

Qamani'tuaq MEETING REPORT

In June, 2015, Pauktuutit organized two meetings in Qamani'tuaq, Nunavut for women to come together to discuss the challenges they face and the programs and supports they would like to see in the community. The meetings were a follow-up to the research on the impacts of mining that Pauktuutit conducted with the University of British Columbia in 2013. This research showed that while many Qamani'tuamiut are glad to have jobs and income from the Meadowbank mine, mining has also led to many challenges for Inuit women and families. The June meetings were an opportunity for Inuit women to develop an action plan to address these challenges and decide how to move forward from the research.



What we want to see in OUR COMMUNITY

The discussions at the meetings focused on answering the three questions

1. What is happening in Baker Lake?
2. Why is it happening?
3. What can we do about it?

The meetings brought up many positive activities already happening in Qamani'tuaq, like families spending time together outdoors and out on the land. But the main result of the meetings was a list of programs, resources and knowledge that women would like to have as supports to deal with challenges in the community.

PROGRAMS

Build parenting skills and support healthy childhoods – particularly for young parents

Learn and practice computer skills in English and Inuktitut

Support for dealing with alcohol consumption and addictions

Anger management classes to help with emotional, mental and physical insecurities

Regular sharing and support circle for women

Build money management and budgeting skills

Support strong mental health through cultural connections and awareness – particularly for youth

RESOURCES

Addictions counsellor available locally in Qamani'tuaq

Mental health counselling that is reliable and fits with Inuit culture, values and traditions

Easily accessible information and resources on the research completed around Qamani'tuaq and the follow-up actions taken

CAPACITY-BUILDING

The capacity of Qamani'tuamiut to develop, start and deliver programs themselves in the community without having to rely on outside organizations. This includes identifying:

- Where and how to find funding for programs
- What the process is for starting a program locally
- Who can offer support and help to community members interested in starting programs
- How to engage community members and make it easy to participate



What we want TO AVOID

The meetings stressed that the focus for the future must be on action and being proactive to develop the needed programs and resources. Recently, there has been a lot of research, meetings and gathering information from community members in Qamani'tuaq.

But, many women do not feel that there has been follow-up action or visible benefits to the community from these activities and expressed research fatigue.

Instead of more research, more action and direct change would be preferred.

TIME FOR ACTION!



Next STEPS

Pauktuutit will use the recommendations from the community meetings to develop programs and resources for Qamani'tuaq and Inuit communities across Inuit Nunangat.

The programs, resources and knowledge that women asked for will form an action plan to guide Pauktuutit's future work.

The results of the meetings will also be shared with Pauktuutit's partners and collaborators, including other Inuit organizations to avoid repetition and focus efforts on meeting community needs.



Get in TOUCH

If you want to provide feedback, share your ideas or tell us about something important we've missed, please get in touch with Pauktuutit. You can contact Elana in our department of Socio-Economic Development anytime at:

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