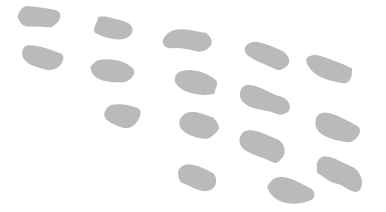




Declaration – Quaqtaq and Puvirnituuq Wind Energy Projects and Nunavik’s Energy Transition



Preamble

Nunavik stands at a pivotal moment in its energy future. For decades, our communities have relied on systems that have left us dependent on diesel, vulnerable to climate change, and excluded from the full economic potential of energy production. Today, Inuit are ready to lead, but the recent decision by the Quebec Energy Board once again places the Inuit of Nunavik at a disadvantage, limiting our ability to actively participate in regional energy development.

Tarquti Energy was founded to lead Nunavik’s green energy transition. As an Inuit-owned organization, Tarquti represents a new model for energy development, one rooted in Inuit values, guided by Inuit leadership, and designed to benefit Inuit communities. Our projects are not simply about reducing emissions; they are about restoring balance, building resilience, generating economic opportunity while advancing self-determination.

This declaration outlines the environmental, political, and economic priorities for supporting renewable energy development in Nunavik. It is a call to the Quebec Energy Board to recognize that energy is not just a commodity, it is a right, a service, and a pathway to a sustainable future for the region.

Nunavik’s energy reality demands urgent and strategic change. Guided by Inuit values and priorities, we can build an energy future that restores balance, strengthens communities, and secures opportunities for generations to come, reflecting the vision of Inuit leadership and communities for a sustainable, equitable, and resilient energy future.

Nunavik Energy Landscape

Nunavik’s energy supply has historically been almost entirely petroleum-based.

In 2022, across 14 communities, over 90 million litres of petroleum products were consumed annually. Of this, approximately 65 million litres were diesel, distributed roughly as follows:

- 43 percent used for electricity generation
- 45 percent for building heating
- 12 percent for transportation

These figures reflect the recent reality prior to the commissioning of the Inukjuak hydroelectric project, which has already begun reducing diesel use. Tarquti’s wind energy projects in Quaqtaq and Puvirnituuq will continue displacing diesel wherever possible.

This transition is not only environmentally necessary, it is a strategic move to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, improve affordability, and increase regional energy security.

These declarations affirm Inuit priorities and establish a path toward a resilient energy future.

Inuit as Stewards of the Land

The Inuit of Nunavik have always lived in harmony with the land, ice, and sea. Reducing the carbon footprint of our communities is not just a technical goal it holds cultural significance within our identity and values.

Reclaiming a Low-Impact Lifestyle

Inuit were among the last peoples in Canada to transition from a nomadic lifestyle, which had minimal environmental impact. Tarquti’s projects represent a return to values of sustainability and respect for the land.

Climate Change is Most Visible in the Arctic

Inuit Nunangat is warming at nearly three times the global average. The impacts include thawing permafrost, sea ice loss, and coastal erosion. These are not abstract or theoretical concerns; they are lived realities that affect the communities, infrastructure, and way of life.

Alignment with National and Regional Strategies

Tarquti’s work directly supports the goals of the National Inuit Climate Change Strategy and Nunavik’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, particularly in the areas of energy independence, infrastructure resilience, and health.

Health and Well-being

Although Nunavik communities are relatively small in population, fossil fuel emissions across all 14 villages do contribute to air pollution. In fact, the Nunavik region would rank 20th among Quebec’s top CO2 emitters, higher than both the two mines operating in the region and the Magdalen Islands’ thermal plant, for reference.

Transitioning to renewable energy presents an opportunity to reduce these emissions and improve public health outcomes. Tarquti’s projects align with Inuit-led adaptation goals and position Nunavik as a model for sustainable, community-driven climate action.

Power Distribution is an Essential Service

Reliable energy distribution is a foundational service for any community, and in Nunavik, it is a matter of resilience and survival. As climate change continues to disrupt the day to day life in Nunavik, our region must diversify its energy production avenues to ensure long-term reliability and sustainability.

Tarquti’s renewable energy projects are designed to strengthen Nunavik’s climate resilience by reducing dependence on imported diesel and expanding locally controlled, clean energy sources. Diversification is not only a technical necessity, but also a strategic move toward protecting our communities, supporting economic development, and ensuring energy security in the face of accelerating climate impacts.

Past Negotiation Approaches Cannot Be Repeated

Energy agreements and project development in Nunavik must be rooted in an Inuit-first approach. Historically, decisions affecting our region have been made without meaningful Inuit participation, resulting in systems and outcomes that did not reflect our values, priorities, or rights.

Tarquti represents a new model, one where Inuit are not only consulted but lead. Future agreements must ensure that development directly benefits Inuit communities, respects cultural values and traditions, and supports our long-term vision for self-determination.

Energy as a Path to Self-Determination

Tarquti’s projects are not just technical solutions, they are steps toward Inuit self-determination. They align with the broader movement toward Inuit-led governance and economic development.

Scaling for Sustainability and Economic Viability

The first renewable energy projects in Nunavik will inevitably carry higher costs. However, as the regional portfolio expands, economies of scale will reduce both capital and operational expenditures, making future projects more economically viable. A unified, region-wide approach to project development will enhance efficiency, reduce duplication, and strengthen long-term sustainability.

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Maximizing Regional Economic Participation

The construction phase of Tarquti's projects will activate a wide network of local and regional resources. Civil works, rock crushing, transportation (marine and air), accommodations, and logistics will be sourced locally wherever possible. This approach ensures that Nunavik communities benefit directly from project development, creating jobs, supporting local businesses, and fostering regional prosperity.

Limited Local Benefits from Diesel-Based Systems

While the current diesel-based energy systems in Nunavik offer economic returns to local communities through fuel sales and a small number of operational jobs, the broader economic participation is limited. These energy production systems are externally controlled, with little opportunity for Inuit ownership, governance, or reinvestment of revenues into community priorities.

Tarquti's Vision for Community Benefit

Tarquti aims to:

- Maximize local/regional resources during construction. (Community Spin offs)
- Build Inuit capacity in renewable energy.
- Enable community partners to reinvest energy revenues into local priorities. As equity holders, the local partners will inject funds into these projects not only insuring participation, but showcasing the local support and belief into these projects.
- Increase Inuit ownership

Equity in Energy Transition

The transition to green energy must not replicate past injustices and practices. Inuit communities must be supported to lead this transition, not be left behind. Both in the timeline of project implementation, and economically.

Projects must be built by and for the Inuit, and must benefit our communities beyond simply checking off target decarbonisation goals set by governments.

Youth and Future Generations

Tarquti's projects will offer training, employment, and a path for a sustainable future. A future where Inuit youth are participants in new and emerging technologies in the renewable energy space

Addressing the High Cost of Living and Workforce Sustainability

The cost of living in Nunavik is disproportionately high compared to southern Quebec. This reality must be acknowledged in the design and implementation of energy projects. Revenues generated through renewable energy initiatives must not only support infrastructure and operations, they must also provide the financial capacity to attract, train and retain skilled professionals in the region.

Community Consultation and Acceptability

Tarquti places the highest importance on community engagement and consent. Through consultations, Tarquti has ensured that its projects reflect community input and maintain strong local support. Both wind energy projects have undergone various community consultations, with community partners leading their own initiatives along the way.

In Quaqtuq, the Tuvaaluk Landholding Corporation and the local Co-op, as partners to the project, have actively engaged with their respective population to confirm community acceptability.

In Puvirnituuq, this commitment was demonstrated through a referendum organized by the local Co-op, a community partner in the project. The result confirmed overwhelming support for the wind energy initiative, with more than 93% voting in favor. These outcomes strengthen confidence in Tarquti's approach and establish a model for future projects, where Inuit voices guide decisions and community acceptability remains the foundation of development.

The Quaqtuq and Puvirnituuq Wind Energy Projects represent more than infrastructure; they are a vision and a declaration of readiness to shape our energy future. These projects are rooted in community values, designed to deliver lasting benefits, and aligned with the broader goals of climate resilience, self-determination, and economic empowerment.

We, the undersigned, affirm our full support for this declaration and call on the Quebec Energy Board to recognize the urgency, legitimacy, and transformative potential of Inuit-led renewable energy development in Nunavik.

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