

*Pauktuutit*  
Inuit Women's  
Association



1987 Annual



Report 1988



## Contributors

The Inuit Women's Association would like to thank the following for their generous contributions towards our projects throughout the year.

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*A special note of thanks is extended to the community of Kuujuaq for hosting our Fourth Annual General Meeting and to all those who participated and helped make this event a success. We would also like to thank Hennie Nixon for the demanding task of taking minutes at our Annual General Meeting.*



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## President's Message

1987-88 has been a challenging year for Pauktuutit: while our overall funding did not increase, our need to address the many issues confronting Inuit women, their families and communities did. Economic necessity forced us to consider ways of downsizing both our Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). While these decisions were difficult, I am confident that the formulas for downsizing adopted at the AGM will continue to ensure Pauktuutit's effectiveness in representing Inuit women's concerns.

Much of Pauktuutit's time over the past year has been spent in finding alternate sources of government funding, which would allow us to undertake work on issues of longstanding concern. One such issue has been family violence. Following the announcement in June of a major federal program to deal with the problem of family violence in Canada, Pauktuutit submitted a proposal for a national Inuit conference on the subject. I am very glad to have been named Inuit representative to the Advisory Committee, which will oversee the development and funding of native projects concerned with this issue.

The direction that Pauktuutit takes on issues is determined ultimately by the opinions and concerns expressed by our membership at the Annual General Meeting. As a result of this direction, we have focused on several priority issues. On traditional midwifery, we are working closely with the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) to produce a video; and recently, funds were received from the National Film Board's Studio D to hire a fundraiser for this project. Child sexual abuse is a growing concern in our communities and Pauktuutit has applied for funds from the federal government's Family Violence Initiatives Program to introduce an intensive national public information program in Inuktitut on child sexual abuse. Pauktuutit has also made a presentation to the Standing Committee on Bill C-144, the Canada Child Care Act, demanding that major amendments be made to ensure that the Bill meet the special child care needs of Inuit living in the North.

Earlier this year, Pauktuutit succeeded in persuading the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) Board of Directors that the Health Consultation Project be operated directly by Pauktuutit since we have the health mandate. The health co-ordinator, Martha Greig, now works out of Pauktuutit and her focus has been the dissemination of health information to the Inuit.

At the 1988 ITC AGM in Cambridge Bay, Pauktuutit's full board membership on the ITC Board was reduced to an ex-officio status owing to a major re-structuring of the organization. Even though we fully understand the financial difficulties of ITC, it was most disappointing for us, the only other national organization, to have our influence on the agenda restricted. At the 1981 ITC AGM, the Inuit of Canada, by resolution, created the national Inuit Women's Association (IWA) in recognition of our expertise on social matters and to work, hand in hand, to improve the quality of life in our communities. In the spirit of this resolution, we fully intend to pursue full-board membership status on the ITC Board at the 1989 ITC AGM.

Better communication with our membership has always been a priority. Therefore, this year, through the generosity of the Department of the Secretary of State, we have been able to publish one *Suvaguuq* newsletter and hire Ms Rhoda Kayakjuak, a liaison worker who will concentrate on communication with our communities. Of course, the contribution that our board members have made in this area must also be recognized. Communication with the communities is vital if Pauktuutit is to do its job well. For this reason, I would like to thank those who by their work in the communities have helped to strengthen the Inuit women's network and keep Pauktuutit informed of local community developments. As I said when I was elected president of Pauktuutit in 1987 at the Spence Bay AGM: "Pauktuutit can only be as strong as the communities are strong and this can only happen through better communication."

I would like to give special thanks to former Vice-President Rosi Aggark of Eskimo Point for her suggestion that Pauktuutit establish a "Woman of the Year Award," which at last recognizes the outstanding contributions that Inuit women have made to their communities and our people.

Finally, I would like to say that it has indeed been a challenging year and I believe that we have met those challenges honourably and competently. All of this would not have been possible without a supportive membership, board and staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Sillett  
President



## Pauktuutit Aims and Objectives

### *Pauktuutit* *Inuit Women's Association of Canada*

Pauktuutit, the Inuit Women's Association of Canada, is a national non-profit organization representing all Canadian Inuit women.

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 the Inuit Women's Association of Canada are:

- 1) To unite the Inuit women of Canada;
- 2) To act and be recognized as the official representative for Inuit women;
- 3) To familiarize our children with Inuit values, heritage, culture and language;
- 4) To work towards better conditions for all Inuit women;
- 5) To motivate Inuit women to realize their potential as individuals and as a collective group;
- 6) To promote self-confidence and self-reliance amongst Inuit women;
- 7) To encourage Inuit women to take their rightful place in society;
- 8) To work for the betterment of individual, family and community conditions through social and economic action;
- 9) To promote the rights of Inuit women and children;
- 10) To push for equality of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian governmental/non-governmental structures;
- 11) To encourage the involvement of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian society; and
- 12) To encourage communication between Inuit women and all aboriginal peoples.



# 1988/89 Pauktuutit Board of Directors



## *Executive*



*President*  
Mary Sillett  
Ottawa, Ontario



*Vice-President*  
Marie Uviluq  
Yellowknife, NWT



*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Ovilu Goo Doyle  
Ottawa, Ontario

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*Western Arctic*  
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Sachs Harbour, NWT



*Kitikmeot*  
Salomie Qitsualik  
Gjoa Haven, NWT



*Keewatin*  
Mary Matto  
Coral Harbour, NWT



*Baffin Island*  
Annie Okalik  
Pangnirtung, NWT



*Baffin Island*  
Nagleena Innuksuk  
Hall Beach, NWT



*Northern Quebec*  
Caroline Nivixie  
Kuujuaapik, Quebec



*Labrador*  
Andrea Webb  
Happy Valley, Labrador



*Northern Quebec*  
Malee Saunders  
Kuujuaq, Quebec

### *Staff*



Maria Brazeau  
*Executive Secretary*



Martha Greig  
*Health Co-ordinator*



Rhoda Kayakjuak  
*Liaison Worker*



Sophie Tom  
*Executive Assistant*

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# The Year in Review



## Highlights

- Funding remained a primary concern for Pauktuutit during the past year. Although government was unable to contribute further to the organization's operating budget, funding has been sought to support Pauktuutit's work on a number of key issues, including: midwifery, child sexual abuse, family violence and others. In addition to downsizing both the Board of Directors and the AGM, Pauktuutit undertook to reorganize its head office to maximize efforts on a limited budget.
- In May, 1987, President Mary Sillett attended the Baffin Region's conference on human rights in Iqaluit and delivered a presentation outlining Pauktuutit's concerns on the issue of equal rights for Inuit women.
- Mary Sillett and Health Co-ordinator Martha Greig attended the 7th International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Umea, Sweden (June 8-12, 1987), at which they gave a presentation on Canadian Inuit health concerns.
- In 1987, the position of health co-ordinator was officially transferred from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) to Pauktuutit. Martha Greig and Mary Sillett represented Inuit health concerns throughout 1987-88 by contributing to a variety of health care forums, including a workshop to establish a national data base on breastfeeding, sponsored by Health and Welfare Canada, and the Third Annual International Aboriginal Child Conference held in Calgary, Alberta (October, 1987). As well, Pauktuutit participated in two special committees sponsored by the Department of Health and Welfare's Medical Services Branch: one concerned with injury prevention; the other with mental health.
- In December, 1987, Mary Sillett attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health in Winnipeg, Manitoba, which focused on preparations for the 1990 International Circumpolar Health Congress to be held in Whitehorse, Yukon. It was decided that about one third of the planned congress would be devoted to native health issues.
- Together with other native women's groups, Pauktuutit outlined aboriginal women's concerns regarding economic development before a meeting of the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the Status of Women. One of the recommendations made by all native women's representatives was that a national conference on aboriginal women and economic development be organized.
- In 1988, Pauktuutit established its own "Woman of the Year Award" to recognize the outstanding contributions and achievements made by Inuit women over the years.
- Throughout 1987-88, Pauktuutit continued to participate in meetings of ITC.
- In 1987, Pauktuutit was accepted as a full voting member of ATII, the organization responsible for devising programs and workshops aimed at developing Inuit management skills.
- Pauktuutit's ongoing efforts to exchange information with other native women's groups was extended this year by a visit from a representative of the Australian government's Aboriginal Women's Program.
- A brief visit to Labrador this past year allowed Pauktuutit's president to meet with representatives of local Inuit women's groups attending the Labrador Native Women's Association Annual General Meeting and to provide first-hand information on Pauktuutit's recent undertakings.
- Special funding provided by the Department of the Secretary of State enabled Pauktuutit to publish a further issue of the organization's newsletter, *Suvaguuq*, in June, 1988. Funding continues to be sought for future issues.





### *Introduction*

Pauktuutit's work during the past year has included involvement in several issues of special concern to Inuit women, families and communities throughout the North. The following reports describe some of these issues and outline recent efforts to address them.

#### Midwifery

Midwifery has been a priority for Inuit women since the founding of Pauktuutit in 1983. As Inuit births have come to be performed almost entirely in hospitals under the exclusive supervision of doctors and nurses, the role of the midwife and opportunities for passing on traditional midwifery knowledge and skills to younger women have all but disappeared. At the same time, women and their families must undergo the stress of separation and isolation as expectant mothers are routinely evacuated to southern hospitals as early as two months before delivery. Belief in the value of preserving traditional Inuit midwifery skills and knowledge and an urgent need to seek alternatives to obstetric evacuation have led to the suggestion that traditional midwifery be revived and that practitioners be further trained in modern childbirthing practices so that Inuit mothers and their families may have safe and successful births in their home communities.

To preserve and promote understanding of traditional Inuit midwifery and encourage further discussion on the issue of childbirthing conditions in the North, Pauktuutit, along with Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, has been working on an hour-long video program on traditional Inuit midwifery. The program, to feature a history of Inuit midwifery, would include interviews with experienced midwives, as well as first-hand accounts by Inuit women and families on the experience of childbirthing in both modern and traditional settings—camps, nursing stations and hospitals. Research during the past year on the importance of traditional midwifery skills to Inuit communities—and meetings between Pauktuutit and IBC staff—resulted in the drafting of a final proposal for the video project, which has been sent to several funding sources for review. It is expected that the eventual broadcast of the video by IBC will be followed by a live phone-in show and panel discussion to allow viewers the opportunity to express their opinions.

#### Child Sexual Abuse

Throughout 1987–88, Pauktuutit has been very concerned and vocal about a subject that is generally regarded as "highly secretive"—child sexual abuse. Shortly after taking office as president of Pauktuutit in May, 1987, Mary Sillett was interviewed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) on the issue and its impact on northern communities. Since then, Pauktuutit has held and attended discussions on the subject with other native groups, individuals and government officials. Responding to a recent request by Northern Quebec resident Anna Marie Cartwright for assistance in obtaining funds for a service she is providing to survivors of child sexual abuse, Pauktuutit drafted and submitted a proposal to Health and Welfare Canada for funds.

At a meeting with officials from other native groups and government in February, 1988, Pauktuutit's president discussed an Ottawa-based consulting group's proposal that government fund a national native Child Sexual Abuse program. Upon learning, however, that the total amount of federal funds available for native child sexual abuse projects nationwide is only \$175,000 per year, it was felt that the creation of a national program was unrealistic at present, and that, given the differing needs of native groups, community-based projects should have priority for these funds.

As a follow-up to Pauktuutit's workshop on child sexual abuse, held during the 1987 Annual General Meeting, funding was successfully sought for a second workshop, which was held at the 1988 AGM in April at Kuujuaq, Northern Quebec. After a presentation by Berré Patenaude of the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Health, delegates to the AGM made clear Canadian Inuit women's concerns on the subject of child sexual abuse and gave direction to Pauktuutit's work on the issue for the coming year. (see "Report on the 4th AGM," page 8)





## Family Violence

While child sexual abuse is of obvious importance in itself, it remains only part of a much wider subject of concern to Inuit and Canadian society generally—the issue of family violence.

The announcement in early June, 1988, of a multi-million dollar federal program to confront the problem of family violence in Canada reflected a recognition of the need for community-based native projects and for project funding for aboriginal women's organizations "to increase native community awareness of what constitutes family violence and to identify alternative solutions." To ensure that effective native projects are developed, an advisory committee com-

prised primarily of native representatives and sponsored by the departments of Health and Welfare and Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been created. President Mary Sillett has been named the sole Inuit representative to this committee, and Pauktuutit has already submitted a proposal for funds to host a national Inuit conference on family violence.

Family violence, which includes abuse of wives, children, youth and the elderly, as well as sexual and other forms of abuse, has been identified as a priority in Pauktuutit's workplan for 1988–89.



Maggie Annanack (left) Berré Patenaude (right) invited guest speakers on child sexual abuse, at Pauktuutit's Fourth Annual General Meeting



## Report on the 4th Annual General Meeting



*Kuujuaq, Northern Quebec*

### *Introduction*

Pauktuutit's Annual General Meeting brings together Inuit women from across the North to discuss issues of local and national concern. In addition to reviewing Pauktuutit's work over the past year, delegates to the AGM give direction for undertakings in the upcoming year.

The fourth AGM was held in Kuujuaq, Northern Quebec, and was attended by more than 100 delegates, speakers and observers. Inuit women representing every Inuit community in Canada met for three days to tackle a very ambitious agenda, including discussions on such issues as: substance abuse, midwifery, youth councils and customary law.

### **Communications**

The role of communicator in both family and community affairs is one that often falls to Inuit women and was the subject of one of many workshops held at the 1988 AGM. It was observed that women frequently act as the sole conduit of understanding between unilingual elders and young people and that in this way Inuit women may help to improve Inuit youths' appreciation of elders, as well as elders'

perception of the problems encountered by young Inuit. Delegates agreed on the need for Inuit women generally to assume a more active role in transmitting traditional Inuit knowledge and family values to younger people and in ensuring that appropriate standards of health and conduct are practised at home as an example to young Inuit.



*Fran Williams, President of Okalakattiget Society.*





## Inuit Youth Councils

Improving communication both within and between communities on issues affecting Inuit youth was a matter of further discussion among delegates during a workshop on Inuit Youth Councils. It was remarked that more local community action needed to be taken to help young Inuit combat the problems facing them (for example, substance abuse and suicide) and that this needed to be undertaken whether or not government assistance is provided.

The Keewatin Region was cited as an area where strong community support and leadership have led recently to the formation of a regional youth council, the first meeting of which brought together young Inuit from all the communities to discuss common concerns on such subjects as education, communication with parents and the preservation of traditional knowledge and skills.

Darlene Tologanak of Cambridge Bay suggested that regional conferences be held throughout the North to promote communication between local youth councils. She added that regional youth workers, who are currently funded for only half the year, should be employed for the full year.

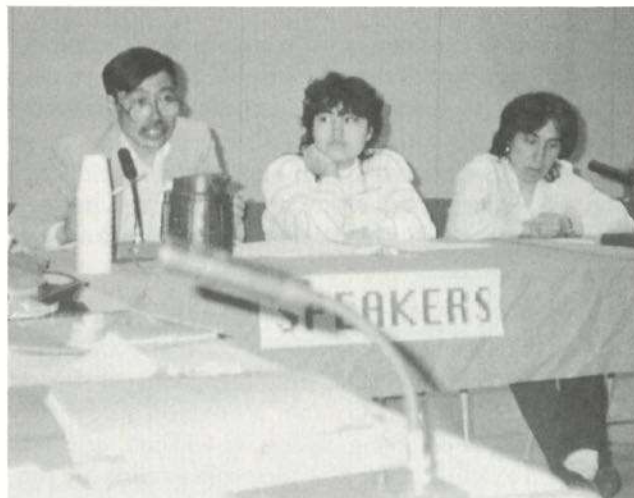
There was general agreement among delegates on the need to have active youth councils in each region and an effective communication network linking them.

## Substance Abuse

Joanasie Salomonie, a counsellor with the Cape Dorset Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, was invited to speak to delegates on the subject of substance abuse. He outlined the work of the five year old Cape Dorset program, which includes private counselling of alcohol, drug and solvent abusers; community awareness presentations to schools and on local radio; and offers young Inuit opportunities to enjoy much-needed experiences outside the community through camping. Suicide, juvenile delinquency and trouble with the law are problems often related to substance abuse; the local program offers a 24-hour service for people seeking help with all substance abuse related problems. The Cape Dorset program, funded by the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP), has received strong support within the community from police, teachers and administrators and has been successful in helping people not return to their problems.

Following the presentation, delegates discussed some of the underlying reasons for alcohol, drug and solvent abuse in communities (for example, high unemployment, boredom,

peer pressure) and were urged to take advantage of funding provided by such programs as NNADAP to help resolve substance abuse problems in their own communities.



*Joanasie Salomonie, invited guest speaker on substance abuse.*

## Midwifery

The assembly listened to presentations by Eva Voisey of Whale Cove, NWT, and Aani Palliser of the Hudson Bay Hospital in Northern Quebec on midwifery and related concerns. Eva Voisey is a member of a University of Manitoba study group that is currently interviewing expectant mothers on the problems associated with obstetric evacuation. She commented on the hardships experienced by Inuit women in the Keewatin Region who must travel to Churchill and Winnipeg to give birth and stated that traditional midwifery practices should be revived to provide expectant mothers and their families with an alternative to evacuation. She added that regional support for the suggested construction of a birthing centre in Rankin Inlet has been very strong.

Ms. Palliser presented the findings of a survey conducted recently in Povungnituk, Northern Quebec. The survey sought to identify local residents' concerns about the responsibilities faced by young parents and, in particular, young mothers. Some of the concerns most often expressed were that too many young women were seeking abortions and that young boys—unable to support themselves, let alone a family—were often fathering babies with many different girls. It was widely felt that young girls who found themselves pregnant were unable to care for themselves adequately and suffered from poor nourishment, lack of sleep and other hinderances to proper natal care. The survey in-





licated that, due to problems arising between young couples, girls were physically abused while pregnant. Babies, generally, it was felt, are not wanted and are born into a world without comfort, caring or appropriate love.

When asked to consider ways to resolve these problems, those surveyed agreed that: in general, Inuit women need to question more the kind and quality of life experienced in the community; without adequate teaching, support and comfort in the community, such problems will continue to exist; and, in addition to educating young girls in pre- and post-natal care, traditional Inuit knowledge of child delivery should be passed on.

Delegates to the AGM echoed the concerns expressed in the Povungnituk survey. It was pointed out that young girls, finding themselves pregnant, need the emotional support and respect of their parents if they are to meet successfully the challenges of becoming parents. In addition, delegates were urged to know better how their communities are run, to effect meaningful change to the rule of hospitals and government in the future.

### Customary Law

Shelley Howell of Yellowknife, NWT, outlined the limited role that Inuit customary law has come to play in the legal system of Canada. Although a very few Inuit laws have come to be recognized (for example, customary adoptions and traditional marriages in the NWT), Inuit throughout the North remain subject to the prevailing system of criminal law devised originally for southern Canada. Rosi Aggark emphasized the need for Inuit leaders to work closely with elders to make Inuit customary laws more widely and accurately understood and to promote their recognition by governments and the courts. It was reported that the NWT is planning a review of family law and that recent changes to "Operation Surname" now allow children of unmarried couples in the NWT to take either the father's or mother's name or both names.



*Pauktuutit's Fourth Annual General Meeting, April 11-13, 1988 in Kuujjuaq, Northern Quebec.*





## Child Sexual Abuse

Maggie Annanack of Kangiqsualujuaq, Northern Quebec, reported to the delegates that the problem of child sexual abuse in the North is widespread and growing. Berré Patenaude of the GNWT's Department of Health stated that victims of child sexual abuse try on average nine or ten times to obtain help before they are actually heard. She said that the most important thing for a child in such circumstances to hear is, "I believe you." Children who have suffered sexual abuse must frequently be told that the abuse was not their fault, but that of the offender and that, far from being infallible, adults—including family members—can also make mistakes. The need to stop such abuse is all the more urgent since child sexual abuse is recognized as being a learned behaviour. Caroline Palliser of the Kativik School Board remarked that victims of child sexual abuse themselves—although they do not wish to—may begin to show signs of similar abusive conduct at about age 13.

Rosi Aggark remarked that it was the obligation of all women and Inuit to report those they know to be sexual abusers. Maggie Annanack stated that efforts already undertaken to educate children about the nature of child sexual abuse should be reinforced by more extensive community information programs.

It was suggested that local support groups could go far in helping victims, their families and community workers cope with the problems of caring for recent victims and seeing their cases through court. Delegates agreed it was particularly wrong for the child who is the victim of sexual abuse to be the one removed from the community, while the offender remains until the time of trial. It was agreed that this situation should be reversed to relieve the abused child of any unnecessary stress and the sense of having done something wrong.

A resolution was passed unanimously requesting that the Department of Health and Welfare make available funds for Pauktuutit to hire a full-time public education worker who would travel to the communities and hold workshops with local women's groups on the issue.

## Language and Culture

Sam Metcalfe of the Native Citizens' Directorate, Secretary of State, addressed the delegates on the importance of retaining the use of Inuktitut. He pointed out that the survival of Inuit culture depends heavily on the survival of Inuktitut, and that without the continued use of Inuktitut in homes and communities, it may disappear entirely, as it has already shown signs of doing among many young

people. He warned against leaving Inuktitut instruction and cultural education solely to the schools, arguing that the school's role in such matters should always be one of reinforcing what is already being taught at home.

## Lifeskills and Education

Educational programs available to Inuit by the various community campuses of Arctic College in the NWT and the Kativik School Board in Northern Quebec were outlined by Lisa Ipellie of the Department of Social Services in Iqaluit and Caroline Palliser of the Kativik School Board. Arctic College's curriculum of on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs has come more and more to be supplemented by courses in traditional life skills as interest in traditional Inuit culture has increased. The Kativik School Board's primary school curriculum includes two to three hours a week of education in Inuit culture and traditional skills. In addition to teaching in English, French and two dialects of Inuktitut, the Board has its own production centre for books, audio-visual material and games.

## Employment and Training

The need to develop long-term job opportunities and skills training programs is a crucial part of plans for economic development in the North. Cathy Lane of the regional office of Canada Employment and Immigration in Goose Bay, Labrador, spoke to delegates about the various job-training programs available to women and young people as part of the Canadian Job Strategy. These include programs designed to assist individuals and groups in job re-entry, as well as helping those who wish to begin a career in the health care field. There are also programs to help young people gain computer skills or take up jobs as part of local tourism initiatives (for example, hospitality and guide training).



*Louisa Mayo (left) and Cathy Lane (right) providing an evening of entertainment.*





## Traditional Clothing Workshop

Although traditional Inuit clothing is widely prized as the best suited to the North's climate, the convenience and popularity of store-bought clothing has led to a gradual decline in the practice of traditional clothes-making. Elders and delegates at the AGM discussed the importance of preserving the skills needed to make traditional clothing. It was acknowledged that the practical need to make clothes for hunting and for withstanding harsh winter conditions will never change and that children and adults alike should be encouraged to learn traditional clothes-making skills from qualified teachers. Elders were urged to address the issue on local community radio, and it was suggested that educational institutions, such as Arctic College, could play a part by making available courses in traditional clothes-making. It was stated that the issue would be further discussed at future AGMs.

## Health

Lizzie Epoo York of the Kativik Health Board and George Eckalook, chairman of the Baffin Health Board, delivered presentations on recent health care concerns in their regions. There is a need among Northern Quebec women for more community guidance and assistance in implementing effective health programs. Mr. Eckalook reported on a motion recently passed by the Baffin Health Board opposing abortion and favouring adoption of unwanted babies. Because airline policy does not allow expectant mothers to travel on flights within six weeks of delivery, the Baffin Health Board has also been examining ways of overcoming the inconvenience of obstetric evacuation, including possible licensing of midwives in each community. Hospitalization in the south generally has been a concern, and it was suggested that Inuit make use of the hospital currently under construction in Yellowknife.

Delegates also expressed concern about the legal status of children born outside their community and region. It was suggested that recognition of Inuit children as aboriginal residents of a particular community or region may be impeded by their having been born in a southern hospital and that the large amount of paper work involved in establishing their origin after birth should be simplified.



*Hennie Nixon, minute taker, (left) Leah Inutiq, CBC Iqaluit, (center) and George Eckalook, Chairman, Baffin Health Board, (right).*

## Regional Concerns

Delegates to the AGM were given the opportunity to discuss various regional issues and problems during workshops held specifically for that purpose. The following are some of the concerns expressed by regional delegates.

### Labrador

Labrador delegates' concerns centred on health and communications services.

- Patients receiving medical treatment in Goose Bay and St. John's are required to stay in private homes, which receive no compensation from the government for providing accommodation. It was felt that the government should provide financial compensation to private homes for this service.
- The Labrador communities of Goose Bay/Happy Valley, Makkovik, Rigolet and Postville should receive CBC Northern Service so that Inuktitut programming is available.





## Baffin

Health issues were the focus of discussions among Baffin delegates.

- Rehabilitation and treatment facilities for victims of solvent abuse should be provided in the North.
- Inuit women should have the option of choosing to deliver their babies in their home communities. In addition, the regulations governing airlines should be changed so that expectant mothers travelling south do not have to be evacuated so long before the time of delivery.
- Medical procedures to induce or stop child labour are frequently used by medical personnel when women are in no position to give formal consent and they are sometimes used against their will. Medical personnel should be encouraged to show more respect for traditional Inuit childbirthing practices, and doctors should encourage the involvement of Inuit midwives in deliveries.

## Northern Quebec

Some of the issues discussed by delegates from Northern Quebec were youth problems and abuses against women and children.

- Sexual abuse, especially that affecting the lives of children, must be stopped.
- There should be greater community and organizational involvement by women in issues related to young people.
- The CBC should broadcast advance notice of when and where the AGM is scheduled to be held.



*Joanna Koneak (left) and Dorothy Mesher (right)  
members of the local women's group in Kuujuaq.*

## Keewatin

Health and social issues dominated the discussions of Keewatin delegates.

- Midwifery should be more widely practiced by Inuit, and the support of both territorial and federal health ministers should be sought.
- Abortions should not be paid for with public funds; many people would like to adopt unwanted babies.
- Courses in traditional clothes-making should be made available at colleges.

## Kitikmeot

Kitikmeot delegates met to discuss a variety of social, health and education issues.

- When a woman adopts a child, identification cards often take a long time to arrive and are usually sent to the natural, rather than the adoptive, mother.
- Group home centres should be provided for young offenders.
- Youth co-ordinators should be hired for a full period of 12 months.
- Abortion should not be necessary if a girl is in good health. Parents should be informed if someone under 18 years old is considering an abortion.
- More Inuktitut language courses should be taught in schools and adult education centres to encourage the use of the language.

## Western Arctic

Delegates from the Western Arctic addressed educational and social concerns from the previous year.

- The delegates requested Pauktuutit's support in seeking a day-care centre for Tuktoyaktut.



Mary Sillett (left) and Martha Grieg (center) presented Annie Okalik with the Woman of the Year Award.

## Woman of the Year Award

Following a suggestion made by former Vice-President Rosi Aggark, Pauktuutit presented its first "Woman of the Year Award" at this year's AGM to regional board member and elder Annie Okalik of Pangnirtung, NWT. Ms Okalik, who was chosen from among 15 nominees by delegates to the AGM, was presented with a carving by Marius Arnatsiaq of Igloolik, NWT. The carving consisted of a half-igloo-shaped background mounted by an ulu and bore the inscription, "Annie Okalik, Woman of the Year, 1988." The award, to be presented at each year's AGM, recognizes the exceptional contributions made by individual Inuit women over the years.



Annie Okalik, recipient of the Woman of the Year Award.

## Board of Directors and AGM Downsizing

The president reported to the assembly that, due to economic constraints, Pauktuutit had been forced over the past year to examine ways of reducing the size of both its Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting. After considering several options, delegates to the AGM agreed on formulas to reduce the Board of Directors from 14 to 11 members and to downsize the AGM from 67 delegates to 43. It was also agreed that the positions of general board members be discontinued and that the new Board of Directors be comprised of the three executive members (President, Vice-President, Secretary Treasurer) and eight regional board members, as follows: Baffin-2; Northern Quebec-2; Keewatin-1; Kitikmeot-1; Western Arctic-1; Labrador-1. It was understood that those regions with the most communities (Baffin and Northern Quebec) should receive an additional board member to share the responsibilities inherent in a board position.

## Elections

The following women were elected to Pauktuutit's Board of Directors:

### Executive

Marie Uviluq ..... Vice-President  
Ovilu Goo Doyle ..... Secretary Treasurer

### Regional Board Members

Andrea Webb ..... Labrador  
Annie Okalik ..... Baffin  
Nagleena Innuksuk ..... Baffin  
Caroline Nivixie ..... Northern Quebec  
Malee Saunders ..... Northern Quebec  
Mary Matto ..... Keewatin  
Darlene Tologanak (replaced by Salomie Qitsualik) Kitikmeot  
Edith Haogak ..... Western Arctic



# 1988 Resolutions



**88-01** calls upon all people and organizations resident in the North to denounce any and all forms of violence against women and children.

**88-02** requests that more Inuktitut language courses be taught in schools and adult education centres in the Kitikmeot Region.

**88-03** requests that CBC North's Inuktitut programming be made available to the Labrador communities of Happy Valley/Goose Bay, Makkovik, Rigolet and Postville.

**88-04** requests that compensation be paid to private homes in Goose Bay and St. John's, where Inuit patients seeking medical treatment must stay.

**88-05** resolves that Inuit women should have the option of having their babies delivered in their own communities, and that air regulations be changed so that Inuit women do not have to be evacuated at such an early date.

**88-06** requires that medical personnel be made aware of Inuit concerns about medical procedures to induce and stop childbirth and that medical personnel show more respect for traditional Inuit childbirthing practices.

**88-07** resolves that solvent abuse be made a criminal offence, and that rehabilitation and treatment facilities be provided in Northern communities.

**88-08** requires that in cases of child sexual abuse, officials of the criminal justice system ensure, whenever possible, that the accused offender, rather than the victim, is removed from the community until the time of trial.

**88-09** requests that the federal and territorial governments, and the governments of Quebec and Newfoundland/Labrador provide funds to Pauktuutit to hire a full-time staff person to conduct public education workshops in each community on the issue of child sexual abuse.

**88-10** resolves that officials of the criminal justice system ensure that counselling and support from community elders be provided to youth who are in conflict with the law and are required to wait long periods of time before their trial.

**88-11** resolves to reduce Pauktuutit's Board of Directors from 14 to 11 members.

**88-12** resolves to reduce Pauktuutit's Annual General Meeting from 67 to 43 delegates.

**88-13** approves the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1987.

**88-14** to appoint Coopers and Lybrand to continue as Pauktuutit's auditors for 1988-89.

**88-15** to approve the minutes of the 1987 Annual General Meeting.

**88-16** to approve the Pauktuutit 1986-87 Annual Report.

**88-17** to approve the current rate of \$100.00 per day honorarium for board members for meeting and travelling days.



## Financial Summary

March 31, 1988

	Money Received	Money Spent	Cash Surplus (Deficit)
CORE—Operating Account			
Office Operations	\$213,000		
		\$428,013	(\$64,746)*
Annual General Assembly (AGM)		\$150,267	
*AGM, and operating expenses were combined resulting in a \$64,746 deficit.			
Inuit Committee on National Issues Contribution to IWA			
Constitutional Funding Contribution	\$28,200	\$29,488	(\$1,288)

There was an overall net deficit of \$32,909 as at March 31, 1988.

Funding by the Department of Secretary of State for the fiscal year 1988/89 was increased to \$333,000, of which \$70,000 is designated for costs associated with the Annual General Meeting.

A final contribution of \$28,200 from the Inuit Committee on National Issues was provided to Pauktuutit for the three-month period ending June 30, 1987.

This represents a summary of the 1987/88 Financial Statements as provided to the Association by the auditors. The audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 1987/88 will be made available to the members of IWA at the next Annual Meeting.



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(613) 238-3977





















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j'j'dσ<sup>c</sup> Δ<sup>b</sup><sub>ab</sub>σ (PNDσ<sup>e</sup>) qL<sup>c</sup> r'q<sup>d</sup> Δ<sup>e</sup><sub>bc</sub>,  
q<sup>b</sup>r'<sup>c</sup>j'j'<sup>d</sup> PP'C<sup>e</sup>Γ Δ<sup>c</sup>σΔ<sup>b</sup>CΔCn<sup>c</sup>n<sup>d</sup>σ<sup>c</sup>  
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LC March 31, 1988

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\$428,013 (\$64,746)\*

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\$150,267

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\$29,488

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