

<b>Organization's Name</b>	<b>Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)</b>
<b>Vision</b>	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) has represented the interests of the Inuit of Canada at the national level since its incorporation in 1972. Working primarily as an advocacy organization, ITK has been actively involved in a wide range of issues some of which have proven to be of critical importance in enabling Inuit to pursue their aspirations and take control of their destinies.
<b>Mission</b>	<p>In 1971, the newly formed Board of Directors and delegates to the first Annual General Meeting, established the aims and objectives that guided our organization's work for the next 20 years. By the early 1990s with the land claim negotiations well underway, with the regions taking over full responsibility for their own programs, with government discussing new relationships with aboriginal peoples, and with Inuit redefining our own perspective relationships with both public and private bodies, we undertook to examine and redefine our aims and objectives:</p> <p>To represent the interests of the Inuit of Canada through their settlement claim organizations on matters of a national nature;</p> <p>To preserve and promote the unity of Inuit as a single people within Canada, and to ensure that Inuit of their settlement claim organizations are capable of speaking collectively on matters of a national nature;</p> <p>To cooperate with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada) in putting forth the positions of Canadian Inuit on international matters;</p> <p>To represent, where appropriate, the interests of Canadian Inuit living outside the Inuit settlement areas;</p> <p>To promote and facilitate coordination and cooperation among the Inuit settlement claim organizations on matters of a national nature;</p>

	<p>To facilitate coordination and cooperation on matters of a regional nature involving two or more Inuit settlement claim organizations at the request of the concerned organizations;</p> <p>To take measures to further enable Inuit to fully exercise their rights within Canadian Society in general, including their right of self-government;</p> <p>To assist the Inuit settlement claim organizations to protect the rights of Inuit in the Canadian Constitution with necessary amendments;</p> <p>To help protect the environment and renewable resources so that present and future generations of Inuit can fully enjoy their relationship with the land and sea;</p> <p>To take measures at the national level, along with other national Inuit organizations, to protect and promote Inuit culture, language, values, health, education, justice and any other matter that impacts upon the ability of Inuit to shape the future of their society within Canada;</p> <p>To take measures at the national level, along with other national Inuit organizations, to help foster economic development and trade among the Inuit and within Canada in their economic and business endeavors;</p> <p>To work with other national Inuit organizations, where appropriate, to further our aims and objectives.</p>
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<p><b>Mandate</b></p>	<p>Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) has represented the interests of the Inuit of Canada at the national level since its incorporation in 1972. Working primarily as an advocacy organization, ITK has been actively involved in a wide range of issues some of which have proven to be of critical importance in enabling Inuit to pursue their aspirations and take control of their destinies. A key example of such an issue was the initial planning and strategizing of Inuit land claims that took place within ITK during the early years of its existence. Within the foreseeable future, the last of the Inuit land claims agreements will be signed in Labrador, closing an important chapter in the modern history of Inuit in Canada. ITK also played a primary role</p>
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	<p>in the constitutional talks and in presenting information to a number of commissions including the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.</p> <p>ITK continues to be active in a number of policy areas to ensure Inuit rights and interests are both protected and promoted. Priority policy areas are often identified through the initiatives or concerns originating at the community, regional or national level or in response to specific government actions. ITK keeps apprised of concerns at the community and regional levels through its Board of Directors as well as through more direct consultations with regional and community-based organizations. Ensuring that the two-way flow of communication is open and smooth is a priority for the organization and a key means by which it can respond to the needs and aspirations of Inuit across Canada.</p>
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<p><b>Key Activities/ Current Projects</b></p>	<p>The following section provides an overview of some of the major policy areas that ITK is currently involved in. To find out more about the current activities of ITK, please refer to the latest annual report and other sections of this web site.</p> <p>The protection and promotion of Inuit culture and language is a key priority area for ITK. The organization keeps informed about government initiatives and policies impacting upon aboriginal languages and coordinates the Inuit response to these initiatives. For example, the current Aboriginal Language Initiative, ITK, with regional support, negotiated with the federal government to enable the Inuit regions to review proposals and make decisions on how program funding would be allocated.</p> <p>A rapidly expanding area of activity for ITK has been in the area of health policy. Inuit currently face a number of hurdles in accessing adequate health care services. To identify priorities and strategies for addressing health issues, ITK established a Health Committee comprised of representatives from each region as well as from Pauktuutit, the Inuit Women's Association, and the Nunavut Social Development Council. Through the Committee, ITK works with various government, non-government and aboriginal organizations to reduce</p>
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	<p>barriers to access for Inuit and to develop programs and policies that enable Inuit health needs to be met.</p> <p>ITK, the Assembly of First Nations and Health Canada have formed a Joint Committee to develop a process to review the current health care system. The Committee takes a holistic approach to the development of community-based strategies for Health Renewal. This reflects the position of Inuit that a person's health is affected by a variety of different factors that all need to be considered when developing a health strategy.</p> <p>ITK also participates in a number of working groups and committees that focus upon specific health issues. To date, these have included diabetes, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects, home care, accident prevention, nutrition, non-insured health benefits and a host of other important health issues. ITK also makes presentations to various committees involved in health. The focus of ITK's work in the area of health is to share information about Inuit health care needs and priorities while working with them to develop policies and programs that enable Inuit to more easily access health care services.</p>
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<p><b>Web site</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.itk.ca">www.itk.ca</a></p>
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