

TUSAAJUIT NUNAVIK

2020 AIP \$500,000 winner



TUSAAJUIT NUNAVIK

WON THE AIP 500,000 PRIZE IN 2020.

The **Arctic Inspiration Prize** is the largest annual prize in Canada. It inspires, enables, and celebrates the achievements of the people of the North, recognizing diverse teams with innovative projects in the fields of education; health and wellbeing; culture, arts and language; science and traditional knowledge; climate change; food security; and the economy.

Nominator Michael Gordon
Director General, Kativik Regional Government

Team Tunu Napartuk, *Director, Complementary and Compassionate Services*, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (*Team Leader*), Andy Moorhouse, Marion James, Patricia Duchesneau, Hany Ghonaim

This report was compiled and created by the [Qatalyst Research Group](#), with the help of Adriana Kusugak, the project team, and AIP.

TUSAAJUIT IS BORN

Tusaajuit is a non-profit organization located in Nunavik. It was created to address one of the highest rates of hearing loss in Canada, particularly among Inuit children, that occurred after colonial contact and can be linked to respiratory diseases, noise exposure such as shotguns and snowmobiles and repetitive middle ear infections.

Tusaajuit adopts a community-wide approach to achieving its mission of preventing, educating, caring for, and reducing the long-term impacts of hearing loss.



PREVENTION

Addressing the root causes of hearing loss in children



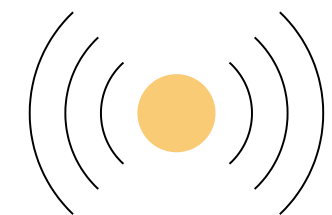
EDUCATION

Bridging the gaps between educational and health services



CARE

Facilitating access to basic hearing care



IMPACT

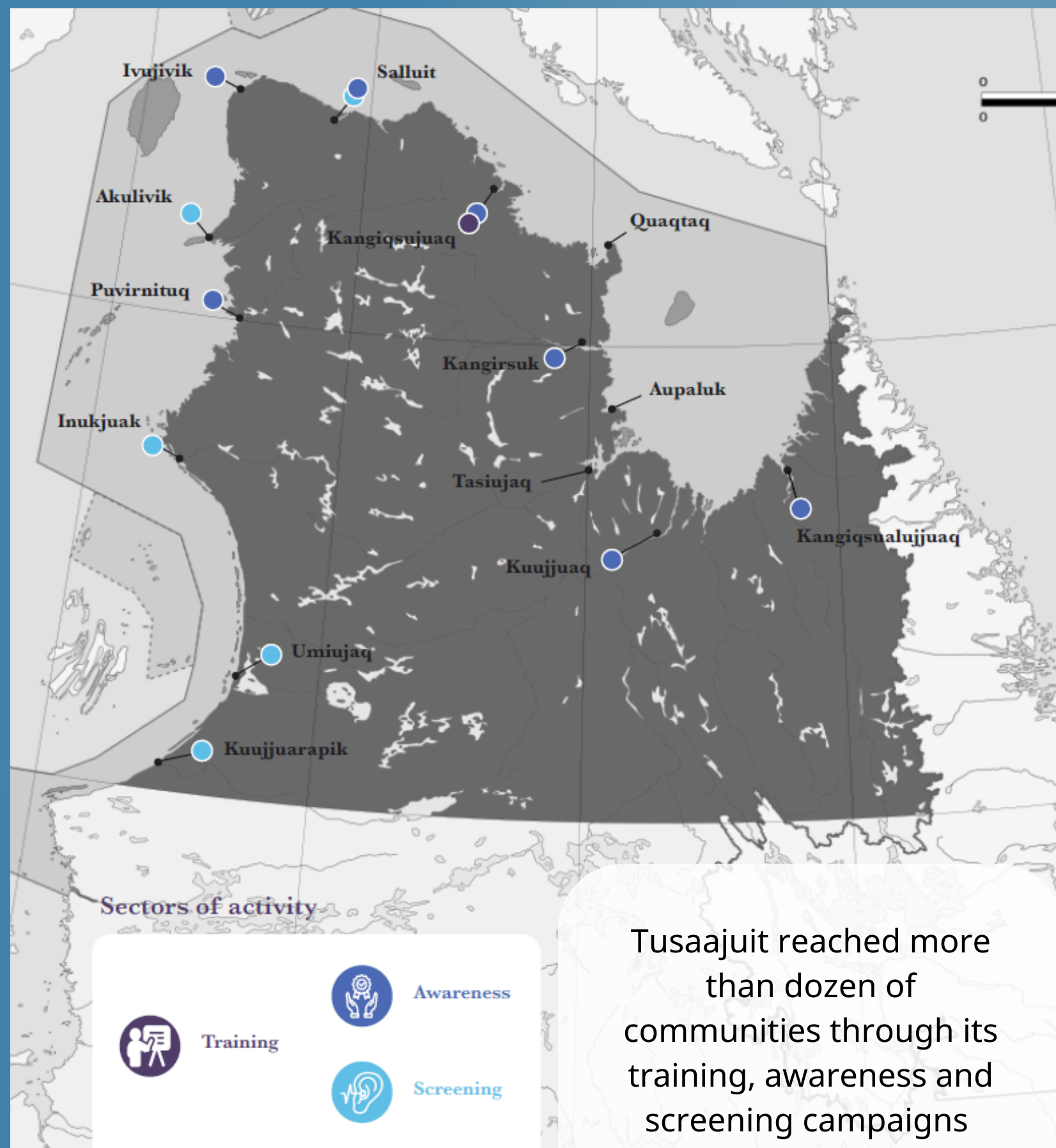
Improve the well-being and social integration of hard-of-hearing individuals.

Tusaajuit work started with building partnerships with school boards, health centers and communities to understand the needs of communities, raise awareness about detection and prevention of hearing loss. For example:

- In the fall of 2023, Tusaajuit signed a loan agreement with the Inuulitsivik Health Centre to provide essential assistance with hearing screenings in the Hudson Coast schools.
- In March 2024, in collaboration with an audiologist working for the Inuulitsivik Health Centre, Tusaajuit presented an engaging session to school teachers on the importance of soundfield systems in the classroom.
- In November 2024, Tusaajuit supported the Department of Adult Education and Vocational at Kativik Ilisarniliriniq in offering a two-day workshop to revisit the needs of the Nunavik deaf community. The workshop was offered in Montreal and nineteen deaf individuals participated in this event.

[illegible][illegible]

Patricia Duchesneau – Team member of Tusaaqut



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Tusaajuit has developed a number of awareness campaigns to start discussion with communities about basic hearing care. In 2024/25, three communities were reached in person: Kangiqsujaq, Kuujuaq and Kangisualujuaq.



80 community members were reached through information booths.



17 community members including nurses, participated at the community events hosted at the Kangiqsujaq's Family House.



880 community members reached in seven daycares across Nunavik through posters on various topics related to ear and hearing care.

The team continues to visit and engage with communities to explore different way in which they can prevent hearing loss in children and support those who are struggling with hearing loss.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

The Tusaajuit team developed many social media campaigns to educate parents and community members about detecting early signs of hearing loss. Social media campaigns include monthly posts to share information about hearing care and how to protect hearing.

Increased community engagement including engagement of parents, teachers, community members.

479 Social Media Followers

**39 posts
created over
7 months**



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DETECTING EARLY SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS

HEARING LOSS CAN AFFECT A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT.
HERE ARE A FEW SIGNS TEACHERS SHOULD WATCH FOR:

- Trouble following verbal instructions
- Difficulty focusing or frequent distractions
- Speech delays or unclear speech




QUOI FAIRE SI UN ENFANT DÉVELOPPE UNE OTITE SÉRIEUSE À LA GARDERIE ?

✓ Observer et documenter les symptômes :
Frotter les oreilles, signes d'accumulation de liquide dans l'oreille ou irritabilité

✓ Encourager le repos et le confort :
Appliquez un linge chaud sur l'oreille affectée pour soulager la douleur

✓ Informer les parents :
Avertissez-les dès que possible



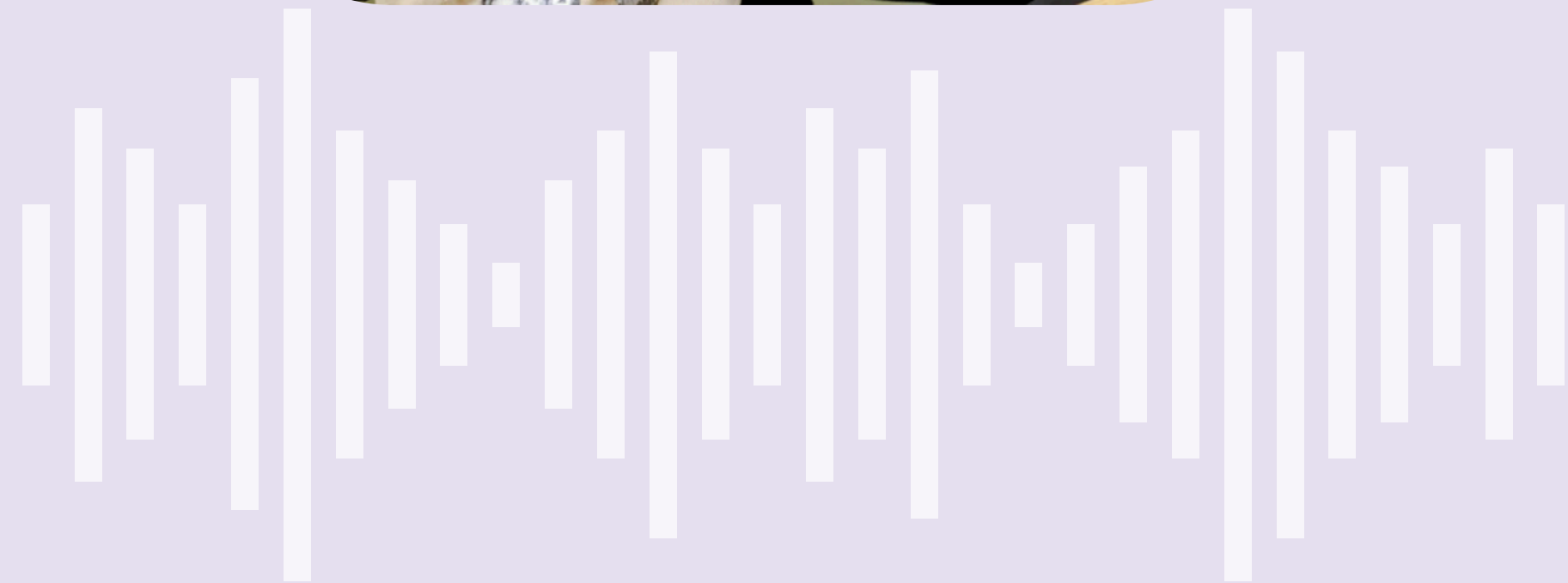
PREVENTION THROUGH REGULAR HEARING SCREENING FOR CHILDREN

Undetected, even a mild hearing loss caused by a middle ear infection can delay the development of speech and language skills in children and impede their success in school. Early identification is crucial for preventing significant hearing loss.

Tusaajuit has acquired two portable screening equipment and provided them to schools for hearing screenings of children in the community. The workshop was delivered to school staff how to use equipment and schools have been screening children since 2023 to detect hearing issues early.



338 children
have been
screened for
hearing loss.



TUSAAJUIT ONLINE COURSES ABOUT SOUND-FIELD AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM

The Tusaajuit offers free online courses, available at [ODYO Online](#), designed to train educators and school staff in Nunavik on the effective use of classroom sound-field amplification systems. These systems are crucial in addressing the high prevalence of hearing loss among Inuit children, primarily due to middle ear infections, by ensuring that all students can hear the teacher clearly, regardless of their position in the classroom.

The courses provide comprehensive training on various sound-field systems commonly used in Nunavik schools. Each course includes lessons on setup, daily usage, troubleshooting, and best practices to maximize the benefits of these systems for students with and without hearing impairments

The primary goal of these courses is to bridge the gap between educational and healthcare services by equipping educators with the tools and knowledge to support students with hearing challenges. By effectively utilizing sound-field systems, teachers can create a more inclusive learning environment that enhances attention, participation, and comprehension for all students



Click on the video to hear about how technology can be used in the classroom to help all children, particularly those who have hearing challenges become more engaged with school learning.

Teacher
Awareness
Month

WHAT IS THE SOUND FIELD SYSTEM?

IT'S A CLASSROOM TOOL THAT HELPS AMPLIFY A TEACHER'S VOICE EVENLY, ENSURING EVERY CHILD HEARS CLEARLY.

- ✓ Enhance sound clarity
- ✓ Support inclusive education
- ✓ Promote effective communication
- ✓ Reduce auditory access



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Mois de la
Sensibilisation
aux
enseignants

QU'EST-CE QU'UN SYSTÈME D'AMPLIFICATION SONORE EN CHAMP LIBRE?

C'EST UN OUTIL DE CLASSE QUI PERMET D'AMPLIFIER UNIFORMÉMENT LA VOIX DE L'ENSEIGNANT, GARANTISSANT QUE CHAQUE ENFANT ENTENDE CLAIREMENT.

- ✓ Améliorer la clarté sonore
- ✓ Soutenir l'éducation inclusive
- ✓ Favoriser une communication efficace
- ✓ Réduire les obstacles auditifs



25

teachers received training
in how to use soundfield
systems in schools

REDUCING STIGMA AND IMPROVING WELL BEING

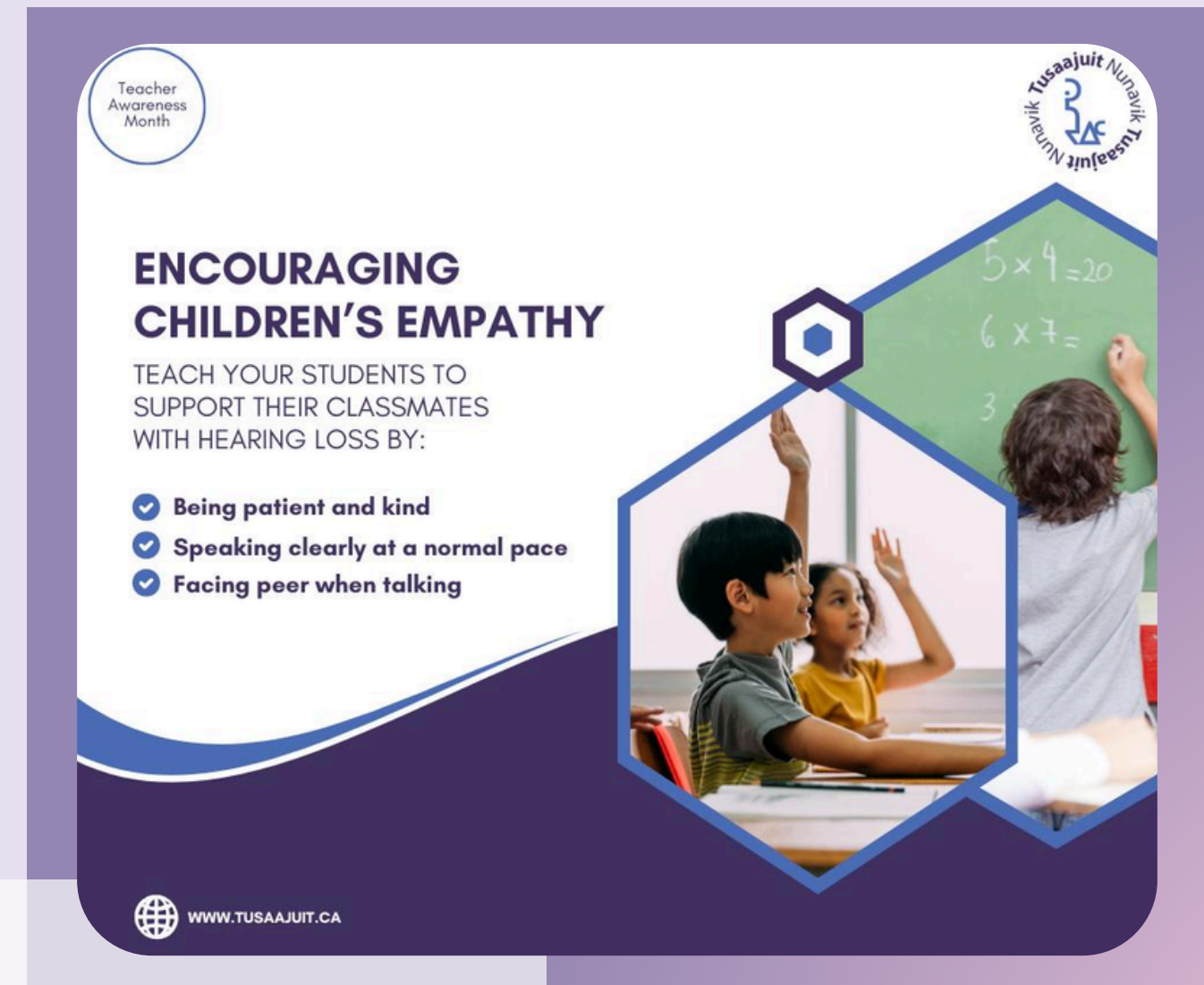
Tusaajuit team created a campaign to help teachers work better with students who may have hearing difficulties. The campaign also encourages other students to support their classmates with hearing difficulties.

The training and sound field systems have already help to improve the well-being and social integration of children and individuals who are struggling with hearing loss.

“The impact of hearing loss can be minimized by the use of a hearing aid and that this is no different from using glasses. We will need to work together to remove the stigma of hearing aids especially in young children.”

[illegible]

Tunu Napartuk – Project Lead



FACILITATING ACCESS TO HEARING CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Various strategies have been implemented to increase access to care and connect the families to the hearing care and resources. For example, the team:

- Distributed ear protection
- Provided links to resources on its website and through social media

The team continues to engage directly with communities to raise awareness and connect them to needed services.

Down with
Occupational Hearing
Loss

Preserve Hearing.
Improve
quality of life.

Trusted Hearing Care.
Canadian Hearing
Services.



[Click Here to Watch the Video](#)

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The Tusaajuit team hopes to continue the work with communities and other partners to prevent hearing loss and reduce incidence of hearing loss and to provide ongoing support schools, employers, community organizations and community members across the North to ensure that individuals struggling with hearing loss are well integrated and supported.

“The AIP funding was monumental. We couldn't have done it without the AIP support. We're going to grow and expand because of that prize. It was an opportunity we didn't have before we got the AIP. It helps us secure extra funding, and we hope to secure more funding for the years to come. It really helped build our credibility within the community.”

Patricia Duchesneau – Team Member of Tusaajuit



TUSAAJUIT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

PARTNERS



INUULITSIVIK HEALTH CENTER



KATIVIK ILISARNILIRINIQ (ADULT
EDUCATION AND COMPLEMENTARY
AND COMPASSIONATE SERVICES)



WORLD WIDE HEARING FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL



ODYO

OTHER FUNDER

PROGRAMME DE SOUTIEN AUX
ORGANISMES COMMUNAUTAIRES (PSOC)
MANAGED BY THE NUNAVIK HEALTH
BOARD.

SUPPORTERS

