

SULIQPITA

Quarterly Newsletter by Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada



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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA



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 are we 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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MESSAGE FROM PAUKTUUTIT

Our Spring Suliqpita has arrived! The past few months have been extremely busy. At the Annual General Meeting in February 2020, the Pauktuutit Board of Directors discussed the critical need for shelters with a number of key Cabinet members, including the Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs; the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services; the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; and M.P. Gudie Hutchings, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Women and Gender Equality, who all expressed their support and commitment to working with Pauktuutit and Inuit women. During that meeting, the Board of Directors released a request for \$20M in funding to be included in the next federal budget to build shelters for women and children fleeing violence.

Board of Directors and AGM Update

In February, 2020, Rebecca Kudloo was acclaimed as President for another term until 2023! Gerri Sharpe of Yellowknife was also elected Vice-President for the same term. Elections were held for 11 Board positions. Congratulations are extended to the returning members: Rebecca Kudloo, Anne Curley, Laura Churchill, Alyssa Carpenter, Anita Pokiak, Martha Flaherty, Gerri Sharpe

and Charlotte Wolfrey. The Board congratulates and welcomes new Directors Brenda Epoo, Nunavik Hudson Coast, Nancy Mike, Iqaluit and Malaya Zehr representing urban Inuit women. Pauktuutit extends its deep appreciation for the commitment and contributions of departing Board members Geela Maniapik, Parniga Akeegok, Billie Jo Barnes, Pasha Arngaq, Annie Buchan and Leena Metuq.

Stay safe, everyone! The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has also kept Pauktuutit busy with concerns over the well-being and safety of Inuit women in Inuit Nunangat and in urban and a move for Pauktuutit staff to home-based work. We have suspended all travel to Inuit Nunangat until we are told it is safe to do so. See our COVID-19 update at the end of this newsletter. ■

Qujannamiik/Nakurmiik/Ma'na/Koana.



SAVE THE DATES

Starting May 22: Aboriginal Awareness Week

June 1: National Aboriginal History Month begins

June 22: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Update from Rebecca

The last several months have been extremely busy, particularly with government relations, first with a post-inquiry plan for co-development of a National Action Plan to address the issue of murdered and missing Inuit women and girls. Secondly, we have been working quickly to identify and address the needs and priorities of Inuit women during this pandemic. We have been in communications with key ministers about concrete next steps that will be taken post-inquiry. One result was the request by the Pauktuutit Board of Directors to the federal government for \$20M to build shelters for women and children fleeing violence. This important first step would mark the beginning of actions taken to implement the MMIWG recommendations and reconciliation efforts.

While this was on its way to Cabinet Ministers, we received news of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic threat to our communities. Our office was affected immediately and by March 16, our staff were working remotely. We then became involved with consultations with the federal government to try to ensure that Inuit women across Inuit Nunangat and in cities in the south can equitably access the additional resources that are now available. We continue to stay informed of the pandemic situation as we advocate

on your behalf to prepare for and mitigate the effects of COVID-19. We will continue to lobby for equitable funding for shelters through the immediate needs in funding of the pandemic and develop relevant fact sheets about resources for food security, supports for businesswomen, housing and homelessness and access to safety as our immediate priorities.



This is the qulliq presented to Pauktuutit by Qajaq Robinson on behalf of the National Inquiry Into MMIWG.

The Board and I, along with the whole Pauktuutit team, are concerned about the effects of COVID-19 on Inuit women and we have decided to create a COVID-19 resources and information central web page to help you get the help you are looking for as a person, a family, for your business or as a community. Please see the end of this newsletter for more

information.

We want you all to be well, so please follow the advice and directions provided by governments and public health experts as much as you can. Wash your hands for at least 30 seconds with soap regularly, physically distance from others by at least six feet and isolate yourself if you are sick. Keep elders safe by protected yourself through good distancing and hygiene practices. Please don't share

cigarettes or other items that you may put in your mouth and disinfect surfaces at home as much as you can, particularly where you prepare food. The virus can stay on surfaces a long time, so it's important to wash surfaces with soap and water.

I was very happy to participate in the *Culturally Informed Choice and Consent in Indigenous Women's Health Services Forum Inuit Pre-Forum Meeting* on January 27, where we brought together 8 expert participants from across Inuit Nunangat. Participants discussed an environmental scan and consultations by Pauktuutit about Inuit women's views on sexual health education, contraception, fertility treatments, emergency contraception, therapeutic abortion, pre- and post-natal care, birth, post-birth options, sterilization and the medical complaints process.

We then brought forward these recommendations and priorities to the First Nations Inuit Health Branch meeting on reproductive health on January 28 and 29, notably:

Top middle: President Rebecca Kudloo enjoying some traditional braiding following the Forum on Reproduction meeting in Ottawa.



- 1- The need for free, prior and informed medical consent for Inuit women and girls
- 2- An Inuit-specific approach to sexual health care
- 3- Inuit-specific midwifery programs held in all regions, and
- 4- The necessity for Inuit women to know their rights.

We will be posting our environmental scan of what we heard from Inuit women from across Inuit Nunangat on our website in the next few days. We are continuing to make Inuit women's voices heard on this important matter.

We look forward to being able to resume our travel and work directly with Inuit women in the communities, but we respect the need to re-open slowly and will follow the advice of governments and health authorities.

Enjoy this spring and summer with your family. I wish everyone good health and please take care of yourself and your loved ones. ■

Rebecca Kudloo, President

Health Update

Our cancer project, *Inuusinni Aqqusaagtara – My Journey*, funded and supported by the Canadian Cancer Society, will soon launch two new e-learning modules to complement our suite of Inuit-specific cancer resources available for patients, their families and health care providers. The health team is also collecting stories from people across Inuit Nunangat who have used our resources or have a cancer story they want to share. We would like to learn about how the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted your cancer journey. Please email senuaraq@pauktuutit.ca for more information.

Pauktuutit continues to work closely with Indigenous Services Canada in response to calls for progress on an Inuit-specific needs assessment to understand informed consent and the impact of forced or coerced sterilization on Inuit communities in the context of Indigenous women's reproductive health rights and justice.

Pauktuutit hosted information sessions in communities across Inuit Nunangat that included Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Inuvik, Nain, and Kuujuaq. An environmental scan



of the health care systems and health care institutions in the south also documents policies, procedures and practices including clinical care

pathways for women navigating reproductive health care services. A gap analysis focused on differences in care pathways and best practices along the reproductive health path for Inuit women.

Pauktuutit hosted a pre-forum meeting on January 27 in which eight participants from across Inuit Nunangat discussed the environmental scan and consultations. Key messages were brought forward to the First Nations Inuit Health Branch meeting on reproductive health on January 28 and 29. Pauktuutit, along with other Indigenous women's organizations, will be working with FNIHB on practical resources to raise awareness of Inuit women's rights in relation to reproductive health care and continue to address this important issue.



We have received funding through Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program for a project entitled Cannabis in Our Communities: A Focus on Inuit Youth and Maternal Health and Well-Being. This three-year project seeks to assess knowledge, attitudes and behaviors in Inuit communities about cannabis and raise awareness of the effects and potential harmful impacts of cannabis from the perspective of harm reduction. The health team has completed focus groups in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, with more to be completed across the other regions of Inuit Nunangat. A national online survey was also launched in early 2020.

completed focus groups and key informant interviews in Edmonton, Inuvik, Montreal and Kuujuaq, with more to be completed over the coming months.

Pauktuutit is enhancing the National Inuit Sexual Health Network and continuing to implement *Tavva: The National Inuit Sexual Health Strategy*. The Network is currently revising the Cascade of Care Framework for STBBIs and initiating work to develop Inuit-specific sexual health indicators. We have hired a consultant to complete an environmental scan to determine other work done in this area.

We are continuing our work on the *CheckUp Project*. In partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Pauktuutit is scaling up and enhancing Nunavik’s campaign launched by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, using social marketing and social media to



Pauktuutit also continues its work on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) prevention, reducing stigma associated with FASD as well as supporting those living with FASD. Pauktuutit’s project aims to foster awareness by gathering information from individuals living with FASD and those working on the front lines of health promotion. This information will be used to develop gender specific trauma-informed culturally relevant resources for Inuit living in and outside Inuit Nunangat. The health team has

influence attitudes and behaviours about screening and normalization of testing for STBBIs. Follow the Facebook page for posts, memes and to see our youth retreats in fall 2020!

The health team is mindful of the current pandemic situation and we would like to extend our gratitude to all essential workers continuing to provide vital services to our communities. ■

Violence and Abuse Prevention



As part of our *Pilimmaksarniq—Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls* project, we are currently collaborating with the community role models nominated this past spring to learn

about their journey and approaches to creating healthy relationships with others and themselves. Through these exchanges, we are developing a national role model campaign, and revising our *Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls Toolkit*, aiming to foster awareness, education and self-determination in healthy relationships and leading a life free of violence.

Now in its last year, we have begun planning the final stages of the project including revising the toolkit,

launching the national role model campaign, and holding engagement sessions with subject matter experts over the spring and into early summer this year.

We have launched our latest *Believe-Ask-Connect* project titled *Sivummuatsiarniq: An Urban Resource Guide for Inuit Women*. This project includes three resources designed to support Inuit women who are moving to Canadian urban centres. One offers information about services available in six Canadian cities and includes

helpful strategies to navigate a new city, stay safe, and helpful reminders about individual rights. This resource was distributed to all communities across Inuit Nunangat with the help of First Air, Air Inuit, Canadian North, and Air Borealis. The second resource is designed for *qallunaat* (non-Inuit) service providers to increase their cultural competency when working with Inuit; all services including urban hospitals listed in the women's resources have received copies. Our *Sivummuatsiarniq* resource for Inuit women is available in English and two dialects of Inuktitut. We also have information for service providers in French and English. Check out our interactive web page and resources.

In collaboration with National Inuit Youth Council and Indigenous youth, we have launched our *National Conversations on Gender Equality With Young Canadians* project. The project aims to lead youth engagement activities to empower Inuit youth in the North and urban centers by facilitating the development of skills, knowledge, leadership capacity, advocacy, and confidence. This will help Inuit youth in Canada to understand the intersectional and cross-cutting issues of gender analysis,

and identify and respond positively and proactively to negative gender norms, values, gender-equality issues, and stereotypes in their communities. The long-term objectives of this project are to co-develop an approach to engaging Indigenous youth across Canada in dialogue and action on gender equality.

In collaboration with the National Inuit Youth Council (NIYC), Pauktuutit will co-develop and co-create appropriate messaging, youth engagement opportunities, and products and/or tools that support gender equality and inform actions to support a gender-inclusive society. Early this year, project staff attended a meeting in Ottawa for funding recipients and youth working group members hosted by Women and Gender Equality.

This meeting brought together the five organizations under the Indigenous stream of the National Conversations on Gender Equality with Young Canadians Project to discuss a collaborative approach to the project outcomes. The project is currently establishing an advisory committee and will host its first teleconference early summer 2020. Once travel restrictions are lifted, we hope to join Inuit youth from across the country

during their Annual National Summit.

Our *Ikajuqatigiiniq: Inuit Youth Pathways to Violence Prevention Project* is a five-day Inuit youth life-promoting leadership camp that incorporates a train-the-trainer component using, sports and arts for development, along with a values-based education approach rooted in *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*. The goals of the project are to improve the resiliency, leadership and life skills of youth by enhancing their self-awareness and self-reliance for their social-emotional well-being; building youth's practical living skills to support their safety; enhancing youths' self-reliant abilities to identify unhealthy behaviour and attitudes and promoting non-violence so they will be able to live free from violence.

We are working closely with QIA and community partners to develop and co-facilitate the five-day camp, including train-the-trainer sessions. We had originally hoped to hold the camp this spring but have postponed this activity until the fall to respect social distancing and travel bans during the COVID pandemic. ■

Social and Economic Development (SED) Update

This winter, our focus was the delivery of surveys intended to capture Inuit women's experiences in the resource extraction industry, with a focus on workplace safety and rights in the workplace. The department travelled to Inuvik in November 2019 to deliver surveys and is planning to conduct the survey in Nain in the future. The responses we receive from Inuit women will help us analyze the issue of safety and rights in the resource extraction industry.

The department is completing a comprehensive and gendered literature review to assess the effectiveness of industry policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant human rights codes to get a better understanding

of the issue. This will be available on our website soon.

We have also launched our new project called *Enhancing the Economic Security of Inuit Women* and hosted the project's inaugural Inuit Women's Business Council meeting in November 2019. Relevant experts from across Inuit Nunangat and Canada joined us to help guide Pauktuutit's social and economic development priorities. Through this project, we have also created a centralized business directory highlighting Inuit businesswomen.

Over the next five years, the project will focus on important data collection and analysis; strengthening international

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linkages between Inuit businesswomen and other Indigenous businesswomen; enhancing current resources and business supports of the Inuit Women in Business Network; and, holding regular Inuit Women's Business Council meetings.

We are looking forward to finalizing our final survey report highlighting Inuit women's experiences in the resource extraction industry. We are also updating a series of business development workshops and will deliver our workshops in communities across Inuit Nunangat and in urban centres. ■

Policy and Research Update

Pauktuutit now has enhanced capacity to support raise relevant policy and research issues as well as provide this support to our projects. We are happy to be able to share these updates.

Violence and Abuse Prevention

In December 2019, Pauktuutit received funding from Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs to undertake a project in collaboration with the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group for the pan-Arctic Report on Gender and Diversity in the Arctic by participating as a member of the editorial committee.

As a member of the editorial committee, Pauktuutit is drafting a submission to be including in the Violence and Reconciliation chapter. The final report on gender equality in the Arctic will conclude ahead of the end of the Icelandic Arctic Council Chairmanship in May 2021.

Funded by Public Safety Canada, Pauktuutit released a report in January 2020 on the police response to gendered violence in Inuit Nunangat. The study's report titled [*Addressing Gendered Violence Against Inuit Women: A Review of Policing Policies and Practices in Inuit Nunangat*](#), details 15 specific recommendations. According to the recommendations, moving forward will require a major shift in how policing is carried out in Inuit Nunangat to address the violence that Inuit women experience, as well as the challenges Inuit women experience in finding safety and security when violence occurs.

The project developed from one of the recommendations of the interim report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The findings are to inform the development of tools and resources that will be made available to police services throughout Canada to support the delivery of culturally competent police services. Pauktuutit hopes to establish a task force with the RCMP to ensure that Public Safety Canada implements the report's recommendations.

In January 2020, Pauktuutit received funding from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to undertake a research project titled *Needs Assessment for Inuit-Specific Urban Women's Shelter and Housing in Ottawa, Ontario*. This needs assessment is conducted in partnership between Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, *Inuugatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families*, and *Tungasuvvingat Inuit*.

The needs assessment will examine the shelter and support needs of urban Inuit women in Ottawa, with the goal of replication in other urban centres with significant Inuit populations. It will also explore the current state of urban Inuit women's housing and homelessness in Ottawa. The goal of the research is to determine what Inuit women's needs from shelter facilities are, as well as address housing options for Inuit women in the city and other unmet needs related to the safety and well-being of Inuit women and their children. The project is set to conclude July 31, 2021m but has been delayed by stay-at-home orders by the Province of Ontario.

Pauktuutit continues to work with the federal government to implement the *Canada-Pauktuutit Memorandum of Understanding*. The Working Group has outlined three major areas of focus to enhance the safety and address the needs of victims of abuse. The areas include the following: access to safety, namely shelters, second stage and transition housing; child and youth safety and criminal justice system review.

A productive and well-attended interdepartmental meeting was held in January 2020, as an initial discussion to determine how to advance common priorities. The Working Group will continue working together over the summer.

We are also working with our urban partners to share information and offer any support that may be helpful to ensure they are also able to access equal funding to support Inuit women in urban areas. ■

Health Policy Update

The creation of a new health policy position within Pauktuutit over the past year has allowed the organization to dig deeper into important health issues facing Inuit women and children today. It has enabled Pauktuutit to play a larger role in existing and new national health committees to ensure that the voices of Inuit women and children are heard. And, with the global pandemic at Inuit Nunangat's doorstep, it allows Pauktuutit to participate in gathering and disseminating critical information necessary to attempt to mitigate COVID-19's effects.

Some of our recent projects include research and data gathering on issues related to aging. Long-term care,

home care, and care for elders facing dementia, are critical areas that require attention to ensure that Inuit elders and people with disabilities are able to stay in their homes and communities with the best culturally competent care. Pauktuutit recently submitted a brief on palliative care to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health.

Pauktuutit is also now the co-chair for the Advisory Committee on Indigenous Women's Wellness, along with our esteemed colleagues with the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives. Addressing issues such as reproductive rights, food security, and housing, this comprehensive

committee, assisted by Indigenous Services Canada, includes members from ITK, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, and the Native Women's Association of Canada, among others.

This work, along with our regular work on health committees such as the National Inuit Committee on Health, and the Inuit Public Health Task Group and the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy group, allow us to keep Inuit women and children's needs at the forefront of all national health initiatives in Canada and beyond. ■

Raising Awareness About Family Violence

Funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and the Law Society of Nunavut are conducting a project intended to raise awareness about family violence, especially intimate partner violence, and legal options to address it in Nunavut. The project consists of two components: a research study and an awareness campaign. This two-year project is anticipated to be complete in winter 2020.

This project intends to address the lack of research on what access to justice barriers exist regarding family violence, and specifically determine whether the Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA) is meeting the needs of survivors of intimate partner violence. It will focus on the smaller remote communities in each of the three regions of Nunavut, which often have fewer available services than the larger communities in Nunavut that serve as the regional administrative centres.

It will also develop a comprehensive public awareness campaign aimed at strengthening Nunavummiut's ability to recognize abusive situations while increasing the public's level of understanding about the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* legislation, and other available legal options.

The results of this study will report on the level of awareness and perception of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* in Nunavut, and barriers to access to justice for survivors of family violence. The public awareness campaign will target both community members and service providers and include activities such as information events, videos, posters, podcasts, plain language resources, radio interviews and social media.

The research report will be available in summer 2020. It will be accompanied by a shorter plain language summary and fact sheets in English, Inuktitut and French, to be shared with research participants and stakeholders involved.

The research results will be distributed to the Government of Nunavut's Justice Department. It will provide the department with information about the effectiveness of the legislation as well as recommendations to strengthen it.

The public awareness campaign is anticipated to be delivered beginning in summer 2020. Awareness campaign products may include print media, videos, posters, podcasts, radio and social media, workshops, Astro Movie Theatre (Iqaluit) and other plain language resources, depending on the key messages developed from the research findings. ■

Gender-Based Violence and the Criminal Justice System in Inuit Nunangat to Address Survivors' Needs

Funded through the Department of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), Pauktuutit is conducting a research project to analyze Inuit women's experience with the criminal justice system as victims of gender-based violence across Inuit Nunangat to increase the understanding of needs, challenges and service gaps that face Inuit women. The project consists of two components: a research study and a multimedia campaign. It is anticipated to be complete in winter 2022.

The project will provide specific recommendations aimed at improving and strengthening the criminal justice system response to gender-based violence across Inuit Nunangat with a clear focus on the needs and safety of Inuit children, women, families and communities. This project intends to

advance effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies that appropriately address violence against Inuit women, including strategies aimed at preventing re-victimization.

A survey is underway to understand Inuit women's experiences, interests and knowledge of their rights as victims of crime in the criminal justice process and will be disseminated in fall 2020. The survey outcomes will inform a plain multimedia language, bilingual legal information on Inuit women's legal rights.

A literature review and an environmental scan are being conducted to develop the research methodology and accompanying materials by fall 2020. Accordingly, one-on-one in-depth, semi-

structured interviews with Inuit women with lived experience and with criminal justice system stakeholders and relevant service providers will be conducted in two communities in each of the four regions of Inuit Nunangat by spring 2021.

The research will be finalized, and a bilingual final report will be disseminated widely to partners by winter 2022.

The public awareness campaign is anticipated to be delivered beginning in 2020. Awareness campaign products may include print media, videos, posters, podcasts, radio and social media, workshop models, and other plain language resources, depending on the key messages developed from the research findings. ■

Social and Economic Development

For the first time in many years, Pauktuutit now has a formal working relationship at the policy level with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). Broadly, ESDC 'works to improve the standard of living and quality of life for all Canadians.' In July 2019, Pauktuutit signed an *Engagement Protocol Agreement (EPA)* with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). This agreement is to enhance Pauktuutit's capacity to partner with ESDC on joint priority issues that affect the well-being and safety of Inuit women, children, and families. We are working towards this goal by applying and Inuit-specific gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) in the development, implementation and evaluation of ESDC policies, programs and services, aligning them with Inuit women, children and families' rights, needs and priorities.

ESDC is a large department led by four ministers and has more than 2,800 employees. Pauktuutit is focusing on policies, programs and services including early learning and childcare; skills building; accessibility for Canadians with disabilities; and poverty reduction including food security and homelessness, and other relevant services.

We have developed a shared work plan to allow us to work together to ensure Inuit women are able to influence policies that affect their daily lives, as well as their ability to access all programs and services provided by ESDC. With the launch of the project in September, we have begun to establish relationships with ESDC divisional leads through regular meetings and information sharing opportunities to raise awareness with the department about Pauktuutit and Inuit women in Canada.

We have also been collaborating with ITK including the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group, National Inuit Food Security Working Group, the National Inuit Committee on Education, National Inuit Housing Working Group and the Inuit Child Welfare Legislation Working Group.

We will continue to meet with our partners within ESDC. Priority areas include ensuring the inclusion of an Inuit specific gendered lens, the right to food and safe housing for Inuit women and their children across Canada, employment, training, and economic stimulus

opportunities. We are working with the “Reaching Home” division to address gaps in homelessness and shelters in urban centres. We are working with the Social Innovation and Sustainable funding division to support Inuit women in business and finally we are working on accessibility for

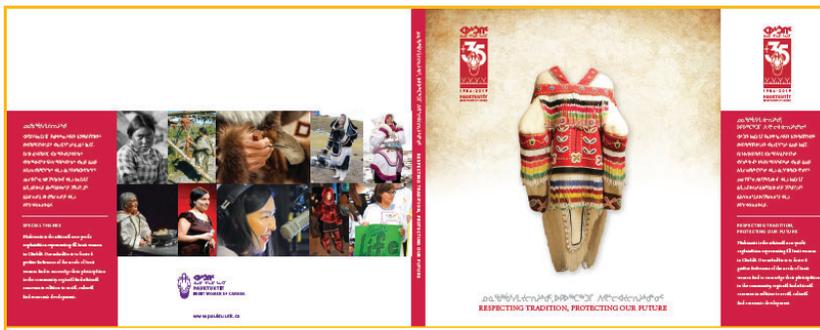
individuals with disabilities for awareness and inclusion. ■

History Project Update



To celebrate Pauktuutit’s 35th anniversary, the organization is documenting key challenges, opportunities and accomplishments by writing a book! We hope this will contribute to the real history of Canada and document the tremendous dedication and many accomplishments of the Pauktuutit Board of Directors, staff and supporters.

With the help of a Steering Committee of the Board of Directors, Pauktuutit has developed a 35-year logo design, along with the final cover “look and feel” for the book and accompanying resources. Pauktuutit’s story will be told through eight chapters that will discuss five-year periods of time. We are happy to share some of these visuals with you here! ■



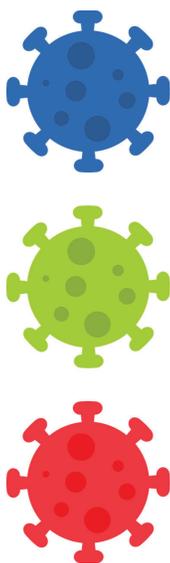
Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

The whole world came to a stop mid-March with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) announcement of a global pandemic and international spread of the coronavirus: COVID-19. Pauktuutit immediately took steps to support its employees in organizing a remote work structure and made sure everyone was safe.

While ensuring the well-being of its employees, Pauktuutit’s immediate concern was and still is the security and well-being of Inuit women in Inuit Nunangat and urban areas. Pauktuutit continues to advocate for and ensure access to adequate funding to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in key areas of concern by Inuit women on the ground: extra funding for shelters, business owner relief funds, and financial aid for individuals, families, elders and children.

Pauktuutit has been working very hard since mid-March to ensure Inuit women have access to federal funding and supports for food security, homelessness, and shelters in urban centres. We have been providing input and feedback to national indigenous task groups and Inuit

specific working groups related to the COVID-19 response. We will soon be sharing fact sheets with links to financial supports and other useful information. You can read the latest IWB news letter here: <https://bit.ly/3gL1pqt>



Following the federal announcements about additional supports for Canadians, including additional funding for shelters for women escaping violence, Pauktuutit immediately took several steps. We were in touch with the federal government immediately to ensure that all shelters in Inuit Nunangat would have equitable access to this funding. We then worked with Shelters Canada, who was administering the funds, to be sure they had complete and accurate contact information. We were happy to be of assistance and to learn that all Inuit shelters in the North have now received additional funding.

We are continuing to work with our urban partners to share information and to offer our assistance as may be helpful to them and the Inuit women they serve. ■

Find Relevant Information on Our Website

Pauktuutit has developed a **COVID-19 Resources Page** on its website where you can find information including funding opportunities and links to services you might require over the course of the pandemic. The link is: <https://www.pauktuutit.ca/covid-19-resources/>



Pauktuutit will be updating this page as new resources become available. Please share with us any resource you have found so we can share it on our web page with everyone: communications@pauktuutit.ca.



Meetings on next steps forward on a National Action Plan following the National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls to Justice recommendations.

Suliqpita is Made Possible by the Following Partners

Law Society of Nunavut (LSN)

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC)

Canadian Cancer Society (CCS)

Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CANNOR)

Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA)

Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC)

Dalhousie University – Partner – *CIHR Grant

Health Canada (HC)

Indigenous Service Canada (ISC)

Ottawa University

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Public Safety Canada (PSC)

Women and Gender Equality (WAGE)

University of Saskatchewan

Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)