

Kivalliq Inuit Association Announces Guardians Program

November 14, 2025 – Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

Arviat

Baker Lake

Chesterfield
Inlet

Coral Harbour

Naujaat

Rankin Inlet

Whale Cove

For more information about the Guardians Program and KIA's commitment to supporting Inuit Stewardship, Cultural Preservation and Community Well-Being, please go to www.kivalliginuit.ca

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Community engagement has been a critical component of the program's development. In the winter of 2023, KIA, Parks Canada, and MakeWay held a series of community engagement sessions in each of the Kivalliq communities to discuss the potential for a Guardians program, answer questions, and gather feedback. These sessions revealed a clear desire from the communities to establish such a program, and they are eager for KIA to get started.

Key Highlights of the Guardians Program:

- **Inuit Stewardship:** The program empowers Inuit communities to manage and protect their lands and waters according to traditional knowledge and practices. This includes regular patrols to monitor wildlife health, ice conditions, and other environmental indicators.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Guardians will play a vital role in preserving and promoting Inuit culture through workshops, intergenerational mentorship, and the documentation of traditional knowledge. This ensures that cultural traditions are passed down to future generations.
- **Community Well-being:** The program supports community well-being by creating sustainable employment opportunities for Inuit, enhancing food sovereignty through traditional harvesting practices, and providing training and capacity-building initiatives tailored to Inuit needs.

Guiding Principals of the Guardians Program:

The Guardian program will be guided by Inuit Qaujjimatuqangit. Below are a set of Inuit values and principles that must be respected in all aspects of Guardians' work and in program management.

- ᐃᓄᖅᑎᓯᕐᔪᕐᓂᖅ - Inuuqatigiitsiarniq
Respecting others, relationships and caring for people.
- ᑐᓐᓴᓇᕐᓂᖅ - Tunnganarniq
Fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive.
- ᐱᓯᕐᔪᕐᓂᖅ - Pijitsirniq
Serving and providing for family and/or community.
- ᐊᓯᖅᑎᓯᕐᓂᖅ - Aajiiqatigiinniq





Decision making through discussion and consensus.

- ᐱᓕᑭᐱᓴᓂᓃ - Pilimmaksarniq
Development of skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort.
- ᐃᔨᓴᓂᐅᓂᓃ - Ikajuqtigiinniq
Working together for a common cause.
- ᓴᓄᓃᑐᓂᓃ - Qanuqtuurniq
Being innovative and resourceful.
- ᐘᐳᐅᓂᓃᓂᓃ ᔨᓚᓴᐘᓂᓃ - Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq
Respect and care for the land, animals and the environment.