

SENATOR DENNIS PATTERSON

Congratulations Hunter Tootoo



Sincere congratulations to Hunter Tootoo, first for winning a decisive mandate to represent Nunavummiut as our elected representative in Ottawa, and secondly, for being the second Inuk in history to be named to a senior cabinet post as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Coast Guard.

I had the privilege of working closely with our last MP, who also had the advantage of being a senior cabinet minister, to keep Nunavut on the radar in Ottawa. I look forward to working with Hunter to continue progress to address the many needs in Nunavut.

I think it's wonderful that Nunavut's MP, in his role as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, is now in a position to continue supporting our growing fishing industry in Nunavut, including awarding quotas for fishing in a way that respects the principle of adjacency enshrined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement; I'm also sure Mr. Tootoo will bring a needed new northern perspective to his responsibility to oversee the critical operations of the Coast Guard in the Arctic.

As the new parliamentary session approaches, I hope to support our MP as he tackles priorities he identified during the campaign including: food security and improving the Nutrition North program; and meeting Nunavut's many infrastructure needs.

Nunavut should welcome the new Liberal government's pledge to address global warming. The new government can help Nunavut do its part by providing support for extending the hydro line from Manitoba to Kivalliq, and for developing the significant hydro potential in Iqaluit, which would reduce QEC's combustion of diesel fuel by 30%.

I agree with Mr. Tootoo's belief that investments in infrastructure will grow our economy. With the new federal government's promise to double the amount of infrastructure spending and promote 'green' alternative energy projects over the coming ten years, I am hopeful that many long sought after projects will be realized.

While I supported the last federal government in contributing \$600 million towards housing in Nunavut over the past seven years, there are still very pressing housing needs. I will give Mr. Tootoo my wholehearted support in Ottawa as he works to ensure that the new expanded monies promised for infrastructure will include significant funds to meet Nunavut's outstanding housing needs.

I will also support him as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to continue to ensure that Nunavut gets its fair share of quotas in turbot and shrimp; that the new opportunity we now have to market seal products in Europe is supported; and that after Pond Inlet, additional Small Crafts Harbours are built in communities in need like Qiqiktarjuaq. I also look forward to seeing him work to successfully complete construction of the Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessels and the promised Arctic Class icebreaker for the Coast Guard.

THANK YOU, LEONA AGLUKKAQ

A strong, intelligent and dedicated woman, Ms. Aglukkaq not only raised the profile of Nunavut and the north nationally, but internationally as well. Throughout her 7 years as our MP, Leona helped secure federal funding for the port in Pangnirtung, commitments to fund marine infrastructure in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet, and supported the establishment of the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Cambridge Bay in addition to the new airport in Iqaluit.

As the Environment Minister and Chair of the Arctic Council, she worked successfully to increase the turbot and shrimp quotas for Nunavut, and fought for narwhal hunters, sealers and polar bear hunters. She also oversaw a significant increase in federal government transfers and infrastructure spending in Nunavut between 2006 and 2015.

For this, and raising the profile of Nunavut nationally and internationally, I say thank you, Leona, and all the best in your future endeavours.

Working for Nunavut

I have been privileged to represent Nunavut in the Senate of Canada as Chair of the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, and as a member of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, which recently released a report examining sustainable energy options for the North.

Many of the events I regularly attend are centred around mining exploration and development and economic development: the Nunavut Mining Symposium, and Trade Shows, Northern Lites, the Cordilleran Round-Up, and the Prospectors Developers' Association of Canada's annual meeting.

This is because I believe that the orderly development of Nunavut's rich mining potential, following rigorous socio-economic and environmental review, provides Nunavut with the potential to wean itself from a public sector government economy to a growing, vibrant and diversified economy where government is not the only game in town.

In Nunavut, we are fortunate, unlike other parts of Canada, in that the Inuit of Nunavut have a strong voice in reviewing any developments in Nunavut through their guaranteed representation on the co management boards which review those projects, but on top of that the Inuit are also guaranteed 5% of the federal royalty share on any developments anywhere in Nunavut (more if the development is on Inuit land, which encompasses about 18% of Nunavut).

So mining projects not only bring opportunities to the people of the North, employment and training in the exploration and mining sector helps relieve poverty and unemployment. Mining jobs and jobs in the fishery are not for everyone, but these are good paying jobs which, for many Inuit, give them the cash to buy the necessary equipment to pursue a traditional lifestyle on their time off from shift work.

IIBA agreements with Regional Inuit Organizations allow those RIAs to support Inuit through community projects, cultural and other programs.

Today, there are Inuit from six communities in the Qikiqtani Region working at Baffinland's Mary River project. Agnico Eagle's Meadowbank Mine employs 265 Inuit workers from all Kivalliq communities. At 21% Inuit employment at Baffinland and 34% at Meadowbank, this level can and should be improved through mine training and, as Agnico Eagle has shown, family support.

I hope that TMAC's exciting gold project at Hope Bay will be next, and I know that there are others waiting in the wings.

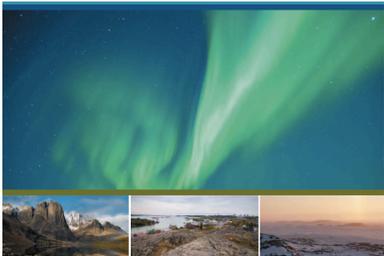


Above: Senator Patterson and Jim Nasso, Chairman, AEM, at Meliadine mine



Above: Senator Patterson and Tom Paddon, Former President & CEO, BIMC

To read the Senate Energy Committee's report, visit the link below or ask our office for a physical copy.



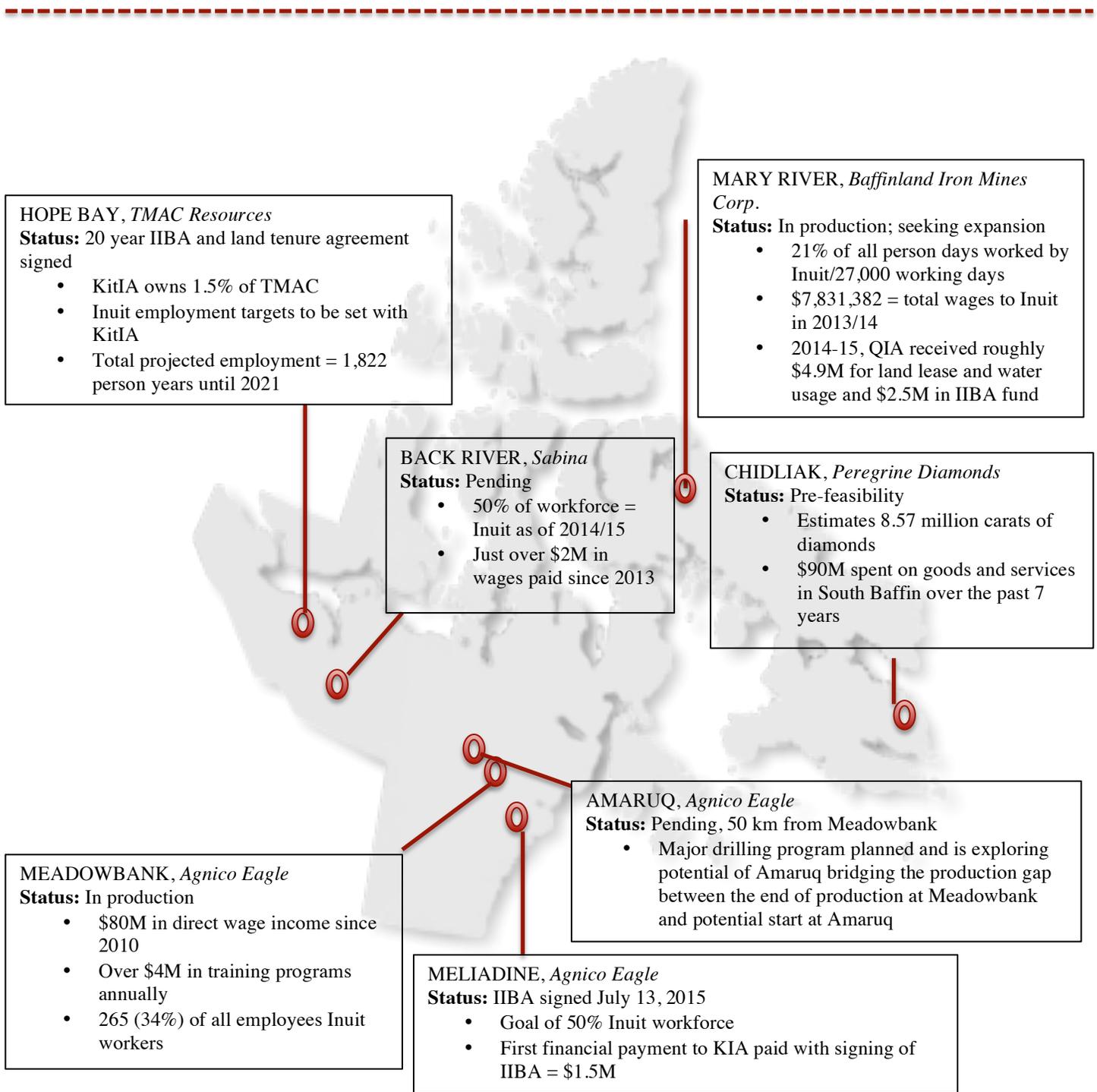
Standing Senate Committee on Energy,
the Environment and Natural Resources

**Powering Canada's
Territories**

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/412/enev/rms/02jun15/Report-e.htm>

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I am heartened to see that, at a time when mining exploration is down in Yukon and the Northwest Territories, continued growth is projected in Nunavut. As senator for the territory, I promise to continue working for growth and prosperity for all of Nunavut.



Out & About



Senator Patterson spring hunting



Boating in Frobisher Bay



Mike & Cecile Panika



At the official opening of Ukkusiksalik National Park in Nauyasat



Inuksuk Choir in the Senate Chamber

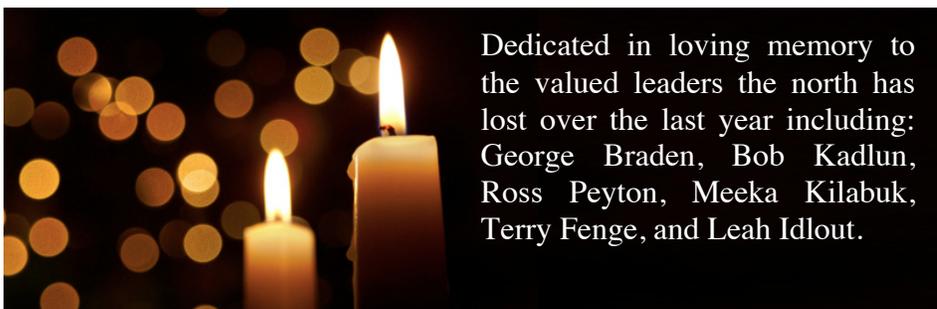


Cleaning Arctic Char

Holiday Greetings from Senator Patterson



My wife Evelyn and I wish Nunavummiut and their families a safe and happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year!



Dedicated in loving memory to the valued leaders the north has lost over the last year including: George Braden, Bob Kadlun, Ross Peyton, Meeka Kilabuk, Terry Fenge, and Leah Idlout.

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