

QIKIQTANI: THE QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION



WHAT IS THE TRC?

The Qikiqtani Truth Commission (QTC) is a *Truth* commission established by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), officially gaining recognition from the Federal Government of Canada in 2019. It aimed to both address and reconcile the negative impacts of colonization and Canadian settler presence within Qikiqtani Inuit life and culture.

The QTC was initially created in 2007, following an inadequate government funded RCMP report on Inuit history and suffering. The final report of the QTC was completed in 2010.

WHY WAS IT CREATED?

The QTC largely focuses on the decline in Inuit health and wellbeing following the Canadian colonization of Inuit communities. Inuit testimonies described the transition from traditional ways of living- including a nomadic lifestyle that revolved around family, hunting and fishing- into living in government housing that provided inadequate living conditions and a decline in Inuit physical, mental and spiritual health. This stemmed from a Canadian desire to assimilate the Inuit communities into settler culture, and to push southern Canadian practices onto Inuit people.

MANDATES OF THE TRC

The main goals of the TRC were:

- To create a more accurate and balanced history of the decisions and events that affected Inuit living in the Qikiqtani region in the decades following 1950
- To begin a broader truth and reconciliation process that will promote healing for those who suffered historic wrongs, and heal relations between Inuit and governments by providing an opportunity for acknowledgement and forgiveness
- To aid the Qikiqtani Inuit in establishing *saimaqatigiingniq*, which translates to “when past opponents get back together, meet in the middle, and are at peace”



OUTCOMES & LEGACIES

- Calls for formal acknowledgement of the QTC and its findings by the Federal Government of Canada, and to acknowledge such as a formal truth commission
- Recommendations for the QTC historical collection (reports, database, and testimonies) to be made accessible to the public, similar to the NTRC archives
- Calls for the Inuit Special Constables to be recognized by the RCMP for their work
- Calls for the Canadian government to fund travel costs of Inuit individuals to collect loved ones who died in southern Canada
- The inclusion of the QTC on the official Federal Government of Canada website, in both English and Inuktitut
- Official apology to the Qikiqtani Inuit on behalf of Canada from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
- Establishment of the Saimaqatigiingniq Fund

STATISTICS

- Number of Commissioners: **6**
- Number of Women Commissioners: **3**
- Number of Cases Heard: **350**
- Total Years of Conflict: **approx. 25**

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An Important Dates Timeline

1950

The Canadian Government takes full charge of the Qikiqtani region, implementing assimilative measures.

2004

The Canadian Government funds a RCMP report into the conditions of the Qikiqtani Inuit, which proves to be inadequate.

2007

The QTC is first established by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), following the failed RCMP report.

2010

The final report of the QTC is completed, after hearing from 350 survivors.

2019

The Canadian Government officially recognizes the QTC.