peter Fleming JR

Chisasibi

MANAGER: Simon Monger
BOD: Ruby Menarick
Raymond Menarick
Nutta Koperkualuk
Davidee Shauk

EXECUTIVE REPORTS





JAMES MAY

PRESIDENT



First of all, I hope that everyone has had a good summer break from their busy schedules. As we look over the past year, I would like to welcome the staff that joined us: Alec Nivaxie (April 2024), Mary Berthe (May 2024), Kathy Aputiarjuk (February 2025), Martha Berthe (February 2025), Shirley-Ann Ekomiak (March 2025), and Adam Gardner (March 2025). We are grateful to have them as additions to our team. I would also like to recognize the ongoing commitment of Joy and Sasha, who have been helping our administration to improve and assisting the Anguvigait as they grow.

This has been a busy year with many different wildlife public hearings, including public hearings on polar bears, beluga management plan timelines, and bowhead whales. These decisions determine the course of marine wildlife management for the region and have large impact on harvesters. There will also be a public hearing on the next beluga management plan in the upcoming year, which we are already preparing for. With the public hearings that have been happening and those that are upcoming, I want to emphasize that we are committed to offering support to the local Anguvigait with their submissions and participation. The upcoming new beluga management plan will require us all to review and evaluate past and present beluga management in order to build a better future.

I have been involved in multiple committees, including the Hunting Fishing Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC), the Nunavik Climate Change Committee, chairing the Caribou Protection Plan Committee, and assisting with the EHB Arc Committee, amongst others. Daniel Oovaut and I have also been invited to All-Organization Meetings, to represent

the Anguvigait. In addition, I participate in the NMRWB meetings and co-chair the Eastern Hudson Bay Beluga Working Group. I did presentations at the ArcticNet Scientific Conference, with our whole team present this year to introduce them all to Arctic research and give them an opportunity to network with other Indigenous organizations and Nunavik researchers.

One of our large projects is the Marralik-Ungunniavik camp. I began this initiative in 2021 with the assistance of Mikhaela, which included both a research program and Inuit knowledge sharing hunt camp. My goal was to assist the Kuujjuaq and Kangisualujjuaq Anguvigait so that they could eventually take over the youth hunt camp. Summer 2024 was the first time that the Anguvigait were operating this hunt camp on their own, with minimal support from our team. Congratulations to the Anguvigait board members for their leadership, coordination, and commitment to teach youth to harvest respectfully. It is a huge amount of work and we applaud you for all that you have done!

There will be elections for the Anguvigait board members in Fall 2025. We would like to thank our current board members for their commitment and we encourage everyone to get involved with wildlife management, since these decisions impact our everyday lives as Inuit.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to my wife, Eva, who has supported me in my role as Anguvigait President for the past seven and a half years, which has involved many late-night emails, travelling for meetings, and summers spent at the youth camp.



BILLY PALLISER

VICE PRESIDENT

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for the trust placed in me through the renewal of my mandate for a second term last fall. It remains a priority for me to ensure that Inuit voices are meaningfully heard and fully considered in decision-making processes related to wildlife management.

Over the past year, the validation trips for the Eastern Hudson Bay Beluga Project were completed in September and October 2024, ensuring that findings were reviewed and confirmed at the community level. The completion of the Eastern Hudson Bay Beluga Report will help provide Anguvigaq with a strong foundation to inform future management decisions in ways that reflect Inuit knowledge and harvesting practices.

In November, I also participated in the Polar Bear Workshop organized by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), which brought together representatives from all four Inuit regions to share knowledge and perspectives on polar bears.

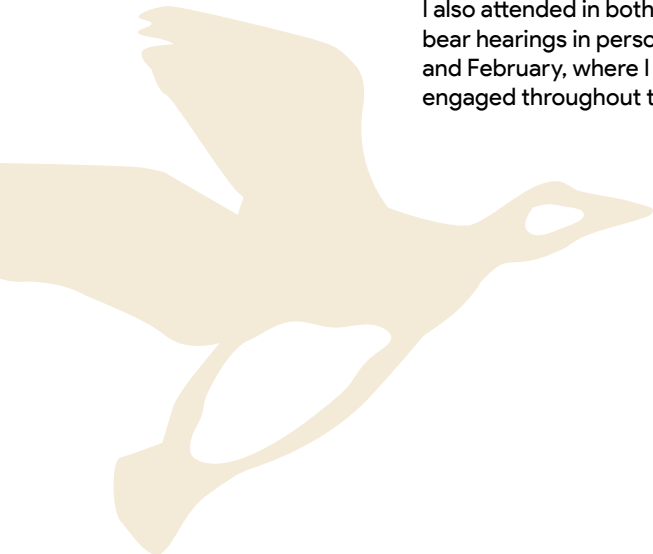
I also attended in both phases of the polar bear hearings in person, held in November and February, where I remained actively engaged throughout the hearings.

Further, I took part in the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) review process, attending the December session on a new population model for the Belcher Islands–Eastern Hudson Bay beluga stock, as well as the peer review meeting in February. This participation was invaluable, offering deeper insight on how the scientific harvest advice is developed for Nunavik.

I continue to attend all our BOD meetings, the Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board (NMRWB) meetings, and remain actively involved in several key committees, including the Caribou Protection Plan Committee, the Beluga Working Group, and the Eastern Hudson Bay Arc Committee. In this executive role, the work rarely pauses with many different meetings filling up almost every day.

I also serve as Anguvigaq's appointed member to the Atanniuvik Board of Directors, where I currently hold the role of Chairperson and President. Atanniuvik is a new Nunavik Research Authority that has made progress since its creation, with important steps taken to establish its operations and preparing to hold its first Annual General Meeting in December, which will be an important milestone in its development.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the dedication and commitment of our management team and staff. I send a warm welcome to our new staff members, who have already contributed valuable energy, ideas, and skills. The strength of our organization comes from their tireless efforts, their ability to manage complex responsibilities and support one another to ensure that our work continues to grow at Anguvigaq.





DANIEL OOVAUT

TREASURER

It has been a year full of transitions and restructuring at Anguvigaq.

But also a lot of information gathering. We conducted interviews with Elders and hunters, and filmed videography in relation to traditional knowledge about beluga and polar bears all around Nunavik.

At Anguvigaq, we have been growing as an organization with new additional staff, reshaping and restructuring roles & responsibilities, brainstorming of creating departments and whose roles fall under each respective Executive's department.

Since the last annual report, we have hired 2 people under my department, created the Finance Department to help streamline our finances and the best ways to control the finance for the best results possible for Anguvigaq and the Anguvigait from within.

Some highlights from this year:

- › April 2024: Anguvigaq submitted a recommendation to have a hearing about the Northeastern Hudson Bay delineation line under NILCA about Inuit-led decisions. Through this process, the line was successfully moved further south of Inukjuak. The process included public consultations, hearings led by the NMRWB and a final decision approved by the newly transferred responsibilities to DFO Arctic region from DFO Quebec, which has improved relations between the co-management partners of the region.
- › May 13-17, 2024: Anguvigaq internal meetings and Head Office opening in Tasiujaq.
- › June 10-14, 2024: I attended, along with Billy Palliser and some staff, the Beluga Working Group (Anguvigaq, Makivvik & DFO) and NMRWB's regular meetings in Ottawa.
- › July 2024: Alec Niviaxie, the Anguvigaq Regional Project Coordinator, arrived to Quaqtaq to come help plan preparations for the bowhead whale hunt.
- › September 16-20, 2024: Internal Anguvigaq meetings in Tasiujaq.
- › September 2024: Preparations for bowhead whale hunt.
- › October 21-25, 2024: Anguvigaq AGM in Kangirsuk.
- › November 4-8, 2024: NMRWB Polar Bear Public Hearings in Montreal.
- › November 18-22, 2024: Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami meeting in Winnipeg about polar bears, along with Billy Palliser, Billy Dan May and Mikhaela Neelin, with the other Inuit regions of Canada.
- › December 2-6, 2024: NMRWB regular meetings in Montreal.
- › December 9-13, 2024: ArcticNet in Ottawa.
- › October – December 2024: Bowhead and beluga whale hunts with videographer Jean-Phillippe Brochu.
- › February 3-7, 2025: Polar Bear publics hearings in Kuujuaaraapik.
- › March 17-21, 2025: Anguvigaq Research Meeting in Montreal.
- › April 7-11, 2025: Makivvik All-Organizations Meetings in Montreal.



These are just some highlights of meetings attended by Anguvigait and co-management partners, not including regular monthly Zoom meetings with ITK's National Inuit Wildlife Committee and various Zoom meetings on wildlife issues concerning Nunavik Inuit where input or recommendations are needed.

At the start of the new year, we were pleased to welcome several new staff members to Anguvigait. Mary Berthe was promoted to Regional Finance Officer, focusing on the organization's overall finances, reporting, and financial responsibilities. Martha A. Berthe was hired as the Anguvigait Finance Officer to assist with the day-to-day financial operations at the local level. We plan to hire additional staff in the near future to support each local Anguvigait and help distribute responsibilities more effectively.

We were also delighted to welcome Kathy Aputiarjuk as Communications Director and Shirley-Ann Ekomiak as Harvest Monitoring Coordinator. Our longest-serving employee, Mikhaela Neelin, transitioned from Executive Director to Director of Wildlife Policy and

Research, while Adam Gardner joined as the new Executive Director.

Overall, we are very pleased with these changes and are optimistic about the positive impact this team will have on Anguvigait's operations and future growth.

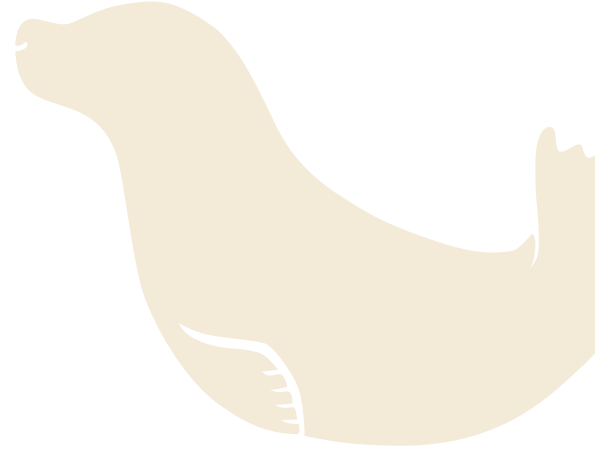
The 2024 Fall Bowhead Whale hunt logistics and equipment had been planned & prepared, we were sighting whales but the weather never aligned when it would be time to do the hunt due to high winds and rough waters, but we are planning to do the hunt in Fall 2025.

Our goal is always to have wildlife issues and decisions be made for Nunavik Inuit by Nunavik Inuit, whether it is land-based or marine-based animals and everywhere in between. Certain files are always ongoing but we expect positive results and transparency with our people who we are representing for the past, present and future of Nunavimmiut.



BILLY DAN MAY

SECRETARY



I hope this message finds you well. Since commencing my position at the end of August 2024, I have been diligently catching up on the various files and responsibilities pertinent to my role. I would like to provide a detailed overview of my activities, engagements, and ongoing duties.

From September 24 to 26, I attended the Ocean Protection Plan meeting held in Kuujjuaq. Subsequently, I participated in the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) meeting in Quebec from October 8 to 10, followed by the Annual General Meeting in Kangirsuk from October 22-24.

Between October 28 and December 8, I was actively involved with the bowhead hunt and beluga filming alongside Daniel. Our team convened for a meeting in Montreal November 4-5 before attending the NMRWB Polar Bear Public Hearing in Montreal from November 5 to 8. Additionally, I participated virtually in the Caribou Protection Plan meeting in Kuujjuaq on November 13 and 14.

I attended the ITK Polar Bear Meeting in Winnipeg with Daniel, Billy, and Mikhaela. I further engaged in team meetings and Arctic discussions in Ottawa at the ArcticNet Scientific Conference, presenting the collaboration between Anguvigaq and Makivvik on the Harvest Monitoring App. I participated in our Team meeting in Tasiujaq in January, and in Beluga Inuit Knowledge interviews in Kangiqsualujjuaq and Tasiujaq. Furthermore, I attended the Nunami Takunnatut Preparation meeting in Kuujjuaq, developing protocols for Wildlife Health Monitoring, followed by participation in the Search and Rescue roundtable from February 28 to March 4. In March, I attended

the Wildlife Research and Management Board meeting in Montreal with our Board of Directors and presented the Phytotoxins project.

My primary responsibilities encompass serving as Secretary for Anguvigaq, which includes reviewing minutes, resolutions, and agendas for various meetings. Additionally, I have conducted interviews and reviewed applications for prospective job candidates. Other files that I work on include overseeing wildlife health projects, collaborating on the development of phytotoxin monitoring, and preparing for the Inuit Climate Leadership initiative (ICL), which would improve access to climate change funding for the region. I am an active participant on the Caribou Protection Plan Committee as well as the Nunavik Climate Change Committee.

There are numerous other tasks I continually manage, but the above provides the most pertinent details to date.

I want to encourage our whole region to work together on wildlife issues. We cannot make these changes alone, and need all harvesters to commit to respectful hunting practices for our future generations.

I would also like to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported me during my transition to the Secretary position and as I carry out my responsibilities at Anguvigaq. Your assistance has been invaluable.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further details or clarification.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration Team at Anguvigaq keeps everything we do running. In 2024-2025, Mikhaela Neelin, Joy Aragootak and Sasha Kokiapik 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.



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,
- › 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 started as Finance Officer focused on Anguvigaq files. And Martha Amidlak Berthe started as Anguvigait Finance Officer, where she will be focused on helping the Anguvigait develop sound and transparent financial structures and procedures.

In 2025-2026, Anguvigaq is reviewing our internal structures to be able to ensure we are operating well, and that we are able to assist the Anguvigait to the best of our abilities.

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.



DATES AND MEETINGS

APRIL 3-4 2024	Nunami Takunnatut Preparation Meeting	Montreal	Charlie Angutinguak
APRIL 16 2024	NMRWB	Inukjuak	Sasha, Charlie, Daniel, James (virtual: Jacob)
APRIL 30-MAY 2 2024	Nunami Takunnatut (Wildlife Health)	Kuujuaq	Charlie, Alec, Raymond Mickpegak
APRIL 30-MAY 2 2024	Nunavik Working Together HR Conference	Montreal	Billy, Joy, Mikhaela
MAY 4-10	Arctic Inspiration Prize ceremony	Whitehorse	Billy
MAY 14-16 2024	Anguvigaaq Team Meeting	Tasiujaq	James, Billy, Daniel, Charlie, Mikhaela, Joy, Sasha, Mary, Alec
MAY 16-27 2024	Planning meetings for Marralik Project	Kuujuaq	Jacob
MAY 31 2024	Hydrophone Deployment	Ungunniavik	Jacob, Mikhaela, Joy
JUNE 4-6 2024	Archiving documents	Tasiujaq	Joy, Sasha, Mary, Mikhaela
JUNE 4-7 2024	Marralik camp preparations	Kuujuaq	Jacob



JUNE 10 2024	Beluga Working Group Meeting	Ottawa	Billy
JUNE 11-13 2024	NMRWB Meeting	Ottawa	Billy, Daniel, Mikhaela, Mary, Alec
JUNE 17-25 2024	Bowhead hunt preparations	Quaqtaq	Alec, Daniel
JUNE 19-JULY 28	Marralik-Ungunniavik Project	Ungunniavik	Jacob
JULY 14-27	Marralik-Ungunniavik Project	Ungunniavik	Mikhaela
SEPTEMBER 20-21	Community-Driven Research Network Meeting	Sanikiluaq	Billy, Alec
SEPTEMBER 24-25	SIKU workshop	Quaqtaq	Alec
SEPTEMBER 17-19	AGM preparation	Tasiujaq	Sasha, Mikhaela (virtual: Joy)
SEPTEMBER 24-26	Oceans Protection Plan meeting	Kuujuaq	Billy Dan
SEPTEMBER 25-28	EHB Inuit knowledge validation trip	Inukjuak	Billy
OCTOBER 1-2	EHB Inuit knowledge validation trip	Umiujaq	Billy
OCTOBER 2-4	EHB Inuit knowledge validation trip	Kuujuarapik	Billy

SEPTEMBER 23- OCTOBER 5	Bowhead hunt preparation and SIKU training	Quaqtaq	Alec
OCTOBER 2-3	Hunter's Support Meeting	Kuujuaq	James
OCTOBER 8-10	NMRWB meeting	Quebec	James, Billy, Billy Dan, Jacob (virtual: Mikhaela)
OCTOBER 22-24	AGM	Kangirsuk	James, Billy, Daniel, Billy Dan, Sasha, Joy, Mikhaela, Alec, Raymond, Kathy, Jacob (virtual: Mary)
OCTOBER	Gathering hydrophones	Ungunniavik	Jacob
OCTOBER 29-30	Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee (NNHC) meeting	Kuujuaq	Mikhaela
OCTOBER 28- DECEMBER 8	Bowhead hunt and Beluga filming	Quaqtaq	Billy Dan, Daniel
NOVEMBER 4-5	Team Meeting	Montreal	James, Billy, Daniel, Billy Dan, Sasha, Joy, Mikhaela, Alec, Raymond, Mary
NOVEMBER 5-8	NMRWB Polar Bear Public Hearing	Montreal	James, Billy, Billy Dan, Mikhaela
NOVEMBER 13-14	Caribou Protection Plan	Kuujuaq	James, Mikhaela (virtual: Billy, Billy Daniel)
NOVEMBER 18-20	ITK Polar Bear Meeting & NIWC	Winnipeg	Daniel, Billy, Billy Dan, Mikhaela
NOVEMBER 21-22	National Inuit Wildlife Committee meeting	Winnipeg	Daniel
NOVEMBER 9-14	Marine Mammal Conference	Australia	Jacob, Kathy
NOV 28-29	SIKU workshop	Kangirsuk	Alec
DEC 2-3	Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS)	Montreal	Billy, Jacob
DEC 3-5	NMRWB Meeting	Montreal	Billy, James, Jacob
DEC 5	Meeting with local Anguvigaq	Salluit	Mikhaela
DEC 9-12	Team meeting and ArcticNet	Ottawa	James, Billy, Daniel, Billy Dan, Sasha, Joy, Mikhaela, Mary, Alec, Raymond, Kathy, Jacob

* 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.

JANUARY 13-16	Team Meeting	Tasiujaq	James, Billy, Daniel, Billy Dan, Sasha, Joy, Mikhaela, Mary, Alec, Kathy, Jacob (virtual: Billy)
JANUARY 17-21	SIKU training	Kangiqsualujjuaq	Alec
FEB 4-6	Polar Bear Public Hearing	Kuujjuarapik	Billy, Daniel
FEB 10-12	Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) Beluga peer review	Montreal	Billy
FEB 10-14	Beluga Inuit Knowledge interviews	Kangiqsualujjuaq	Billy Dan, Kathy, Jacob
FEB 12-14	Wildlife research meeting	Kuujjuaq	Daniel
FEB 18-19	Hunting Fishing Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC)	Quebec	James
FEB 15-20	Beluga Inuit Knowledge interviews	Tasiujaq	Billy Dan, Kathy, Jacob, Mikhaela
FEB 25-27	Nunami Takunnatut	Kuujjuaq	Billy Dan
FEB 25-27	Hudson Bay Consortium	Montreal	Alec
FEB 28-MARCH 4	Search and Rescue	Montreal	Billy Dan
MARCH 10-14	Beluga Inuit Knowledge interviews	Puvirnituk	Alec, Billy, Kathy
MARCH 17-22	Anguvigaq Wildlife Research and Management Board Meeting	Montreal	James, Billy, Daniel, Billy Dan, Sasha, Joy, Mikhaela, Mary, Martha, Alec, Adam, Shirley-Ann, Kathy, Jacob, Catherine





Virtual Board of Director Meetings

JUNE 13, 2024	BOD meeting for Secretary selection (virtual)
JULY 16, 2024	BOD meeting for Secretary selection (virtual)
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024	BOD meeting for Executive salaries (virtual)
NOVEMBER 26, 2024	BOD meeting for General By-laws (virtual)
JANUARY 13, 2025	BOD meeting for Audit (virtual)

PROJECTS



MARRALIK-UNGUNNIABIK CAMP

In 1986, harvesting of belugas was banned in the Marralik-Ungunniavik estuary (referred to as the “Mucalic estuary” by DFO), an important hunting area between Kuujjuaq and Kangisualujjuaq, due to concerns about the abundance of Ungava Bay beluga. This ban had huge impacts on food security, knowledge transfer to youth, and food sharing in those communities. For many years, the Anguvigait of Kuujjuaq and Kangisualujjuaq raised concerns about the existence of this beluga stock (many people said that belugas were no longer summering in that area) and the impact of the ban on knowledge transmission to the younger generation. They requested a small hunt and a research project to address these issues.



In 2021, under the leadership of James May and with the direction of the Anguvigait, we coordinated a youth camp and submitted an application for a small beluga hunt.



DFO accepted with strict conditions, because of the research and knowledge-sharing program that was presented. It has been exciting to see the first legal hunt of belugas take place in those areas after a 35-year complete ban, and to see that food be shared with the communities.



Since then, we have hosted an Inuit knowledge-sharing and research camp every year to monitor belugas and train youth. It is an opportunity for hunters and elders to share their knowledge of the Marralik-Ungunniavik area, harvesting, and safe food preparation. It is also an opportunity to record beluga observations and sample belugas in that area.



In 2023, we invited Jacob Seguin to help build the beluga research project and to train youth in how scientific methods can contribute to Inuit-led research goals. Jacob is working on his PhD at McGill University but is supervised by Anguvigaq and spends many months working with us in Nunavik. Every year in May, Jacob programs underwater recorders called hydrophones and goes out with a team to place them in Marralik and Ungunniavik rivers to record beluga calls. The hydrophones can record when belugas come, even at night or in bad weather when they are hard to see. They stay in the water until November when they are pulled up before the ice can damage them.



In June, a team of Anguvigaq staff and youth researchers go to live on a small island in Ungunniavik for two months to count belugas. From an observation cabin built in 2024, we spend numerous hours observing for belugas while hydrophones are constantly recording in many locations throughout the estuary. When we see belugas, we use a drone to count how many are going up or downriver, and we launch Qajait to quietly collect water samples near them. These water samples can help us identify the DNA of which beluga families are coming to the river.

Jacob spends the winter studying the recordings from the hydrophones and using computer programs to organize the calls so that we can calculate when, where, and how often belugas visit this estuary. We can then compare across years to measure how much each year is different from the other years.

In November 2024, Jacob and Kathy Aputiarjuk went to a major conference in Australia where marine mammal biologists from around the world discussed the latest projects happening globally. Kathy and Jacob presented our project and Anguvigaq's perspective on beluga management to a large audience including researchers from more than 10 countries. An Aboriginal group in Australia called the Yawuru people saw the presentation and invited Kathy and Jacob to go visit their traditional fishing area and visit for two days. Kathy and Jacob learned that Yawuru people have a similar research program on a traditionally harvested animal called a dugong and have been exchanging ideas and knowledge with them about Indigenous-led research.

We want to especially recognize the incredible work done by the Anguvigait of Kuujjuaq and Kangisualujjuaq, who have taken over leadership and coordination of the Marralik-Ungunniavik hunt camps since 2024.



BIRD MONITORING PROJECT

The Anguvigaq has been leading a bird monitoring project and this year we recruited Catherine Geoffroy to join our team as a PhD student to focus on this topic. Climate change has been impacting the animals that are found in Nunavik and where they go, which is especially true for birds. We began this project because of community concerns about changes in bird presence in certain areas and unfamiliar species appearing.



The Marralik-Ungunniavik region, where we lead an ongoing beluga project, is an important habitat that provides for many birds during the nesting season, molt and migration. Changes in bird distribution, including new species, and abundance have been observed in recent decades by Nunavimmiut visiting the area. This multi-year project seeks to document and understand these changes. This project is done in collaboration with the Kuujuaq Nigliit Board and the Kangiqsualujuaq Anguvigaq, along with support from Avataq Cultural Institute, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Birds Canada, and McGill University.

Since 2023, researchers, harvesters, and youth participants have been collecting bird observations through the SIKU app during the annual Inuit Knowledge Youth Camp taking place in Marralik-Ungunniavik.

To complement visual observations, our team also started to monitor birds using audio recorders distributed along the coast between Kuujuaq and Kangiqsualujuaq in the summer of 2025. By recording from April until October, the recorders will help cover an extended area and period of time, including spring and fall migration. The observations and recordings will provide information on which and when species are present in the area, and how many there are. They will also contribute, along with other data sources, to create a book about birds found in the Ungava Bay area.

Collecting this information is the first step to help understand changes in bird distribution observed by Nunavimmiut in the area, but also more widely throughout Nunavik.

BOWHEAD HUNT

The Bowhead whale hunt took place from October to December 2024, however no bowhead was harvested. There were many steps to prepare for this hunt, including the application for funding, the application for a hunting permit, purchase of equipment, the hosting of penthrite grenade training, as well as coordination of researchers, videographers, and hunt teams. The local Anguvigaq of Quaqtaq did an amazing job coordinating the hunt on the ground, while

the regional Anguvigaq supported in applications and equipment purchase. The hunt leaders vigilantly kept watch from above for any sign of bowhead with our videographer, Jean-Philippe Brochu. Although no bowheads were captured, JP caught some amazing footage of the beluga harvests taking place, and we will keep the equipment and funding to try to hunt again in fall 2025. This project was led by Daniel Oovaut and the Quaqtaq Anguvigaq, with support from Alec Nivaxie and Billy Dan May.



BELUGA INUIT KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

The Anguvigaq is conducting Beluga Inuit Knowledge Gathering interviews across the region to inform management decisions by exploring the impacts of existing management systems on beluga populations and Inuit harvesting rights and practices.

Initiated in April 2023, Phase 1 involved a comprehensive tour of three Hudson Bay Arc communities from November 5 to November 25, 2023. During the 19-day tour, 30 interview sessions were conducted with 41 participants, including Elders, extended knowledge holders, hunters, of the Eastern Hudson Bay beluga. Validation trips took place in September and October 2024, and the Eastern Hudson Bay Beluga report is now completed, thanks to the hard work of Billy Palliser and Polynya Consulting Group (consultants).

Phase 2 began in winter 2025 and toured Kangiqsualujuaq, Tasiujaq, and Puvirnituq. Kathy Aputiarjuk led the interviews with assistance from many of our team members, including Billy Dan May, Billy Palliser, Jacob Seguin, Mikhaela Neelin, and Alec Nivaxie, and the technical support of Cloudberry Connections (consultants). The draft report for these communities is complete and validation will take place in Fall 2025.



SIKU

This project aims to develop a community-led approach to climate change monitoring and environmental stewardship across Nunavik. We have been using the SIKU app to collect observations of ice conditions, invasive species, wildlife observations, and animal health. We have been hosting workshops in each community to train hunters in the use of this tool and we are paying them to post observations during their hunting trips in order to monitor wildlife across the region.

Alec Niviixie leads this project and has done SIKU workshops this year in Quaqtaq, Kangirsuk, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Puvirnituq, Umiujaq, and Inukjuak.



Weekly meetings are held with SIKU teams across Inuit regions to discuss successes, challenges, and how to improve wildlife and ice safety monitoring.

SIKU also has an “Ice Watch” competition, which encourages hunters to post ice observations to improve safety as ice melts and becomes dangerous in many areas. Alec was on the team of reviewers for those ice posts, and some Nunavimmiut won prizes from this competition for sharing their knowledge. Elena Angnatuk (Quaqtaq) and Willia Amaamatuak (Salluit) were among the grand prize winners, and Daniel Jaaka (Ivujivik) and Brian Kasudluak (Inukjuak), were weekly Ice Watch winners. Johnny Arnaituk (Kangiqsujuaq) also got his dangerous ice post featured. Congratulations to all and thank you for helping keep fellow Inuit safe!

Alec was involved in SIKU meetings at ArcticNet in Ottawa in December 2024 as well as the Hudson Bay Consortium in Montreal in February 2025. He did trainings for the Anguvigait managers and presented the project at our Annual General Meeting (October 2024) and Wildlife Board Meeting (March 2025). We encourage everyone to join in sharing your wildlife and ice observations so that we can learn from each other!

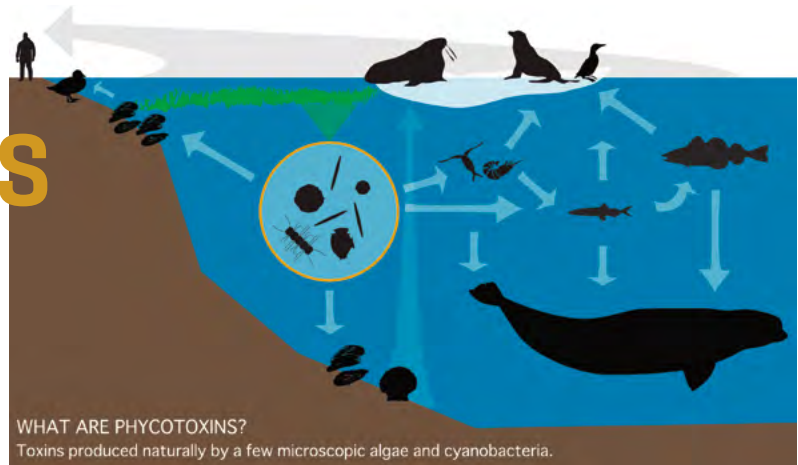


PHYTOTOXINS

As Arctic Waters are getting warmer, we are seeing more of a type of tiny marine species known as 'harmful algae'. These harmful algae are a part of the larger 'phytoplankton' – the food that supports the entire marine Arctic ecosystem. Most phytoplankton are not dangerous, but a few species can produce toxins (called phycotoxins) that may affect animals and people if they build up in food sources like shellfish and other animals.

These harmful algae are not new to the ocean, but conditions like warming waters, melting permafrost, and changes in ice cover may allow them to grow more easily and more often in northern regions. When this happens, there is a possibility that their toxins move up the food web. Mild symptoms like dizziness, numbness and tingling may start quickly after eating contaminated seafood. In extremely rare cases, toxins can cause fatal damage to the brain, the nervous system and even to the stomach.

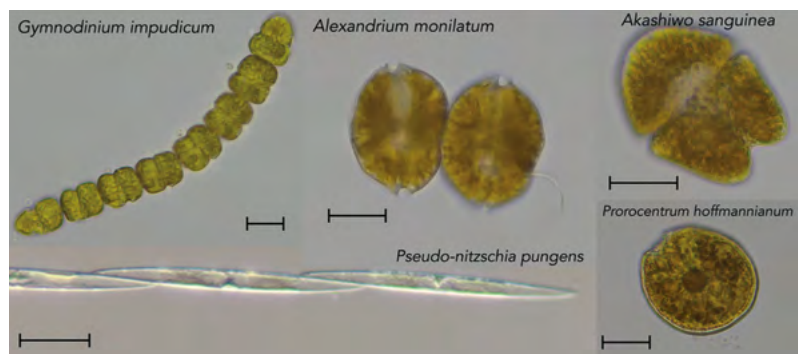
We want to get ahead of this problem and work together to keep people and animals safe. That is why we are working with researchers who are developing a monitoring program to better understand *which* species of harmful algae are present, *when* they grow in abundance and *if* their toxins are transferred to animal species. In partnership with the Nunavik Research Center, and University and Government partners in Canada and Europe, we are currently planning to begin research in Nunavik waters in 2026.



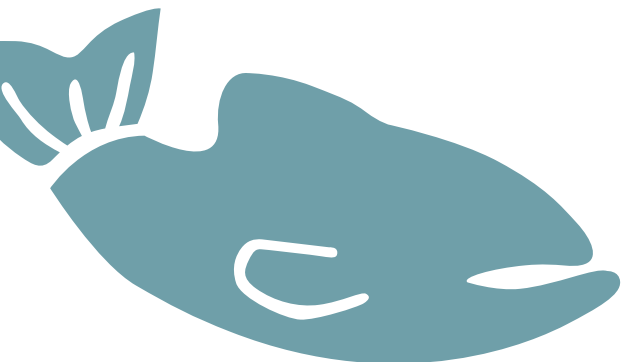
Our objectives are to:

- › Document which harmful algal species are present in Nunavik,
- › Identify which animals and tissues may be more likely to carry toxins, and during which times of the year, and,
- › Help set up a response plan in the case high toxin concentrations are ever found in country foods.

We want to emphasize: this research is not about telling people to stop eating country food. On the contrary, our goal is to help protect access to safe, nutritious country food, now and in the future.



We look forward to visiting your community soon to talk more about these harmful algae and to working with you to better understand and respond to this issue.

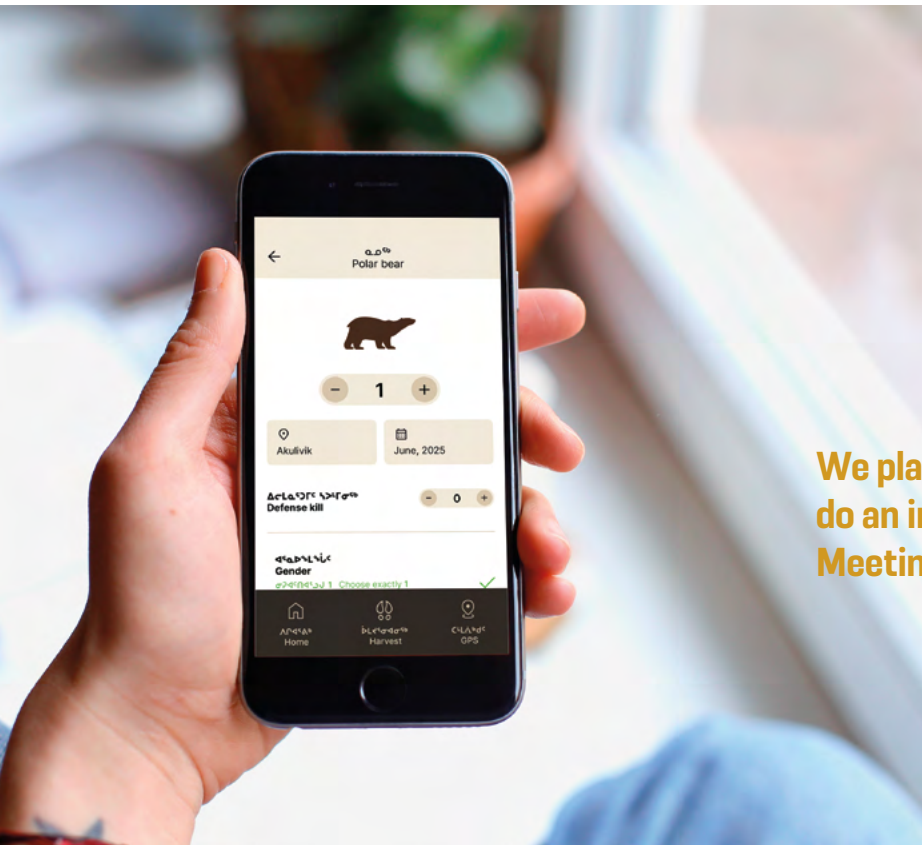


INUIT KNOWLEDGE VIDEOS

Communications Director Kathy Aputiarjuk has been working with videographer Jean-Philippe Brochu to develop Inuit Knowledge videos to share knowledge on wildlife management, respectful harvesting practices, and the impacts of climate change. The result will include a series of themed Inuit Knowledge videos as well as a full-length documentary on the Marraik-Ungunniavik region, which we hope will teach future generations. Kathy has been recording original cinematic music for these films, and we are looking forward to sharing the results with Nunavimmiut!



HARVEST MONITORING



Shirley-Ann Ekomiak was hired to lead this project in winter 2025 and presented the progress during the March Wildlife Management and Research Board Meeting. Alongside Makivvik Corporation and with the technical expertise of app developer Kamea Lafontaine, we have been developing a phone application that Nunavik Inuit harvesters will use to help centralize information gathering on harvesting. In July 2025 we collected feedback on the name for this app through Facebook, and the final name that was selected was “Nasivvik,” which means “a vantage point, to be able to see far and wide from high ground.”

We plan to complete the app in time to do an initial launch at our Annual General Meeting in October 2025.

In the future we hope that the harvesting data will help guide us towards a sustainable future where decisions will be made by Inuit for Inuit.

COMMITTEES

ATANNIUVIK



Atanniuvik is a non-profit organization, incorporated in August 2024, with the mission to guide and oversee research in Nunavik in a way that supports Inuit self-determination.

Their role is to ensure that research meets the priorities, needs, and aspirations of Nunavimmiut, while fostering respectful and meaningful collaboration between researchers and communities.

Over the past year, Atanniuvik has made progress in building the foundations for this important work. In partnership with Carleton University, they have continued developing a new system that will receive and manage all research requests for Nunavik and Chisasibi. This innovative platform is expected to be ready for testing in spring 2026.

They also began developing **NordVik**, an open-access database that will present all past and current research conducted in Nunavik, along with essential information for public consultation. In collaboration with Université Laval, they have started compiling a comprehensive record of all research projects carried out to date in the region.

Internally, they have put in place key administrative tools and processes to support Atanniuvik's operations and have welcomed several new staff members. Looking ahead, their first Annual General Meeting will be held before the end of 2025. Leading up to this, their team will work closely with local organizations in each village to establish **Community Research Committees** and help them choose their representative for the AGM.

They have a dedicated and knowledgeable Board of Directors, including our own Vice President, **Billy Palliser**, who was appointed as the chair and President of the Atanniuvik BOD. The other Board members are Treasurer **Barrie Ford**, and members **Rhoda Kokiapik** and **Billy Cain**. **Elena Labranche** also made valuable contributions in her previous role as Board member on behalf of NRBHSS. The Board understands the challenges ahead and is highly motivated to make research more accessible and beneficial to Nunavimmiut. Three additional seats—representing the region's three coasts—will also be up for election at the AGM.

Over the past year, the Atanniuvik team has taken part in various conferences to present their mission and role, and to clarify their unique

place in the research landscape. Atanniuvik does not replace any existing authority responsible for permits or other regulatory processes. Instead, they serve as a supportive, Nunavik-led initiative that works alongside communities and reflects their values, priorities, and ways of doing things. By establishing local **Community Research Committees**, as well as engaging regional organizations, they ensure that research is reviewed and guided at both the community and regional levels. This enables Atanniuvik to follow projects from start to finish, providing researchers with culturally informed guidance and ensuring that research results are communicated back in ways that are meaningful and beneficial to Nunavimmiut.

The Atanniuvik team is thrilled to be moving closer to their official launch in 2026. As we approach this milestone, there is a strong sense of excitement and pride in seeing years of planning and collaboration take shape. We look forward to Atanniuvik being fully operational, delivering meaningful tools and services, and working alongside communities to ensure research truly serves the people of Nunavik.

NUNAVIK CARIBOU PROTECTION PLAN

In 2019 there was a meeting in Salluit to discuss the state of migratory caribou and what actions could be taken to address the declines that Inuit were witnessing. Participants committed to the development of an Inuit-led management regime: the Nunavik Caribou Protection Plan.

The Protection Plan is founded on the Nunavik Inuit Knowledge of Caribou report.



The goal of this Protection Plan is to actively steward and maintain healthy herds of caribou in a way that respects the balance and harmony of the ecosystem with the goal of sustaining herds of caribou for future generations.

This plan also aims to promote and forward Inuit Knowledge and ways of knowing, reinforce traditional stewardship practices and further Nunavik Inuit self-determination in wildlife management.

We (Makivvik and Anguvigait) are hosting issue-based workshops to go more in depth in specific topics to inform the Protection Plan, such as Hunter's Support, Predator Control, Sports Hunting, and Research. These workshops will help to refine the plan, and the Anguvigait will have an opportunity to review it.

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, assisting the Anguvigait with their elections, and continuing to grow and improve our small organization. Here are some specific events to watch out for:

OCTOBER 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Oct 21-23)

Our Annual General Meeting will be hosted in Puvirnituq. 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 President and Secretary for the Anguvigait.



NOVEMBER 2025

ANGUVIGAIT ELECTIONS

Strong and vocal Inuit leaders in wildlife management are essential for Nunavimmiut to continue having access to country food. The Anguvigait board members are elected in each community to represent their community's harvesters. This election is crucial because these Anguvigait board members will be the Inuit involved in the Public Hearings for the upcoming beluga management plan. We encourage everyone to nominate strong Inuit leaders and to go out and vote!

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026

HARVEST MONITORING APP COMMUNITY TOUR

This winter, we will be visiting communities to present the new Harvest Monitoring App and hear community feedback. Watch our Facebook page to find out when we will be visiting you!

