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**PAUKTUUITIT INUIT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000**

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ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000**









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1999-2000

PAUKTUUTIT INUIT  
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1999-2000

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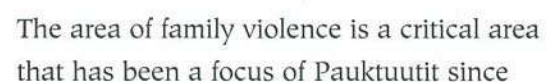
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we look back over the past year, it seems timely to consider the progress Inuit women have made in their efforts to improve the lives of their families and the general well-being of the communities in which they live. Perhaps the most significant progress Inuit women have made has been that they now have a stronger voice that is heard at all levels of government. Having their voice heard is critical to ensure policies and programs reflect the needs and priorities of Inuit women. While Pauktuutit has played an important role in ensuring the interests and concerns of Inuit women are heard at the national level, numerous women's groups and individuals have made notable contributions in making these concerns heard at the provincial, territorial, regional and local levels. Working together toward the same common goal has moved the agenda of Inuit women forward. Challenges remain, but the experience of the past twenty years has shown that the momentum is strongly in our favour.

Pauktuutit remains the sole organization that ensures that the specific interests and concerns of all Inuit women are heard and acted upon. This continues to be the defining role of Pauktuutit and I am proud to say we have achieved some considerable successes with respect to this mandate. Among the ongoing successes of the organization has been the continuation of Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS project. Along with completing additional HIV/AIDS











As we look back over the past year, it has been a satisfying one. We have made progress on a number of challenging areas and continued to provide much needed support and resources to our constituents. I have been fortunate enough to travel across the country meeting people and pressing the case for Inuit women. Although the pace of my work is quite hectic at times, I always look forward to meeting Inuit women from across Canada to discuss their issues and concerns. Although it has become increasingly difficult to secure funds for our many projects, I am proud of the successes Pauktuutit's staff has achieved over the past year. I may be the President, but the success of the organization lies, in no small part, to the efforts of my staff and my fellow Executive and Board members. As you will read in the following report, we have all been working very hard and have continued to serve the interests of Inuit women at the national level.



Veronica M. Weaver

Veronica Dewar, President  
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## PAUKTUUTIT'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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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.

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The Aims and Objectives of Pauktuutit are:

- [illegible]

- 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;
- 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;



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PAUKTUUTIT  
Inuit Women's Association

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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.



## Executive Committee / ልዩ ልዩ ኮሚቴ



**Veronica Dewar**  
President  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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**Monica Ell**  
Vice-President  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
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**Donna Kisoun**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Inuvik, NWT  
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## Regional Directors / ልጭረኞች ክልሎች



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Labrador Region  
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Ungava Coast  
(Nunavik) Region  
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Lizzie Nowrakudluk  
Hudson Coast  
(Nunavik) Region  
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Geela Maniapik  
South Qikiqtaaluk  
(Baffin) Region  
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Enooya Enook,  
(deceased)  
North Qikiqtaaluk  
(Baffin) Region  
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Wilma Pigalak  
Kitikmeot Region  
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Mary Matoo  
Kivalliq Region  
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Esther McLeod  
Ualiniq (Western  
Arctic) Region  
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## REPORT ON ISSUES

## FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT

Pauktuutit remains strongly committed to addressing the issue of family violence in Inuit communities. Since its inception, the organization has assumed a leading role in undertaking research and developing resource materials to help communities and families deal with this problem. Pauktuutit has also continued to lobby vigorously to ensure that the needs of Inuit women are heard and met.

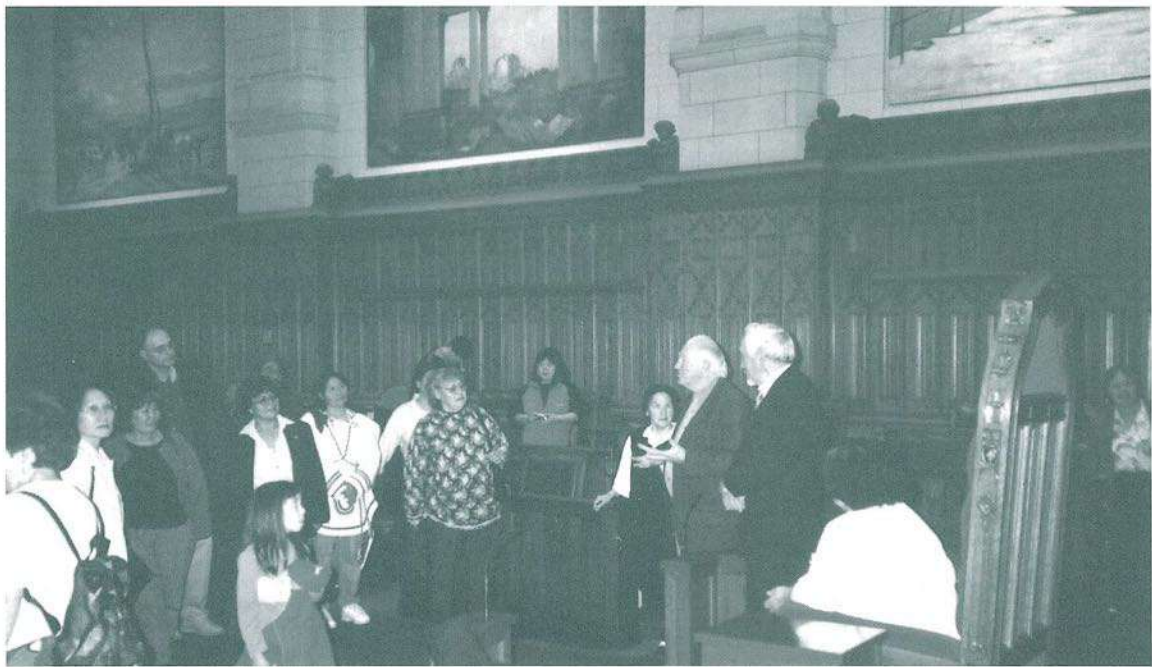
Within the past year, Pauktuutit has completed and submitted a proposal for a pilot counseling program for male abusers in Rankin Inlet. After consultation with local agencies and the Nunavut Government, Pauktuutit decided to withdraw its proposal and support a similar proposal from a local agency. This proposal has now been submitted for approval.

As directed by a resolution passed at Pauktuutit's last AGM, efforts have been made to develop an inventory of services for Inuit survivors of child sexual abuse. Once completed, the results of the project are to be shared with all communities to increase awareness and encourage the development of Inuit-specific services. Pauktuutit is optimistic that the project will begin in the spring of 2001 with funding provided by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.



Pauktuutit has undertaken a number of projects over the years to help Inuit women preserve and promote sewing skills and the production of clothing. These projects have included encouraging women to develop potential economic opportunities based upon their sewing and clothing-making

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1999-2000 AGM Delegates with  
Senators Rompkey and Adams



This project began in 1994 with Pauktuutit undertaking research and consultation on how Inuit wanted to address the issue of tobacco use in their communities. Inuit smoking rates are among the highest in Canada and there is considerable concern in the communities about the high rate of smoking among children, the dangers of second-hand smoke, rising cancer rates and their impact on health care services and funding.

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To address the need for more information about the effects of tobacco use, methods of quitting and ideas for community awareness activities, Pauktuutit developed a series of resource materials. Resource kits were sent to community health centres and schools in 1997. Following this, a project evaluation identified that recipients of the resource kits wanted training on how to use the materials.

In response to these identified training needs, Pauktuutit prepared a five-day training workshop that involved eighteen participants from across the north. Held in Inuvik, the workshop assisted participants to familiarize themselves with the materials in the kits, practice some of the prescribed activities and generally share their ideas and experiences. Overall, the training workshop was a success and received substantial media coverage. Additional training is planned for 2000-2001 for various locations throughout Nunavut and Labrador.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROJECT

Over the past year, Pauktuutit' Substance Abuse Coordinator has continued to be an active participant in the National Steering Committee for the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects. Steering Committee members toured the country to consult with communities and get their feedback on the two programs. The priorities identified in the community consultation



The Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network

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## HIV/AIDS PROJECT

Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS project continued to achieve great success in providing Inuit communities with clear, effective and appropriate information on HIV/AIDS. This past year saw the publishing and distribution of six HIV/AIDS booklets, in two dialects of Inuktitut and English, to all Inuit communities. A seventh booklet, a guide for Inuit living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers, is currently available only in English.

Future elements of the project will include the production of three additional booklets. The first booklet will provide specific information for Inuit men concerning the transmission of HIV/AIDS. The second booklet will present issues of importance to Inuit youth and will be produced in partnership with the National Inuit Youth Council. The final booklet will address Inuit children and "blood-sharing" activities. These additional resources will provide an important complement to the existing HIV/AIDS resources Pauktuutit has developed and equips Inuit communities with another key tool in their HIV/AIDS prevention toolbox.

Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS project was instrumental in establishing the Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network.



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The Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network



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The goal of the Network is to coordinate and share information skills and expertise about HIV/AIDS among Inuit. Pauktuutit staff, in cooperation with the Network, worked hard to get Inuit communities involved in the National AIDS Walk.

Education is a key objective of Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS activities. Beyond producing the educational resources described above, Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS Coordinator also provided two five-day training workshops with forty-two Inuit community members participating. Participants learned how to teach HIV/AIDS education in their own communities and have become important resources in the battle against the disease. Due to the popularity of these training workshops, further workshops will be provided to other communities including Puvirnirtuq in the near future.

An additional success of the program has been the provision of a clear and unified Inuit voice on HIV/AIDS issues. Today, Inuit are now represented on nearly every national committee addressing HIV/AIDS. While much work remains to be done, Inuit are continuing to take bold strides in addressing this priority health issue.

## FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AND FETAL ALCOHOL EFFECTS

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS/FAE) continue to exact a terrible toll upon Inuit communities. Pauktuutit has long identified this as a



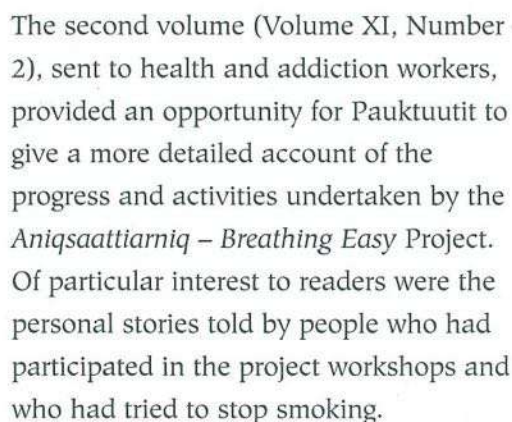
The video will target youth between the ages of 13-18, but will be of interest to Inuit of all ages. The goal of the video is to reduce the number of children born with FAS/FAE by clearly illustrating that FAS/FAE is 100% preventable.



SUVAGUUQ

This past year marked the return of *Suvaguuq*, Pauktuutit's National Newsletter on Inuit Social and Cultural Issues. With three issues being published throughout the year in both Inuktitut and English, Inuit women and other interested parties were able to follow some of the activities of Pauktuutit as well as keep up to date on a number of topics of interest. The first and third issues were sent via Post Canada's Ad Mail system to household mailboxes in each community.

The first issue (Volume XI, Number 1) provided an overview of the activities Pauktuutit has been involved in including the *Aniqsaattiarniq – Breathing Easy* Project, and the HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse projects. Project activities were described as well as the resource materials that are available.



The third issue (Volume XI, Number 3) was funded by Canadian Heritage and included a report from the President, Veronica Dewar. Included in the issue was

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an account of the Nunavut Women's Conference held in Rankin Inlet in March 1999, and a report on the 1999 Pauktuutit AGM. An update on the *Amauti* project and the issue of intellectual property rights was also included.



## REPORT ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Pauktuutit's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Ottawa in October 2000. The AGM plays a critical role for the organization as it provides the opportunity to bring together Inuit women from across the Canadian Arctic to bring their issues of concern to the national table. Most importantly, the meeting enables delegates to provide direction to Pauktuutit for the coming year. One of the highlights of this year's AGM was the election of a new Board of Directors. While some new faces were added to the Board, they join a number of established members, providing a good mixture of perspectives and experience. The new Board will oversee an important time of reorganization and evolution for the organization as it continues to work diligently for the promotion and recognition of the rights of Inuit women.

Delegates to Pauktuutit's AGM bring with them a wealth of experience and a breadth of knowledge of issues concerning Inuit women. Pauktuutit's Board and staff strive to bring the delegates up to date with the many activities Pauktuutit has been involved in. They also provide insight into how the organization has dealt with internal operations including financing, staffing and project management over the past year. A review of progress in relation to the Resolutions passed at the prior AGM is also a regular item on the crowded agenda. Whatever the topic of discussion, delegates never fail to provide insight and

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The AGM provides a unique opportunity for Inuit women to explore specific issues of concern to them in detail. Funding agencies often view these meetings as the perfect milieu in which to consult with Inuit women from across the north, to provide feedback and to gain direction that can impact future program and policy development.

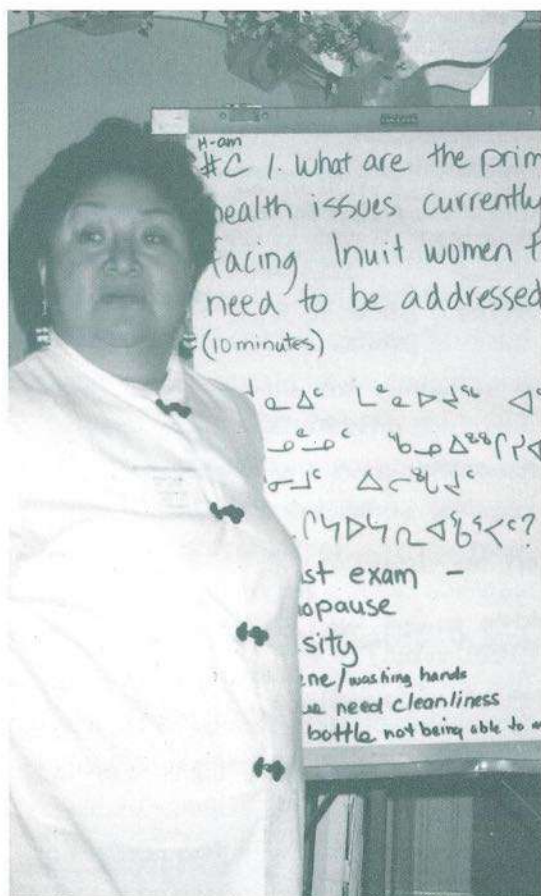
Since Pauktuutit's inception, violence has been identified as a major issue and the organization has received wide recognition for its excellent work in the areas of child sexual abuse, domestic violence against women, residential schools, and community policing issues. A primary topic of discussion was the need to help Inuit men deal with their problems before, during and after incarceration for violent crimes. Presentations were provided by a number of women who were involved in various



aspects of programs dealing with violence against women. The delegates broke into discussion groups to explore the causes of violence and to define the features of an effective treatment program for men. They also discussed how to provide better support for victims of violence and details concerning the mandate and potential structure of a National Inuit Coordinating Committee on Violence.

A milestone was reached at this AGM with the convening of the first Inuit Women's Health Issues Workshop. The objective of the workshop was "to assist in restoring ownership and control of Inuit women's health to Inuit women". There was some general discussion of issues concerning the health of Inuit women and a review of the Inuit Health Forum held in 2000. Delegates identified the primary health issues facing Inuit women as well as the services currently available in their home communities and regions. The need for new services was a major topic of interest as were the obstacles Inuit women face in taking greater control over their health. Training issues related to facilitating change were identified and there was discussion of the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge into modern medical practices to better meet the health needs of Inuit women.

At the last AGM, a resolution was passed recommending work be undertaken in the area of literacy. Improving literacy skills was widely identified as an important issue for Inuit women, especially necessary to





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gain control over factors that affect them and their families. In response, Pauktuutit staff developed a proposal that received the necessary funding to hold a literacy workshop. Kim Crockatt and Kayla Chenier from the Nunavut Literacy Council, and Sarah Thomas from Frontier College facilitated the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss literacy and how it impacts peoples' lives and, to identify ways in which literacy programming could be best developed to meet the needs of Inuit women. Participants broke into regional groups to review a chart and complete an exercise. The detailed results are contained in a separate report on the workshop.

### Special Guests

A highlight of every AGM has been the number of special guests that take the time from their busy schedules to address the delegates. These guests come from a wide variety of backgrounds and include business people, politicians, government representatives, and leaders and staff from Inuit organizations. This year was no exception and the delegates were pleased to hear from three distinguished guests.

*Jose Kusugak, President of ITC* was the first special guest to make a presentation. He thanked the delegates for the opportunity to meet with them. He congratulated the organization for doing a commendable job in representing Inuit women's needs and felt that it deserved more recognition for a



*Tungavik Inc.* (NTI) noted that since the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement had been signed, Nunavut has had to face a number of serious issues. He felt that it was now time for Nunavut to deal with social issues. Paul described how NTI looked at ways to provide better social services to the various communities. He stressed the importance of Inuit working together to attack the many issues facing them today. As well, he noted that Pauktuutit's voice is being heard in regards to these issues and that he fully supported Pauktuutit in its activities.

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## Elections

This year was an election year for Board members. Regional Board members are elected to two-year term positions by AGM participants from their respective regions. Nominees do not need to be present at the AGM, as delegates can vote for anyone from their region, present or not. The results of this year's election were:

- Labrador  
Sharon Edmunds
- Ungava Coast (Nunavik)  
Minnie Etidlui (returning)
- Hudson Coast (Nunavik)  
Lizzie Nowrakudluk (returning)
- Kivalliq  
Mary Matoo (returning)
- Kitikmeot  
Navalik (Helen) Tologanak
- Uialiniq (Western Arctic)  
Ester MacLeod (returning)
- South Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin)  
Qanaq Mikigak
- North Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin)  
Sabrina Komangapik

## Regional Reports

Regional Reports provide a unique opportunity for Inuit women from each region to get together to identify issues of importance to them and to bring these to the attention of the larger membership.

## Labrador

The main concern identified by the Labrador delegation was that Inuit Associations need to be more responsible



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to their constituency and to respond more effectively to the needs of the communities. The need for community policing, available in every community, was also identified.

## Nunavik

The following concerns were noted: more women's shelters and meeting centres are needed; Board members need to be better informed of Pauktuutit by-laws and need to share information with the communities; and sub-committees are needed to distribute information to the communities.

## North and South Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin)

Regional delegates felt that there is a need to improve relations and communications between communities. There are concerns at the community level about representation and the accountability of the board members. There was also a suggestion to establish a base for selling arts/crafts in Ottawa. Communities need more youth, women and elders groups and more Inuktitut programs taught at the high school level.

In regards to health issues, the major issues identified were: the need for more interpreters in hospitals; the need for community-based birthing services and a change in policy so that pregnant women should only be required to go to regional hospitals if they are having difficulty; and the need for guidelines or policies regarding escorts which focus on the needs of elders and the very sick.

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## Kivallig

Kivalliq regional concerns included: the need for improved communications; the need to rotate Executive Committee member positions more regularly and a recommendation that each region should have the same number of representatives at the AGM. Health related issues were also a focus of concern including: the high turnover rate of nurses; a lack of annual physical check-ups being provided; a need for more medical equipment in the region; and too many misdiagnoses are occurring.

## Kitikmeot

The delegates felt that they share some problems with other regions including a serious shortage of nurses and women's shelters in their region. There was a that there should be a standard rate of pay for shelter workers. Substance abuse problems need to be better addressed. In regards to family violence, men need to start their own groups to help them deal with their issues in this area. The response time by the RCMP to calls for assistance in cases involving domestic violence needs to improve. As well, more action is needed to effectively address the illegal drug trade.

### Ualiniq (Western Arctic)

The following concerns were noted: programs such as daycare need to reflect Inuvialuit culture more; traditional skills are not being passed on to the younger generation; and there are too many non-Inuit learning Inuit sewing patterns and skills. People were also concerned about the impact increased activity in the oil/gas



sector is having on social problems in the region. Inuit midwifery skills need to be acknowledged by the medical community as important and an acceptable response to the needs of pregnant women.

## 1999-2000 RESOLUTIONS

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**2000-01 – Tobacco Use Reduction** - resolves that Pauktuutit call upon all public health and law enforcement officials to implement existing legislation prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors. As well, hamlets should be encouraged to pass by-laws prohibiting the smoking of tobacco products by children and youth in public places and to ensure public receptacles that collect cigarette butts are made secure and tamper-proof. As well, Pauktuutit should seek funding for continuing and expanding its public prevention education activities to encourage tobacco use reduction, particularly those efforts directed at Inuit children and youth

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**2000-02 – Inuit Intellectual Property Rights** – calls upon the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada to recognize and support the leadership shown by Pauktuutit in addressing the cultural, traditional and intellectual property rights concerns of Inuit. The resolution further resolves that ITC withdraws its resolution asserting its independent role in this policy area from its deliberations at the next meeting of the Board of Directors and that ITC be encouraged to continue to work collaboratively and in a mutually supportive manner with Pauktuutit on



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2000-02 - Inuit Intellectual Property

**Rights** – calls upon the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada to recognize and support the leadership shown by Pauktuutit in addressing the cultural, traditional and intellectual property rights concerns of Inuit. The resolution further resolves that ITC withdraws its resolution asserting its independent role in this policy area from its deliberations at the next meeting of the Board of Directors and that ITC be encouraged to continue to work collaboratively and in a mutually supportive manner with Pauktuutit on

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matters related to the protection of Inuit cultural, traditional and intellectual property. Pauktuutit should convene a meeting between ITC, the regions and all other relevant Inuit experts and stakeholders at the earliest opportunity to develop a coordinated national and regional strategy to advance this issue.

**2000-03 – Inuit Women’s Health –**  
directs Pauktuutit to compile and assess the information gathered at the national consultation workshop on Inuit women’s health issues held at its 1999/2000 AGM. It resolves that Pauktuutit develop projects based on the needs and priorities identified by the participants in the health consultation workshop. It further resolves that governments and other stakeholders support and provide the resources necessary to implement the recommendations and activities that resulted from the national consultation workshop.

**2000-04 – Inuit Women and Health Policy Development** – directs all governments, Inuit organizations and other stakeholders to immediately take the necessary steps to fully involve Inuit women in the full range of current and future health discussions, consultations and activities intended to benefit Inuit men, women and children. It resolves that the necessary financial and human resources, as determined by Inuit women, be made available to enable and facilitate their full, informed and equal participation in all health related discussions, consultations and initiatives, including current dis-



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New  
Violence  
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**2000-07- Inuit Family Violence Action Plan** – resolves that all relevant government departments provide the necessary financial resources to enable Pauktuutit to implement the outcomes of the 2000 National Violence Consultation. It further resolves that regional and national Inuit



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organizations assist Pauktuutit in its efforts to secure funding to implement the outcomes of this consultation.

**2000-08 – Community Policing –** resolves that: police detachments respond immediately to all calls for assistance; that communities have 24-hour emergency access to their local police detachments; and that all Inuit communities that are without police detachments and choose to have them will be so provided. It is further resolved that each police detachment provide monthly reports to their community councils if they are not already doing so and that they conduct surveillance of witnessed and reported drug traffickers and obtain search warrants for the same.

**2000-09 – Medical Check-ups** – resolves that the health care systems provide all Inuit in northern communities access to annual medical check-ups for early detection and diagnosis. It also directs that Inuit women be able to access annual Pap smears and breast examinations. It resolves that Inuit with chronic lung diseases receive annual x-rays and that Inuit with other chronic diseases receive appropriate follow-up tests on schedule.

ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ
ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ	ΛCΛ
ΛCΛ	\$287,851	\$808,545	\$1,096,396	\$3,545,126
ΛCΛ	\$324,416	\$808,545	\$1,132,961	\$3,382,109
ΛCΛ / (ΛCΛ)	(\$36,565)	-	(\$36,565)	\$163,017



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