



## **Pauktuutit Celebrates 25 Years in Iqaluit!**

**March 30, 2009 (Ottawa)** The Pauktuutit Board of Directors has concluded a very successful Annual General Meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The AGM was held from March 24 – 26, 2009, at the Nova Hotel in Iqaluit. The Pauktuutit Board also welcomes four new members who were elected by the AGM delegation, and Rhoda Innuksuk was elected as the President at a Board meeting held on March 27. To celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a gala evening was held at the Cadet Hall on March 26.

The Board of Directors warmly welcomes the following new members:

Kivalliq:	Elaine Uppahuak-Prusky, Arviat
Qikiqtaaluk South:	Geela Maniapik, Pangnirtung
Kitikmeot:	Michelle Gillis, Cambridge Bay
Nunatsiavut:	Dawn Michelin, Rigolet

These members bring a wealth of experience to the Board, as well as representing the particular issues and perspectives of their regions.

In addition to addressing business items related to the functioning of the organization, delegates held discussions on current and emerging issues such as the impacts of climate change on human health from the perspective of Inuit women, and how Inuit women wish to be consulted and engaged by the federal government on a range of public policy issues. Reports and highlights of these important discussions will be distributed shortly.

This AGM marked a significant milestone in the history of Pauktuutit. Delegates were addressed by a delegation of Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, as well as two Cabinet Members. Special messages of congratulations were also received from the Governor General and Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Leona Aglukark, Minister of Health, Todd Russell, Member of Parliament for Labrador, and Senator Charlie Watt. Mary Simon, President

of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami shared her thoughts about Pauktuutit's history of accomplishments through a special DVD message. Senator Willie Adams and Commissioner Anne Hanson were also in attendance to share their congratulations in person.

To celebrate Pauktuutit's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Board and delegates invited representatives of various organizations and community members to a dinner at the Cadet Hall on March 26. Premier Eva Aariak shared her thoughts about Pauktuutit's many contributions to the health and wellness of Inuit, and her wish to develop close working relationships on a range of issues over the coming Years. Mr. Paul Kaludjak welcomed Pauktuutit, and also welcomes closer working relationships between Pauktuutit and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in addressing issues of common concern.

After dinner, members of the community joined the invited guests for an evening of entertainment and fun. The evening included a performance by the Cambridge Bay Drum Dancers, a fashion show showcasing traditional and contemporary Inuit fashions, throat singing and concluded with a memorable performance by Lucie Idlout, who recalled starting her performing career with Pauktuutit in 1995. The evening ended with traditional games.

Pauktuutit wishes to extend its most sincere thanks to the many sponsors who made this wonderful week possible. First Air, the official sponsor of the 2009 AGM, also provided two round-trip tickets anywhere the airline flies. The lucky winners were Elisapee Davidee of Iqaluit, and Mary Matoon of Coral Harbour, and we hope you enjoy your trips! The gala evening celebrations were made possible by generous donations from the Makivik Corporation and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Many local businesses also contributed to the success of the AGM, including Arctic Survival, NorthMart, and DJ Sensations. Sponsors of coffee breaks during the AGM include First Air, Aarluk Consulting and the Inuit Tuttarvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization. We must also thank the community of Iqaluit for making everyone feel very welcome.

Thank you to everyone for attending and for contributing to making this a very special AGM!