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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

SULIQPITA

News from Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada



Join our team. We're hiring and especially want to hear from candidates who are Inuk.

Pauktuutit continues to look for talented individuals with a passion about advocating for Inuit Women to join our organization.

The Pauktuutit team is about increasing the potential for Inuit Women and children to live their lives to the fullest potential and providing an environment that empowers our employees to be the best at making it happen

Start your journey today by visiting our website pauktuutit.ca/careers; or submitting your resume to jobs@pauktuutit.ca

Iqaluit entrepreneur and award-winning educator, Leena Tatiggaq Evic, is one of seven Inuit role models in the Pilimmaksarniq project who share their thoughts and advice on living a life free from violence. The project's comprehensive Toolkit, shared [here](#), is designed to increase awareness and strengthen coping skills among Inuit men and boys to help reduce gender-based violence within Inuit communities.

Read the full story on page 17

// Budget 2021 demonstrates that the federal government is accelerating action to address the urgent needs of Inuit women, including the MMIWG Inquiry's findings. It is also a significant improvement over what Pauktuutit has seen from governments in the past. //

– Rebecca Kudloo, President, Pauktuutit



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President's Message: Rebecca Kudloo

I hope everyone's enjoying the warmer weather and longer days upon us and that you are keeping safe as we wait for COVID-19 vaccines to have a real impact and allow us to return to more normal work and personal routines.

2021 is off to a busy and productive start for Pauktuutit!

In late January, Pauktuutit held its first virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM). Resolutions on a broad range of issues important to Inuit women were passed by the Board during the meeting to guide the work of our staff for the coming year.

Since the AGM, I have participated in many meetings with government officials and Inuit partners. Among these meetings were:

- Nunavut Tunngavik AGM, March 18
- ITK Board Meeting, March 29 - April 2
- ITK - Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC), April 8

In the recent federal budget, Pauktuutit was encouraged to see funding for transition housing and shelters for Inuit women, as well as the pledge by the federal government of \$2.2 billion toward ending the tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. (You can read Pauktuutit's news release on Budget 2021 [here](#).)

Work on the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inuit Action Plan** is well underway. This plan will provide a distinctions-based response to the Inquiry's findings and help inform the allocation of funding for Inuit, from the total funding pledged in the budget.

Pauktuutit's work to support women and families during the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing. New online tools for Inuit women in business whose incomes have been negatively impacted are being developed.

We are also working to support food relief to Inuit families in urban centres and have a vaccination awareness campaign underway to encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

Inuit women are strong and resilient. I'm confident that we will get through this pandemic by supporting each other, our families and our communities.

Kind regards,
Rebecca Kudloo, President



I don't think it's a coincidence that the most positive federal budget in history for Inuit women was shaped and delivered by two women. //

– President Kudloo, on the Department of Finance Budget 2021

About the President

Rebecca Kudloo has served as President of Pauktuutit since 2014. She was born on the land outside Iglulik, Nunavut, and now lives in Baker Lake, Nunavut. Prior to her work with Pauktuutit, Rebecca worked in education and community-based counselling for over 30 years, including with the Department of Education of the Nunavut Government, from which she is now retired. Rebecca is also the co-founder and current Chair of Mianiqsijit, a community-based child sexual abuse and family violence counselling service in Baker Lake.





Message from the Acting Executive Director: Rosemary Cooper

As Acting Executive Director of Pauktuutit, I am so proud of our 'small-but-mighty' team whose passion and strong commitment to make a difference in the lives of Inuit women has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the many challenges of working virtually from our home offices for the last 14 months, our staff have continued to produce strong work and ensure the voices of Inuit women are heard on a broad range of issues, including: violence prevention and policing services, working conditions for Inuit women in the resource extraction industry, addressing systemic racism in healthcare, food security for Inuit in urban centres, as well as Bill C-15, an *Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, now before Parliament.

This newsletter is filled with updates on these initiatives and much more. I hope you will enjoy catching-up and learning more about Pauktuutit's ongoing work through the pages of *Suliqpita*.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge the support and collaboration of Pauktuutit's partners – in government

and also among Inuit and women's organizations across Canada – for the work we are able to achieve.

In particular, recent news that – for the first time in its 36-year history – Pauktuutit will have the security of multi-year operational funding from the federal government is especially welcome.

This sustained funding will strengthen Pauktuutit's ability to ensure the perspectives and ideas of Inuit women, along with a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) lens and a distinctions-based approach are all present when decisions are made about policies, programs and services that impact Inuit women.

Stay well, everyone.

About the Acting Executive Director

Rosemary Cooper assumed responsibility as Acting Executive Director of Pauktuutit in October 2020.

Before joining Pauktuutit as Senior Political Advisor, Rosemary was Political Advisor at Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). Prior to moving to Ottawa, Rosemary served in the Nunavut Government as Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, and Assistant Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Born and raised in Iqaluit, Rosemary is fluently bilingual in Inuktitut and English.



SAVE THE DATES

June 15:
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 21:
National Indigenous Peoples Day

July 9:
Nunavut Day

August 31:
International Overdose Awareness Day

September 9:
International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day



AGM Outcomes

Pauktuutit held its 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) over two evenings on January 26-27.

For the first time in the organization's history, the AGM was conducted virtually over ZOOM because public health guidelines in effect to combat the COVID-19 pandemic required social distancing and discouraged large gatherings outside of your household.

Pandemic precautions among diverse resolutions passed by Board

Vice-President Gerri Sharpe chaired the committee that reviewed resolutions for consideration by Pauktuutit's Board of Directors.

A key component of the AGM was her joint presentation with Board members Laura Churchill and Alyssa Carpenter, which gave meeting attendees an overview of proposed resolutions and context for recommending their approval.

Comprising a wide range of topics, the following nine resolutions were ultimately adopted by the Board:

1. **COVID-19/Pandemic Harm Reduction** – a commitment to communicating accurate information to Inuit families and communities.
2. **Increasing the Economic Independence of Inuit Women** – supporting economic development and political empowerment as well as promoting traditional knowledge.
3. **Data and Research to Inform Policy Regarding Individuals with Disabilities** – ensuring the accurate and comparable data for Inuit women and their children with disabilities to inform equitable funding decisions.
4. **Bill C-15/United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People** – Canada can fulfill its obligations in the UNDRIP Act by consultation and cooperation of Inuit women through Pauktuutit as their national representative body.

5. **The Inclusion of Gender Diversity** – supporting gender diverse Inuit youth transitioning to urban centres and developing Inuit-specific educational tools and resources on gender identity, expression and the 2SLGBTQQIA (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual) community.
6. **Anti-Racism in the Canadian Healthcare System** – ensuring the unique challenges that exist for Inuit women and their children (especially pre-term babies, medically fragile children or those with disabilities) are represented and form the basis of evidenced-based funding and policy support.
7. **GBA+ and the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee** – gender-based analysis (GBA) should be foundational and underpin all policy work to ensure inclusion of the voice of Inuit women and equitable resourcing.
8. **Broadening Policies/Programs for Urban Inuit Women and Girls across Canada (deferred resolution 2020-AGM-06)** – including Inuit women living out of Inuit Nunangat as part of Pauktuutit's mandate to foster greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women to ensure appropriate funding to meet capacity and respect Inuit self-determination.
9. **Inuit women and their Basic Human Rights** – recognizing that there is no indigenous body for human rights, although there is a human rights commission in each province and territory with the exception of Nunavut and British Columbia, which have tribunals.

For more details on these resolutions, please visit [Pauktuutit's website](#).



Inuit Women of the Year Awards Celebrate Inspiring Achievements

A researcher investigating a public health intervention that promotes food security and an anti-suicide social media influencer were named *Inuk Woman of the Year* and *Young Inuk Woman of the Year* respectively at Pauktuutit's Annual General Meeting in January.



Sharon Edmunds was named *Inuk Woman of the Year* for her commitment to building scientific knowledge in the North among Inuit and her determination to help establish a testing service to ensure Inuit 'country food', specifically walrus, is clear of a parasite that causes disease in humans.



Nunavut's **Annie Buscemi** was named the inaugural winner of *Young Inuk Woman of the Year*, presented for the first time in a category for those aged 16-35.

After a misdiagnosed hand injury left this apprentice electrician struggling with anxiety, in October 2020 she began posting Inuit-specific 'Reasons to Stay Alive Today' on several social media platforms, quickly earning her more than 10,300 followers on TikTok alone.

Learn more about these winners and their achievements [here](#).

// *Pauktuutit's awards recognize and celebrate the best qualities of Inuit women. After such a tough year with the pandemic, our communities needed examples of strength and resilience more than ever, and we found it in the inspiring leadership and achievements of this year's winners: Sharon Edmunds and Annie Buscemi. //*

– Rebecca Kudloo, President of Pauktuutit





Advocacy in Action

Prolonged and sustained efforts by Pauktuutit leadership and staff over the years proved the ideal foundation from which to launch an intensive thrust of proactive communications and advocacy work on behalf of Inuit women and children in 2020.

Here are highlights of two notable achievements for Pauktuutit which came to fruition in early 2021:

Government commits to fund five new Inuit-specific shelters

On January 26, the Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada and the Hon. Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs Canada announced the federal government's commitment to fund the construction and operation of five new Inuit-specific shelters for women.

There will be one new shelter in each of the four regions of Inuit Nunangat and one in Ottawa, which has the largest population of urban Inuit in Canada. Pauktuutit estimates the cost of construction of the new shelters will be approximately \$20 million and the value of operational funding over the first decade to be \$40 million.

Shelters provide protection, services and resources which enable women who have experienced abuse and their children to recover from violence, re-build self-esteem and take steps toward an independent and self-determined life.

For more details, read Pauktuutit President Rebecca Kudloo's [Statement Regarding the Government of Canada's Commitment to Fund Five New Inuit-Specific Safe Shelters For Women and Children.](#)

This announcement is what concrete action toward meaningful reconciliation with Inuit women looks like.

Last year, Pauktuutit met with federal cabinet ministers and told them our highest priority was funding for five emergency shelters for women and children.

They listened to us and the federal government has delivered.



Pauktuutit looks forward to working with our Inuit Nunangat partners, as well as Inuit organizations in Ottawa to support the applications and approvals process for these new shelters, which are urgently needed and will save lives. //

– Rebecca Kudloo, President of Pauktuutit





Pauktuutit & RCMP sign historic community policing agreement

On January 27, Pauktuutit and the RCMP signed a historic agreement to strengthen the two organizations' working relationship and improve the protection and safety of Inuit women, children and gender-diverse persons.

The Pinasuqatigiinniq Agreement commits each organization to collaborate on implementing recommendations from Pauktuutit's 2020 report, [Addressing Gendered Violence against Inuit Women: A review of police policies and practices in Inuit Nunangat.](#)

The Agreement includes a workplan to monitor progress and accountability to reduce gender-based discrimination and violence against Inuit women and girls.



First steps include reviewing the RCMP's cultural competency training, establishing a family violence coordinator in Nunavut, and consulting with Inuit women on the RCMP's Body-Worn Cameras pilot project in Iqaluit.

Learn more by reading Pauktuutit President Rebecca Kudloo's [Statement on the Pinasuqatigiinniq Agreement Signed with the RCMP.](#)

As the Inuit term for working together collaboratively, 'Pinasuqatigiinniq' is an appropriate title for this Agreement with the RCMP, made in the spirit of reconciliation with a shared goal: urgent action to effect meaningful, lasting change through culturally aware and trauma-informed policing services for Indigenous communities across Canada.





COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The pandemic has been a challenging time for everyone. However, by respecting public health guidelines and supporting each other, we will get through this.

Pauktuutit's work to support Inuit women and families during the pandemic includes these two initiatives:

Pauktuutit helps provide temporary food relief for urban Inuit families

In March, the federal government provided Pauktuutit with \$464,000 in funding to temporarily help Inuit living outside Inuit Nunangat who faced increased food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pauktuutit partnered with seven urban Inuit organizations to deliver food relief with this funding. Here are the frontline organizations involved, with the number of Inuit to whom they provided food support:

- Yellowknife, NT – Yellowknife Inuit Kattuqiqatigiit: **50 Inuit**
- Edmonton and surrounding area, AB – Inuit Community Development and Education Foundation: **50 Inuit**
- Winnipeg, MB – Tunngasugit Inc.: **200 Inuit**
- Outside of Winnipeg, MB – Manitoba Inuit Association: **200 Inuit**
- Ottawa and Toronto, ON – Tungasuvvingat Inuit: **250 Inuit**
- Southern Quebec – Southern Quebec Inuit Association: **150 Inuit**
- Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island – Atelihai Inuit: **50 Inuit**

As well, Pauktuutit provided food vouchers directly to **612 Inuit** living in communities outside of Inuit Nunangat in areas not serviced by these local partners.

Pauktuutit's advocacy work is ongoing to ensure food security support for families who are struggling because of the pandemic.

In total, 1,562 Inuit living outside of Inuit Nunangat benefited from the temporary food relief funding.

Over 75% of the recipients were women and children.

Here's what some of them had to say about this support:

"I am so thankful for the food vouchers. Immediately the worry went away about how I'm going to provide food for my family this week. Although I work, there are weeks when we just don't have enough food. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

"This will help me tremendously with groceries and supplies for food. I greatly appreciate the help and support."

"Some of my family members been laid off due to COVID regulations. This will definitely be appreciated. Thank you so much."

"My kids and I were able to purchase food and it's nice to have our fridge full of nutritious foods."

"These vouchers helped us greatly. We are really appreciative of them. Since COVID hit, our income as a family unit has greatly been affected: we went from two full-time incomes to one and a part-time job."

"I can't thank you enough. I'm nearly in tears because for the first time in six months I'm not afraid of how I'm going to put food on the table for my daughter for a whole month."



'Stay Safe for My Community' Vaccine Campaign Launches

In January, Pauktuutit launched a public awareness campaign to increase understanding of the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines approved for use in Canada among Inuit. Funding for the campaign was provided by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE).

The multi-faceted initiative includes newspaper and radio ads, social media content, and the distribution of 5,000 masks across Inuit Nunangat and urban centres, including in Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg and Edmonton.



A health-care worker on the Akausivik Inuit Family Health Team in Ottawa wears one of the masks distributed by health clinics across Inuit Nunangat and in urban centres.



The newspaper ads – featuring the campaign's unique logo, targeted messaging and testimonials from President Kudloo and other strong Inuit women – are running in seven print and digital publications across Inuit Nunangat.

The campaign's testimonial video clips feature personalized stay safe messages from Inuit women across Inuit Nunangat. Prominent social media influencer and Young Inuk Woman of the Year, Annie Buscemi, recorded the [first clip in the series](#), sharing the importance of vaccines for Inuit – particularly young people hoping to protect the Elders in their lives.

To premier this video message and promote the midpoint of the Vaccine Awareness campaign, a

[press release](#) was distributed to media and President Kudloo hosted Pauktuutit's first-ever [virtual news conference](#) on March 17 via ZOOM from Baker Lake, Nunavut.

In addition to Annie herself, WAGE Minister Maryam Monsef, CIRNAC Minister Carolyn Bennett, Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal, Associate Finance Minister Mona Fortier, and MP Pam Damoff – the Parliamentary Secretary to Indigenous Services Minister Miller – participated in the news conference.

Special guests from the medical community also provided their perspective on the importance of vaccines for Inuit, including Dr. Evan Adams, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Indigenous Services Canada, and Connie Siedule, Executive Director of the Akausivik Inuit Family Health Centre in Ottawa.

The delivery of the campaign has now shifted to focus on Pauktuutit's social media platforms, where a series of testimonial videos from Inuit women is being posted on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Click [here](#) to see a sample testimonial message from the campaign and subscribe to our social channels to catch the rollout of the clips and other Pauktuutit news as it breaks!



What many people don't realize is that the life expectancy for Inuit in Canada is 10-17 years less than for the general population. This means many Inuit living in urban centres are most at risk of serious health consequences – including death – if they contract COVID-19. //

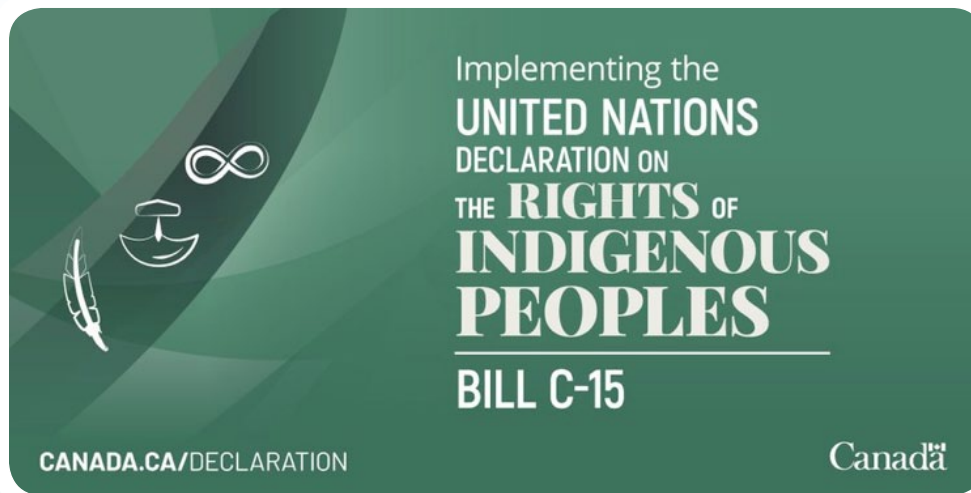
– Connie Siedule, Executive Director,
Akausivik Inuit Family Health Centre





Pauktuutit appears before Parliamentary Committee studying UNDRIP legislation

On April 15, Pauktuutit Vice-President Gerri Sharpe appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs to provide Pauktuutit's views on Bill C-15: *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP)*.



Bill C-15 is critical to closing the socio-economic gaps for Inuit women with other women in Canada – in education, culture, language, health, housing & economic security. It is also a historic opportunity for Canada to advance the path of reconciliation with Inuit.

Pauktuutit urges all MPs and Senators to support its speedy passage through Parliament.

Watch [VP Gerri Sharpe's presentation](#) (starting at 13:25) or [read Pauktuutit's written submission](#).



C-15 is a step forward for Inuit women and all Canadians on the journey towards reconciliation. Inuit women will be able to enforce all of their rights in the UNDRIP Act, wherever they and their children live in Canada. //

– Gerri Sharpe, Vice-President of Pauktuutit



Pauktuutit's UNDRIP presentation was made by VP Gerri Sharpe





MMIWG Inquiry Response: Developing a national Inuit Action Plan

Members of the Inuit Working Group are working to deliver an ambitious and distinctions-based Inuit Action Plan which will become the Inuit chapter of the National Action Plan in response to the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

The Plan is scheduled for release in June.

Here's an overview of who the Working Group members are, their vision for Inuit women and girls, some of the subject themes on which their work is focused, and the various groups who have been consulted for their input on the Plan's development.

INUIT WORKING GROUP WHO WE ARE

Tracy Sarazin	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (co-chair)
Mary Sillett	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada (co-chair)
Evelyn Storr	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Sandra Inutiq	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Navarana Kleist	Makivik Corporation
Isabella Pain	Nunatsiavut Government
Charlotte Wolfrey	Family and Survivors Circle
Amanda Kilabuk	Tungasuvvingat Inuit
Kim Campbell MacLean	AnānauKatiget Tumingit
Jeannie Nayoumealuk	Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik



Tracy Sarazin, co-chair



Mary Sillett, co-chair

Jagasimajut Inuqtausimajulu
Nunaqatutugait Arnait Nivarsiallu
#MMIWG



INUIT WORKING GROUP OUR VISION

Inuit women and girls are strong and resilient. We are entitled to the same standards of safety, health, education and justice, as well as physical, emotional, economic, social and cultural security enjoyed by all Canadians.




Today our reality is very different. Our Inuit Action Plan will address the gaping inequalities faced by Inuit with concrete, timely and measurable positive changes so that Inuit women and girls and 2SLGBTQIA persons achieve substantive equality. We deserve nothing less.


Jagasimajut Inuqtausimajulu
Nunaqatutugait Arnait Nivarsiallu
#MMIWG



Inuit Working Group THEMES



Jagasimajut Inuqtausimajulu
Nunaqatutugait Arnait Nivarsiallu
#MMIWG



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN INUIT PARTICIPATION



Jagasimajut Inuqtausimajulu
Nunaqatutugait Arnait Nivarsiallu
#MMIWG







Policy & Research Updates

Social & Economic Development

Pauktuutit continues to expand and implement initiatives through our formal working relationship at the policy level with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

July 2021 will mark the second anniversary of Pauktuutit’s Engagement Protocol Agreement (EPA) with ESDC to partner on joint priority issues affecting the wellbeing and safety of Inuit women, children and families.

By applying an Inuit-specific gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) to ESDC’s policies, programs and services, Pauktuutit is helping align them with the rights, needs and priorities of Inuit.

Areas of focus include early learning and childcare, labour and skills-building, accessibility for Canadians living with a disability, homelessness and housing stability, as well as poverty reduction.

Working in tandem with ESDC allows Pauktuutit to ensure Inuit women can influence policies that affect their daily lives, and access all of the federal department’s programs and services.

Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee

We also collaborate with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) by participating in the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee and a variety of working groups targeting issues such as food security, early childhood development, education, housing, welfare legislation, poverty reduction, and community economic development.

COVID-19 supports

During the pandemic Pauktuutit has been working to ensure Inuit women have access to federal funding and assistance related to food security, homelessness and shelters in urban centres, plus supports for businesses owned by Inuit women.

We are also providing input to both national Indigenous and Inuit-specific task groups relating to COVID-19 relief.

On the horizon

We will continue to meet with our partners within ESDC on areas of priority.

To support Inuit women in business, we are working with the labour division on matters such as pay equity, mental health in the workplace as well as accessibility and inclusion for those living with disabilities.

In April, President Kudloo participated in the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee meeting, along with other Inuit leaders and senior members of the government, including Prime Minister Trudeau.





Violence, Abuse Prevention & Administration of Justice

Inuit Women's Shelter and Housing Needs in Ottawa

In partnership with Tungasuvvingat Inuit and Inuuqatigiit Centre, Pauktuutit received funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to assess Inuit women's shelter and housing needs in Ottawa.

The assessment report will identify knowledge gaps as well as outline recommendations and strategies to enhance Inuit women's safety and security in Ottawa. The full report should be available by the summer.

Last Phase of Report on Arctic Gender Equality

In December 2019, Pauktuutit had received funding from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to collaborate with the Arctic Council as a member of the editorial committee for the [Report on Gender and Diversity in the Arctic](#).

Pauktuutit drafted submissions to be included in the following two chapters: 'Indigeneity, Gender, Violence and Reconciliation in the Arctic' and 'Empowerment and Fate Control'.

The final report will be published by the end of the Icelandic Arctic Council Chairmanship in May 2021. Pauktuutit will be presenting mid-June at the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X) Conference in Arkhangelsk, Russia.

Working Together to Prevent Violence and Administer Justice

The Violence, Abuse Prevention and Administration of Justice Working Group is tasked with addressing one of the four priority areas under the Canada-Pauktuutit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The group is co-chaired by representatives from Pauktuutit and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

The group brings together senior level officials from relevant federal government departments to collectively establish workplans and undertake activities to advance the safety and wellbeing of Inuit women and children. The group is currently planning its next meeting to focus on child health and welfare.

Strategic Inclusion of Inuit-Specific Data re: MMIWG

Pauktuutit is a member of the Data Sub-Working Group of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

The group is tasked with designing a data strategy for the *National Action Plan* being developed in response to the Inquiry's Calls for Justice. Pauktuutit's participation in this group ensures that Inuit-specific data needs are well respected in the Inquiry's final Plan.

Engaging Inuit Women's Voices to Address Gender-Based Violence

Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) awarded Pauktuutit a grant of \$40K to provide meaningful Inuit-specific input to develop the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*. The final report should be available in late spring of 2021.

Pauktuutit is also a member of a working group convened by Women's Shelters Canada to provide prevention support for survivors and their families.

Advisory Committees to MMIWG Inuit Working Group

Pauktuutit is a member of the Inuit Working Group which meets weekly to produce the Inuit Action Plan in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

To support the Group's efforts, three full-day advisory committee meetings were held in March to reflect the collective interests of shelters and transitional housing, urban Inuit, as well as men and boys. Meeting results and recommendations were captured in reports to advise the Inuit Working Group.

Mutual Agreement to Handle Polar Data

In February, Pauktuutit received funding to create a Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) with Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) to establish jointly approved procedures for consultation and project activities.

To develop and implement the SEA, Pauktuutit is concurrently building a strategy detailing how it will collect, store and manage data to advance Canada's knowledge of the Arctic. ✨



Program Updates

Social & Economic Development

Enhancing Inuit Women's Economic Development

Pauktuutit's Social and Economic Development (SED) department was very busy this past winter completing deliverables for two main projects.

An Inuit Women's Business Council (IWBC) meeting was held in November 2020 as part of the *Enhancing Inuit Women's Economic Development* project, now nearing the end of its second year. Participants considered the impacts of COVID-19 on project activities, strategized about continuing the important work remotely, and discussed the technical content of several Request for Proposals.

To further support Inuit businesswomen, SED is creating a series of animated tutorials and conducting a gender-based analysis (GBA+) to better understand the nature, size and scope of businesses owned by Inuit women.

The department is also working with partners to create a series of visual resources about budgeting, operations, marketing and pricing.



SED's new business development workshops are [now available online](#). The department will host virtual sessions to safely introduce participants to the workshops remotely.

SED staff also participated in national forums addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on Inuit economic and social wellbeing, as well as the ITK-led Community Economic Development Taskforce and the Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group (IECDWG).

Inuit Business Owners Sought for Research Project

Are you the Inuit owner of a business? The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) wants to hear from you in its upcoming national research project!

The CCAB is surveying 3,000 First Nation, Inuit and Métis business owners across Canada to understand the different business characteristics, objectives, challenges and access to international markets.

As CCAB's largest research project to date, ensuring that Inuit voices are meaningfully included will impact policy decisions to help communities innovate and thrive.

Pauktuutit will also provide input as a member of the project's Indigenous Research Advisory Council.

To participate in this phone survey, please complete [this form](#). Questions? Just email CCAB's Project Manager Katarina Savic: ksavic@ccab.com



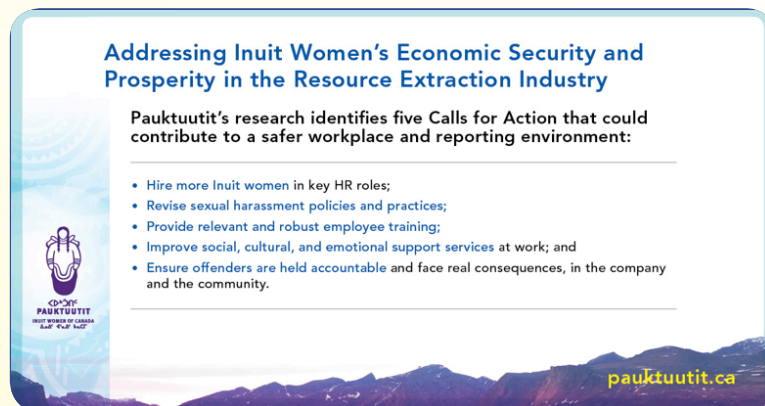
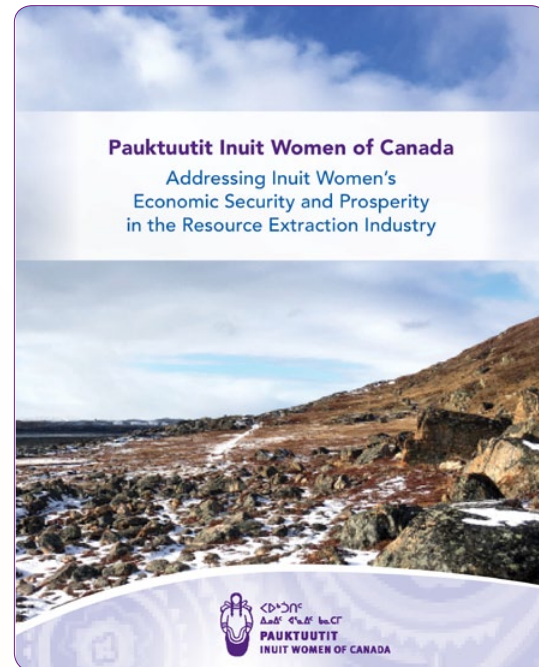


Extraction Report Highlights Poor Working Conditions for Inuit Women in the Industry

The final report from SED's ground-breaking research project *Addressing Inuit Women's Economic Security and Prosperity in the Resource Extraction Industry* was officially launched March 31st.

With the headline [“Study Finds More Than Half of Inuit Women Working in the Extraction Industry Experience Sexual Harassment on the Job”](#), the news release about the report's key findings garnered national media attention, including coverage in the [Globe & Mail](#). This important story was also covered in [Nunatsiaq News](#), [Nunavut News](#), [CBC News](#), and the [Canadian Mining Journal](#).

The research revealed that the most common forms of harassment in the historically male-dominated mining industry involve sexual comments, jokes, unwanted touching and emotional abuse.



We are looking forward to sharing the report and its recommendations to improve working conditions for Inuit women with industry stakeholders, as well as our partners, the participants, and the project Advisory Committee.

For the full report [click here](#).





Violence, Abuse Prevention & Administration of Justice

National Launch of EMB Violence Reduction Toolkit



January 29th marked the official launch of resources from Pauktuutit's *Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls* project to strengthen coping skills among Inuit men and boys in an effort to reduce gender-based violence within Inuit communities.

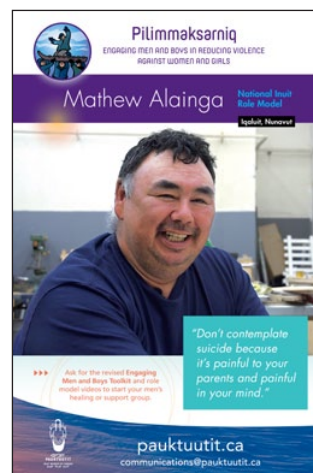
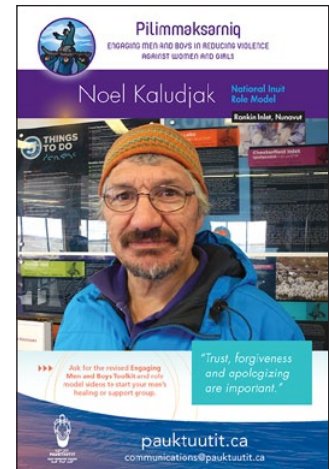
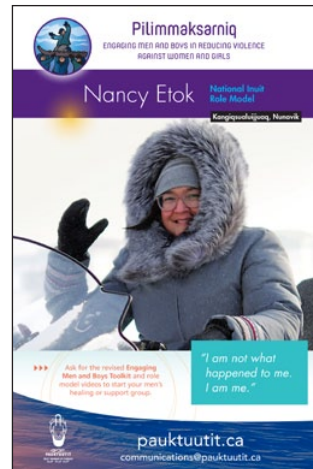
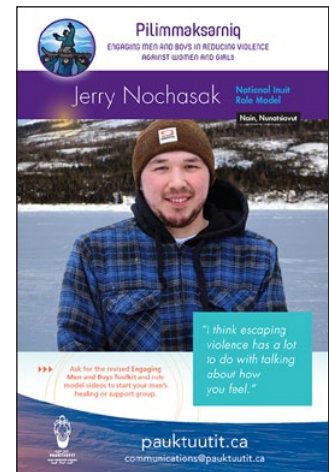
Funded by Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), over the last five years this ambitious initiative revised the comprehensive *Pilimmaksarniq* toolkit, applied gender-based analysis of violence from an Inuit perspective, and conducted a gap analysis of relevant Northern programs and services.

Led by the Violence and Abuse Prevention Department, the project also featured a Role Model campaign.

Through the process of nomination across Inuit Nunangat, a diverse group of seven men and women including youth and Elders were selected as Role Models to share what healthy relationships look like in the home, in the community, and in romantic involvements with a boyfriend, girlfriend or spouse.

The campaign encourages community members across Inuit Nunangat to acknowledge someone in their daily life who demonstrates the characteristics of Inuit societal values that foster healthy relationships, gender equality and a way of living free from violence.

The project resources are available [here](#).



Gendered violence disproportionately victimizes Indigenous women across Canada, and Inuit women and children in particular. Women in Nunavut, for example, are the victims of violent crime at a rate **13 times higher** than for woman in Canada as a whole.



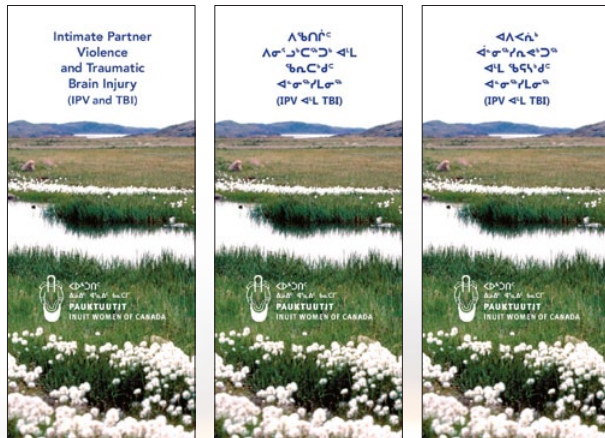
Highlighting Intimate Partner Violence Traumatic Brain Injury (IPV TBI)

Funded by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Pauktuutit's IPV TBI project aims to foster the ongoing safety of Inuit women and men by raising their awareness of traumatic brain injury resulting from intimate partner violence and the supports available.

To address the critical need for education on IPV TBI in the Inuit community, Pauktuutit is partnering with the University of Manitoba's Ongomiizwin Health Services to develop a culturally sensitive IPV-TBI resource.

The resource will guide discussion of the issue and provide information on available supports, improving access to services and ultimately enhancing the wellbeing of Inuit men and women across Inuit Nunangat.

To find the IPV TBI information, [click here](#).



Inuit Youth Violence Prevention Camp Goes Virtual

The vision of the Ikajuqatigiiniq project is an Inuit youth violence prevention leadership camp designed to be held over five days on the land in the Qikiqtaaluk region.

Funded by Indigenous Services Canada's Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIBH), a primary project objective is to create a toolkit to support youth camps held by youth themselves. The first camp would serve as a trial event and the blueprint for other camps going forward.

However, due to ongoing COVID-19 travel and social gathering restrictions, Pauktuutit will now be delivering the camp virtually.

The project's deadline has also been extended to September 2021, to accommodate the pandemic delays.

Ikajuqatigiiniq aims to enhance youth self-reliance to identify unhealthy behaviour and attitudes. Fostering the ability to promote non-violence in turn also helps youth live free from violence themselves.





Health & Wellbeing

Improving the health status of Inuit women and their families has been a priority since Pauktuutit's inception in 1984. Pauktuutit has implemented numerous successful health prevention and promotion projects on a wide range of issues from cancer and COVID to sexual health and smoking cessation. Below are updates on just three of the department's current initiatives:

Cancer Project E-Learning Module Receives Accreditation

Funded by the Canadian Cancer Society, [Inuusinni Agqusaagtara—My Journey](#) is a collection of cancer resources developed for Inuit patients, caregivers and health-care providers.



Through the development of two e-learning modules, *Inuusinni Agqusaagtara* aims to help Inuit cancer patients better understand the disease and improve

communication between Inuit patients and non-Inuit health-care providers.

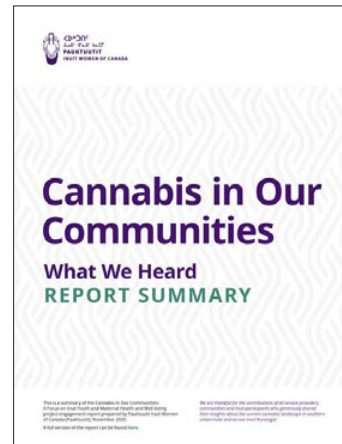
Since the last newsletter, Pauktuutit is pleased to announce that the cancer health-care provider e-learning module has received official accreditation, with support from the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and the University of Ottawa.

Sincere thanks and gratitude to all who have supported this important process, especially during the challenges of the pandemic. Pauktuutit is working towards officially launching both modules by the summer.

Cancer is a leading cause of death among Inuit living in Canada. The rate is nearly twice as high as the rest of the country.

Cannabis Resources to Focus on Inuit Youth and Maternal Health

Funded by Health Canada's Substance Use and Addiction Program, Pauktuutit's cannabis project has wrapped up engagement with folks from across all regions of Inuit Nunangat and key urban centres.



For a concise description of what we learned in Phase 1 about the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of Inuit youth and new or expecting parents, read the ['What We Heard' Report Summary](#).

Despite the obstacles of this year's pandemic, Pauktuutit has almost finalized a research report based on engagement with Inuit youth and expecting or young parents. Pauktuutit is now entering the project's second phase: a public education campaign promoting a harm-reduction approach to cannabis.

Inuit-specific resources will be distributed to health centres and other service providers in and outside of Inuit Nunangat to encourage Inuit communities to make informed and healthy decisions about cannabis use.

As of 2018, cannabis was the most widely used illegal drug in Europe and North America.

Rates of cannabis use among Inuit are higher than both Canadians in general and Indigenous people in Canada.

— continued on next page



Two-thirds of 15- to 19-year-old Inuit participants from a study in Nunavik self-reported using cannabis in the previous year. ✨

– Cannabis Prevalence and Interventions in Inuit Communities: A Literature Review



Raising Inuit Awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Pauktuutit’s Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) project is finalizing a research report mapping available services for Inuit and highlighting areas that need increased support.

Supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada with input from regional partners, the report will shape the development of Inuit-specific resources to address the stigma of FASD and consuming alcohol while pregnant.

The resources will be part of an awareness and anti-stigma campaign Pauktuutit aims to launch across Inuit Nunangat later this spring!

The number of people living with FASD is believed to be higher than reported. Because of fear, stigma and a lack of FASD knowledge and research – specifically for Inuit – many find FASD a difficult topic to discuss.



With the ‘Cannabis in Our Communities’ project, Pauktuutit is creating resources that share knowledge and relatable information for Inuit to make healthy and informed decisions.

[Find more here.](#)



Annie shared her [video message](#), aimed at young Inuit, as part of Pauktuutit's Stay Safe campaign.



I plan on getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it's available to me. Getting the vaccine means I can safely see my grandparents, as well as help protect other Elders and my community.

Stay safe, stay protected – if we stick together, we will be ok. //

– Annie Buscemi, Young Inuk Woman of the Year

Who We Are

Pauktuutit is the national representative organization of Inuit women in Canada. We foster greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women, advocate for equality and social improvements, and encourage Inuit women's participation in the community, regional and national life of Canada.

What Is Suliqpita?

Suliqpita means 'what we are doing'. *Suliqpita* is our seasonal newsletter where we provide updates on what we've been working on and what's coming up.

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