

Deputy Premier Monica Ell-Kanayuk



**Nunavut Trade Show Gala  
Keynote Speech**

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Iqaluit, Nunavut

Koojesse Ballroom, Frobisher Inn

Time: 8 minutes

Qujannimiik, thank you for the introduction

And thank you to all of you for being here and making this year's Nunavut Trade Show such a success. It truly is a special celebration recognizing "25 Years of Business Growth."

Each of us here today -- and so many before us -- share the vision of creating opportunity for Nunavummiut. It takes all of us to make that happen.

While there is still much to achieve, there has been a lot accomplished through the combined efforts of the government, Inuit organizations and the private sector including small business.

As well, there are many charitable and service organizations and individuals who contribute their time, often uncompensated, to make our communities better.

These combined efforts reflect the Inuit values of Inuuqatigiitsiarniq (respecting others), Pijitsirniq (serving and providing) and

Piliriqatigiinniq/Ikajuqtigiinniq (working together) that this territory was built on.

I would like to acknowledge, in particular, the organizing committee of the Nunavut Trade Show for the efforts in making this year's event, not only special but so valuable. This year, we had the addition of keynote speakers including:

- Our Premier Peter Taptuna
- Brian Penney, CEO of Baffinland Iron Mines

And earlier today

- Senator Dennis Patterson

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Many of you, I realize, have travelled a great distances from your home communities to join us here in the City of Iqaluit. But whether you came here from the west, or the south, or even from just around the corner, we need everyone's participation to continue to build the territory to its fullest potential.

On that note, I was very impressed by the session hosted by the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society and appreciate the launch of its Public Service Announcement. I look forward to hearing more and know we all have a role to play and a contribution to make.

I was so pleased as well to see the session on Trades & Apprenticeships as these are vital to engaging our youth to develop much-needed work skills that are in high demand within the territory.

As well, the new NNI Policy ensures our businesses have the opportunity to build capacity and grow to meet existing and future needs of Nunavut.

The territory continues to develop its mixed economy and through the business development support offered across Nunavut by such organizations as BBDC, KCFI, First Nations Bank, NBCC and others, aspiring entrepreneurs and dedicated business owners have the opportunity to establish or expand business ventures to further support the needs of Nunavummiut.

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25 years ago, we relied on our confidence and our resilience to realize our hopes and vision for a new territory. Today we have much to celebrate and know there is so much more ahead.

The natural beauty of our land is gaining world attention through increased tourism including the recent voyage of the *Crystal Serenity*, the largest cruise ship to pass through Northwest Passage with stops in Cambridge Bay and Pond Inlet. Cruises are at an all-time high in 2016 with 59 planned community visits.

We have so much talent and our stories are being told.

Two films made in Nunavut and featuring local talent – *Maliglutit and Two Lovers and A Bear* -- were recently featured at the Toronto International Film Festival. The latter debuted at Cannes earlier this year.

AND the film *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* by Nunavut director Zacharias Kunuk was recently voted as the number 1 Canadian film of all time.

The talent of our master carvers and artists are featured in galleries around the world. The Inuit Art Centre at the Winnipeg Art Gallery now holds the largest public collection of contemporary Inuit Art and is set to expand in order to display artwork and artifacts that have been held in storage for decades.

Later this month NACA's exhibit – "Floe Edge" – is having its first international opening at the Canadian Embassy in London. Some of you may have viewed "Floe Edge" when it opened earlier this year in Gatineau during the Northern Lights conference.

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Still, there's more positive news to report.

Unlike many parts of Canada, Nunavut's economy is projected to grow by almost 5% in 2017, led by a rebound in metal mining and an investment in critical infrastructure according to the Conference Board of Canada.

The start-up of the Meliadine mine in 2020, development of other mining projects such as Hope Bay and anticipated recovery of

commodity prices will lead to strong growth for Nunavut throughout the next decade. This represents real opportunities for Nunavummiut.

Public sector investments in critical infrastructure will also drive Nunavut's economy.

The Canadian High Arctic Research Station is now under construction and is expected to open by Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

CHARS will position the country – and the territory – internationally as a vital northern hub for research and a leader in polar science and technology.

Other infrastructure projects such as the opening of the new Iqaluit International Airport and additional commitments to public housing will also contribute to Nunavut's economic growth.

And most exciting, the territory's very first deep water port in Iqaluit and a small craft harbour in Pond Inlet -- made possible through federal contributions -- will improve marine safety, enhance transportation of goods and support Nunavut's fisheries.

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The territory is now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation. In that time, we have laid a good foundation and continue to develop Nunavut's potential through growing its mixed economy.

As we celebrate Nunavut's achievements and the possibilities for its future, I encourage all of us to look ahead to where we can be in another "25 years of business growth".

Enjoy the Gala.

I wish you all safe travels home.