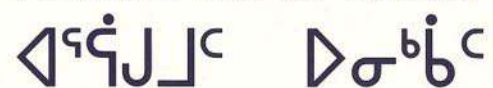


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1990-1991

Contributors

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

Canada Employment and Immigration Canada
Court Challenges Program
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
Government of Quebec – Native Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories – Language
Bureau, Iqaluit
Government of the Northwest Territories – Status of Women
Jetset Travels
National Health and Welfare Canada – Child Care Initiatives
Fund
National Health and Welfare Canada – Health Services and
Promotion Branch
National Health and Welfare Canada – Medical Services
Branch
National Health and Welfare Canada – National Native
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program
Secretary of State – Federal
Secretary of State – NWT
Secretary of State – Women's Program
Women's Inter-Church Council

Pauktuutit would like to express its gratitude to the community of Rankin Inlet for hosting the 7th Annual General Meeting. Special thanks to Louis Pilakapsi, the Keewatin Inuit Association, Jack Anawak MP, Martha Adams and the women's group of Rankin Inlet for their contributions.

Cover:
"Childbirth Scene"
Sculpture by: Ennutsiak
Photo by: Paul von Baich

Special thanks to Inuit Art Section of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

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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 is gaining widespread recognition in and outside of Aboriginal communities for the work being done to improve the quality of life in Inuit communities. The credit for the outstanding work that Pauktuutit has been able to do this year goes to the Pauktuutit Board of Directors and particularly to Martha, Reepa, Leah, Sophie and Linda, the Pauktuutit staff. On behalf of the Inuit women of Canada, thank you all very much.

W. J. Elliott

Mary Sillett

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Wm. A. Elliott

[illegible]

Pauktuutit's Aims and Objectives

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Pauktuutit

Inuit Women's Association of Canada

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Pauktuutit, Inuit Women's Association 1990-91

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EXECUTIVE / ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ



Mary Sillett
President

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Dorothy Mesher
Acting Secretary Treasurer

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Martha Flaherty
Acting Vice President

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Regional Board Members / ᐸᐸᐸᐸ ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ



Edith Haogak
Western Arctic

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Salomie Qitsualik
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Labrador

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Introduction

Throughout 1990-91 Pauktuutit has continued to work on issues of both current and longstanding concern to Inuit women. The following reports record our recent progress in addressing some of these issues.

Justice

Pauktuutit has been concerned for some time about issues surrounding the justice system in the Northwest Territories, in particular, the judicial treatment of women and children who find themselves victims of violence and sexual assault, and the subsequent sentencing of offenders. These concerns were brought to public notice following events involving N.W.T. Judge R.M. Bourassa, whose reputation for light sentencing of offenders and remarks on Inuit women and sexual assault quoted in the *Edmonton Journal* on December 20, 1989 gave rise to general concerns about the administration of justice in the interests of Inuit women and children. Following criticisms by Pauktuutit and others of Judge Bourassa's comments and sentencing practices, the N.W.T. Minister of Justice launched an inquiry to determine whether the judge's comments constituted misbehaviour. The inquiry, conducted by Madame Justice Joyce Conrad, concluded that Judge Bourassa's comments did not constitute misbehaviour and that he was able to perform his judicial duties. The Board of Directors of Pauktuutit disagreed with this conclusion and called for an appropriate body to review Justice Conrad's decision. Since then, Pauktuutit has applied for and received funds from the national Court Challenges Program in Ottawa to develop legal arguments which would allow us to take the federal Attorney-General to court for failing to protect the equality and personal security rights of Inuit women under the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The efforts of Pauktuutit and other women's organizations to correct gender biases within the federal and territorial judicial systems have met with some encouraging response from the territorial government's Ministry of Justice. In December 1990 the Minister of Justice announced the commencement of a three-year study into gender bias issues in the N.W.T. Discussions on Inuit women's concerns about the administration of justice in the north formed an important part of this year's Annual General Meeting (see p. 12).

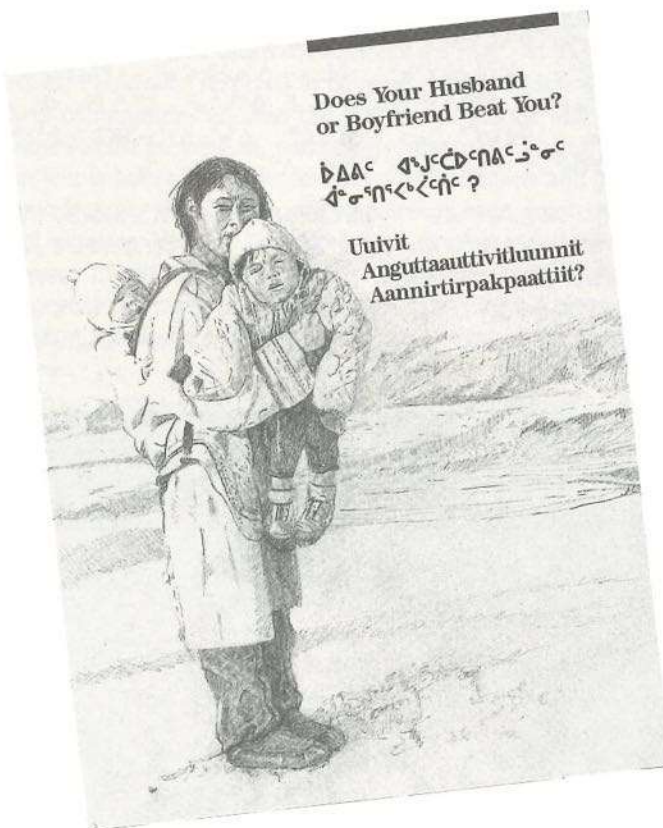
Family Violence

In 1990 Pauktuutit received funds from the federal government's Family Violence Initiatives Fund to undertake a study into the issue of child sexual abuse in Inuit communities. Rosemarie Kuptana was hired by Pauktuutit to conduct the study, and her report "No More Secrets" detailed several

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Pauktuutit has also been given funds to revise, update and translate the N.W.T. Native Women's Association booklet *Does Your Husband/Boyfriend Beat You?* The booklet, which has been distributed to every Inuit community, is being used to educate women in the north on the issue of spousal assault.



Through funding provided by Health and Welfare Canada's Child Care Initiatives Fund, Pauktuutit held four regional workshops on child care in 1990-91. The workshops brought together women from many communities and officials from the provincial and territorial governments to discuss ways of meeting Inuit child care needs, and assist interested groups in applying for funds to start and operate child care programs in their communities. The workshops were held between August 1990 and January 1991 in Nain, Labrador; Inuvik, N.W.T.; Iqaluit, N.W.T. and Kuujuaq, Northern

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Quebec. Participants in the workshops were unanimous in their belief that child care programs should reflect Inuit culture and values, and that professional child care training should be provided in the North, preferably in the communities where it will be used. A special issue of Pauktuutit's newsletter, *Suvaguuq*, presented detailed reports on each of the workshops, as well as analysis of current child care policies, suggestions on how to lobby for local child care services and ways of incorporating Inuit culture into programs for young children.

Pauktuutit is continuing to provide assistance to groups seeking to establish child care services in their communities, and is closely monitoring the federal government's plans on Child Care, providing intervention as appropriate.

Economic Development

Over the past year Pauktuutit has worked especially hard to ensure that the needs and interests of Inuit women are represented in discussions of northern native economic development. Our participation in Inuit Tapirisat of Canada's Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy has helped to ensure that economic opportunities for Inuit women are given appropriate consideration. And Pauktuutit has recently applied for funds from the federal government's Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS) program to research the unique economic development needs of Inuit women. This research will assist us in future discussions concerning the overall economic development of northern communities, and, in particular, ensuring the progressive participation of Inuit women in local economies.

Health

In 1990 Pauktuutit conducted a major research study into health issues and, particularly, substance abuse in Inuit communities. As a follow-up to this work, Pauktuutit, in December 1990, submitted a three-year proposal to the Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada to hire a national Substance Abuse Co-ordinator, whose responsibilities would be to provide educational materials and promote local networks among community groups and services. Funding was received for the initial one and a half years of this position, and in February 1991 Reepa Kilabuk was hired as Pauktuutit's Substance Abuse Co-ordinator.

AIDS remains one of the most important health issues confronting Inuit today, and Pauktuutit has continued to focus efforts on providing information and education on the nature of the disease, its prevention and the threat it poses to Inuit communities. The possible impact of AIDS on Inuit communities and ways of responding to the danger posed by the disease were discussed at the 1991 AGM (see p. 12).

Traditional Midwifery

In 1989-90 Pauktuutit and Inuit Broadcasting Corporation undertook production of *Ikajurti*, a video on traditional midwifery intended to promote fuller discussion of the future of

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Suicide

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Child care remains a key issue for Inuit Women

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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 the organization's work over the past year, delegates to the AGM give direction for the upcoming year.

The Seventh Annual General Meeting took place in Rankin Inlet, NWT, February 19-21, 1991. Delegates to the meeting participated in discussions and workshops on a range of current and longstanding issues including, the judicial system in the North, health and social services, family violence, child sexual abuse and economic development.

Justice

Special Projects Co-ordinator Linda Archibald outlined for delegates the Court Challenges Program, an independent, federally funded organization that sponsors test cases based on the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In November 1990 Pauktuutit applied to the Program for funds to help develop such a test case, arguing that the "rights of Inuit women and girls have not been accorded equal protection and equal benefit of the law" under the Constitution because of consistent lenient sentencing of sex offenders. The Court Challenges Program has approved funding for preliminary legal research into the case, specifically into concerns that: 1) "judicial discretion in sentencing" (the ability

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of judges to decide if and for how long an offender will go to jail) violates the rights of Inuit women and girls, the victims of sexual assault; and 2) that existing provisions for the punishment of sex offenders under the Criminal Code fail to protect Inuit women and children.

“Crime and Justice in the Baffin” Study

Delegates to the AGM expressed concern that communities must wait so long for court visits, that the postponement of cases causes pain and distress for mothers and families, that people may only first hear through the radio that their relatives have been accused, and that, generally, not enough is known of the justice system. Concern was also expressed that there are no safe-homes or shelters to which abused women can go, that women and children – not the abusers – must often leave their communities until cases of assault have been tried, and that too much power is entrusted to social workers when apprehending children.

Gender Bias Research

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services for offenders and that support services should be available for victims and their families within the community. They agreed that the question of how the justice system deals with victims of sexual abuse who are mentally handicapped needs to be dealt with. It was also agreed that the Department of Social Services should establish safe homes in each community for sexual assault victims. Western Arctic and Kitikmeot delegates felt that visits to communities for short periods by professionals often do not help, and that local people should be trained to provide victims and their families with support. It was agreed that support services within the communities should involve everyone: nurses, RCMP, Social Services, elders, youth etc.

Northern Quebec delegates agreed on the need for trained Inuit counsellors, as well as a workshop on child sexual abuse and a support group for victims. They discussed the difficulties which victims and their supporters often face in dealing with cases of child sexual abuse. Abused children are frequently not shown real love – the abuse may be the only attention they receive and it comes to be perceived as real love. Many victims have no one to talk to and grow up with a burden of private pain, which they are unwilling later to talk of. Abusers will sometimes interfere with attempts to help the victim by manipulating and obtaining support from others in the community. On occasion, the abuser may even be a person of power and authority in the community. It was felt that removing a sexually abused child to a stranger's home is detrimental and that the abuser, not the victim, should be removed.

Delegates from the Baffin region felt that abusers are too often not confronted with their offence, and that they should be publicly exposed rather than made simply the object of gossip. They agreed that sexually abused children should not be sent to another community once their abuse has been discovered.

Keewatin delegates that there should be one agency to deal with sexual abuse cases, and that victims should not have to go to several different places for help. They also agreed on the need for more counselling for victims, treatment centres for abusers, and community control over support programs.

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they want to start (for example, money to purchase materials for sewing and later selling crafts out of an individual's home), although the Fund is not intended to help buy and operate a craft shop. Staff at the Calmeadow Foundation are available to consult with communities on the use of the Fund.

Guest Speakers

Louis Pilakapsi, President of the Keewatin Inuit Association, spoke to delegates about a recent workshop held in Rankin Inlet on the issue of suicide, which helped the community to better understand the issue. He hoped that the information provided by this workshop could be put into a pamphlet, and spoke of the need to convey a more positive message to the young as well as the importance of co-operation between organizations like Inuit Tapirisat and Pauktuutit on such issues.

Nunatsiaq MP Jack Anawak talked to members of the assembly about the difficulties of the land claims process, the prevalence of social problems such as suicide, and drug and alcohol abuse in Inuit society, and the erosion of traditional cultural values and knowledge. He urged Pauktuutit to be involved in other organizations to help resolve these issues, and stated that he would like to hear from women about Bill C-43, the abortion bill that was defeated.

Regional Reports

Delegates at the Seventh Annual General Meeting met to discuss a variety of local and regional concerns during the time set aside for regional meetings.

Western Arctic

Western Arctic delegates discussed the need for day care in smaller communities to allow women the opportunity to work and seek training. It was felt that more workshops were needed to educate young people in coping with life in isolated communities, as well as problems of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases. It was also felt that counsellors should be given more training to enable them to deal with social problems at a more professional level. The delegates agreed on the need for shelters for battered women and children, and programs to help families who suffer abuse. Delegates also discussed the impact of oil and gas development on traditional activities such as hunting and crafts. It was suggested that government and private industry should make money available to upgrade the skills of local Inuit.

Kitikmeot

The meeting of delegates from the Kitikmeot region focussed on the reports and concerns of three communities: Coppermine, Cambridge Bay and Pelly Bay.

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Louis Pilakapsi was one of the guest speakers at the AGM.
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Coppermine

The Coppermine women's group reported that they will be receiving a shelter for battered women and will be taking over the operation of a young offenders home from the Department of Social Services. A non-profit housing group was formed in Coppermine to buy and renovate buildings which the women's group may choose to lease. A drug and alcohol program, a day care operation and a drop-in centre for youth and elders have been established in the local Awareness Centre. There are now 20 children in the day care program, which is run by Inuit. It was reported that the hamlet is very supportive of community groups and that the network of agencies to deal with social issues is quite strong. The community is concerned that young people are losing their cultural values and the women's group has undertaken some teaching to address concerns in this area. It was agreed that a regional birthing centre is needed.



Pauktuutit

Cambridge Bay

The Cambridge Bay women's group plans to hold workshops on family violence, parenting and child sexual abuse. It was stated that the building in which the local day care program is located is inadequate, and that the program needs to expand especially in the summer months. The delegates felt that an early childhood education program was also needed.

Pelly Bay

The Pelly Bay women's group would like to begin a day care program, but needs help to better establish the group and to learn how to raise funds. Workshops on family violence and drug and alcohol abuse were also identified as priorities in the community.

Keewatin

Delegates from the Keewatin region discussed a number of health-related issues, including the need for early detection of cancers, the demand for a home for those with mental health problems, and concerns that doctors do not spend

enough time with patients. Delegates also discussed the need for a regional birthing centre and the importance of community support.

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Regional Birthing Centre

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Pauktuutit Vice-President Caroline Nivaxie spoke to delegates about the James Bay II dam project which Hydro Quebec plans to construct to provide more hydro power for sale to the United States. It was explained that the project threatens to further disrupt the environment and way of life of Inuit and other native people, not only by flooding land and affecting wildlife and rivers, but through the construction of new roads and camps and the sudden influx of southern construction workers, which will increase the risk of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases in Inuit communities. She feared that, although many people have expressed their opposition to the new dam, the project may proceed all the same.

Premiere of "Sivumut"

Other Business

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Delegates expressed numerous concerns on a number of issues including: midwifery, marriage, separation, divorce and child support. It was suggested that the procedure for electing executive and regional members of Pauktuutit should follow that used by regional Inuit organizations, and that other items such as training in traditional clothing and foods be included on the agenda of next year's AGM. Concern was also expressed that traditional Inuit are no longer outspoken; that the loss of traditional leadership has been accompanied by a reliance on southern ways, leaving the young confused and unable to know who to consult.

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1991 Resolutions

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91-16: denounces the RCMP's and the justice system's harsh and unacceptable treatment of Kitty Nowdluk, a victim of sexual assault, and demands that the Commissioner of the RCMP issue a formal apology to Ms. Nowdluk and all Inuit women, and that compensation be given to her for the emotional stress and mistreatment she received.

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Participants

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Seventh Annual General Meeting
Rankin Inlet, February 19-21, 1991

Executive

Mary Sillett President
Caroline Nivixie Vice President
Martha Flaherty Secretary Treasurer

Delegates

Baffin Region

Enooya Enook
Board of Director Pond Inlet
Ita Atagojuk Iqaluit
Neetanie Peter Cape Dorset
Ootok Kadluk Resolute Bay
Tina Angmarlik Pangnirtung
Leah Paniloo Clyde River
Rynie Flaherty Grise Fiord
Madeline Auksaq Igloolik

Kitikmeot

Helen Tologanak
Board of Director Cambridge Bay
Emily Angulalik Cambridge Bay
Elva Pigalak Coppermine
Ledwina Porter Gjoa Haven
Ottokie Assevak Spence Bay

Keewatin

Mary Matto
Board of Director Coral Harbour
Mary Tinashlu Repulse Bay
Irene Kaluraq Baker Lake
Lizzie Ittinuar Rankin Inlet
Selma Karetak Arviat

Labrador

Andrea Webb
Board of Director Goose Bay
Sharon Edmunds Nain
Caroline Solomon Nain
Debbie Webb Goose Bay

Nunavik

Lizzie Palliser
Board of Director Inukjuag
Martha Sala Kuujjuaraapik
Lizzie Amagoalik Inukjuag
Sarah Tookalook Umiujaq
Linda Alaku Akulivik
Dorothy Mesher
Board of Director Kuujjuag
May Annanack Kangirsualujjuag

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Financial Summary

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March 31, 1991

	Money Received	Money Spent	Cash Surplus (Deficit)
CORE-Operating Account*			
Office Operations	\$268,857	\$245,639	\$23,218
Annual General Meeting (AGM)	\$ 70,000	\$101,749	(\$31,749)

* Office operations and AGM combined result in a \$8,531 net expense position for the year.

Total government contributions to special projects were \$412,405 for the fiscal year 1990/91, offset by total expenses of \$428,106. This resulted in a net expense position of \$15,701 on special project activities for the year. Deferred revenue of \$51,246 is excluded from this account – to be recorded as income in 1991/92.

There was an overall net deficit position of \$8,583 as at March 31, 1991.

Funding by the Department of the Secretary of State for the fiscal year 1990/91 is at \$333,000, held constant from the prior year.

This represents a summary of the 1990/91 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, 1991

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የግብይት ገቢዎች	\$268,857	\$245,639	\$23,218
የግብይት ገቢዎች	\$ 70,000	\$101,749	(\$31,749)

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 ስልጣን ምዕራባዊ ስልጣን \$51,246 ለምዕራባዊ ስልጣን ምዕራባዊ ስልጣን — ለጥብቃት
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$$\Delta^a \cdot \mathcal{D}^b \mathcal{L}^c \mathcal{E}^d \mathcal{F}^e \mathcal{G}^f : \mathcal{P}^G \quad \mathcal{H}^g \mathcal{I}^h \mathcal{J}^i$$
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