



# Makivik Inquires

Jean Boucher  
Parti libéral du Québec (PLQ)

## Q&A Between Makivik and provincial election candidates

### Makivik

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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?

### Jean Boucher

1. First Nations and Inuit are nations in their own right, they are resilient, proud of their differences and their culture, rich of their identity and desiring of affirmation.

The first Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit (2017-2022) is in line with this state of mind.

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Four main axes guide this plan, including one that aims at developing the capacity to take action by favouring an appropriation of their own power to take action, and, more generally, a sense of control over their lives.

It is important to mention that we have recently announced that the Inuit youth will have a new tool available to ensure their fulfillment: the Inuit Youth Action Strategy (2016-2021). This strategy was elaborated with the precious collaboration of the Qarjuit Youth Council.

It is important that our work increases the autonomy of Inuit while improving the recognition of their values, their traditions and their customs.

### Makivik

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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?

### Jean Boucher

2. In 2017-2018 the Quebec Government prolonged the Agreement on the Financing of Measures to Reduce the Cost of Living in Nunavik until March 31st 2019. We want to pursue the negotiations in order to conclude a new agreement.

That being said, different programs exist to reduce the impact of the high cost of living:

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- Elders Assistance
- Airfare reduction program
- Household Appliance and Harvesting Equipment Program
- Country Food Community Support Program
- Food and Other Essentials Program
- Gasoline Program

### Makivik

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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?

### Jean Boucher

3. We are aware of the housing problems in Nunavik. We are collaborating with the federal government, the Société du Plan Nord and the SHQ to solve this issue.

The 2018-2019 budget includes an investment of \$42M, over five years, for housing. Of this amount, \$15M will be used for the construction of 45 private dwellings, and \$22M for the construction of three warehouses that will facilitate the logistics of the construction sites.

Let's not forget that since 2014, 649 new dwellings were built. Moreover, a new five-year plan (2017-2022) will allow the construction of 350 new dwellings. That being said, we are of the opinion that we must look beyond social housing to address the housing situation in Nunavik.

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For this reason, we created the Home Ownership Program in order to favour the private ownership market in Nunavik.

The last budget planned and investment of \$1M so the SHQ could implement a new program to allow current tenants to become the owners of the apartments they live in.

Through these actions, we offer the Inuit communities more control over their living environment. Everyone, regardless of their origin or their region have the right to evolve in a safe and healthy climate. We will continue to collaborate with the regional organizations and our other partners, such as the SHQ, in order to improve the quality of life of Nunavimmiut.

We are convinced that by working together we will improve the housing situation in Nunavik.