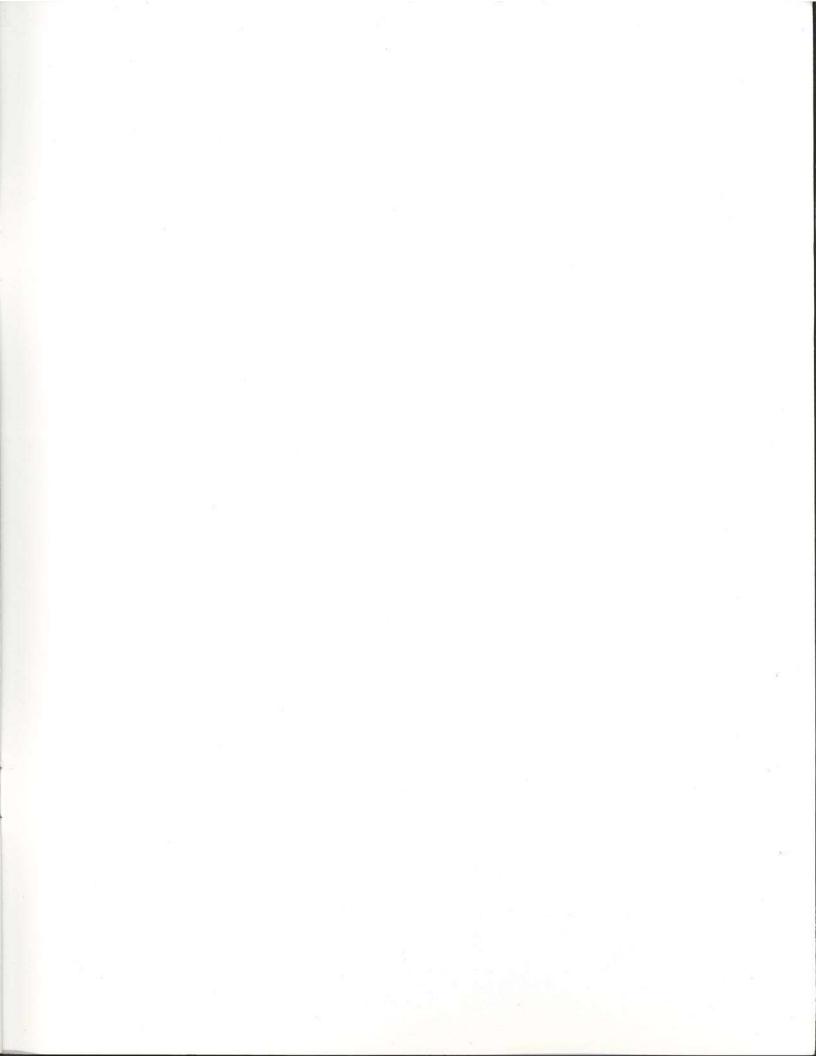


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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My second year as President has allowed me to continue to work hard to address the many issues of concern to Inuit women. Although the responsibilities of my position require long hours and much travel, I find it very gratifying to be working towards improving the lives of Inuit women and their children throughout the country.

A particular high point for me this past year was the re-election of myself and the entire Executive of our Board. We have all worked together very hard and there is a good working relationship between us. It was gratifying to receive that vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting. As in every year, there were times when we encountered substantial challenges that were quite daunting. With the support and determination of our Executive members and our Board, we were able to move forward with our agenda and provided solid accomplishments on a number of issues. I look forward to working with the Executive and the Board for the next few years.

I would also like to thank our staff. It is sometimes too easy for people outside the organization to give all the credit for an organization's success to the leaders. While our Executive and Board members have all worked extremely hard, I am confident that they would support me in congratulating our staff for their dedication and undefeatable spirit.

We have been working on a great number of issues this year and I would like to provide a quick summary of a few of them here. One of the greatest challenges currently facing Pauktuutit and its ability to adequately represent Inuit women is the fact that Pauktuutit is



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not recognized by the federal government as a national organization. This lack of recognition greatly limits our participation in providing input into government programs and policies that affect Inuit women and their families. While we have pursued legal avenues to force the government to recognize Pauktuutit as a national organization, there has been pressure placed upon us to drop this case and not disturb the status quo. Our relationship with the national Inuit organization, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, has been strained because of this. However, I believe we must continue our action as it is in the best interest of Inuit women and their families that their voices be heard.

Pauktuutit has also been very busy in the area of health and social issues. We have continued our well-recognized work in the area of HIV/AIDS, family violence, smoking cessation and child sexual abuse. We have initiatives and proposals that have been submitted in each of these areas to ensure Inuit women continue to receive the programs and supports that will effectively address real needs in their families and communities.

The last year also saw the conclusion of two very successful programs, the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative and the clothing project. While both projects saw their funding conclude at the end of the fiscal year, Inuit women can be assured that both projects addressed key areas of need that they had identified: establishing child care centres in each Inuit community and the provision of training to enable Inuit women to gain greater participation in the economic development of their regions.

One particularly important issue that Pauktuutit has been very active on is that of protecting the collective intellectual property rights of Inuit women. Time and



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again Inuit women have told us that they are concerned about the loss of control they have experienced over traditional designs in clothing and arts and crafts. This is a complex issue but it is one in which Pauktuutit has quickly developed a growing expertise in. I feel that we have succeeded in bringing this important issue to the forefront of the attention of the public. We must work hard to keep it there and capitalize on our "15 minutes of fame" to move our agenda forward in this area. I am optimistic that we can continue to pressure the federal government to recognize the importance of this issue and to fund our strategy to more effectively meet the objectives of Inuit women in this regard.

The challenges we face are many. Locating and accessing adequate funding for our projects is getting more difficult and threatens to limit our ability to move forward as quickly as we would like. However, I am confident that we have the right team of Executive and Board members and staff to tackle any challenge that faces us. Our path will not be easy but we will continue to make progress in improving the lives of Inuit women, families and communities across the north.

Veronica Dewar, President

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# PAUKTUUTIT'S AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Pauktuutit is the national association that represents all Inuit women in Canada through the perspective of women and their traditional roles in community development and in caring for the well-being of their families. Our mandate is to foster a greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women and to encourage their participation in community, regional and national concerns in relation to social, cultural and economic development.

The Aims and Objectives of Pauktuutit are:

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



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- 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
- To encourage communication between Inuit women and all aboriginal peoples.

Since our incorporation in 1984, we have addressed many of the serious social issues that affect our communities. We have undertaken comprehensive projects on family violence, child sexual abuse, housing, traditional Inuit midwifery and birthing practices, tobacco cessation, economic development and are active in a wide range of health issues.



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# 1998/99 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **Executive Committee**

Veronica Dewar - President, Ottawa, Ontario Monica Ell - Vice-President, Iqaluit, Nunavut Donna Kisoun - Secretary/Treasurer, Inuvik, NWT

### **Regional Directors**

Wilma Pigalak - Kitikmeot
Mary Matoo - Kivalliq
Enooya Enook - North Baffin
Geela Maniapik - South Baffin
Minnie Etidlui - Ungava (Nunavik)
Lizzie Nowrakudluk - Hudson (Nunavik)
Silpa Edmunds - Labrador
Ester McLeod - Western Arctic

### REPORT ON ISSUES

During the past year, the Board and staff of Pauktuutit have worked very hard to ensure that the needs and aspirations of Inuit women were met. Although the tasks required substantial amounts of effort and dedication, a wide number of activities were undertaken and many successes achieved.

### **Tobacco Use Reduction Project**

The initial phases of the *Aniqsaattiamiq—Breathing Easy*, Pauktuutit's tobacco use reduction project, originally began in 1994. A variety of activities took place, primarily in the areas of public education including the production and distribution of resource materials for use in schools, health centres and other interested organizations. Before embarking on the third stage of the project, Health Canada had asked that an evalua-



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tion be conducted on the impact of Phases 1 and 2. This evaluation was completed by the end of March, 1999, and clearly indicated both the success of the first phases, and the need for continued training for health workers to deliver tobacco cessation programs. Additional funding will be sought to undertake Phase 3, which will implement the recommendations of the evaluation.

### Family Violence

The issue of family violence and violence against women continues to be a priority issue for our constituency. As indicated in the report on the 1998/99 Annual General Meeting, the lack of sufficient and appropriate resources in the communities is a significant barrier to dealing with the various underlying causes of this critical issue. Over the past year, the family violence project has been focusing upon the development of two proposals: the development of an Inuit-specific counseling pilot project to help abusive men to heal and to provide the necessary supports to both victims and children who witness family violence; and, a project to develop an inventory of Inuit-specific child sexual abuse programs and services across the Arctic that will be distributed to all Inuit communities to assist with the development and implementation of urgently needed services for abused children. As well, there are efforts being undertaken to publish two documents of particular relevance to Inuit women. The first booklet, "Abuse is Wrong in Any Culture," explains how powerful the impact of abuse is and assists women to understand that they have the right to safety in their homes. The second booklet is a "Safety Plan", intended to provide advice on what preparations women and children should make in anticipation of leaving a violent home situation. Pauktuutit feels that these



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initiatives continue to provide important resources for Inuit women and their families who are experiencing family violence.

### **HIV/AIDS Project**

The HIV/AIDS project has been guided by a Steering Committee comprised of health representatives from the six regions. The Committee has been very helpful and has worked hard to move the project forward. This year, a total of six booklets will be produced on various aspects of HIV/AIDS, focused on the unique needs of Inuit and their communities. Some of this information was presented at the AGM in Rankin Inlet. Health Canada is very interested in this issue and supportive of Pauktuutit, and will be providing funds for future projects as well. Specialized training is needed for health care workers and an Inuit HIV/AIDS Network needs to be developed. It is anticipated that the next phase of the project will focus upon addressing these specific needs.

# Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS and FAE)

In regards to the FAS and FAE project, there are two projects that have had proposals in various stages of development. Details of a pre-natal project are being developed, and a proposal for a FAS/FAE video project has been submitted. The video will be in various languages to make the resource more accessible to Inuit.

### Community Economic Development

Pauktuutit had received funding from the Human Resources Development Canada Aboriginal Strategic Initiatives Program to undertake a project related to economic development and traditional and contemporary



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Inuit clothing. Entitled *The Road to Independence*, the project provided Inuit women with the opportunity to develop and enhance their skills in the area of clothing production and marketing. Despite a late start, Eva Adams, Pauktuutit's project leader on this project, worked hard to ensure the objectives of the project were met. Funding for the project ended at the end of March 1999. Pauktuutit believes the project was a success and will continue to seek out opportunities to promote the participation of Inuit women in economic development activities.





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#### Child Care Initiative

Pauktuutit staff continued to work towards establishing child care centres in each Inuit community. The success to date has been significant with the vast majority of communities either having established child care centres or being in the process of developing one. The national First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative was launched by the federal government three years ago. An Inuit Working Group provided input into the development of guidelines for the Inuit component of the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative. Pauktuutit staff have focused upon the development of a variety of resources to provide support and information to Inuit day care centres. As well, a catalogue is being prepared to promote Inuit women who produce traditional items for children. In order to ensure Inuit culture is preserved and promoted, resources are being developed on traditional Inuit child rearing practices.

# Gathering Strength - Response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

Early in 1998, the federal government formally responded to the findings of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP). One of the highlights of the government's response was the announcement that a \$350 million healing fund would be administered by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) to help address the legacy of residential school abuse. Pauktuutit was disappointed that the government did not seek to consult with the organization, despite wide-spread recognition of its expertise in the area of abuse, family violence and healing. Despite its best efforts during the past year, Pauktuutit has been frustrated in ensuring that the needs of Inuit women are heard by the AHF. The program continues to be hindered by inadequate communication about the



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program and difficult access to the funds available. Although there is a significant amount of funding available, and the AHF has been accepting proposals for funding for a reasonable amount of time, the number of Inuit-related projects approved has been disappointing. Pauktuutit hopes to be able to work more closely with the AHF in the future to better ensure the interests of Inuit women are addressed.

# REPORT ON THE 15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Pauktuutit's 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held March 15-19, 1999, in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The AGM enables Pauktuutit to bring together representatives from all six Inuit regions to discuss issues of concern and to seek their direction as to Pauktuutit's activities for the coming year. A highlight for the AGM was the election of all three Executive positions for the organization, which had undergone some personnel changes over the past year. A special note of congratulations was made to the delegation from Labrador on the signing of an Agreement-in-Principle on their land claim. This marks the fourth and final Inuit land claim agreement and will be the successful end of a long, arduous journey for Inuit.

As has become the case with Pauktuutit's AGMs, the delegates discussed a wide range of issues of interest to Inuit women. In particular, delegates were brought up to date concerning several changes that had occurred within Pauktuutit including the departure of Mary Sillett, Executive Director and former President of Pauktuutit. As well, the delegates discussed a number of important policy issues and provided their input into how several of these issues were to be addressed. Staff provided reviews of their projects (please see Report on



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Issues) and encouraged delegates to ask questions and pick up copies of reports and resources produced as part of the projects. A review of the activities related to resolutions passed at the previous AGM was also provided.

One of the key issues discussed was the relationship between Pauktuutit and Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the national organization representing Canada's Inuit. The relationship with ITC had become strained over the past year due to a federal court challenge launched by Pauktuutit against the federal government for their failure to formally recognize and consult directly with Inuit women, and the unwillingness of ITC to support Pauktuutit on a variety of issues. Pauktuutit felt that Inuit women had not been fairly consulted concerning important training agreements signed between the federal government, ITC and regional Inuit organizations. President Veronica Dewar stated that she had attended an ITC Board meeting in February, 1999, and the tone of the meeting gave her reason to believe that the relationship between the two organizations was improving.

Delegates discussed the issue and confirmed their continued support for Pauktuutit to pursue a strategy that would pressure the federal government to recognize it as a legitimate sixth national aboriginal organization. This would enable Inuit women to be consulted on the development of government policies and programs and ensure that their needs would be met. A resolution was passed supporting this position.

The financial position of the organization continued to improve despite successive consecutive years of funding cutbacks. Pauktuutit was currently operating in a modest surplus position and all projects were within budget. The Financial Committee had made amendments



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to the policies and procedures to ensure a more sound financial management structure was in place. Although obtaining funding for projects continues to be difficult, the organization was in good financial health.

To provide delegates with the opportunity to learn more about specific issues and to provide them with an opportunity to express their ideas and concerns, several workshops were held throughout the AGM. From the funders' and project managers' perspectives, the workshops provide unique opportunities to consult with Inuit women from across the Inuit regions on a wide number of issues. The results of these workshops help to direct the development of future projects and activities for both Pauktuutit and government stakeholders.

Pauktuutit's Health Coordinator, Roda Grey, facilitated an HIV/AIDS workshop. Delegates learned how the virus was transmitted, how both people and communities were affected and what preventative measures could be taken to reduce infection rates. Of particular interest were issues surrounding the virus and women.

Delegates were also asked to provide some feedback on HIV/AIDS resource materials produced by Pauktuutit and to discuss issues of concern about HIV/AIDS.

An economic development workshop was also undertaken. It focused on what was involved in setting up a small business and was developed in response to the interest many Inuit women had indicated in starting their own businesses. Delegates listened with great interest to the experiences of Cathy Towtungie, an Inuk businesswoman who had developed her own successful business in Rankin Inlet. A variety of presenters added an interesting and varied element to the workshop. The delegates urged Pauktuutit to continue to deliver such workshops and to continue to address the economic



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development needs of Inuit women. The Nunavut
Community Economic Development Officers were also
holding a meeting in Rankin Inlet during the
Pauktuutit AGM. Monica Ell and Donna Kisoun made a
presentation to the Nunavut CEDOs, and provided
advice on how they may work better with Inuit women
in their communities. Pauktuutit also took advantage
of the opportunity to express their willingness to
work with them to assist them in fulfilling their
responsibilities.

A child care workshop was facilitated by Carol Rowan, a consultant overseeing Pauktuutit's child care project. She informed the meeting that an Inuit Working Group had provided input into the development of guidelines for the Inuit component of the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative. Since then, a variety of resources have been produced to provide support and information to Inuit and child care centres that are now becoming available in every Inuit community. They are also developing a catalogue on Inuit women who produce traditional items for children as well as other resources on traditional Inuit child rearing. Delegates then broke into discussion groups to discuss regional and community concerns related to child care.

The issue of child sexual abuse was the subject of another intense workshop. The AGM heard of the various initiatives that had been undertaken at the community and regional level to address child sexual abuse. A presentation was made by Becky Kudloo on the *Mianiqsijit* counseling project in Baker Lake, which has been in operation for 10 years. The centre established the first treatment plan for abusers in the NWT and provided counseling and support services for the victims and the community. As well, the *Mianiqsijit* program received children who were referred by Health





Eric Loring

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and Social Services in the NWT. Staff would then do an assessment of the child and make the necessary referrals. Counselling and support services were also offered to both victims and abusers. Elizabeth Roberts discussed the Community Working Group project in Resolute Bay, that was started in 1993 to deal with child sexual abuse in that community. The group worked with the community to identify priorities and develop solutions to the problem. Delegates broke into discussion groups to identify community and regional concerns, that led to the development of priorities for an action plan to address child sexual abuse in the communities.



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### **Special Guests**

At every AGM, a variety of special guests are invited to address the delegates. This provides a unique opportunity for the delegates to hear directly from Inuit leaders, politicians and government officials concerning policies, programs and events that affect their everyday lives. In turn, special guests have the opportunity to get their message out to the people and to find out their opinions on issues. As in past years, Pauktuutit was pleased by the degree of interest shown by special quests when asked to make presentations to the AGM.

Okalik Eegeesiak, President of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC), attended several days of the AGM and made a presentation to the delegates. She reviewed the ITC Board structure, the mandate of the organization and some of the other changes that had occurred in the organization since she had been President. In regard to the issue of the Court Challenge, Okalik stated that ITC had attempted to resolve the issue with Pauktuutit, and that she felt that Inuit organizations should work together for the benefit of all Inuit.

Jose Kusugak, President of Nunavut Tunngavik
Incorporated (NTI), also made a presentation to the
AGM during the economic development workshop. He
described some of the economic development activities
that NTI had been involved in and added that Inuit
women have traditionally made an equal contribution
to the well-being of their families. He stated that NTI
should continue to support Pauktuutit and Inuit
women as they become more involved in economic
development activities.

Raymond Ningeocheak, Second Vice-President of NTI, reported to the delegates concerning recent changes to NTI's Harvester Support Program. The program provides capital equipment to Nunavut harvesters to enable



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them to continue to harvest wildlife. He announced that a significant sum of money had been set aside specifically for utilization by Inuit women. Some of the delegates raised specific questions concerning the difficulty some women have had obtaining assistance from the program, and Raymond thanked the AGM for the opportunity to address them.

#### **Elections**

Throughout the AGM, the floor was opened for nominations for the Executive Committee positions of the Pauktuutit Board of Directors. After the final nominations were made, the nominees addressed the delegates as to why they felt they would be the best person for the position. After the speeches were completed, delegates were asked to vote for their new Executive members. All incumbent members were re-elected and promised to continue the hard work required to move the agenda of Inuit women forward.

# REGIONAL REPORTS

Kitikmeot regional concerns included the need for a shelter for abused women in Pelly Bay and Kugluktuk, parenting skills workshops in Cambridge Bay and Taloyoak and a regional FAS/FAE workshop. People in the region also felt that there were too many teenage pregnancies and that steps should be taken to address this situation.

Inuvialuit representatives stated that the region needed more workshops on family violence, traditional skills, HIV/AIDS, and child sexual abuse. Improving communications between elders and youth, possibly with the assistance of a workshop, was identified as a priority. Some people felt that some attention was





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needed concerning the high cancer rates in Sachs Harbour which may be connected to the water supply.

Baffin identified the need to make Inuit leaders more responsive to the needs of their constituents. Pauktuutit should also do more to communicate with communities. Board members need to inform their regions about the Annual General Meetings. More workshops were needed concerning social services and assistance for pregnant women. Additional shelters are needed in the region for abused women and training is



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required for the workers as well. Healing was another area of need particularly in relation to elders and suicide victims. Communications between health care workers, counselling professionals and the communities need to be improved as well.

In Nunavik, the primary concerns were: the need for help in some communities in forming committees to work on women's issues; a need for more information concerning Pauktuutit and its work; and more support



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was required for elders, abused children, substance abusers, and single parents.

Kivalliq concerns included: the need for more resources concerning sexual and substance abuse; the need for healing centres in the region with programs that would help abusive men deal with their problems; and regional Inuit organizations should invite Pauktuutit Board members to their meetings to inform them about issues of concern to Inuit women.

One of Labrador's primary concerns focused upon the need for nursing stations to treat their patients better in part by increasing the number of translators available. A more focused effort was needed to increase the teaching of Inuktitut in schools and for hiring Inuktitut speakers in the work place. Housing was also a concern in that unemployed people were discriminated against when they tried to access housing and that too many non-Inuit were living in housing that Inuit should have access to. Permanent RCMP postings are needed in Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet. The Labrador representatives would also like to see more help available for craft production, treatment for abusive men and a home for handicapped children.



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### 4DC5d56 99-01 -

### 4DC5d56 99-02 -

### 1999 RESOLUTIONS

### Resolution 99-01 -

resolves that Pauktuutit seek legal redress for its exclusion from national consultations and funding from the federal government. It further resolves that Pauktuutit bring a gender-based discrimination case against the Government of Canada for excluding Inuit women through their representative organization in its consultation process with Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

#### Resolution 99-02 -

calls for the reaffirmation of Pauktuutit's mandate and revises it to include working to improve the health and well-being of all Inuit in Canada.

#### Resolution 99-03 -

urges governments to continue to provide funding to Pauktuutit to enable it to further its development of important resources to enable Inuit to become more aware of HIV/AIDS. The resolution also calls for funding to be provided to Pauktuutit for the establishment of a national Inuit HIV/AIDS network.

#### Resolution 99-04 -

resolves that governments provide adequate and longterm funding to enable Inuit communities to address child sexual abuse. Funding should also be provided for the convening of a national conference and Pauktuutit research initiatives devoted to the identification of Inuit-specific responses to child sexual abuse.

#### Resolution 99-05 -

requests that the federal government recognize the expertise resident in the Inuit Child Care Working Group and acknowledge the Working Group as an advisory



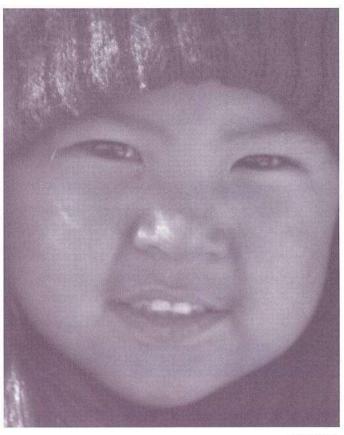
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#### 4DC-5d5-56 99-05 -

### 4DC5d556 99-06 -



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body responsible for guiding and advising on all aspects related to policy and program development for Inuit children's services in Canada.

#### Resolution 99-06 -

encourages the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to work with Pauktuutit to meet the current and emerging needs of Inuit women in regards to their efforts to deal with the legacy of the many abuses suffered by Inuit in residential schools.

#### Resolution 99-07 -

directs the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to fund Pauktuutit initiatives in the areas of developing healing tools and regional workshops to facilitate the design of these healing tools.



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### 4DC-6956 99-08 -

### 4DC-5d556 99-09 -

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#### 4DC-5d556 99-10 -

#### Resolution 99-08 -

resolves that the federal government recognize and treat adequate and affordable housing as a fundamental right for all Inuit in Canada and continue to meets its fiduciary responsibility to provide adequate and appropriate housing for Inuit.

### Resolution 99-09 -

requests that governments and Community Economic Development Organizations work in partnership with Pauktuutit to identify and address both women's informational needs and women's priorities concerning economic development.

#### Resolution 99-10 -

instructs Pauktuutit to take action to assess and address the literacy needs of Inuit women.



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95/95/96-90PC	\$116,658	\$46,359	\$163,017	\$104,500

# FINANCIAL REPORT

ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1999

Activities	Core Operations	Special Projects	Total 1999	Total 1998
Revenues	\$352,795	\$3,969,724	\$4,322,519	\$4,373,553
Expenses	\$236,137	\$3,923,365	\$4,159,502	\$4,269,053
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$116,658	\$46,359	\$163,017	\$104,500



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Canadian Heritage
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
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First Air
Environment Canada
Kakivak Association
Kativik Regional Government
National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

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