



# Makivik Inquires

Alisha Tukkiapik  
Québec solidaire

## Q&A Between Makivik and provincial election candidates

### Makivik

Q

1. During the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement an Inuit Governing System for North was never addressed. Since then the Inuit have called for a governing system with powers of legislation on areas such as Wildlife and Justice. What is your stand on this issue and what are you planning to do to help the Inuit gain Self Determination?

### Alisha Tukkiapik

Quebec Solidaire accepts that the province of Quebec be divided in many self-governed territories. In other words, Quebec Solidaire will not stop Nunavik from becoming a self-governed political entity. It goes beyond the notion of power of legislation on areas such as wildlife and justice. This is about becoming another territory, another province or a country depending on the political will of Nunavimmiut.

It is not up to Quebec Solidaire to make Nunavik an Inuit govern land of its own, it is up to Inuit to do it. This is what Quebec Solidaire program is about. As an elected representative and using the QS political program, I would encourage Inuit leaders to be strong and not to let the legislative and executive branch of the Quebec government deteriorate Inuit ways of life. I want to participate in the parliamentary commissions and intervene in parliamentary sessions so that Inuit leaders and the Inuit stop being treated as second class citizens. So this is where Quebec Solidaire Will.

A

- A) Adopt, without reservations or conditions, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by the National Assembly and implement it.
- B) Work with all Aboriginal Peoples to implement the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- C) For any planned development project on indigenous territories, will request free, prior and informed consent from the affected communities and the signing of an agreement with them.
- D) Assist indigenous communities to maintain their traditional languages and cultures

My personal thought on this question is that Inuit leaders have the power, knowledge and expertise to negotiate legislation on areas such as Wildlife and Justice. Former Makivik Corporation president Pita Aatami and vice-president Johnny Peters signed on December 1st 2006 the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement. Current Makivik Corporation president, Charlie Watt, was part of the 1975 James Bay agreement negotiation team.

### Makivik

Q

2. The cost of living on the Ungava Riding of Nunavik is sometimes 4 times higher than in Montreal making it extremely difficult for businesses and individuals to survive. What do you think the Quebec Government should do in the next 10 years to help start a process whereby the cost of living becomes more at par with the rest of the province?

### Alisha Tukkiapik

This point will require close collaboration between the different levels of government and the Makivik Corporation to come up with solutions. The cost of transport, linked to the distance and the different sources of energy to ensure this transport, cannot be regulated by a single government. Concerted action will have to be carried out.

A

- Quebec Solidaire has the intention to invest 150\$ million into a guaranteed minimum revenue policy over the next four year for citizens without jobs and incapacities to occupy a job.
- B) will adopt a food sovereignty policy to support and promote:
- C) Affordable access throughout Quebec to healthy and locally produced foods.
- D) Encouraging greenhouse production with various green energies.

The UNDRIP (UNDRIP) recognizes, in Article 21, this right to the improvement of the economic and social situation of indigenous peoples.

This measure could help Nunavimmiut with the cost of living.

### Makivik

Q

3. The lack of housing in Inuit communities is in a crisis. Just over 100 houses are built each year but never enough to meet the housing needs of the region. Nunavik lacks 800 units to eliminate the housing shortage and that number is not being addressed. How do you see a "catch up" housing construction program being established to eliminate the overcrowding in Inuit communities?

### Alisha Tukkiapik

I am also worried about the recent rent increases in Nunavik. Quebec regulation prevents rent increase beyond 2% if the landlord does not improve the houses. Many houses in Nunavik are defective and are not well maintained or even not built properly causing legal loss of enjoyment of the property. When there is a loss of enjoyment, a tenant has the right to be compensated. Application of the law related to the Régie du logement du Québec is not applied in Nunavik and this is causing Inuit a lot of injustice. We need better access to the tenants protection.

I also want to support KMHB in its action against the construction companies that have built houses. I also want to intervene in order to freeze or even reduce the cost of house rent as houses are defectives. I also want to make sure that we have jobs for Inuit as we are needing more houses and more building infrastructures. Creating jobs should be about making sure that we have regional or local quotas of hiring Inuit construction qualified workers on building project. Our population is young and need to have jobs with incomes that allows access to property. Inuit are kept in poverty.

A

Québec Solidaire will register the right to housing in the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. It will adopt a National Housing Policy based on universal access to housing and, for this purpose:

- A) Construct 50,000 energy-efficient social housing units for all categories of the population.
- B) Improve social housing maintenance and renovation practices.
- C) Support the claims of Aboriginal organizations to meet their housing needs.
- D) Promote safer housing by:
- E) a National Housing Code
- F) Renovation support programs that comply with this Code.

Québec Solidaire is driven by the political will to solve this problem. Article 21 UNDRIP recognizes this right to housing.