

Understanding the Needs of Urban Inuit Women

Fact Sheet: WHY DO INUIT WOMEN MOVE SOUTH?

PUSH AND PULL FACTORS

Each year, Inuit women leave their home community to move to urban centers in southern Canada.

The pathway to a city life from Inuit Nunangat is different for everyone, but there are many common reasons Inuit women move to the south.

Here are some of the top reasons that we heard from Inuit women about why they move to big cities across Canada.

PULL FACTORS

Better Opportunities



Education: Many Inuit women move to the south for more schooling with the hope of returning to the North.



Jobs: Big cities in the south offer more job opportunities and options.



Health services: There are better health services and more options for treatment for medical needs including mental health, addiction services, and long-term care.



Family: Some Inuit women follow children and/or partners who have moved to the south for personal or legal reasons.

PUSH FACTORS

Lack of Options



Services: Some Inuit find that there are not enough services and resources in Inuit Nunangat, such as supports and options to escape violence, or access to trauma-related and healing services.



Housing: Many Inuit women move to the south because of housing crisis in the North; they move to the south hoping that it is easier to find housing.



High cost: Almost half (46%) of participants said that the high cost of food and housing makes it very difficult to make ends meet in the North.