

Understanding the Needs of Urban Inuit Women

Fact Sheet: SAFETY AND VIOLENCE



Services/Resources

A common reason why women move to the south is for their children's safety and for more opportunities. Moving also lets women get away from social problems like drugs, alcohol, and sexual and physical violence in the North. Inuit women move to benefit from the resources that the big cities offer with the intention of growing their happiness.

SAFETY & VIOLENCE



Healing/Trauma

Many Inuit women also choose to leave both their abusive relationships and their home communities so they can heal and recover from past trauma. This is also why many women don't return, because there is little if any support for these problems in the North.



Shelter/Housing

Some Inuit women also leave the North to find a "safer place" or a "drug/alcohol-free environment." Getting housing in the North is almost impossible and often this is the reason for women to move and stay in big cities. Some Inuit women will also stay at homeless shelters or couch surf before they get their own apartment in the big cities.

In Conclusion

Women in each city who had escaped violence, often reported low self-esteem and they also tended to escape alone. Inuit women have had difficult time finding "safe places" when they first arrive to any large city. Because of that, to many women "home is where you can cook in your own kitchen."