



MEDIA ADVISORY

- I. WATCH FOR PAUKTUUTIT EVENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY
- II. PAUKTUUTIT'S *NULUAQ PROJECT* LAUNCHES CANADA'S FIRST EVER DATABASE ON ABUSE

Ottawa — Immediate (January 31 2005) Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association President Mary Palliser today announced details regarding significant work across several northern communities over the next weeks. Ms Palliser observed, *"This winter we are especially pleased to initiate and participate in a number of important activities to improve the lives of Inuit women, their families and their communities."* Pauktuutit will be in ten communities in five weeks, to serve women across the north. Project events will include Prevention and Awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Diabetes Prevention and Awareness, Sexual Health Awareness and Respite Strategy for Family Caregivers.

Pauktuutit will deliver two FASD training workshops for community frontline workers as part of our National FASD Prevention and Awareness Strategy. The first will be conducted in **Puvirnituk**, Nunavik, QC February 7-10th and the second will be held February 28th to March 3rd in **Rankin Inlet**, NU. A third was held last week in **Inuvik**, NWT.

As part of our Diabetes Prevention and Awareness Strategy, Pauktuutit is involved in the Diabetes Awareness Fair in **Pangnirtung**, NU January 30th through February 3rd. Several events have been arranged for community involvement in preventing diabetes in Arctic communities. An additional meeting in **Cambridge Bay**, NU February 28th to March 3rd will address the need for diabetes prevention and awareness.

Pauktuutit will visit three regions to conduct an HIV/AIDS Environmental Scan. The meetings will engage Governmental Departments, Regional Inuit Associations, community health representatives/workers, teachers and community members, to find out how the regions are currently responding to HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. The regional environmental scans will be held January 31st to February 9th in **Yellowknife**, NWT,

Cambridge Bay, NT and Inuvik, NWT in the Western Arctic; February 21st – 24th in **Goose Bay, LB** and March 14th – 17th in **Kuujuak, Nunavik, QC**.

Finally, Pauktuutit will lead a two-day session on care giving and Respite Strategy for Inuit Family Caregivers. The event will be led by McGill University Northern Social Worker program in **Puvirnituk, Nunavik, QC** February 7th to 10th.

II. PAUKTUUTIT WEBSITE LAUNCHES NULUAQ DATABASE ON ABUSE PREVENTION AND SERVICES

Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association's *Nuluaq Project* today launched Canada's first ever database on abuse, now accessible around the globe on Pauktuutit website www.pauktuutit.ca - follow the Nuluaq logo abuse link.

President Mary Palliser noted that, *“For the first time, women in the remotest communities can find resources to help them – in their own language and close to home. We truly hope that this new tool makes a positive difference in the lives of all those involved - victims, service providers and perhaps even abusers.”* The Nuluaq Project, Pauktuutit's National Inuit Strategy for Abuse Prevention, was developed to improve the coordination of abuse prevention services and resources in Inuit Communities. It conducts research, maintains this national Inuit database and shares information with the public. We welcome new partners to join in the National Inuit Network for Abuse Prevention.

Pauktuutit gratefully acknowledges financial support for this project from the Ajunnginiq Centre of the National Aboriginal Health Organization; Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada National Crime Prevention Centre and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Nunavut.

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“As mothers of families and leaders of communities, as caregivers and peacemakers, Inuit women have strength, wisdom, traditional knowledge and expertise to share. Their national voice, Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association, has a reputation as an effective organization with solid community roots and support for one significant reason. Pauktuutit derives its authority and seeks its mandate directly from Inuit women in the communities. The positions we take and the policy reforms we advocate are their views and reform priorities. Our success derives not only from keeping Inuit women informed, but ensuring that they are actively involved in the development and implementation of all initiatives.”