
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 1995/96 has been filled with opportunities and challenges. As in past years, everyone in Pauktuutit — Executive, Board, members and staff — worked very hard together to achieve better conditions for all Inuit. In the forefront remained the issues closest to women in the communities, that is, health and social issues and the impact of the criminal justice system on Inuit women. Added to this fundamental work was the difficult business of achieving equal partnership for women in government building as we move towards self-government and the implementation of Nunavut in 1999. Finally the strong role that Pauktuutit has played in bringing Inuit women's perspectives to human rights discussions has increased the invitations to participate on the international stage. As always we only agree to participate if all expenses are paid.

A list of Pauktuutit's accomplishments during 1995/96 include:

- advocacy meetings with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Minister of Justice and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women;
- work with the Nunavut Implementation Commission with regard to the design of health and social services for Nunavut;
- a major project on non-reported crimes with Inuit women in Labrador communities which have no permanent policing;
- presentations to Cabinet and Senate Standing Committees regarding proposed amendments to the *Firearms Act*, the *Young Offenders Act* and the *Criminal Code*; continuing work on health issues including smoking, substance abuse, midwifery and many others;

- work with the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation on programming about smoking and developing an educational program for children;
- work on economic development particularly focused on the Inuit clothing industry building on the very successful fashion show at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto and the Museum of Civilization in the National Capital Region;
- start up of a major childcare initiative ensuring that Inuit retain control of the development and funding;
- release of a report on violence and the housing crisis;
- release of two reports on tobacco;
- distribution of *Suvaguuq* in northern newspapers;
- international activities, included: Vice President Andrea Webb assisting in the planning for the United Nations Women's Conference held in Beijing, China; Mary Sillett representing Pauktuutit at the Conference in Beijing, China; and Roda Grey attending a meeting in Costa Rica of the World Health Organization that addressed Indigenous Substance Abuse.

The successes that we enjoy from our hard work result in yet greater demands being placed upon us. Unfortunately the monies to accomplish our work are decreasing. In the upcoming year we anticipate an 11% cut to our core funding. Like other national non-profit organizations we are being asked to do more with less and this is very stressful on the organization. We are trying to find a way to conduct a corporate fund-raising campaign, and look for private-sector partners who have a shared interest in working with us to achieve mutual objectives.

This year we moved and have settled into our new offices on Bank Street in downtown Ottawa. For a

very modest increase in rent there is much more space which gives staff a more effective and pleasant work environment. It is a very welcoming place for any visitor who calls upon us. We can clearly see that much hard work has been done. There is much work left to do. Everyone of us is necessary if we are to get the work done. In these difficult economic, social and political times it is critical that we work

together, united in our vision and our path. We will find our way together. Working in Pauktuutit we will bring the better tomorrow for all Inuit women and our families and our communities.

M. Lalabatz



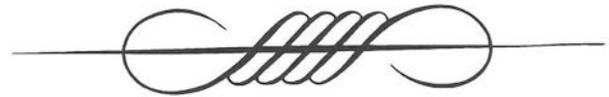
PAUKTUUTIT'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Pauktuutit is the national non-profit association representing all Inuit women in Canada. Our mandate is to foster a greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women, and to encourage their participation in community, regional and national concerns in relation to social, cultural and economic development.

The aims and objectives of Pauktuutit are to:

- unite the Inuit women of Canada;
- act and be recognized as the official representative for Inuit women;
- familiarize our children with Inuit values, heritage, culture and language;
- work towards better conditions for all Inuit women;
- motivate Inuit women to realize their potential as individuals and as a group;
- promote self-confidence and self-reliance amongst Inuit women;
- encourage Inuit women to take their rightful place in society;
- work for the betterment of individual, family and community conditions through social and economic action;
- promote the rights of Inuit women and children;
- promote the equality of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian governmental and non-governmental structures;

- encourage the involvement of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian society; and,
- encourage communication between Inuit women and all aboriginal peoples.



PAUKTUUTIT INUIT WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION 1995-1996

Executive:

Martha Flaherty President
Andrea Webb Vice-President
Deborah Tagornak Secretary-Treasurer

Regional Board Members:

Lizzie Ittinuar Keewatin Region
Lena Wolkie West Arctic Region
Minnie Etidlui Ungava Coast
Clara O'Gorman Kitikmeot Region
Enooya Enook North Baffin Region
Geela Maniapik South Baffin Region
Silpa Edmunds Labrador Region
Lizzie Palliser Hudson Coast

Staff:

Catherine Carry Tobacco Use Reduction
Coordinator
Roda Grey National Health Coordinator
Eeta Kanayuk ... Childcare Initiative Coordinator
Janet McGrath Substance Abuse Coordinator
Tracy O'Hearn Special Projects Coordinator
Sally Webster Canadian National Exhibition &
Substance Abuse Coordinator

Project Coordinators of Pauktuutit:

Linda Archibald Design of Health and
Social Services for Nunavut, Midwifery
Ruby Arngna'naaq Design of Health
and Social Services for Nunavut
Phillip Bird HIV/AIDS and STDs Study,
Midwifery
Claudia Brann HIV/AIDS and STDs
Workshop, Suicide Issues Paper,
Midwifery, Healthy Inuit Babies
Mary Crnkovich Justice Coordinator

Child Care Initiative:

A resolution regarding child care was passed at the Pauktuutit 1995 AGM. After much advocacy on the part of Inuit and Aboriginal women the federal government has created an Inuit and Aboriginal Child Care Initiative. This program provides \$72 million in total, with Inuit receiving \$14 million, and is aimed at creating child care spaces in Inuit and Aboriginal communities. Eeta Kanayuk has been hired as the Child Care Project Coordinator at Pauktuutit.

Eeta represents Pauktuutit on the Inuit Child Care Working Group. This group has members from all the regions and is supported by two consultants with extensive knowledge of the issues.

Pauktuutit is dispersing the funds to the regions, and is assisting regions to develop their own child care strategies. Funds are available to create new spaces, for training of workers and for providing additional assistance for communities that already have child care facilities. Pauktuutit is not directing the regions as to how the funds should be spent. While non-Inuit may be employed in child care facilities in the communities, Inuit will be in control of decision-making.

Pauktuutit has a good working relationship with the federal government on childcare issues. It is disappointing that GNWT has no money for child care.

Pauktuutit Health Project:

Throughout 1995-96, Roda Grey, Pauktuutit's Health Coordinator, continued to ensure that Inuit health concerns featured on the health agenda of government and other sectors of the medical establishment. The Coordinator organized a National Inuit HIV/AIDS and STDs Training workshop which was held in Iqaluit, in May of 1995 with a report to be issued in April 1996. The workshop was very practical and participants reported that they had benefitted both personally and professionally by attending. The workshop helped reduce feelings of isolation among the health workers since they met other workers face to face. They now know that they are not alone in their jobs but have counterparts in other communities whom they can call upon for advice and support.

The Health Coordinator was part of the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health Workshop on the Ethical Issues of Health Research on Indigenous Peoples held in Inuvik in June 1995. The workshop attempted to address the ineffectiveness of research that does not include Indigenous Peoples as partners. Such research is meaningless to Indigenous Peoples as they have no sense of ownership of the research findings. The need for research which is initiated and controlled by Inuit for Inuit was discussed. No longer will Indigenous peoples stand by and be studied by outsiders.

The Health Coordinator is often approached to provide support to Health professionals in remote communities who feel helpless because of lack of expertise in certain areas. For example, gynecologists find themselves stuck when the women suffer from larger social problems like spousal abuse. The doctors can treat the medical problem but may lack the skills to tackle the abuse by the spouse.

It is always a challenge to remind the government and the medical establishment that Inuit needs are part of the overall system of health. The reality of community level health guides Pauktuutit's efforts.

The Health coordinator frequently invites local and regional people to participate at the national level such as the pre-natal nutrition workshop for Inuit held in November 1995 and attended by six Inuit health workers from six regions. It was the first time that Inuit regional health workers got together and talked about the nutritional issues among Inuit.

The Medical Services Branch of Health Canada is very supportive of Pauktuutit's work and we enjoy a good working relationship with members of that staff.

Tobacco Use Reduction Program:

The Tobacco Use Reduction Project has been funded by Health Canada from July 1995 to March 1997 to produce educational resources to community health workers and elementary schools on the subject of tobacco use reduction. The project is coordinated for Pauktuutit by Catherine Carrey whose work is guided by a Working Group of Inuit Health Workers representing the six regions. Over the year much work has been done preparing to launch Phase II of the Tobacco Aniqsaattiarniq-Breathing Easy Campaign (Tobacco Use Reduction Project).

Educational and promotional resources were under development throughout the year. As part of the research for the project a one-day national workshop for Inuit Health Workers was held in Iqaluit in May 1995. This allowed the collection of information from the workers on issues, barriers and community solutions related to tobacco reduction.

During the year two kits were produced. The first is a Community Resource Kit which includes videos, leaflets, posters, and a resource manual in English and Inuktitut. The second is a School Kit which contains a video, a school book, a teacher's resource manual, and a poster. All of these products are aimed at increasing awareness of the dangers and health consequences of tobacco use.

The project also published two documents, *Inuit and Tobacco* and *Guidelines for Inuit Communities*. A fundamental objective of the project is that all products be relevant to Inuit culture and values and where possible, materials are to be translated into different dialects of Inuktitut.

Substance Abuse Program:

Sally Webster has been hired as the new substance abuse coordinator. Working with the previous coordinator, Sally designed, planned and chaired the workshops on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Substance Abuse at 1995/96 Annual General Meeting. Pauktuutit continues to play a vital role in educating and informing communities on various aspects of substance abuse through timely publications and national workshops. In addition to this, the regions are becoming more informed of services and developments in other regions through the national overview that the coordinator provides both orally and in writing. Inuit in addictions work continue to express their support for an approach that is based in the Inuit culture. However, rather than prescribe what is "culturally relevant," Pauktuutit's approach is to conduct community based research that reveals what is culturally relevant through an evaluation of what works and what doesn't work.

The data base of Inuit working in addictions was updated. The coordinator edited and co-wrote the *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Working Group* document, coordinated the illustration, production and distribution of the draft, reviewed the feedback and made recommendations for the expansion of Ikajuqtunut manual.

Housing And Violence Report:

A report entitled *Inuit Women: The Housing Crisis and Violence* was published by Pauktuutit. This project was funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The report highlights the impacts of the housing crisis on Inuit women's health, safety, education, economic status,

employment and business development opportunities, and interactions with the justice system. The report leaves no doubt that the housing crisis increases the vulnerability of Inuit women to violence and that any strategy to end violence must include a comprehensive, safe and affordable housing plan.

Economic Development Program:

Over the last several years, Pauktuutit has undertaken a number of projects to assess potential markets, consumer preferences and training needs of Inuit women to enable them to compete in fashion and clothing industry. To this end Pauktuutit has developed a proposal based on research and consultation with Inuit women, industry experts and consumers. The creation of a skilled labor force is essential for the creation of small clothing-related businesses, which in turn will create additional employment opportunities in the communities. The project, if realized, would provide women with concrete tools to support choices and options that will lead to financial independence.

This project is one aspect of a larger initiative aimed at the commercialization of Inuit clothing. The underlying principles of this commercialization strategy is sustainable community development, and ownership and control of the resulting benefits by Inuit.

Inuit Women And The Administration of Justice:

A special edition of *Suvaguuq* dealing with abuse of former students of Joseph Bernier Residential School and Turquetil Hall in Chesterfield Inlet was completed in the last weeks of February. It was available at the media conference held by Bishop Rouleau in Igloolik when he made his apology. An additional 5500 copies were inserted in the March 1, 1996 edition of *Nunatsiaq News* free of charge. Public response has been overwhelming.

A study called *More Than They Say* was completed on unreported crime in Labrador communities. It will be presented to the Solicitor General of Canada and Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador by the President of Pauktuutit and the Labrador women who made up the review committee for this specific project.

A pilot project on a community strategy to deal with male abusers was prepared with Sappujijit in Rankin Inlet. It was presented to the federal Government Department of the Solicitor General.

Consultation on the Design of Health and Social Services for Nunavut:

The Nunavut Implementation Commission asked Pauktuutit to undertake research on the design of health and social services for Nunavut. Linda Archibald conducted extensive research and produced a report making recommendations for building the health and social services infrastructure for Nunavut.

REPORT ON THE 12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1995-1996

Pauktuutit's 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories from March 25 - 28, 1996. The theme was Building Healthy Individuals, Families and Communities, which all begins by making healthy choices. Elections were held to fill all Pauktuutit Board and Executive positions. Workshops were held on the topics of family violence, substance abuse and fetal alcohol syndrome. The Nunavut Environmental Contaminants Workshop was held to allow women to express their issues and concerns about contaminants to policy decision makers.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Frank Analok and the national anthem was sung by Anthony and Ashley Otokiak as a message of support to Inuit in Northern Quebec.

Martha Flaherty, the President, thanked the many people in Cambridge Bay who assisted with logistical and financial support, proving that organizations and people can work together to achieve mutual goals.

Wilf Wilcox, Mayor of Cambridge Bay extended a warm welcome on behalf of members of the community and commended Pauktuutit for holding the light and guiding the north through some very difficult times. He told the Board and delegates that he is also very proud of their work with youth, particularly through the recent fashion shows. He told the delegates that Cambridge Bay is working on a community wellness initiative and hopes to be a role model for other communities as they take over responsibility for health and social services in the next year. He concluded by expressing his best wishes for a positive AGM.

Charlie Evalik, President, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, thanked the delegates for coming to Cambridge Bay. He said that as the newly elected KIA President, he will listen to their concerns and try to help, as the goals of KIA are very similar to

Pauktuutit. He joked that he was sure his sister, Clara O'Gorman, will advise him on what he should be doing.

He remarked that there are a lot of issues that have to be dealt with as we move towards Nunavut. He wants to work very closely with Pauktuutit not only for the benefit of Cambridge Bay and the Kitikmeot but for all regions towards common solutions. He concluded by saying he is encouraged by the work done by Pauktuutit over the last few years and offers his assistance.

James Eetoolook, Vice President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated welcomed the delegates to Cambridge Bay. He told them that Cambridge Bay had been having bad blizzards recently, and thanked them for bringing some nice weather. He wished the Board and delegates a very successful meeting, and his hope that the theme would be productive for the AGM. He commented on the contaminants workshop to be held in conjunction with the AGM, and said there are also a lot of contaminants caused by non-residents of our communities. He commended Inuit women for dealing with many social issues, and thanked Pauktuutit as well.

He concluded by telling the delegates that Jose Kusugak, the NTI President would be there later to speak with them. He invited the delegates to use the NTI offices and welcomed them to come to his home for country food.

Clara O'Gorman, welcomed the Board and delegates to her home community, and commented that she was glad everyone arrived safely in spite of travel delays. She thanked the many people who helped make the AGM in Cambridge possible. She concluded by saying she was overwhelmed by the support received from the people of Cambridge Bay.

On the second day the meeting was opened with a prayer by Dorothy Aglukark.

John Amagoalik, Chief Commissioner, Nunavut Implementation Commission began by thanking the delegation for such a warm welcome. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the delegates, and added he hadn't done so since Pauktuutit first began in Iqaluit. He provided some background on NIC.

As of December 1993, NIC was established to make recommendations on the Nunavut Government. NIC reports to three regional bodies - Nunavut Tunngavik, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government. NIC released a series of recommendations in April 1995. NIC is waiting for the federal cabinet to make a formal announcement of the location of the capital.

John said NIC is pleased to have the support of NTI and the federal government. He feels the GNWT is ill-prepared for the division. Their leadership changes and they had an election last year. The policies and Ministers change drastically, and they haven't been keeping up with the creation of Nunavut. He also made a strong statement of support for Inuit of Nunavik, and for the unity of all Inuit.

He thanked Pauktuutit for its work on very difficult issues, and for breaking the silence and beginning the healing process. He told the delegates his column in the next *Nunatsiaq News* would feature Pauktuutit. He urges all Inuit (including Inuit organizations) to support Pauktuutit and its work.

Despite a hectic travel schedule, Manikot Thompson, the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate brought greetings to the delegates from the Government of the Northwest Territories. She shared some government-wide strategies such as fiscal and social responsibility and community empowerment.

She urged all to work together because we all have the same goal. We all want to have healthy, functional citizens living in healthy, successful

communities, that are empowered to make their own decisions.

Jose Kusugak, President of NTI, spoke to the delegates about many issues relating to Nunavut and NTI. He also encouraged delegates to approach him if they had any questions about the Nunavut Final Agreement.

Jose said that with regard to gender equality for Nunavut, women may require some equality enhancing measures to allow them to compensate for their lack of previous involvement in government. He also said that there are not enough women on the NTI board and that her would be open to discussing a seat for Pauktuutit. He will be consulting with the regions on the issue of gender equality. He told the delegates that previously he had been uncomfortable talking about social issues, but he is getting better at opening up and talking about difficult issues. He now tells people not to abuse others, including children. He also seeks advice from elders.

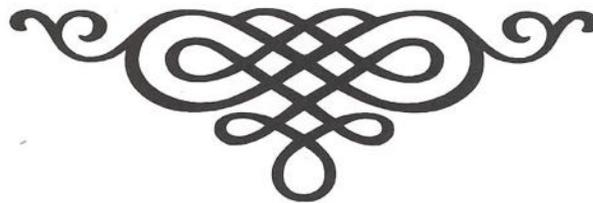
Jose acknowledged that many programs that are intended to benefit both men and women are largely accessed by men. He also told the delegates that many funds are tied to specific programs and cannot be transferred. He wants to work with women to support their goals, and encouraged the delegates to approach NTI with their business plans or proposals for sewing centres. NTI does have programs that women can apply to for assistance.

Regarding the transfer of hunting rights, James Eetoolook said NTI realizes there are issues to be resolved, and that Pauktuutit had requested funds to hold a workshop on this issue. For example, Inuit women can transfer their hunting rights to their non-Inuit husbands who can hunt to support their family. Questions were also raised about support for hunters who may apply for benefits from outside of Nunavut, transfer of Inuit hunting rights to someone in the south and the cost of buying hunting supplies. NTI will work with their lawyer to resolve outstanding issues, however he replied that Inuit

have specific hunting rights only in Nunavut, and hunters are responsible for buying their own equipment.

The amount of Inuit royalties has not yet been decided. The money may be put in a trust fund so it can grow rather than being dispensed to individuals and families. There are approximately 200 elders in Nunavut now drawing a pension of \$100 a month. NTI must carefully budget their assets to be able to provide for all Inuit. Money is also being set aside for educational purposes.

Martha Flaherty advised Jose of the difficulties facing Pauktuutit because of reductions in funding and that this AGM was only possible because of the support of many organizations and communities and called upon NTI to support Pauktuutit's activities. Martha concluded by calling upon all leaders to work together, and to facilitate the participation of youth in all our work.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For year ending March 31, 1996

Activities	Core Operations	Special Projects	Total 1996	Total 1995
Revenues	\$278,044	\$2,022,943	\$2,300,987	\$1,497,333
Expenses	\$297,572	\$2,043,601	\$2,341,173	\$1,606,510
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$19,528)	(\$20,658)	(\$40,186)	(\$109,177)

Surplus/(Deficit) Analysis

Beginning Deficit (April 1, 1995)	(\$53,690)
Deficit for 1996	(\$40,186)
Ending Deficit (March 31, 1996)	(\$93,876)

Core funding continued to be provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Activities relating to Special Projects in 1996 significantly increased in comparison to the prior year. Details relating to Special Projects can be obtained from the "Statements of Financial Activities" in the *Annual Auditing Statements*.

The above represents a summary of the 1995/96 Financial Statements as provided by the auditors. These Financial Statements will be made available to Members of the Association at the next Annual General Meeting and can be obtained upon request from the Association.



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