

INUIT HOMELESSNESS IN MONTREAL

Makivik Corporation Innovative

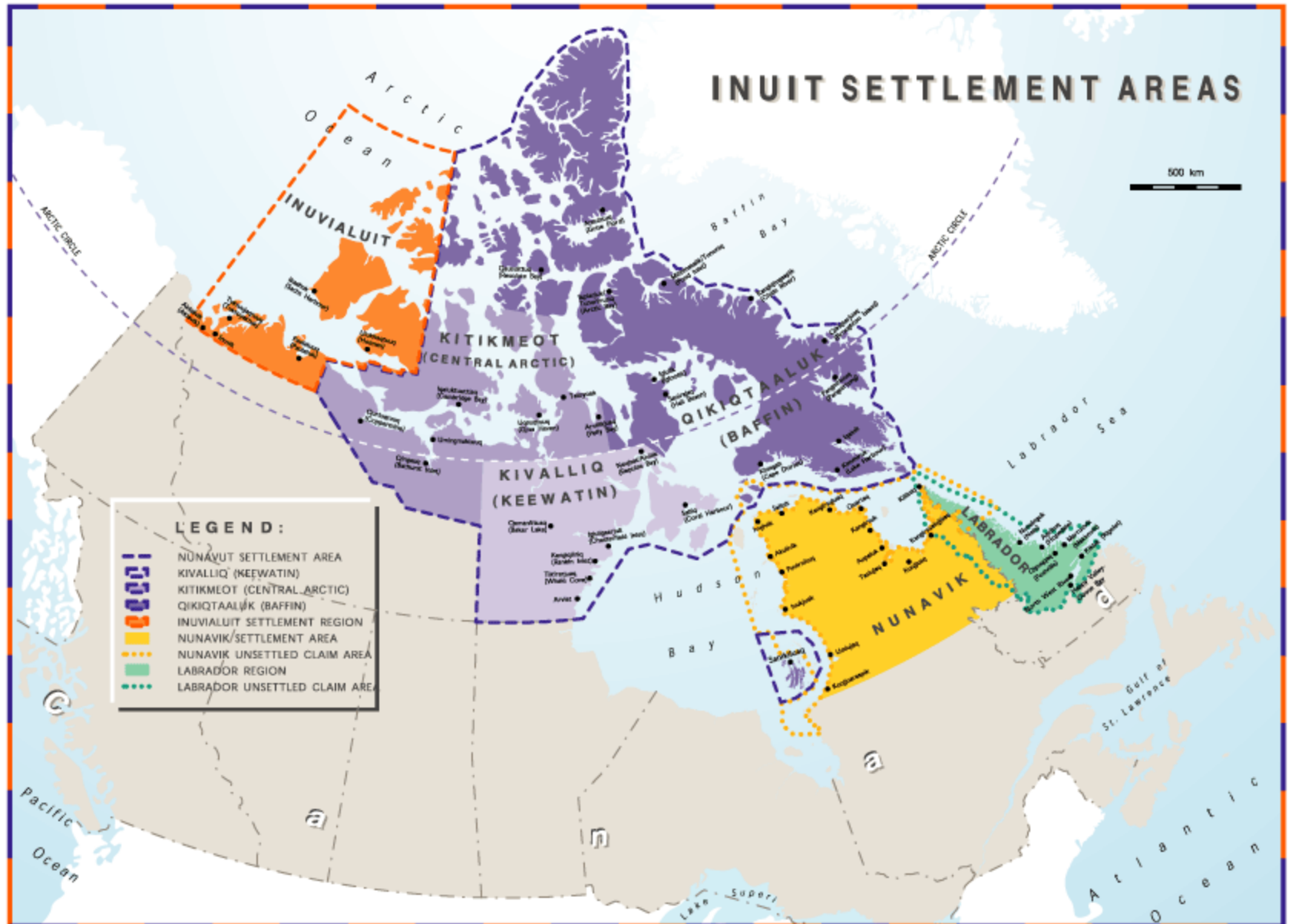
Strategy and Action Plan

A Success Story

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CAEH16 LONDON ONTARIO

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2016



INUIT POPULATION IN CANADA (2011)

• NUNAVUT:	(45.5%)	27,070
• NUNAVIK:	(18.2%)	10,750
• Inuvialuit:	(5.6%)	3,310
• Nunatsiavut Labrador:	(3.9%)	2,325
• Outside Nunangat:	(26.9%)	15,990
<u>TOTAL:</u>		<u>59,445</u>

INUIT IN THE 1950s

Inuit in Canada numbered 10,000 people

In 1956, largest Inuit community in Canada:

Sanatorium in Hamilton: 322 patients

One third of Inuit was infected by TB

Many Inuit died in hospital – buried locally

Devastating effect for families left behind

KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ –
UNGAVA BAY - 1967



KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ 2010

2008-2009



WHY INUIT GO TO MONTREAL

PULL FACTORS

To accompany a family member

For employment

Medical services

To continue studies

Attracted to city life

PUSH FACTORS

Housing crisis in Nunavik communities

Increasing rate of *blind* homelessness

Family problems

High cost of living – High level of poverty

6 Inuit out of 10 do not get enough to eat

Lack of employment

Arrival of former detainees

BLIND HOMELESSNESS IN NUNAVIK **(AND NUNAVUT)**

People without a home of their own
People who do not have shelter

They are called *drifters* in Nunavik
***Couch surfers* (Conference Board Canada)**

50 Inuit men homeless in Kuujjuaq

MAY 27, 2008

Nunavik housing crunch squeezes Inuit onto Montreal streets

Last Updated: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 | 2:57 PM ET Comments 6 Recommend 19

CBC News

Puvirnituk is gripped by a housing shortage that residents say fuels violence, substance abuse and death in the tiny Inuit village in Nunavik — and is driving many to lives on the streets in Montreal.

Inuit in Puvirnituk are calling 2008 one of the worst years in the settlement's half-century history, with five suicides reported in the first five months alone.

Alcohol and drug abuse are prevalent, exacerbated by cramped quarters in the settlement near Quebec's northernmost tip.

More than one teenager a month commits suicide and families are cracking under the pressure of coping with scarce and crowded housing that affords only a couple hundred homes for some 1,500 inhabitants.

Many end up fleeing to Montreal with the hopes of finding better housing — only to end up living, and dying, on the streets.

Social services workers in Puvirnituk say they're frustrated with the province's response to the crisis but the government says it faces a daunting and expensive challenge to build more northern homes.

Bulk of homeless Aboriginals in Montreal are Inuit

Inuit from Nunavik make up more than 40 per cent of Montreal's Aboriginal homeless population, even though they make up only 10 per cent of the city's First Nations community, according to the Native Friendship Centre.

"I find there's a lot more [Inuit], compared to a couple years ago," said Pamela Shauk, who works for the Native Friendship Centre, at the corner of St-Laurent Boulevard and Ontario Street.

She sees "a lot more clients out," especially on the streets around the Old Forum, a Montreal landmark. "I guess they get kicked out from their apartments."

Or some never find apartments and end up adopting the streets — like Paulisi, who has been homeless in Montreal on and off for more than a decade.

"I can't go home [to the North] because there's no housing up there for me," he said recently. "The only house I got there [has] people that drink. I can't go home, so I'm stuck down here," he said.

Homeless Inuit flock together to panhandle, drink and sleep, but it's a punishing lifestyle, said Elsie Adams, 51, who lived on Montreal's streets for years.

"It used to be hard to be down there. But we knew how to survive, to sleep outside. We were helping each other, that's how we were surviving." Ultimately life on the streets kills, and she's mourned many friends, Adams said.

**HOUSING CRISIS IN
NUNAVIK IS THE MAIN
HOMELESSNESS-MAKER
FACTOR IN NUNAVIK
AND IN MONTREAL**

HOMELESSNESS IN MONTREAL

Aboriginals: 0.3% of Montreal population

Aboriginals: overrepresented

Inuit form 10% of Aboriginal people

Inuit form 45% of all homeless Aboriginals

80% from Nunavik – 20% from Nunavut

400-600 Inuit are low-income or homeless

Homelessness: lasting legacy of residential schools and other historical traumas

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS INUIT IN MONTREAL

As many men as women

Consumption of alcohol and drugs

Inuit women reconnect with violence/misery

Face racism

Isolation is particularly significant

Major health problems: HIV/AIDS – Mental

Disorders – Cancer – Accidents – Hepatitis C

MAKIVIK CORPORATION

Established in 1978 – James Bay Agreement

Represents all Inuit of Québec

Manage compensation funds

Protects rights and interests of Inuit

Economic development

Makivik Board and Executive elected by Inuit

President: Jobie Tukkiapik

INUIT ARE TAXPAYERS AS ANY CANADIAN

MAKIVIK STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN ON LOW INCOME AND HOMELESS INUIT (2011)

TWO OBJECTIVES

To ensure Inuit in difficulty or homeless do get access to medical services and social programs

Work on prevention of homelessness

IMPLEMENTATION OF
STRATEGY BY ESTABLISHING
PARTNERSHIPS

WITH ORGANIZATIONS
SENSITIVE TO INUIT NEEDS
AND CULTURE

POLES OF SERVICES

CHEZ DORIS WOMEN CENTRE



1430 rue Chomedey
Montréal QC
H3H 2A7

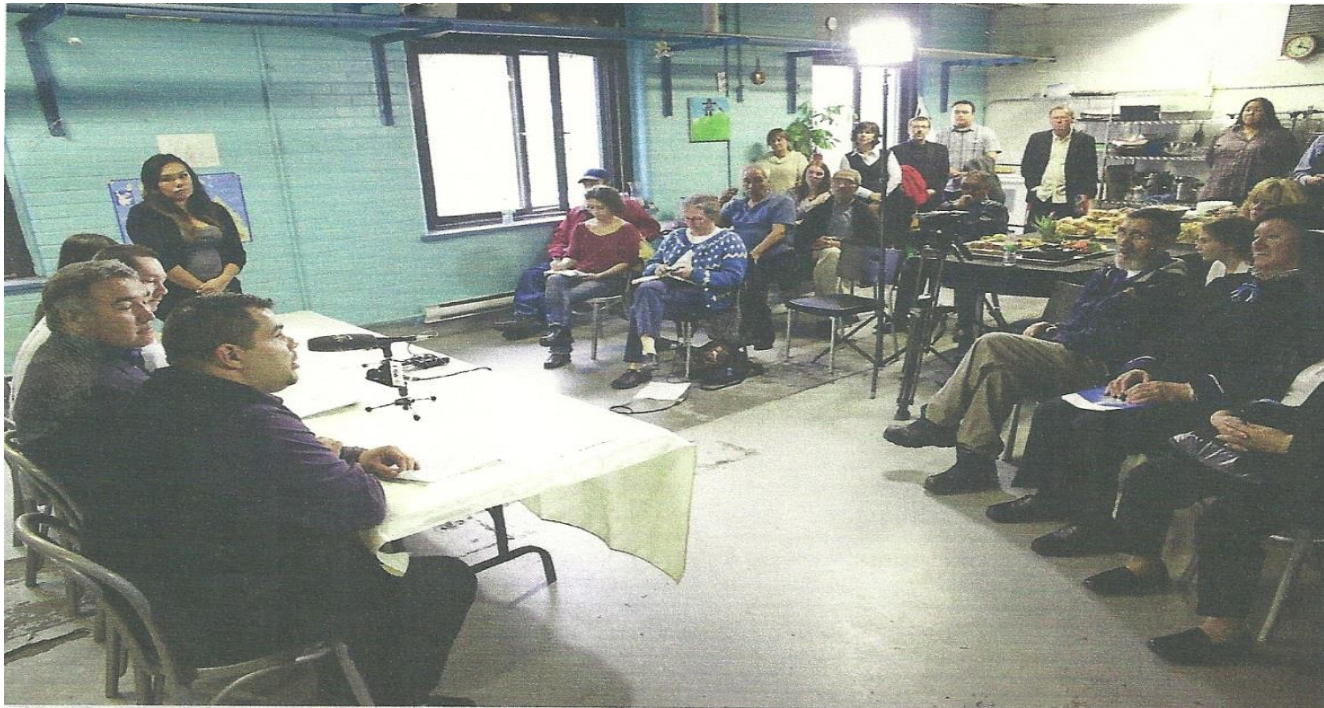
514.937.2341

CHEZ DORIS WOMEN CENTRE

- In existence for 40 years
- Day shelter for women (100 visitors per day)
- Open 7 days a week
- Services offered: food; showers, clothing room; emergency food bags; 6 respite beds; referral assistance; financial management program; aboriginal housing placement; health and mental health services; legal services; tax-filing services; educational and socio-recreational programs.
- Inuit Assistance Program: 17% are Inuit
- Makivik funds Inuit Case Worker

OCTOBER 4, 2012

SIGNING OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN MAKIVIK AND PROJETS AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC



Inuit Homelessness in Montreal

According to recent data from Statistics Canada, approximately 20% of the Inuit population of Canada now live in southern Canadian cities, including Montreal.

Several reasons draw Inuit to Montreal including jobs, especially with Inuit organizations, to continue their studies, to accompany a family member for hospital care, and the attraction to city life.

Other reasons drive Inuit away from their home community in Nunavik such as the social housing shortage crisis, high cost of living, high level of poverty, food insecurity, physical and sexual

Les sans-abri inuits de Montréal

Selon des données récentes de Statistique Canada, environ 20 % des Inuits du Canada vivent maintenant dans les villes du sud du Canada, dont Montréal.

Plusieurs raisons attirent les Inuits vers Montréal, notamment les emplois au sein des organisations inuites, la poursuite des études, l'accompagnement d'un membre de la famille pour des soins hospitaliers, et l'attrait pour la vie en ville.

D'autres raisons poussent des Inuits loin de leur communauté au Nunavik, comme la pénurie de logements, le coût élevé de la vie, le niveau de pauvreté, l'insécurité alimentaire, la violence

PROJETS AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC CENTRE

Inuit (50%) First Nations, Métis

New building opened July 2016

Shelter unit: 54 beds

New unit: 16 transition rooms

Makivik provides funding and expertise

Development Inuit specific programs

THE OPEN DOOR SHELTER

4006 Dorchester Avenue, Westmount



 **Open Door Today**
opendoortoday

opendoortoday Let us meditate and pray today with Psalm 139...
113 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

opendoortoday We also wish to thank Dawson Christian fellowship and all others who collected and donated socks and underwear for our clients.
163 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite


opendoortoday A very special thanks to Harmonia Westmount Choir for collecting food and sock/underwear donations for The Open Door.
163 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

opendoortoday We would like to thank Dylan and Gary for all their help and support. God bless you guys.
169 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

opendoortoday Also, thank you everyone for participating in the Lindy Bomb swing dance... we had a great time :).
202 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

opendoortoday Thank you to everyone participating in the Open Door Transition House \$100 challenge, we have 75 participants so far... Join us!
202 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

opendoortoday We want to thank our volunteers for doing a Trick or Treat food drive for the Open Door.
202 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

 [Join the conversation](#)

Welcome,

The Open Door is a drop-in centre providing services to homeless and low-income people in downtown Montreal. The centre provides food and clothing, laundry services, shelter during the day, counselling, referrals to professional mental health and drug addiction counsellors, and employment assistance. The Open Door also helps its clients obtain medical assistance, free prescription eyeglasses, haircuts, and assistance in coping with gambling, alcohol or substance abuse.

The Open Door has become a beacon of light and hope to many of its visitors. One-third of the homeless people who regularly attend The Open Door move off the street into a room, an apartment or a mission. Many clients develop a strong sense of community and belonging; they support and encourage each other, and often volunteer to help clean up "their" drop-off centre. Through their interaction with staff and volunteers, clients begin to feel that somebody really cares for them, and they find the dignity, friendship and hope they need to begin rebuilding their lives.

[Read our Mission Statement](#)

A story from the Open Door...

How a 12-year-old brought tons of bread to The Open Door



Almost every day, clients of The Open Door enjoy a few slices of top quality bread; many of them take a loaf of specialty bread, some muffins or a pastry with them when they leave.

Where does the bread come from and how does it end up at The Open Door? Let's go back in time about five years, to Les 5 Saisons gourmet food store and

a mother, daughter in tow, getting groceries for the evening meal. The 12 year old noticed an employee throwing out unsold loaves of bread and brought it to her mother's attention, alarmed at how wasteful it seemed. At her daughter's insistence, the mother spoke to the manager of Les 5 Saisons, asking if the bread could be donated to a local soup kitchen. Having obtained the manager's consent, the mother-and-daughter team then dropped in on The Open Door. They handed the store manager's business card to the director of The Open Door, and encouraged him to contact Les 5 Saisons.

Ever since, the director or a volunteer of The Open Door regularly makes the short trip to Les 5 Saisons, coming back with a trunkful of delicious baked goods for the clients of the drop-in centre. Hats off to the initiative of a Westmount family and to the generosity and solidarity of Les 5 Saisons. The Open Door and its clients extend a heartfelt word of thanks for the tons of bread donated to The Open Door in the past few years!

[More Stories from the Open Door](#)

Help us help those in need:



Join our Mailing List:

Enter your e-mail to receive periodic updates from The Open Door.

[Submit E-mail](#)

Some of our partners:

- Christ Church Beaurepaire
- City of Westmount
- EJLB - ECHO Foundation
- Emmanuel Anglican Church
- Emploi Québec
- Hylcan Foundation
- IATA
- Initiative 22
- The Living Room
- Mazon Canada
- Moisson Montreal
- Shaughnessy Village
- St. Andrew and St. Paul
- St. Georges Church
- St. Matthias Church
- St. Stephen's Church
- St. Timothy's Church
- Trinet
- Vineyard Montreal Church

THE OPEN DOOR SHELTER

Daytime centre (Monday-Friday) in Church

Serves 100 meals a day: 40% of visitors are Inuit

Priority: Inuit to have access to medical services,
social programs

Housing first program primarily for Inuit

Makivik funds position Assistant Director and
activities for Inuit

NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE OF MONTREAL
2001 boul. St-Laurent, Montréal QC

Founded 40 years ago

Assist Aboriginal people in making transition to
the urban community

Referrals, counselling, cultural activities, etc.

**Makivik funds Inuit Case Worker and Inuit
carvers**

MÉDECINS DU MONDE

DOCTORS OF THE WORLD

2014: MdM launched first mobile clinic in Montreal

Health care services provided by doctors and nurses

Logo of Makivik on mobile clinic

Financial support by Makivik to ensure visit of Inuit and
of Makivik partners

Makivik funds MdM for Inuit student to do field
placement in mobile clinic

PLEIN MILIEU

4677 rue St-Denis, Montréal QC

Community Organization established in 1993

Located Plateau Mont-Royal Borough of Montreal

Services to Youth, Drug Users, Aboriginal People

Recent migration of Inuit to the Borough

PLEIN MILIEU participating in 5-year Plan

Makivik provides professional expertise

Makivik provides funds for activities for Inuit

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF MAKIVIK

Provides professional expertise to partners

Ensure collaboration between Inuit organizations and partners: training, housing, cultural activities, etc.

Transport of deceased Inuk to his community

Assist Inuit to obtain identity cards

Inuit Art Exhibit TAKU by Inuit carvers

Access to country foods for Inuit at partners

COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENTS AND CITY OF MONTREAL

Section on Inuit in Quebec Government policy and action plan on homelessness

Section on Inuit in City of Montreal Action Plan

Makivik member on Boards for implementation of action plans

Close collaboration with Montreal Police Department:

- support to Inuit in need
- training of police officers

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON LOW INCOME AND HOMELESS INUIT IN MONTREAL

2012: Study financed by Makivik/Govt Japan on Low-income and homeless Inuit in Montreal – Professor Nobuhiro Kishigami

2016: Development of Inuit-specific healing programs and substance abuse programs – Professor Christopher Fletcher – Laval Univ. Funded by Urban Partnership/Indigenous Affairs Canada and Makivik

2019: Updated study by Professor Kishigami

URBAN INUIT RESEARCH

Community level research ex. Kishigami

Collect information on policies, programs, best practices in other Canadian cities, and northern governments (NWT, Nunavut, Labrador)

Research partnerships to be developed

NATIONAL URBAN INUIT STRATEGY

Developed by Inuit from Canadian cities and Inuit Nunangat (Inuit land claims regions) under leadership of Ottawa Tungasuvvingat Inuit Association

Tabled with Minister of Indigenous Affairs

To replace current Urban Aboriginal Strategy

Sectors identified by Montreal Inuit: Health – Social – Justice – Culture - Employment

MAJOR CHALLENGES REGARDING LOW-INCOME AND HOMELESS INUIT IN MONTREAL

Major Review Report of Makivik 2008-2016

No major changes for now to present strategy of Makivik

CHALLENGES:

Continuous migration to Montreal

Influx of former detainees (Administration of justice in Nunavik is a fiasco – Quebec Ombudsman)

FUTURE OF INUIT HOMELESSNESS

THREE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

- 1. Homelessness becomes routine*
- 2. Homelessness is no more a problem:
adequate housing, income, support*
- 3. Homelessness worsens: as more Inuit
come to Montreal, more of them
encounter unemployment or
homelessness*

