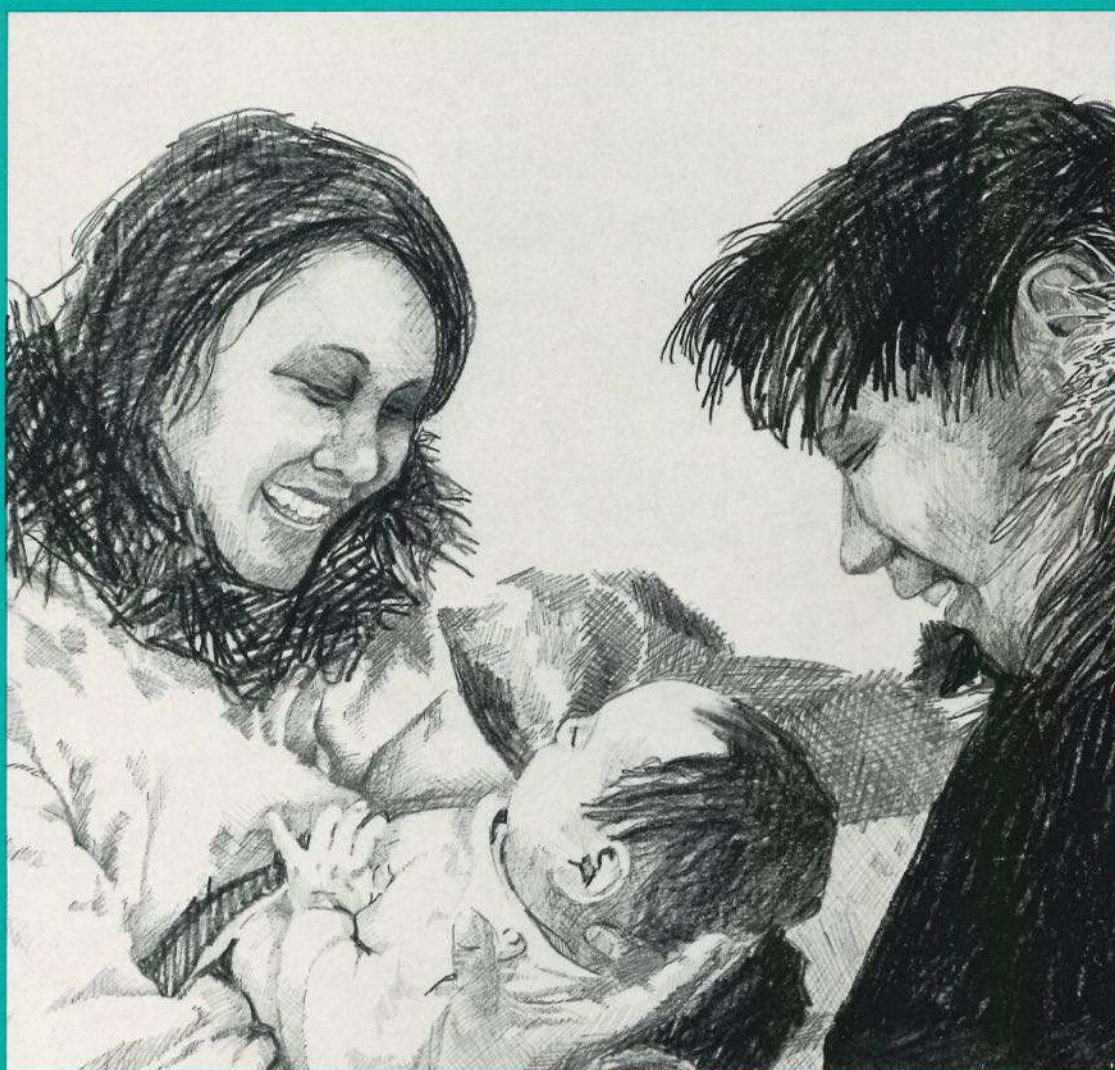


**Pauktuutit
Inuit Women's Association**

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Annual Report

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1989 · 1990

Contributors

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Pauktuutit, the Inuit Women's Association would like to thank the following for their support and generous contributions towards our special projects throughout the year.

Canada Employment and Immigration Commission
Department of Indian & Northern Affairs
Department of Justice Canada
Department of Social Services – NWT
Industry, Science and Technology Canada
National Health & Welfare – Child Care Initiatives Fund
National Health & Welfare – Health Protection Branch
National Health & Welfare – Health Services and
Promotion Branch
National Health & Welfare – Medical Services
National Health & Welfare – National Native Alcohol
and Drug Abuse Program
Secretary of State – Federal
Secretary of State – NWT
Secretary of State – Women's Program
Women's Secretariat – NWT

Pauktuutit would like to express its gratitude to the community of Iqaluit for the warmth and generosity extended to delegates during our Annual General Meeting. We would like to recognize the efforts of Simonie Alainga and the Women's Auxiliary Group whose enthusiasm and hard work helped ensure the success of our meeting.

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Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Aims and Objectives	2
Pauktuutit, Inuit Women's Association 1989-90	3
Report on Issues	7
Health	7
Suicide	8
Family Violence and Child Sexual Abuse	8
Midwifery	9
Day Care	9
Communications	9
Report from the 6th Annual General Meeting	11
Introduction	11
Health	12
Social Services	12
Midwifery	13
Family Violence and Child Sexual Abuse	13
Judicial Process	14
Suicide	15
Regional Reports	15
Abortion	16
ATII	17
Elections	17
1990 Resolutions	18
Participants	20
Contributors	22
Financial Summary	23



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ጥራትና ዕድል	1
ጥንቃቄና ጥራት ለጥራት	2
ጥንቃቄ ልማት ለጥራት 1989-90	3
ጥራት ለጥራት	7
ጥራት ለጥራት	7
ጥራት ለጥራት	8
ጥራት ለጥራት	9
ጥራት ለጥራት	9
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ጥራት ለጥራት	11
ጥራት ለጥራት	11
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ጥራት ለጥራት	14
ጥራት ለጥራት	14
ጥራት ለጥራት	16
ጥራት ለጥራት	17
ጥራት ለጥራት	17
1990-ጥ ጥራት ለጥራት	18
ጥራት ለጥራት	20
ጥራት ለጥራት	22
ጥራት ለጥራት	23



Pauktuutit's Aims and Objectives

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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 Pauktuutit 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 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 promote the equality of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian governmental and 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.

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Pauktuutit, Inuit Women's Association 1989-90

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Introduction

In 1989-90, with the support of various funding sources, Pauktuutit was able to undertake a number of initiatives on issues of current and longstanding concern to Inuit women. The following reports record Pauktuutit's recent progress in addressing these issues.

1. Health

- **Substance Abuse** Substance abuse is often associated with other serious social problems, although it remains unclear whether it actually causes other problems or is a further symptom of the social and economic instability of many Inuit communities. Conventional efforts to deal with alcohol, drug and solvent abuse – as with other social issues – have focussed on treating the problem in isolation, even though solutions may often be found in other contributing or resulting problems. Pauktuutit's work over the past year has tended to confirm the opinion that a co-ordinated approach to the problem of substance abuse and other social issues offers hope that these problems may be addressed more effectively in the future.

In December 1989, Pauktuutit received funding from the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) to conduct research into community needs regarding substance abuse programs and services. As part of the study, a questionnaire was compiled to gather information on the programs and services available in communities, and to survey residents about the kinds and seriousness of problems facing their communities. One hundred and eighty-six questionnaires were mailed to alcohol and drug committees, hamlet councils, nursing stations, Inuit organizations and individuals involved in health care in the NWT, Northern Quebec and Labrador. A shorter version of the questionnaire was included in a special issue of Pauktuutit's newsletter, *Suvaguug*, which readers were asked to complete and return to Pauktuutit's office.

Responses were received from most Inuit communities, an indication of the deep concern felt by many about the current health and well-being of their communities. While the final report noted many regional differences and confirms that, to many people, substance abuse is the *most serious* problem facing their community (44.4%), it also records that other problems such as inadequate housing (72.5%) and unemployment (69.2%) are persistently *serious* problems in the majority of Inuit communities. Poverty, family violence and lack of recreational activities continue to be considerable problems in many communities.

The findings have prompted Pauktuutit to recommend that the NNADAP and its NWT counterpart begin to fund pilot projects aimed at co-ordinating existing community services

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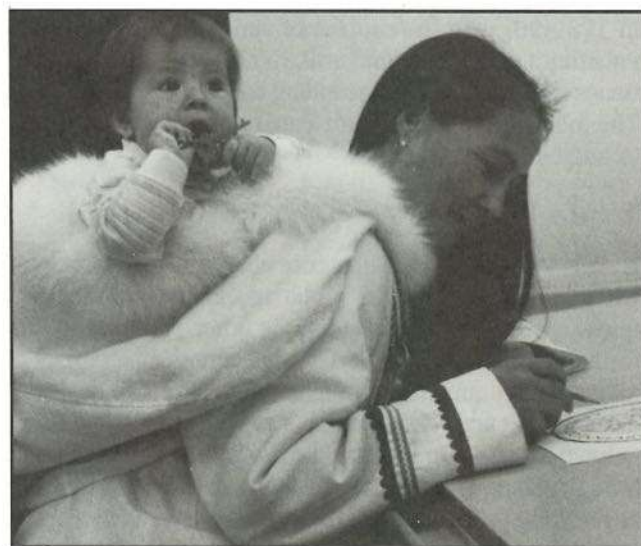
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- **AIDS** Providing AIDS information to northern communities and individuals has been a priority for Pauktuutit over the past year. The danger which AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) poses is considerable and regular efforts have been made through radio and Pauktuutit's newsletter *Suvaguug* to inform individuals and communities of the nature of the disease, its symptoms, what preventative measures ought to be taken, as well as how AIDS is and is not transmitted.

Suicide, particularly among Inuit youth, is a growing problem in the North today. Last summer Pauktuutit produced a research paper titled "The Problem of Suicide Among Inuit Youth" in an effort to better understand the nature and dimensions of the problem in Inuit communities. The paper records a dramatic increase in the rate of suicide among Inuit over the past 20 years, occurring mostly among young males and often involving other social problems such as substance abuse and family violence. The suicide rate among Inuit today is over three times that of the national rate. The paper suggests that the "harsher" life experience of Inuit society over the past 20 years has increased the likelihood of Inuit suicide, and concludes that the solution "may lie in understanding and then changing those conditions which are 'harsher' than those facing non-Inuit society". Such an approach requires that suicide be seen not as a isolated issue but as a problem influenced by the many social, political and economic realities of the North, and that solutions be sought through collective action at the community and national levels.

3. Family Violence and Child Sexual Abuse

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In addition, Pauktuutit has begun to conduct research into the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Inuit communities. The research findings will form part of a planned publication which will include advice on how to detect if a child has been sexually abused and information on what assistance is available in communities. The publication is expected to be completed and translated in time for the 1991 AGM.

4. Midwifery

The premiere showing of the video *Ikajurti* at this year's annual general meeting marked a major accomplishment for Pauktuutit. The hour-long video, co-produced by Pauktuutit and Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC), is the first television documentary ever made on the subject of traditional Inuit midwifery and modern childbirthing practices. *Ikajurti* was broadcast by IBC on June 3 and received overwhelming response from viewers who called in their concerns and opinions during a live phone-in segment following the broadcast.

More recently, Pauktuutit has begun work on a planned booklet which will incorporate Inuit oral history and traditional midwifery knowledge. It is hoped that the publication will provide a solid base of traditional midwifery knowledge before further efforts are taken to determine what changes are desired for the future. Funding for the initial research phase of the project has already been provided by Health and Welfare and fund raising efforts are underway for the next stage which will involve interviews with Inuit elders and midwives.

5. Day Care

With more and more mothers working outside the home the need for alternative child care in the North has grown correspondingly. The scarcity of child care centres in the North has been a special concern to Pauktuutit. During a day care workshop held at last year's AGM, delegates agreed that more information was needed on the operation and funding of day care centres in the North. At the request of its membership, Pauktuutit produced in 1989 the booklet *How to Start Day Care in Inuit Communities*, a guide to day care operation and program funding. In addition, funding provided by Health and Welfare Canada's Child Care Initiatives Fund will enable Pauktuutit to hold a series of day care workshops in four communities in 1990, to which every community can send a representative. The workshops will be held in Nain, Labrador (August), Inuvik, NWT (September), Iqaluit, NWT (November), and Kuujjuaq, Northern Quebec (January).

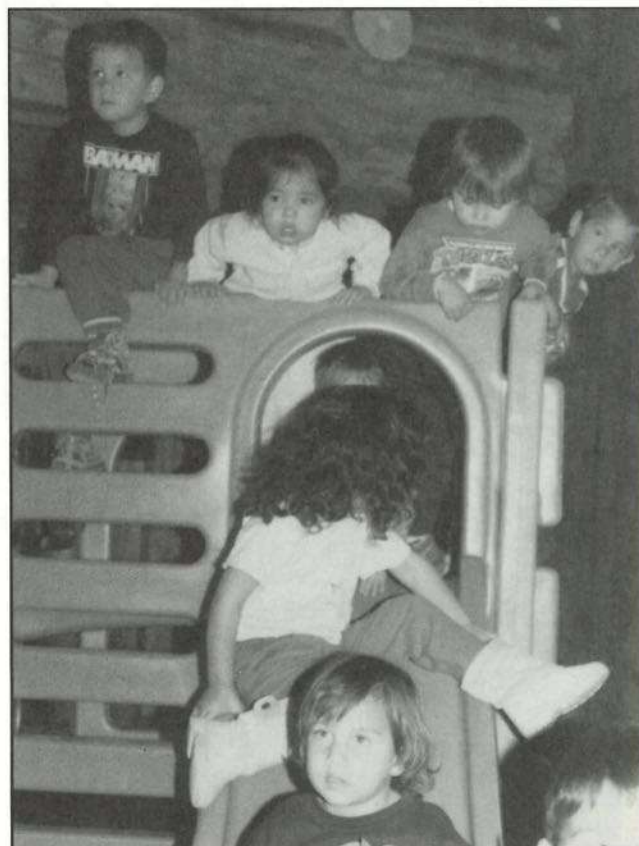
6. Communications

Since Pauktuutit has very little money with which to travel to meet member groups and individuals, one of the most important means of communicating our activities to mem-

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Ingamo Hall Day Care Centre, Inuvik
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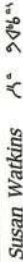


Introduction

The Sixth Annual General Meeting took place in Iqaluit, NWT from March 27-29, 1990. Delegates to the meeting participated in discussions and workshops on a range of current and long-standing issues including, health and social services, the judicial system in the North, midwifery, day care, family violence, child sexual abuse and suicide.

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Delegates concluded the workshop by discussing what community action could be taken to deal with the issue of child sexual abuse. It was reported that Baker Lake parents have formed a group to examine ways of combatting the problem and are applying to the GNWT Department of Social Services for project funds to assist them in this work. It was recommended that more communities set up child sexual abuse workshops and that demand be further made for community treatment facilities for offenders, victims and families.

Judge James Igloliorte, the only Inuk magistrate in Canada, spoke to the assembly. After commenting on the judicial process in Labrador and his own responsibilities as magistrate, he concluded by saying that the justice system had to change to be more responsive to the needs of Inuit.

In answer to one delegate's concern that people in Northern Quebec often do not have the money to travel to court, it was announced that new travelling court circuits have been established.

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Concern was also expressed about the actual effectiveness of imprisonment. The comment was made that inmates often do not see jail terms as punishment since they are given shelter, food, clothing and other privileges.

The case of a woman from Nain wishing to regain custody of her children was addressed by Judge Igloliorte. It was reported that the Department of Social Services had advised the woman she would be unable to regain custody until the children were 18 years old. Judge Igloliorte replied that under the law the children are free to return to their parents at age 16 in Labrador.

Suicide

Pauktuutit's Health Co-ordinator, Martha Greig, presented to the assembly the results of a recent research paper conducted by the organization on the issue of suicide among Inuit youth. (see Report on Issues) Following the presentation delegates engaged in an emotional discussion about the effects of suicide both personally and on Inuit society in general. The issue was deferred to the regional delegates workshops for more detailed discussion.

Regional Reports

In addition to discussing ways of resolving the problem of youth suicide, delegates addressed a wide range of local and regional issues during the time set aside at the AGM for regional meetings.

Kitikmeot

Kitikmeot delegates noted the need in their region for more Inuit helpers to assist with the many social problems experienced 'by people in the communities. Delegates also remarked on the need for funding for women's shelters, an elders home in the region, a day care facility, and more services for elders and children who have been the victims of abuse. The shortage of adequate housing was acknowledged to be a serious problem in the region.

Western Arctic

Western Arctic delegates expressed their support for the introduction of traditional Inuit midwifery. They stated that professional therapy should be made available to children who have been sexually abused. In addition, it was felt that there should be trained Inuit counsellors to deal with suicide, as well as detoxification centres in smaller communities to give ongoing support to those treated for drinking problems. The delegates agreed that more day care centres are needed in the region.

Keewatin

Keewatin delegates concluded that committees should be established to bring together representatives from among both older and younger people in order to encourage better understanding and communication between different generations. Such committees would meet regularly and enable

relatives to discuss the needs of the community, and to discuss the needs of the community, and to discuss the needs of the community.

Discussion

Discussion was held on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide.



From left to right: Mary Sillett, Martha Greig, Leah Nutaraq and Caroline Nivixie

Yukon delegates discussed the need for more Inuit helpers to assist with the many social problems experienced 'by people in the communities.

Discussion

Discussion was held on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide, and on the issue of suicide.

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1990 Resolutions

1990-Դ ՇԻՐԱԿԱՆԱԿՈՒՄ (ԲԻԶՆԵՍՄԱՆՈՒՄ)

90-01: resolves that midwifery practices be recognized and supported by both government and the medical profession; that training in traditional and contemporary midwifery practices be made available in communities; and that Pauktuutit work with other organizations to make midwifery services (including comprehensive pre- and post-natal care) available in all communities.

90-02: directs Pauktuutit to urge the governments of the Northwest Territories, Quebec and Newfoundland to undertake, with the full involvement of Inuit, a complete review of social service policies and programs and their delivery in Inuit communities with the view to making these policies and programs more responsive to the needs of Inuit.

90-03: urges the Government of the Northwest Territories to commission a full public inquiry into the treatment of women and children as victims of violence and offer recommendations on, among other things, judicial recruitment and appointment practices, sentencing practices and victims' services. The commission should include representation from all northern native groups, be made up of at least 50 per cent women, and be chaired by a woman.

90-04: resolves that community-based programs for family violence and child sexual abuse offenders be established, and that members of the criminal justice system ensure that offenders be referred to these programs as part of their sentencing.

90-05: directs Pauktuutit to urge that a full inquiry be made into the reasons and circumstances surrounding all suicides and attempted suicides in correctional institutions.

90-06: directs Pauktuutit to lobby the governments of the Northwest Territories, Quebec and Newfoundland for regional and/or community suicide-prevention crisis lines; and resolves that Pauktuutit work with other organizations to produce a video dealing with the problem of suicide in the North.

90-07: commends the efforts of circumpolar Inuit youth in addressing the problem of suicide among young Inuit, and resolves that Pauktuutit fully support all co-operative efforts to promote suicide prevention in the North.

90-08: resolves that Pauktuutit urge those responsible for arrangements in medical travel ensure that patients (particularly elders, pregnant women and women travelling with young children) not be inconvenienced or distressed by ticket, scheduling or accommodation difficulties, and ensure that patients be allowed to return home without delay when they are well.

90-09: directs Pauktuutit to lobby all levels of government, the judicial system and communities to initiate treatment.

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90-15: requests that the departments of Social Services in the Northwest Territories, Quebec and Labrador provide Inuit who are stranded in the south without access to social assistance airfare to return to their home communities.

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Maggie Annanack

Board of Director	Kangiqsualujuaq
Dorothy Mesher	Kuujuaq
Livi Arnaituk	Kangisujuaq
Jessie Grey	Kangirsuk
Sarah Kulula	Quaqtaq
Jeannie Illisitok	Salluit
Sarah Tookalook	Umiujaq
Mary Luuku	Ivujivik
Minnie Tukuluk	Povungnituk
Lizzie Palliser	Inukjuaq
Betsy Meeko (Observer)	Sanikiluaq

Labrador

Andrea Webb

Board of Director	Goose Bay
Christine Broomfield	Makkovik
Silpa Edmunds	Postville
Rebecca Torarak	Hopedale
Hilda Assivak	Goose Bay

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Muati Qitsualik
Blandina Tulugarjuk

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Sophie Tom
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Naki Echo	Annie Nattaq
Lizzie Epoo-York	Margaret Niego
Martha Flaherty	Alice Ningeongan
Reverend Mike Gardiner	Pepellie Nutarak
Nancy Greenwood	Leah Nutaraq
George Hargrave	Jennifer Rigby
James Igloliorte	Sally St. Lewis
Lizzie Ittinuar	Christine Tanner
Rosemarie Kuptana	Lois Toms
Chuck Larocque	Anita Tuharsky

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Financial Summary

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March 31, 1990

	Money Received	Money Spent	Cash Surplus (Deficit)
CORE-Operating Account*			
Office Operations	\$263,784	\$289,754	(\$25,970)
Annual General Meeting (AGM)	\$ 70,000	\$ 51,103	\$ 18,897

* Office operations and AGM combined result in a \$7,073 net expense position for the year.

Total government contributions to special projects were \$299,642 for the fiscal year 1989/90, offset by total expenses of \$272,915. This resulted in a net revenue position of \$26,727 on special project activities for the year. Deferred revenue of \$18,411 is excluded from this account – to be recorded as income in 1990/91.

There was an overall net equity surplus position of \$15,649 as at March 31, 1990.

Funding by the Department of the Secretary of State for the fiscal year 1989/90 is at \$333,000, held constant from the prior year.

This represents a summary of the 1989/90 financial statements as provided to the Association by the auditors. These financial statements will be made available to the members of the Association at the next Annual General Meeting.

LA 31, 1990

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የፖሊኒልር ፖሊኦኔስትሪክ ከፕላስቲክ	\$263,784	\$289,754	(\$25,970)
የፖሊኒልር ከፕላስቲክ	\$ 70,000	\$ 51,103	\$ 18,897

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Credits

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Co-ordinating and Editing: Linda Archibald, Sophie Tom

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Production, Typesetting, Design and Layout: Nortext

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Cover photo: Fred Bruemmer, *The Arctic World*, p. 15

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Artistic Reproduction of Cover photo: Becca Lougheed

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