

NUNATSIAQ NEWS

Dear CCNA judges

Nunatsiaq News identified the 50th anniversary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement as a significant milestone for our readers in Nunavik, the Inuit-majority region of northern Quebec.

The JBNQA laid the groundwork for the creation of the Nunavik region of northern Quebec. It's considered the first modern land treaty in Canada. Our younger readers live with the way it has defined life in Nunavik but don't know its history.

We decided early in 2025 to commemorate the occasion with a special section — to be published in both Inuktitut and English.

Nunatsiaq News published a special section — *JBNQA 50 1975-2025: Looking Back. Moving Forward* — to commemorate the anniversary. It was inserted into the Nov. 7 print edition in time for the Nov. 11 anniversary of the agreement's signing. We published content online throughout the summer and fall of 2025 to whet readers' appetite for the full print-edition commemorative section.

I am pleased to submit it for consideration for the **CCNA Special Competitions category (301) – Best Special Section.**

We aimed for a section that would appeal to elders who recall the negotiations that led to the JBNQA like it was yesterday. But we also wanted to engage younger readers, for many of whom the agreement is just something their parents and grandparents talk about.

For the 50th anniversary, we wanted to pay tribute to the agreement, give an explainer of how it shaped the provision of public services, the economy and social organizations, to cover its legacy and to imagine what the future of Nunavik might be because of the agreement.

"Commemorate" is the right word — instead of "celebrate" — because the agreement was not universally popular among Inuit and Cree then, and remains controversial half a century later.

We delved into that controversial history with an article about the "political dissidence" in Puvirnituq, the only one of Nunavik's 14 communities that has, to this day, not signed the agreement.

The content for this special topic was produced largely by Nunatsiaq News staff writers and designers, along with some freelancers, and was shepherded to publication by a freelance project manager and ultimately overseen by Nunatsiaq News' managing editor and publisher.

Thank you for considering this entry in the Special Topic category.

Sincerely,



Corey Larocque
Managing Editor