

#4 CASE STUDY



QIKIQTANI TRUTH COMMISSION FACILITATION AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Dialogue Partners was retained by the Qikiqtani Truth Commission (QTC) to support their work in developing recommendations from months of hearings with Inuit people in Nunavut. The QTC was created to investigate facts, interview witnesses, hold public hearings and to report the truth surrounding the alleged dog slaughter, relocations, and other decision-making of the governments up until 1980, and to consider the effects of these decisions on Inuit culture, economy and way of life.

The main objective of the Commission is to ensure an accurate history of the events referred to above. The broader truth and reconciliation process seeks to promote healing for those who suffered wrongdoings, as well as to heal relations between Inuit and the Government by providing an opportunity for uncovering all pertinent facts and allowing for acknowledgement and forgiveness.

WHAT HAPPENED: With a mandate to tell the truth of the Inuit people, on multiple issues such as residential schools, relocation, housing, alcoholism and substance abuse, education, killing of sled dogs and “government mind set” we provided the following support: design, facilitation and reporting of meetings with elders and the Commission to develop recommendations and directions for change. The directions for change and draft recommendations are being used as a basis for additional conversations in communities, along with discussion on how to work towards reconciliation and healing. Dialogue Partners also designed and co-facilitated community conversation sessions, and then trained and coached Inuit co-facilitators who led sessions in the 13 communities in the Baffin Region in the high Arctic.



The truth that has emerged is a shared one - where the oral testimony and the archival record document the same history and series of events, from very different perspectives. Recently, the Canadian Federal Government extended an official apology to the Inuit people for some of the wrong doing documented in the report.



<http://www.qtcommission.com/>

THINGS WE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY: At Dialogue Partners, we spend a lot of time helping people understand each other’s views and perspectives, so that they can engage in dialogue in a meaningful way. We believe that once we understand each other, we can begin to talk together in a different way - even if we don’t agree on everything. Through our work, we’re continually learning that perceptions aren’t right or wrong - they just are. Our experiences have shown us that your truth and my truth are influenced by our background, experience, culture, gender and values, and that sometimes, other people have a different perspective on the same issue or experience. When we understand each other’s perspectives, we can create a shared truth.

“We can create an enormous amount of harm, for example, by not listening to other people who might have different views and insights.”

— Jon Kabat-Zinn

