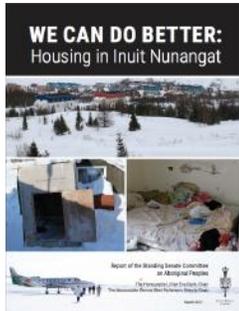


SENATOR DENNIS PATTERSON

News from the Hill



◆ On March 1, 2017, the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples (APPA) released its report on Inuit housing entitled, *We Can Do Better: Housing in Inuit Nunangat*.

https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/APPA/Reports/Housing_e.pdf

The Committee made 13 recommendations, one of which has already been implemented (flowing funding directly to Inuit organizations with the capacity to build houses) and many that seem to be addressed in Budget 2017.

◆ Our committee has begun an ambitious study

examining the proposed new relationship between Canada and its Indigenous people. As part of the study, we will be travelling across the country to hear from youth, elders, and grassroots leaders what their vision for a renewed relationship includes.

◆ The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment is examining the cost of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. The committee has released two interim reports so far. I've been asking questions about what carbon tax means to Nunavummiut.

<https://sencanada.ca/en/committees/enev/>

◆ One of my privileges as a Senator is the ability to ask questions of the Government Leader in the Senate and Ministers. All my questions are focused on issues pertaining to the North: <http://dennispatterson.ca/wp-bringing-nunavut-issues-to-the-forefront/>

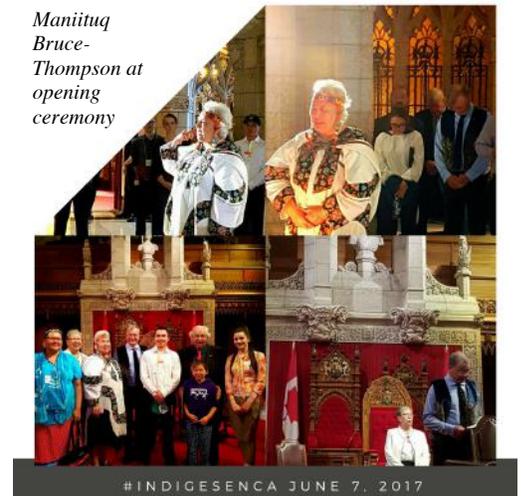
Indigenize the Senate

June is National Aboriginal History Month. Last year, the APPA Committee invited 12 youth representing Indigenous people from all parts of Canada to come and share their stories of achievement with committee members as well as partake in a day of political engagement with key leaders in the Senate. This year, on June 7, we once again invited youth from across the country to join us. Out of 110 nominations, we invited 9 young leaders to participate in a full day of events, ending with the opportunity to present their vision for a renewed relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canada. Two exceptional Inuit participated in the event: Dan Puskas from NWT, and Andrea Andersen, originally from Nunatsiavut and now living in Iqaluit.

The day began with a smudging, a Métis jig, drumming, and the lighting of a qulliq by Maniituk Bruce-Thompson.

See more at www.facebook.com/DennisGlenPatterson

Maniituk
Bruce-
Thompson at
opening
ceremony



CONGRATULATIONS!

Ruth Kaviok

National Inuit Youth Council
President 2017-2019

Building Strong Communities in the North

Budget 2017, passed by the Senate on June 22, 2017, includes several elements of interest to Nunavummiut, which I hope can be tapped. Below are some of the elements that I believe are of significant interest to people in Nunavut:

- \$2B over 11 years for the National Trade Corridors Fund + \$5B of monies specifically allocated for Trade and Transport corridors from the proposed Infrastructure Bank. This section of the budget specifically mentions a need “to help connect northern communities to trade and investment opportunities; investments will also be made to resolve critical transportation needs in Canada’s north.” I hope this augurs well for the Grays Bay Port and Road project in the Kitikmeot
- \$2B over 11 years for northern and remote community infrastructure to be negotiated as an agreement between the GN and Canada; this money can go toward community infrastructure, improved energy grids, and internet connectivity, etc.
- \$240M over 11 years for Nunavut Housing as part of the Affordable Housing initiative
- \$83M over 5 years to INAC to use traditional knowledge to design, construct and enhance northern infrastructure
- \$54M over 4 years to the Territorial Health Investment Fund
- \$828.2M over 5 years to improve health outcomes for First Nations and Inuit including mental health, maternal and child health services, and more money for Non-Insured Health Benefits (including medical transports)
- \$300M over 10 years for cultural spaces
- \$5M in fiscal 2017-18 to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for Small Craft Harbours
- \$14.7M over 3 years to extend and enhance the Northern Adult Basic Education Program
- \$89.9M over 3 years for Aboriginal languages and cultural protection

Kitikmeot Trade Show



I was delighted to have the opportunity to attend the Kitikmeot Trade Show on February 6-8, 2017.

Cambridge Bay is a beautiful hamlet and I felt privileged to have been able to attend alongside such notable people including Premier Peter

Taptuna, Minister Keith Peterson, Mayor Jeannie Ehaloak, and KIA President, Stanley Anablak.

While there, I met with many people who are excitedly and actively promoting the growth and development of the region. I toured the new and very impressive CHARS building and was asked to speak at the gala on February 8, 2017.

On February 9, I met with old friends, spoke to a classroom of high school students about the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and cut the ribbon alongside Mayor Ehaloak at the new Omingmak Centre, Nunavut’s second men’s shelter.



Fighting for Nunavummiut – Phoenix Pay Issues

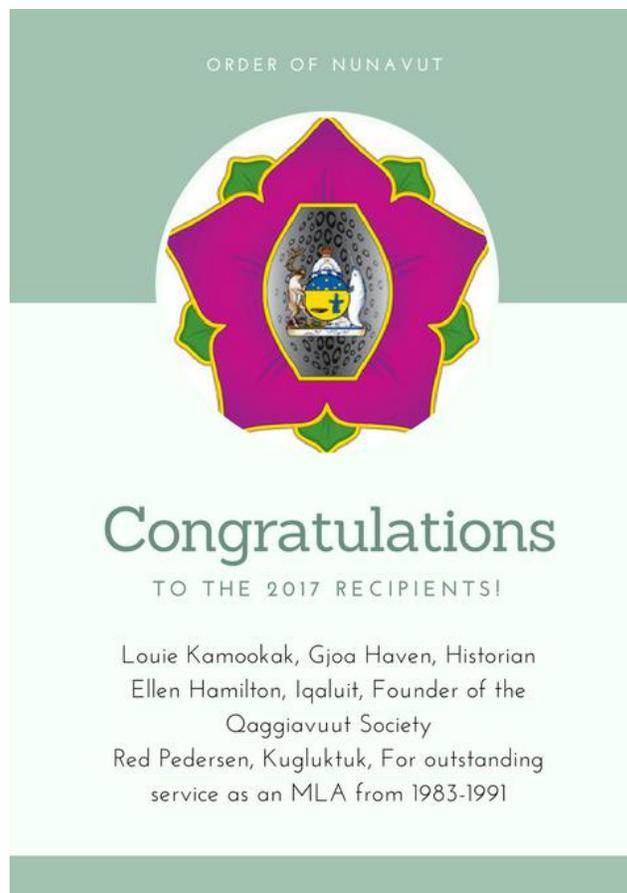
When I hear about hard-working Nunavummiut needing to rely on their parents for financial support, or horror stories about destroyed credit and needing to sell prized possessions in order to support a young family, I want to do my best to help.

I was dismayed to hear that there continues to be hundreds of Nunavummiut affected by the ongoing Phoenix fiasco.

In April, I launched a campaign to bring awareness of the unique challenges being faced by northerners, including the lack of Isolated Post Allowance on many peoples' pay. I wrote a letter to the special parliamentary task force, asking them to establish a specialized unit that understands the unique pay

considerations in the north. When the problems persisted, I asked a question in the Senate of the Government Representative and gave several interviews in the hopes of pushing for a resolution to all of this.

Minister Foote's office contacted my office and we have established a fast-track system for any Nunavut-residents who would like to provide me with their name, a description of the issue(s) and their PRI Number. We have seen speedy resolutions and continue to receive emails. If you would like us to help you, please email the information above to me and we will keep your personal information and situation completely confidential: Dennis.Patterson@sen.parl.gc.ca



Out & About



Me with Helen Tologanak at the Kitikmeot Trade Show in Cambridge Bay



Me with my good friend and former MLA Kane Tologanak



Me presenting Dumas Cup Award to Squadron Commander, WO1 Kaya Natar, who will be heading to Australia in July. 795's first International Exchange Cadet! (Photo by Leslie Lefloor)

In Memoriam
Remembering some of those who have passed this year

Douglas J. Duddy			
Patrick Kaludjak			
Billy Kaludjak			
James Muckpah Kaludjak			
Napatchie MacRae			
Bill McConkey			
Bryan Pearson			
Shaun Webb			
Tom Webster			




Jigging for "oogaq" (cod) during the springtime in Koojesse Inlet, Frobisher Bay

Visit my Facebook page for all the names of our featured graduates!



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