

**Aluki Kotierk**  
**President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
**Nunavut Mining Symposium**

**Frobisher Inn**  
**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2017**  
**8:30AM to 10:30AM**

Ullaakkut arnait, angutiillu

Good morning, Premier Taptuna, David Rochette, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Aluki Kotierk. I was born and raised in Igloolik and attended Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario where I received both my bachelor and master's degree.

In December I was elected the 8<sup>th</sup> President of Nunavut Tunngavik. Nunavut Tunngavik represents Inuit in Nunavut. NTI's mandate is to ensure the *Nunavut Agreement* is fully implemented.

So on behalf of Nunavut Tunngavik, I'd like to welcome you, to Iqaluit.

I also want to congratulate you on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nunavut Mining Symposium.

On Saturday Inuit were quietly celebrating a different but equally important milestone.... April 1 marked Nunavut's 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For me it was a time to reflect back to the time when Nunavut was created.

When Nunavut was created on April 1, 1999 or 18 years ago, it was the result of 30 long years of negotiations between Inuit and the Government of Canada.

These negotiations culminated with the signing of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

As a result Inuit are the largest private landowners in the world with title to 350,000 sq km. This is equivalent to the size of Germany.

Another significant provision in the *Nunavut Agreement* is, Article 23.

Article 23 sets the goals and objectives of having a representative workforce within the public sector as well as the private sector.

A representative workforce means that the percentage of employees must reflect the population that it serves. For example, because Inuit make up 84% of the population in Nunavut, 84% of the workforce should be Inuit.

It is an equity clause – an equity clause not for a minority but for a majority.

The mining sector has the potential to create thousands of jobs. However, the Inuit percentage of mine workers tends to be relatively low.

To address this, I challenge each and every one of us to focus on building our local workforce, investing in our children, youth and general population, to achieve higher education and encourage skills development at all levels.

Nunavut is immensely rich. In land, culture, heritage, wildlife, minerals, oil and gas. We must work together to harness this wealth.

Exploration and Mining is one of the corner stones to the economic base of Nunavut.

There are now 3 operating mines in Nunavut, and they are all on Inuit Owned Lands. Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank Gold Mine in the Kivalliq, Baffinland's Mary River Iron Mine here in the Qikiqtaaluk region and TMAC Resources' Doris Gold Mine in the Qitirmiut.

Each project providing significant training, employment and business opportunities and contributing to the infrastructure development of our territory.

It is within this purview that I encourage all of us to use the experiences and knowledge of Inuit organizations and communities in order to understand how Inuit-industry-government partnerships have helped to ensure mining projects achieve positive results for Inuit employees and communities.

It is important to understand how Inuit have and continue to organize effective partnerships in order to achieve positive outcomes for workers and communities.

As we look to the past we can ask ourselves what lessons can we draw from in order to enable Inuit to achieve the benefits resource development may have to offer in the future?

Inuit in each region have had their own encounters with resource development, actively participating as workers, investors, policy-makers, and regulators, and experiencing the positive and negative effects of projects as members of families and communities.

It is imperative for us to understand the valuable knowledge we have not only about successful mining initiatives, but also about the circumstances contributing to these successes and build upon these platforms.

The Nunavut Mining Symposium is a good opportunity for these discussions to occur.

Inuit organizations, government and industry together, provide that opportunity to discuss exploration and mining activities in our territory, taking lessons from past experiences and promoting best practices.

Qujannamiik. Thank you for your time, and wish you a successful Nunavut Mining Symposium on your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.