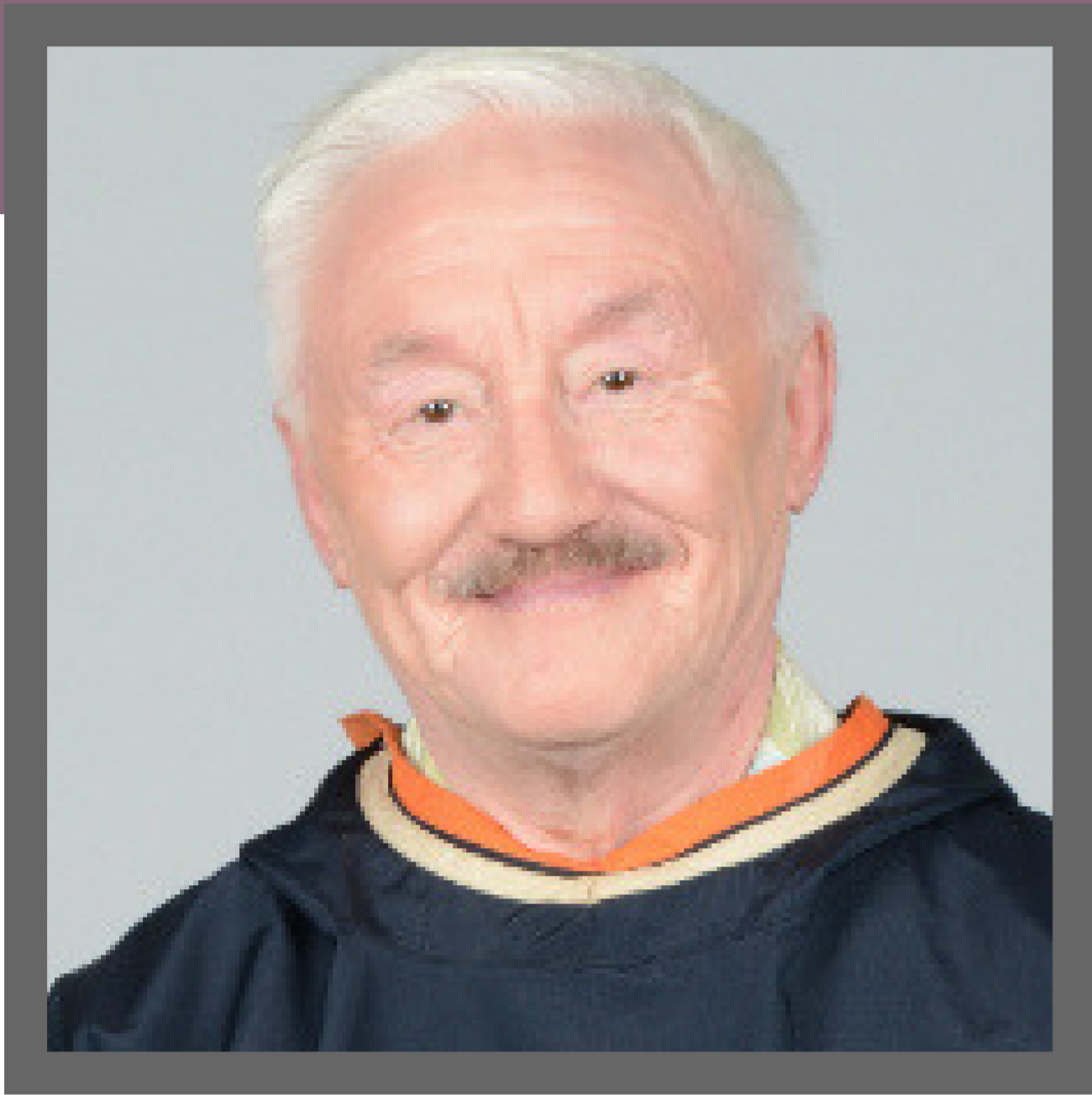


# Piita Irniq



Inuit, Nunavut

Piita is an Inuit cultural teacher, a consultant, and an accomplished public speaker who has held several political offices, including serving as the

Deputy Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in 1998 and 1999 and Commissioner of Nunavut between 2000 and 2005. Having been brought up by the residential school system to learn the Qablunaat way of life, Piita has since campaigned successfully to have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, or IQ (Inuit traditional knowledge), incorporated into the Nunavut and Canadian systems of government, as well as to have Inuit language and cultural programs integrated into Northern classrooms. Piita's favorite past time is hunting on the land in Nunavut.