



## 1. EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

Despite the breadth of Pauktuutit's work, the organization has always been marginalized in influence and limited in resources when compared to those of Canada's other five National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs). Though Pauktuutit is broadly recognized as one of Canada's six NAOs, this status has yet to be acknowledged formally by the most senior levels of the Government of Canada. Pauktuutit must at last, be recognised for the independent national voice of Inuit women that it is, and supported to contribute optimally to the creation of solutions to the critical issues facing Inuit women, their families and communities, with the same stature, resources, responsibilities and influence afforded the other five NAOs.

## 2. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Government of Canada must engage Pauktuutit to play a pivotal role in bringing about practical, real and lasting change in the critical program areas of the health needs of Inuit women, their families and communities and the related issue of violence and abuse — a multi-faceted problem that is undermining the health and well-being of everyone in Inuit communities.

## 3. STRENGTHENING INUIT FAMILIES

A strong partnership between Pauktuutit and the Government of Canada necessitates consistent and adequate support for Pauktuutit's work in the areas that benefit Inuit children and youth. Childbirth, FASD, teen pregnancies, early childhood development, and child sexual abuse demand attention. Pauktuutit has years of experience dealing with the full dimension of these problems extending from birth to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools. It builds upon experience and employs practical, measurable solutions that offer long-term results.

## 4. INUIT WOMEN'S INDEPENDENT VOICE IN GLOBAL ISSUES

Pauktuutit has a history of contributing to international issues. We have been granted special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and have earned a national and international reputation in the realm of intellectual property rights

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- *In Kugluktuk the population is approximately 1500. The only childcare centre in the community that accepts children under the age of two is licensed to admit four such young children. According to one of the nurses, women in Kugluktuk are expecting 43 births in the next eight months.*
- *As there is no midwife and no birthing clinic in the community, every one of the women will be flown to Yellowknife a month before their due date and required to stay there without spouses or kids until their baby is born...*
- *Suicide rates in Nunavut are 982 for every 100,000 people and in the rest of Canada it is 82 for every 100,000 people.*
- *A 355ml can of pop in Aklavik costs \$1.60; a 500 ml bottle of water is \$2.29.*
- *The cost of a two-pound bag of baby carrots in Ottawa is \$2.99, in Inuvik it's \$7.19. Bananas in Ottawa are \$0.49 /pound - in Inuvik it's \$1.59. Inuvik is a community that is accessible by a Highway. Most communities fly their food in or ship it by barge (therefore it costs more).*
- *In Aklavik the day care centre is first come first served on a daily basis. If you are a single working mom and you don't get to the day care on time, you have to either bring your child to work, stay home, or find alternate care.*
- *In Hopedale, Labrador the dentist visits twice a year and sees the patients that have the worst cases first. It is difficult to get an appointment merely for a check up or a regular cleaning.*

(IPR) and protection of Inuit traditional knowledge. There is a need for the Government of Canada to establish a predictable and reliable strategy to support Inuit women's participation in international issues and events.

#### **CONCLUSION**

These four broad themes do not lend themselves to containment within specific or separate sectors, government departments, or agencies. Pauktuutit hopes that they are taken as a whole, to inform all programs and services that are developed by, for, and with Inuit.

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