

SULIQPITA

Vol. 5, Summer 2019

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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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

MESSAGE FROM PAUKTUUTIT

The warmth of summer has arrived, and with it, a new edition of *Suliqpita*. Though summer is often a slower time of year for us, this year it’s been quite busy! Early June saw the closing ceremonies of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and at the end of this newsletter you’ll find some of our reflections on this important milestone. We were also awarded funding under the Capacity-building Fund and the Gender-Based Violence Program, for a project running from 2019 to 2023 titled *Strengthening the Inuit Women Sector – Working Together to Build Capacity*.

Ujannamiik/Nakurmiik/Ma’na/Koana

SAVE THE DATES

August 9: International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples

October: Women’s History Month

October 11: International Day of the Girl Child

October 18: Persons Day

October 3-6: Inuit Studies Conference (Montreal)



Updates from Rebecca

Following a very busy time at the United Nations Commission in New York on the Status of Women in March, I then returned to Ottawa on April 3 for an ITK Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) Leaders meeting with the Prime Minister where we released the National Inuit Housing Strategy. Going forward, the strategy will include a Gender-Based Analysis,

which I am pleased to see. At the end of the month I then left Canada to attend another session at the United Nations in New York City, this time for the 18th United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). I had the opportunity to participate in the Trilateral Working Group on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls, where I presented on healthcare for Inuit women and the importance of traditional midwifery.

In recent months, we've also had many board members participate in events on behalf of myself and Pauktuutit. On April 9, Anita Pokiak, our board member representing the Western Arctic, spoke on challenges faced by senior women at the Standing Committee on the Status of Women. Anita told the committee about the importance of elders remaining in our communities to teach our youth and community members, over the recent trend of elders being relocated to urban centres for long-term care. The next day, April 10, vice-president Anne Curley presented to the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights regarding forced and coerced sterilization of persons in Canada. In this speech, Anne spoke to the importance of community-based childbirth (midwifery) and the lack of access to good healthcare in the North. Anne also attended a consultation on exploring Indigenous justice systems in Canada and around the world dialogue from May 14 to 15. One of our newest board members, Gerri Sharpe, representing

Yellowknife, also attended the launch of the National Inuit Climate Change Strategy on June 7 in Inuvik. Pauktuutit, as member to this ITK working group, participated in the development of this strategy and advocated for the inclusion and specific needs of Inuit women and children. Along with Pauktuutit's position, Gerri brought a lot of her own traditional knowledge to the launch, which she shared with those in attendance.

On June 3, I attended the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Closing Ceremonies, along with a few other board members. At the end of the newsletter is a section on Pauktuutit's response to the end of the Inquiry and what next steps we have in place. Following the final report of the Inquiry, I was invited to attend an MMIWG Roundtable with Minister Bennett. Our members in standing also went with me: Rachel Dutton (Manitoba Inuit Association), Reepa Evic-Carleton and Pam Stellick (Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families) and Kim Campbell-McLain (AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association). Finally, we rounded out June with an ITK board meeting and an ICPC Senior Leaders' meeting, which vice-president Anne Curley attended on my behalf. At the ITK board meeting, a resolution was passed in support of the full implementation of the calls for justice contained within the National Inquiry's final report.

Rebecca Kudloo

Rebecca Kudloo, President

Above: President Kudloo ice fishing

Below: During the UNPFII President Kudloo met midwives from other parts of the world. Pictured here: L-R: President Rebecca Kudloo, unidentified delegate, Zenaida Pérez Gutiérrez, Sebastiana Vázquez Gómez, Cherylle Bourgeois, and Carol Couchie.





Left: the poster we presented at the Public Health 2019 conference in Ottawa
 Right: the Ikajurniq poster displayed at the Canadian Association for HIV Research
 You can find more information about these projects on our website at pauktuutit.ca/health

Health

In April, the health team presented a poster on *Inuusinni Aqqusaaqtara – My Journey*, the Inuit Cancer Project at the Public Health 2019 conference in Ottawa to over 800 attendees. This project is generously funded and supported by the Canadian Cancer Society. Pauktuutit also released a new community engagement video around the cancer project that features music by Beatrice Deer. It is available in Inuktitut and English on our YouTube channel. Our team is also collecting stories from folks across Inuit Nunangat that have used our resources or have a cancer story they want to share. Please email dlabrash@pauktuutit.ca for more information.

The health team also presented a poster on *Ikajurniq: An Inuit Cascade of Care Framework* at the Canadian Association for HIV Research in Saskatoon, SK in May. We are also collecting feedback on the Cascade of Care and have received excellent comments from Inuvik and Edmonton so far.

We also presented our first webinar as an organization around the theme of engaging Inuit youth around sexually transmitted and blood borne infections. During the webinar we highlighted two of our projects: Naturally Curious and the CheckUp Project. The Naturally Curious project, previously funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, encourages Inuit adults and youth to learn more about sexual health, reduce stigma, and normalize these conversations in their communities. The CheckUp Project, in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, a campaign launched by the Nunavik Board of Health and Social Services, that uses social marketing and social media to influence the social norms around screening and the normalization of testing for STBBIs. The webinar was a success with approximately 45 participants. The webinar can be viewed on our website at pauktuutit.ca/health/sexual-health

On the Horizon

We are excited to continue enhancing the National Inuit Sexual Health Network with funding from Indigenous Services Canada and to continue implementing *Tavva: The National Inuit Sexual Health Strategy*. We are currently planning our next face-to-face meeting of the Network to take place alongside the HIV/STI World Congress in Vancouver, BC in July 2019.

We are also working closely with Indigenous Services Canada in response to calls for progress on a distinct, Inuit-specific needs assessment to understand informed consent and the impact of coerced sterilization on Inuit communities in the context of Indigenous women's reproductive health rights. Pauktuutit is hosting information sessions in communities across Inuit

Nunangat and has so far visited Iqaluit and Inuvik, with upcoming trips to Rankin Inlet and Arviat. If you want to talk about this topic or its impact in your community, please contact rjones@pauktuutit.ca.

Violence and Abuse Prevention

On the Horizon

We will soon launch our Believe-Ask-Connect project titled *Sivummuatsiarniq: An Urban Resource Guide for Inuit Women*. This project includes three resources designed to support Inuit women when moving south. One resource offers information about services available in six major Canadian cities and includes helpful strategies to navigate a new city, stay safe, and inform women of their rights. The second resource is designed for *qallunaat* (non-Inuit) service providers to increase their cultural competency when working with Inuit, with the goal of improving the experience Inuit have with various services in the south. The third resource will be an online interactive map that includes all the listed services from the resource guide. With the support of Northern airlines these resources will be distributed to all communities across Inuit Nunangat, in addition to being available on our website.

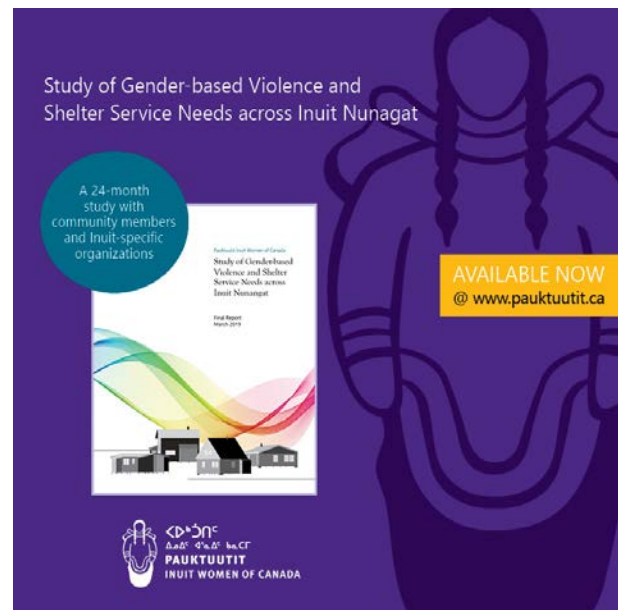
We have also made progress on our Access to Justice project, in partnership with the Law Society of Nunavut. This project focuses on understanding the experience of Nunavummiut with the Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA) and seeks to open dialogues among Nunavummiut about family violence and how to address it. It ultimately aims to support Inuit women in Nunavut in getting access to protection, including legal protection, from domestic violence. Our first community visit took place in Iqaluit in June where we exchanged with community members as to how best approach such a project. We are now looking forward to our trips to more communities in the fall.

Go to our website to read our *Study of Gender-based Violence and Shelter Service Needs across Inuit Nunangat*

Over the course of two years Pauktuutit dedicated time to listen to 164 women and men across Inuit Nunangat to bring together Inuit knowledge and experience regarding gender-based knowledge and shelter service needs. The final report, *Study of Gender-based Violence and Shelter Services Needs across Inuit Nunangat*, is now available on our website and includes 14 key recommendations to improve the effectiveness of actions that aim to address the needs of Inuit women experiencing violence.

We have also completed the process to identify peer-nominated role models as part of our *Pilimmaksarniq – Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls* project. Keep watch on our social media for the upcoming announcement! We will then travel to meet these inspiring role models in their home communities to learn more about their own journey and approaches to creating healthy relationships with others and themselves. We are also excited to be collaborating with local videographers and photographers in each region to develop this campaign.

As an active member of the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy (NISPS) working group chaired by ITK, we are also pleased to share that ITK and Pauktuutit will be partnering on matters related to the prevention of child sexual abuse as a key priority of the working group in upcoming years.





Did you know that the Inuit Women in Business Network has a suite of resources on using Facebook and Etsy for business? You can view these resources and others at pauktuutit.ca/iwbn

Social and Economic Development

It has been a very busy spring for the Social and Economic Development department! We had the opportunity to highlight our work on the *Addressing Inuit Women's Economic Security and Prosperity in the Resource Extraction Industry* project in June at several forums organized by different actors, including the Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development and Global Affairs Canada (GAC). This spring, our focus for this project was on the development of surveys which will document Inuit women's experiences in the resource extraction industry, with a particular focus on workplace safety and rights. With the input from relevant technical experts and our Advisory Committee, we finalized the surveys in June. We also completed our comprehensive literature review, through a gendered lens, which assesses the effectiveness of existing industry policies and procedures, current legislations and relevant human rights codes to get a more precise understanding of the scope of the issue.

We have also received exciting news in relation to new project funding! We will be receiving funding in the coming months for a project titled *Enhancing the Economic Security of Inuit Women*. Beginning in the fall of 2019, over five years, the project will focus on enhancing and formalizing Pauktuutit's current socio-economic development activities, including: relevant data collection and analysis; strengthening international linkages between Inuit businesswomen and other Indigenous businesswomen; and enhancing the current resources and business supports of the Inuit Women in Business Network (IWBN).

On the Horizon

In July, we will be travelling to Arviat, Nunavut to deliver our first round of surveys related to the resource extraction project. We also hope to travel to Inuvialuit, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut to get further feedback

from Inuit women through the survey, which will help us conceptualize the issue of safety and rights in the resource extraction industry.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Closing Ceremonies

All Inuit women and girls have the right to feel and be safe.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Closing Ceremonies were held on June 3, 2019. Though these ceremonies marked the end of the National Inquiry, our work towards the safety and healing of Inuit women and girls is not over. We acknowledge that this process was difficult for most Inuit and we are grateful for every person who spoke, listened, and shared. We also thank all individuals involved in this difficult process and our fellow members in Standing - Saturviit Inuit Women’s Association, Ottawa Inuit Children’s Centre (now called Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families), AnânuKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women’s Association, and the Manitoba Inuit Association.

The final report and the 231 Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry can be found at mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/; the Inuit-specific Calls for Justice are listed from 16.1 – 16.46. This website also includes an Inuktitut version of the Executive Summary. In the coming months, Pauktuutit, along with our partners, will be going through the final report in further depth. As part of our work implementing the Calls to Justice, we are in the process of conducting research on police response to violence against Inuit women. We have also been granted funding as part of the MMIWG Commemoration Fund to honour the lives and legacies of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

A national, toll-free support call line is available to provide support for anyone who requires assistance. This line is available free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

