

Atanniuvik announces Board of Directors, advancing Inuit self-determination in research

Kuujuaq, Nunavik – October 3, 2024 – Atanniuvik, the newly established organization dedicated to managing and overseeing research in Nunavik, is proud to announce the composition of its Board of Directors. Three additional members who will represent the three coasts will be elected and complete the board. This diverse and highly skilled team will guide Atanniuvik in fulfilling its mission of advancing Nunavik Inuit self-determination in research, ensuring that all research initiatives align with and serve the priorities, needs, and aspirations of Nunavimmiut. Atanniuvik ensures that research initiatives are not only conducted with the highest ethical standards but also resonate with the realities, values, and priorities of Nunavimmiut.

The members of the Atanniuvik Board of Directors are:

- **Billy Palliser, President** | *Anguvigaq*
- **Barrie Ford, Secretary Treasurer** | *Makivvik*
- **Rhoda Kokiapik, Member** | *Avataq*
- **Elena Labranche, Member** | *NRBHSS*
- **Jennifer Hunter, Member** | *Regional Counselor, KRG*
- **New Member, Hudson Coast**
- **New Member, Ungava Coast**
- **New Member, Hudson Strait**

Each member brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and a deep commitment to the empowerment of Nunavimmiut through research that is both culturally relevant and community driven. Their leadership will be crucial in shaping Atanniuvik's strategic direction and ensuring that Inuit values are at the core of all research activities in the region.

Next Steps: Community engagement and the formation of Research Review Committees

As part of its commitment to community-driven research, Atanniuvik will soon be engaging with community members across Nunavik to establish *Research Review Committees* in each community. These committees will play a pivotal role in assessing and guiding research proposals, ensuring that they align with local priorities and that the research process is transparent and beneficial to all involved.

We will soon be hiring key employees, including Community Liaisons, to lead these committees in preparation for the official launch of our activities in June 2025. In the meantime, we are organizing a community tour to raise awareness about our role, activities, and mission, while providing information on how we will ensure that local priorities are considered in research.

About Atanniuvik

The mission of Atanniuvik is to manage and oversee research in Nunavik in a way that advances Nunavik Inuit self-determination in research, to ensure that research serves Nunavimmiut priorities, needs and aspirations. This includes overseeing the approval of all research projects in Nunavik and ensuring that the results are shared with the communities and organizations of Nunavik.

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Atanniuvik

Board Members



Rhoda Kokiapik
Member



Billy Palliser
President



Jennifer Hunter
Member



Barrie Ford
Secretary Treasurer



Elena Labranche
Member



To be Elected
Member | *Hudson Coast*



To be Elected
Member | *Ungava Coast*



To be Elected
Member | *Hudson Strait*

Board Members



Rhoda Kokiapik
Avataq

Rhoda Kokiapik has dedicated over two decades to the preservation and promotion of Inuit culture and heritage. Since May 1988, she has been an integral part of Avataq, where she has been the Executive Director since. Rhoda strongly believes that research in Nunavik must be approved by Inuit and should directly benefit the local communities.

"I believe and expect that our approach will be locally based, and that the information gathered will remain in Nunavik." Her commitment to governance and the ethical management of research is a testament to her vision for a future where Inuit knowledge and practices are respected and preserved for generations to come.

"Research should contribute to the development of the region, benefiting Inuit after the findings."

Billy Palliser has been serving as Vice President of Anguvigaq for the past two years, where he plays a pivotal role in managing wildlife issues and Advocating harvesting rights of Inuit while ensuring that it is done sustainably.

A lifelong hunter, Billy possesses an intimate knowledge of the environment, the animals, and the changes within this ecosystem. He is deeply committed to balancing scientific research with Inuit knowledge, ensuring that Inuit perspectives are not only heard but integrated into the research environment.



Billy Palliser
Anguvigaq

"Inuit voices should lead the way and I believe about empowering people to actively participate in decision-making processes."



Barrie Ford
Makivvik

With over 19 years of experience at Makivvik, **Barrie Ford** has worked on a wide range of issues, from biology and mining policy to community engagement and integrating Inuit knowledge into scientific research. He currently serves as Director of the Department of Environment, Wildlife, and Research at Makivvik.

Barrie brings a solid background in northern research, an understanding of northern ecosystems, and a strong commitment to community involvement make him a highly valuable addition to the Atanniuvik Board of Directors. His experience in facilitating research and his efforts to connect scientific knowledge with Inuit perspectives will support Atanniuvik's mission of promoting Inuit self-determination in research across Nunavik.

"Putting research decisions in the hands of those most affected ensures meaningful results that drive positive change where it matters most."

Board Members



Jennifer Hunter
KRG

Jennifer Hunter is a dedicated and passionate person who has made significant contributions to her community. She is a Regional Counselor for Kativik Regional Government and currently works at the social services as a community worker in Kuujjuaraapik. Jennifer has been involved with the Health Board for many years, working with family houses and collaborating with researchers.

She also highlights the necessity for Atanniuvik to support and assist researchers in their approach. Jennifer's vision for Atanniuvik is to streamline research efforts and ensure that the community benefits from the findings. She envisions a future where resources are used efficiently, and research results are shared with the community to foster learning and growth.

The research gives perspective and can show the needs of a community.”

Elena Labranche has dedicated 20 years to the NRHBSS, with the last 9 years serving as the director of Inuit Practices and Values. She has been instrumental in collaborating with health centers to ensure the seamless integration of cultural sensitivity into the various programs and services offered within the region.



Elena Labranche
NRBHSS