

ANNUAL REPORT

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;
- 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:
- 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:
- To promote the equality of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian governmental and non-governmental structures;
- 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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President's Message

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It has been an extremely challenging year for Inuit women—as it has been for all aboriginal people. Last summer I gave a speech to the Annual General Meeting of the Native Women's Association of Canada, in which I stated that the struggle for equality and self-determination represented by the Mohawk people at Oka was the struggle of all aboriginal people. Like others at the time, I argued that peaceful solutions had to be found, not just to the Oka crisis but to the problems that gave rise to it. Over the past year Pauktuutit has struggled to address many of those problems both on our own and through our participation with other Inuit and native organizations.

One of the most troubling issues on which we have worked has involved the administration of justice in the north. Pauktuutit has expressed concern on several occasions that lenient sentencing practices and the biases of some members of the judiciary do not protect the interests of Inuit women and children — the victims of assault. Our work on this issue has led us to obtain funding from the national Court Challenges Program to develop legal arguments based on the *Charter of Rights*, through which we hope that adequate protection of the rights of Inuit women and children will be ensured. The study recently undertaken by the GNWT Ministry of Justice into gender bias within the judicial system indicates that the issue has begun to be taken more seriously.

In 1990 Pauktuutit completed ''No More Secrets'', an important study into the issue of child sexual abuse in Inuit communities. The findings and recommendations of this study are a major contribution by Inuit women to addressing a critical social issue — a problem which is encouraged by silence, and which can only be addressed by public awareness, community involvement and the implementation of laws and policies. In addition, our work on substance abuse and community health promotion has been furthered this year by the addition of a full-time Substance Abuse Co-ordinator, funded through money received from Health and Welfare Canada.

Pauktuutit held four highly successful, regional workshops in 1990-91 to assist community groups in starting (and obtaining funding for) local child care services. We continued our work on midwifery, completing the distribution of the video ''Ikajurti'', and undertaking the research and production of a new publication which, for the first time, will document traditional midwifery practices. In addition, our

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President's Message

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participation in the Canadian Aboriginal Women and Economic Development project will ensure that Inuit women's concerns on economic development are well represented.

Communication on issues affecting Inuit women and communities is fundamental to Pauktuutit's operation. In addition to the reports produced over the past year, we published three issues of our newsletter *Suvaguuq*, providing updates on projects undertaken by Pauktuutit and information on issues of continuing concern to all Inuit women. Recently, Pauktuutit received funds to update and translate the N.W.T. Native Women's Association booklet *Does Your Husband/Boyfriend Beat You?* As well, the remarkable popularity of our cultural guide *The Inuit Way* has encouraged us to consider producing an Inuit women and culture video.

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.

Mary Sillett

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Pauktuutit's Aims and Objectives

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Pauktuutit, Inuit Women's Association 1990-91

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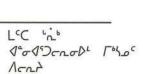
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Report on Issues

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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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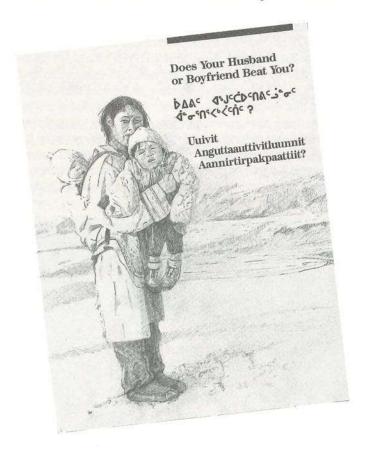
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disturbing findings: 1) most residents of the communities questioned confirmed that child sexual abuse does occur in their communities; 2) many non-Inuit believe child sexual abuse to be inherent in Inuit culture; 3) few or no services exist to support victims, offenders and their families. The report offered 12 recommendations to address the problem of child sexual abuse, including: funding for broad-based education and public awareness campaigns, training programs for local Inuit counsellors and treatment centres for offenders. These recommendations were subsequently adopted by delegates to Pauktuutit's 1991 AGM in Rankin Inlet.

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.



Child Care

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 Kuujjuaq, 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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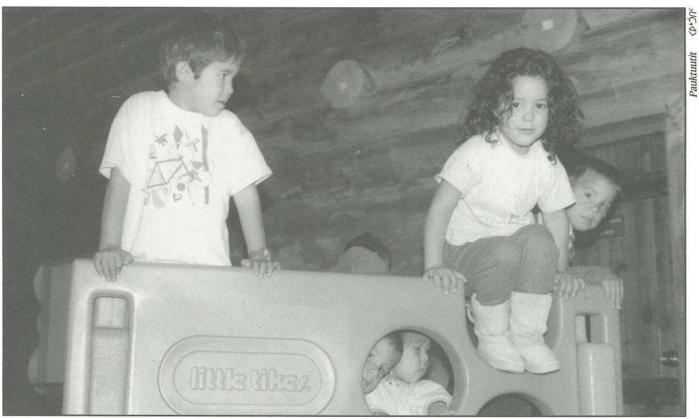
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traditional midwifery practices in the north. By all accounts this video was an important success, and by early 1991 Pauktuutit had completed distributing copies of *Ikajurti* to 1,000 individuals and groups in 53 Inuit communities and throughout Canada. Pauktuutit received funds in 1991 from Health and Welfare Canada's North of 60 program to do initial research on a project aimed at extensively documenting the knowledge of traditional midwives. In addition to being a record of both historical and cultural importance, the publication, which we plan to publish in both English and Inuktitut versions, could be invaluable in efforts to apply traditional knowledge to modern-day midwifery and child-birthing practices in the North.

Suicide

Suicide has been a major concern of Inuit women and communities throughout the north for several years. According to recent statistical data, the rate of suicide in the Eastern Arctic alone is four times the national average. At its 1990 AGM, Pauktuutit resolved to develop a video which would help communities address the problem of suicide and promote suicide prevention, particularly among the young. The project is being jointly undertaken by Pauktuutit and Inuit Broadcasting Corporation and has already been granted initial funding by the Toronto-based Gordon Foundation. Owing to the country's current economic climate, it is expected that much of the remainder of the year will be spent raising additional funds to enable production of the video.

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Child care remains a key issue for Inuit Women

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Report on the Seventh Annual General Meeting

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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 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

Court Challenges Program

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.

Pauktuutit is being assisted in its work on this project by a University of Ottawa law student and other legal experts. If it is felt that the arguments, once developed, are strong ones, then Pauktuutit would take the case to court. It may then be necessary to obtain the testimony of one or two women, victims of sexual assault, whose attackers received lenient sentences.

"Crime and Justice in the Baffin" Study

Reva Robinson of Simon Fraser University spoke to the assembly about a federally funded, three-year project to study all areas of the justice system in the Baffin region: police, courts, social services, as well as delivery of the justice system. The purpose of the study is to discover what issues are important to residents of the Baffin region by speaking to as many people as possible and learning their feelings about the administration of justice in the north. She stated that the information gathered could be used to create a database, which would later help in the development of a traditional Inuit justice system. The study would employ one bilingual person in the Baffin region, and would benefit by having a contact person in each community.

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.

Reva Robinson remarked that these were the kinds of concerns that the study is intended to record, along with discussion of alternative ways of delivering justice.

Gender Bias Research

Kathy Peterson outlined the reasons for a study that she is conducting into gender bias in the justice system, which has been commissioned by the Government of the Northwest Territories Ministry of Justice. She said that women have been concerned for a long time about how they are treated by the justice system — not just in the courts, but by the RCMP, Legal Aid and Social Services — and that questions have been raised about how judges are chosen and disciplined. In response to these concerns the Ministry has employed her to travel throughout the N.W.T. to talk privately with women about their experiences with the justice system and to relay her findings and information to decision-makers in the government.

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Bernadette Makpah of the N.W.T. Status of Women Council remarked that the Council has also recently passed a motion to undertake research on the issue of gender bias in the justice system.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Assistant Commissioner Bob Head of the RCMP was invited to speak to delegates about recent efforts by the police force to improve their relationship with native people throughout the country. He began by admitting that the RCMP has made mistakes in the past, and that it has only been recently that he was asked to undertake research. His report to the RCMP offered six recommendations: 1) that police be free from political interference; 2) that efforts be made to recruit and train aboriginal people; 3) that authorities examine incorporating native law into criminal law; 4) that efforts be made to develop a better relationship with communities; 5) that a race relations policy be developed; and 6) that cross cultural training be given to non-aboriginal members of the force.

Asst. Commissioner Head described for the assembly some recent efforts to improve the relationship between the RCMP and native people, including the formation of the National Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the RCMP (on which Inuit have a seat) and the RCMP's own aboriginal committee. He stated that the special constable program established 20 years ago has been reformed, since it was discovered that special constables in the communities tended to be seen as second-class citizens, and that now participants in the program become full members of the force and receive more training. A recruitment campaign offering full training and educational upgrading is underway, which he also hoped would attract more women to the force. Women might be able to better investigate incidents such as spousal assault and child sexual abuse.

The RCMP has made improving their relationship with native people a priority for this year. He admitted that problems of intolerance and attitude exist within the RCMP and that native people have come to see the police as controllers rather than partners. He hoped that the requirement for local detachments to consult with local committees on policing issues and concerns will better educate members of the force about the communities they serve.

Delegates expressed concerns about recent cases which have raised questions about the conduct and disciplining of police officers themselves. Asst. Commissioner Head was asked how the RCMP disciplines members of its force who mistreat people as in the recent case of a special constable who was charged with child sexual abuse but who continued to serve on the force. The case of Kitty Nowdluk, a victim of sexual assault who was subsequently arrested and mistreated by the police, was also raised. He responded that, since changes were made to comply with new legislation and the *Charter of Rights*, the RCMP could no longer discipline or discharge officers as it once did, and that if, in the case of Kitty Nowdluk, members of the force were found to be at fault, an apology would be in order.

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President Mary Sillett reported that Pauktuutit has requested an investigation be undertaken into the Kitty Nowdluk case.

Health

Pauktuutit's Health Co-ordinator, Martha Greig, reported to the assembly that Reepa Kilabuk had been hired as Substance Abuse Co-ordinator to undertake follow-up work on the drug and alcohol abuse research conducted last year by Pauktuutit. She felt that the single most important health issue on which she has been working since 1987 is AIDS, and stressed the importance for communities to understand the dangers and to take responsibility.



Martha Greig, Health Coordinator for Pauktuutit LC Jn's, ሳቴብሄቴ ግየጋርሲት 〈ውኃበፊቴ

Bob Imrie of Health and Welfare Canada was invited to speak to the assembly about the impact that AIDS is having on women and aboriginal people. He said that 27 aboriginal people in Canada have been diagnosed as having AIDS, but that an estimated 700 to 1,500 others now carry the virus and do not know that they have it. Two findings that contribute to the increased risk of native people in the north contracting AIDS are: that the number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases in the N.W.T. and among aboriginal people in Canada is very high; and that the rate of teen pregnancy among native people is much higher than the national average. These facts suggests that young people in the North are sexually active with more than one partner.

He reported that many native organizations are talking about AIDS at their meetings as well as attempting to develop educational programs, and that a special Health and Welfare committee, on which Pauktuutit sits, is looking at ways of reducing the risk of AIDS infection. He spoke about the difficulties and importance of putting aside strongly held social values and religious beliefs that can inhibit our understanding of the issue, in order to talk openly with children in schools and within families about the seriousness of the AIDS virus.

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Health and Welfare is concerned that more and more women will be infected with the AIDS virus. While everyone has responsibility for their own body, he stated, men are often not responsible when it comes to sexual activity.

Delegates expressed concern that there is not a toll-free Inuktitut AIDS hotline in the Baffin, and it was agreed that Pauktuutit would meet with Health Department staff to discuss this. It was stated that Inuit from Northern Quebec and Labrador may call the toll-free Yellowknife number for information on AIDS (1-800-661-0795).

Questions were asked about how AIDS testing is conducted in health centres and whether or not victims of sexual assault are obliged to submit to AIDS tests. It was reported that nurses have been trained to handle and ship specimens to Winnipeg carefully and that confidentiality is a fundamental requirement of the AIDS testing procedure. Counselling takes place after the test results have been returned, and a second test is made after six months, regardless of the results received from the first test. There is no legal requirement that either victims or offenders of sexual assault undergo testing, although anyone may request to be tested. It was, however, reported that anyone who knows they are infected and engages in unprotected sex can be charged.

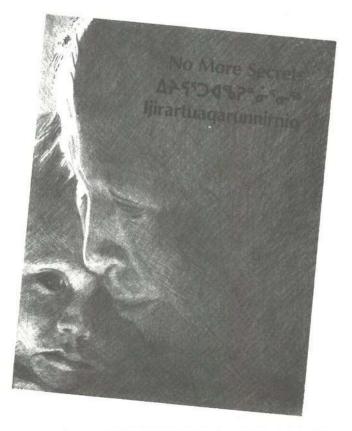
Family Violence

"No More Secrets"

Martha Greig presented the findings of a study undertaken for Pauktuutit in 1990 by Rosemarie Kuptana on the issue of child sexual abuse in Inuit communities entitled "No More Secrets". The study's findings were based on questionnaires sent to social workers, leaders and members of the justice and health systems across the N.W.T., Northern Quebec and Labrador. Three of the most disturbing findings of the study were: 1) that most people admitted being aware of the existence of child sexual abuse in their communities; 2) that some non-Inuit believed child sexual abuse to be inherent in Inuit culture; and 3) that few or no services are available for victims, offenders and their families.

The report also provided other relevant information: that it was difficult to establish the actual number of abused children, since most do not tell anyone; that, according to a 1990 Canadian study, one in two women are sexually abused; that often those who commit suicide and who acquire sexually transmitted diseases are victims of sexual abuse; and that the average age of victims is 9.7 years. The report presented 12 recommendations to address the issue of child sexual abuse, which delegates to the AGM resolved to adopt.

The study also explained the meaning of child sexual abuse, the law pertaining to sexual abuse cases, and the signs and symptoms that abuse has taken place. Martha Greig pointed out that some of these symptoms may be signs of problems other than sexual abuse and that judgment should be exercised, but that the healing of sexual abuse can only begin



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Child Sexual Abuse

Tony Martens, a specialist in the treatment of families, victims and offenders of family violence and sexual abuse, was invited to speak to delegates about the sexual abuse of children and ways in which Pauktuutit members could address the problem. He said that offenders are themselves insecure, usually abuse children they know, and are capable of devising many ways of intimidating their victims into silence, to keep the offence a "secret". Often an offender will make the victim feel responsible for the breakup of the family if the "secret" is told. One way of dealing with this situation, Martens suggested, would be to offer a counselling program for the entire family, permitting the victim, offender and other family members to address the problem openly in a safe environment. He added that few prisons offer therapy programs for offenders, and that offenders who receive no treatment are likely to repeat the offence once they are released from prison. He stated that recent research has found that 90 per cent of sex offenders were sexually abused as children, and that efforts to counsel only the victim, not the offender and other family members, offer no contribution to a solution to the problem. Public discussion of the issue, he said, has encouraged many women to talk about cases of sexual abuse (although many others are still discouraged by the nature of the justice system to disclose their experiences), and more and more children are expected in the next few years to reveal further cases of sexual abuse.

Workshops on Family Violence

Following Tony Martens' presentation, delegates met in regional groups to discuss strategies for dealing with the problem of child sexual abuse.

Delegates from the Labrador region agreed on the need for more extensive counselling and correctional facilities to deal with sex offenders. It was felt that communities needed workshops and training to help in the community healing process, as well as assistance in heightening public awareness of child sexual abuse. The need for trained Inuit counsellors and information brochures translated into Inuktitut was also noted. In particular, Labrador delegates felt that training should be given to local people to enable members of the community, rather than a government agency, to provide victims with help and support, and that communities generally needed to restore childrens' trust in adults as parents and guardians. The delegates agreed on the need for a major conference on the issue in Labrador, which would bring together communities for the purpose of education and training.

Delegates from the Western Arctic and Kitikmeot regions felt that correctional facilities should provide counselling

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Tony Martens discussing family violence and child sexual abuse at AGM with delegates.

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Delegates also participated in workshops and informal discussion groups.

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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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Economic Development

Sinaaq

Robert Higgins of Sinaaq, the Inuit Economic Development Corporation, reported on some recent native economic development programs launched by the federal government. The Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS), announced last year, involves native people in the design of various development programs and attempts to co-ordinate the roles of three federal departments: Indian and Northern Affairs; Industry, Science and Technology; and Employment and Immigration.

A Community Economic Development Officer (CEDO) is being set up in every region and their role is to assist in the development of business opportunities and help communities in their dealings with the government. He mentioned that Employment and Immigration's program "Pathways to Success" gives Inuit direct decision-making authority in how employment and training funds are best applied.

Atii

Alexina Kublu of Atii Training Inc. explained Atii's role in providing Inuit with training in management, financial and human resources (Pauktuutit has a seat on the organization's board). Eighteen courses were offered last year, including a new training course for adult educators. Atii's budget was increased to \$2 million this year and a new training director's position was created. The organization has taken a lead role in consultations on the 'Pathways to Success' program and is co-ordinating a study with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut to examine TFN's training needs. She was pleased to report that it is now possible for Quebec and Labrador Inuit to attend Atii-sponsored courses and that this year 19 training courses will be offered. In addition, Atii is considering developing a journalism course for IBC and sponsoring an early childhood education course.

First Peoples' Fund

Gordon Cunningham explained the purpose of the First Peoples' Fund, established by the Calmeadow Foundation and administered by native people to provide business loans to those who cannot obtain funds from a bank. The Fund requires that individuals who wish to borrow money form a group of four to seven people, called a "borrowers' circle". The members of the "circle" agree to contribute some money of their own and the Fund lends them the remainder. "Circle" members approve and guarantee each other's loans, decide when and how each will pay back the money borrowed, and are responsible for ensuring that members make their payments on time. If one member does not pay, the others will be unable to get a loan. Communities may have many "circles" operating at the same time, and individual members are free to decide what type of business

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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. ALGY DECATOPILED THE BOLLYTOP.

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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.



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 Δ ጌታ'ናበላሮቦላጐት ጋየት'ናበናበጐፈትላቫቼጌር ላ፟፟፟፟፟፟፞ላይን ለልጐ፟፟፟፟ላኝነታጐ ነጐፌቼበቦናበላያናበት ላውጐሬናትን የተና Δ ኄ Δ ና ርለሌካኒካቴና ላቫሬጌ ረውኃንናበቴና ርጊርጋኒጊካሁ.

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enough time in the region. Concerns were also expressed about the early evacuation of pregnant mothers, the lack of support services for victims of sexual abuse, and the dangers posed to victims and the community by offenders who repeat their abuse after they return from prison. Teenage abortion and education on the risks of sex with more than one partner were also identified as major concerns.

Baffin

Baffin delegates felt that sex offenders should serve longer prison sentences, and were concerned that prolonged waits for court cases cause those involved to feel suicidal, placing undue emotional stress on the entire family. It was also felt that support was needed for the relatives of terminally ill patients, and that more AIDS workshops and easier-to-read information on AIDS were required. The delegates suggested that efforts to stop the entry of illegal drugs into the North could be improved by employing specially trained dogs to sniff out drugs at airports. Concern was also expressed that divorced or separated fathers are not providing child support, and that women and children who must cope with separation should be given assured support.

Nunavik (Northern Quebec)

Northern Quebec delegates discussed the need for more communication between regions, along with greater public awareness of Pauktuutit's mandate and how issues such as sexual assault affect the lives of everyone. It was suggested that information on issues affecting Inuit women could be broadcast over local radio stations. Concerns were also expressed about teenage pregnancy and the need for a shelter for abused women, although some felt that the idea of shelters was not the Inuit way.

Labrador

Labrador delegates expressed concern that the sentencing of sex offenders is too lenient, that single mothers faced with having their children removed by Social Services may often not understand their rights, and that children who are removed from their home should be allowed to remain in the community, enabling them to maintain links with their natural family. It was agreed that the AIDS hotline service should be available in all Inuktitut dialects, that Atii courses be widely advertised in the region, and that more cross cultural training be given to judges, members of the RCMP and Social Services. It was observed that in reaffirming elders' roles in preserving Inuit culture and values emphasis is most often placed on men, but that the contributions of women elders should be given equal emphasis. Labrador delegates also agreed on the need to provide more recreational activities and guidance for young people, in order to combat the boredom experienced by many young Inuit and to promote traditional skills and knowledge.

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James Bay II

Pauktuutit Vice-President Caroline Niviaxie 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.

Some discussion of the effects of the James Bay II project followed, and it was unanimously agreed among the delegates that Pauktuutit express its opposition to any further Hydro-Quebec projects, including the James Bay II project (see Resolution 91-15).

Premiere of "Sivumut"

Delegates to the 1991 Annual General Meeting previewed four new public service announcements for young people to be televised by Inuit Broadcasting Corporation. The PSAs, which promote cultural pride and values, were produced following discussions between Pauktuutit, ITC, IBC and Inuit youth from the N.W.T., Northern Quebec and Labrador. Delegates agreed that the videos should be produced in both English and Inuktitut versions to ensure that youth from all regions have the opportunity to see and appreciate the messages conveyed by the PSAs. The delegates also discussed including at the end of each PSA a toll-free crisis line number, which young people may call.

Other Business

Pauktuutit President Mary Sillett summarized for delegates the actions taken on resolutions passed at the previous

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year's AGM, including the responses received from various government departments, ministers and their officials.

Due to recent funding constraints which have required all Inuit organizations to reduce their expenses, an amendment was sought to by-law #8, limiting the minimum number of board meetings held each year to two from the previous three. The amendment was passed unanimously.

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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Although the delegates worked very hard, they found some time to relax.

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1991 Resolutions



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91-01: directs Pauktuutit to seek funds to conduct an AIDS workshop in the north, to which representatives from all Inuit communities may attend, and further urges the GNWT to ensure that the NWT AIDS hotline number be advertised in all Inuit communities and that Inuktitut-speaking staff be hired for the hotline.

91-02: calls upon the governments of the Northwest Territories, Quebec and Newfoundland-Labrador to review the criteria for apprehending children and the powers of social workers to intervene in family situations.

91-03: urges the governments of the Northwest Territories, Quebec and Newfoundland-Labrador to provide funding for safe homes or shelters for the victims of family violence in all Inuit communities that request them.

91-04: supports the establishment of regional birthing centres in Spence Bay and Rankin Inlet, NWT.

91-05: urges the courts and government departments responsible for the administration of justice in the north to find ways to lessen the time taken to resolve cases, to improve the training of Justices of the Peace, and to increase the number of Inuit and women appointed Justices of the Peace to allow more cases to be dealt with at the community level.

91-06: reaffirms the organization's commitment to the provision of day care in Inuit communities, and urges the federal, provincial and territorial governments to provide adequate resources to meet the child care needs of all Inuit communities.

91-07: urges government departments and agencies to hire and train more Inuit counsellors and to provide funds and training programs to upgrade the skills of existing community counsellors.

91-08: calls upon governments and private industries to make available funds for programs to support traditional Inuit culture and the development of traditional skills, particularly among the young.

91-09: urges the federal, provincial and territorial governments to find the means and funds to recruit additional doctors to Inuit communities to meet the severe shortage of appropriate medical care in the north.

91-10: requests that the police employ trained dogs at major airports in Inuit communities to sniff out and prevent illegal drugs being brought into northern communities.

91-11: urges Inuit communities to request that local cable television companies exclude from their programming pornographic or explicitly sexual material, that local video outlets not carry pornographic videos, and that families

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restrict the access of their children to videos and television programs of a pornographic or sexually explicit nature.

91-12: resolves that the recommendations contained in the report on child sexual abuse, entitled "No More Secrets", be adopted (see p. 16).

91-13: resolves that the daily honorarium given to members of Pauktuutit's Board of Directors be increased from \$100 to \$150 a day.

91-14: supports the efforts of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and other Inuit organizations in ensuring that the federal government continue to address and develop solutions to preserving and protecting the Arctic environment for present and future Inuit generations.

91-15: expresses Pauktuutit's complete opposition to further Hydro Quebec developments in Northern Quebec, including the so-called James Bay II project.

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 Niviaxie 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 Auqsaq Igloolik
Kitikmeot Helen Tologanak Board of Director. Cambridge Bay Emily Angulalik Cambridge Bay Elva Pigalak Coppermine Ledwina Porter Gjoa Haven Ottokie Assevak Spence Bay
KeewatinMary MattoCoral HarbourBoard of DirectorCoral HarbourMary TinashluRepulse BayIrene KaluraqBaker LakeLizzie IttinuarRankin InletSelma KaretakArviat
LabradorAndrea WebbGoose BayBoard of DirectorGoose BaySharon EdmundsNainCaroline SolomonNainDebbie WebbGoose Bay
Nunavik Lizzie Palliser Board of Director Martha Sala Kuujjuaraapik Lizzie Amagoalik Inukjuaq Sarah Tookalook Umiujaq Linda Alaku Akulivik Dorothy Mesher Board of Director Kuujjuaq May Annanack Kangirsualujjuaq

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Marjorie Nukik Baker Lake	
Pat Lyall Inuit Broadcasting Corporation	L4-c _ Jb
Debbie Brisebois Inuit Broadcasting Corporation	< c Δ4 Δ° ΔΔ C Cd° α Lb \ c ~ c ~ \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ \ b \ c ~ c ~ \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ c \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ c \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ c \ c \ b \ c ~ c ~ c \ c \ c \ c \ c \ c \ c \ c
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Bob Head Asst. Commissioner, RCMP Aboriginal	i.
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Gordon Cunningham First Peoples' Funds	Ś<>c ΗΔδ°<
Tony Martens Consultant on family violence	ብረር。 የ _የ ትዘፈ _የ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · <mark></mark> ታይያላርፈ _ና ይ _ም ወንት ብሀልኒ - ት
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Jody Payant Iqaluit Mental Health Clinic, Iqaluit	የ'C
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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.

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Design and Layout: David Boult

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