

# Pauktuutit's Platform Priorities for Federal Election 2021

September 2021





## About Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Pauktuutit is the national representative organization of Inuit women in Canada and is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors from across Canada. We foster greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women, advocate for equality and social improvements, and encourage Inuit women's full participation in the community, regional and national life of Canada.

## Our Vote Matters: What We're Looking For

When Inuit women head to the polls this fall to vote for their next federal government, they will be prioritizing candidates and parties that put Inuit women and children first. While Inuit women face numerous inequalities and challenges, Pauktuutit is calling on all federal party leaders and candidates to commit to advancing Inuit women and children's wellbeing and advancement in the following areas:

### 1. Commit to Addressing MMIWG

Pauktuutit calls on the next federal government to deliver on their respective responsibilities and address the 46 Inuit-specific Calls for Justice by fully implementing the [National Inuit Action Plan for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#). We call on the next federal government to work in collaboration with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada to implement the action plan, ensuring healing programs and supports are developed and designed in consultation with Inuit women and girls.

#### *Why?*

Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are disproportionately impacted by racism, colonialism, and discrimination and as a result are denied access to necessary healing tools and resources such as treatment for substance use or mental health services. Inuit women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are entitled to the same rights and freedoms enjoyed by all Canadians. The full implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan will address the gaping inequities faced by Inuit. Inuit women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people must achieve equality to end gendered violence.

### 2. Commit to More Shelters and Transitional Housing

Pauktuutit calls on the next federal government to commit to new funding for Inuit-specific shelters and transitional housing for women and children to ensure access to pivotal safe spaces and provide protection against domestic violence and abuse.

## Why?

Inuit are experiencing a housing crisis. In some regions of Inuit Nunangat, this crisis has persisted for half a century, resulting in overcrowding and homelessness. The housing crisis is directly contributing to the high level of family violence in Inuit communities. Access to adequate housing is both a universal human right and protective factor against domestic violence and abuse. Adding to the problems of overcrowding and homelessness, only 13 of the 51 communities in Inuit Nunangat have emergency shelters for women fleeing violence, leaving many Inuit women who experience violence without a safe place to go. The next government must commit to sustainable funding that is annualized and includes expenses such as operational costs, repairs, maintenance, staffing, recruitment and training, programming, and services, indexed each year to the cost of living in each specific community.

### 3. Commit to Expanding Access to Midwifery and Healthcare

Pauktuutit calls on the next federal government to invest in and support access to the sustainable delivery of Inuit-specific midwifery services, training, and education and to improve equitable access to healthcare services.

## Why?

Canada continues to take global leadership and pride in improving the sexual and reproductive health of women across the world as it is directly proportional to improving gender equality and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite the Government of Canada's support for midwifery in several countries across the world, the infringement of Inuit women's sexual and reproductive health rights widely persists by denying access to Inuit midwifery services in their communities, forcing Inuit women to travel long distances outside of their communities. This often requires them to leave their other children and families.

### 4. Commit to Implementing UNDRIP

Pauktuutit calls on the next federal government to fully implement the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP). As Canada's Senate voted to pass Bill C-15 into law in June of 2021, the next federal government must prepare and implement an action plan in partnership with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada to achieve the objectives of UNDRIP.



## Why?

This commitment will ensure that Canada's laws are consistent with the UNDRIP and properly support the safety, wellbeing, and cultural rights of Inuit women and children in Canada. Canada must act on its obligations under international treaties that have been ratified by Canada and are intended to protect vulnerable citizens from human rights abuses. This requires the development of legislation that implements the rights affirmed by UNDRIP, and that expands the mandates of provincial/territorial human rights commissions to include enforcement. The next federal government must pay special attention to the UNDRIP, Article 22(1) and particularly, (2) in which *States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous people, to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination*. This process also requires accountability, where the federal government must ensure that Inuit have access to recourse and remedies for human rights violations by establishing an independent Indigenous human rights commission and tribunal.

## 5. Commit to Ensuring Inuit Women Have a Seat at Decision-Making Tables

Pauktuutit calls on the next federal government to commit to including Inuit women at every relevant policy and decision-making table. The next federal government must ensure that all policies and decisions that affect Inuit women include Inuit women's voices.

## Why?

Too often, policy decisions are made about Inuit women without Inuit women's participation, consultation, or agreement. Informed, effective, relevant, and timely policy analysis and exchange on health priorities, disparities, and issues of concern to Inuit women is the only appropriate and effective approach to decision making about Inuit women. Legislative reviews and public policy initiatives that affect Inuit women and children must be co-developed in partnership with Pauktuutit.