

Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association Annual Report

2000-2001

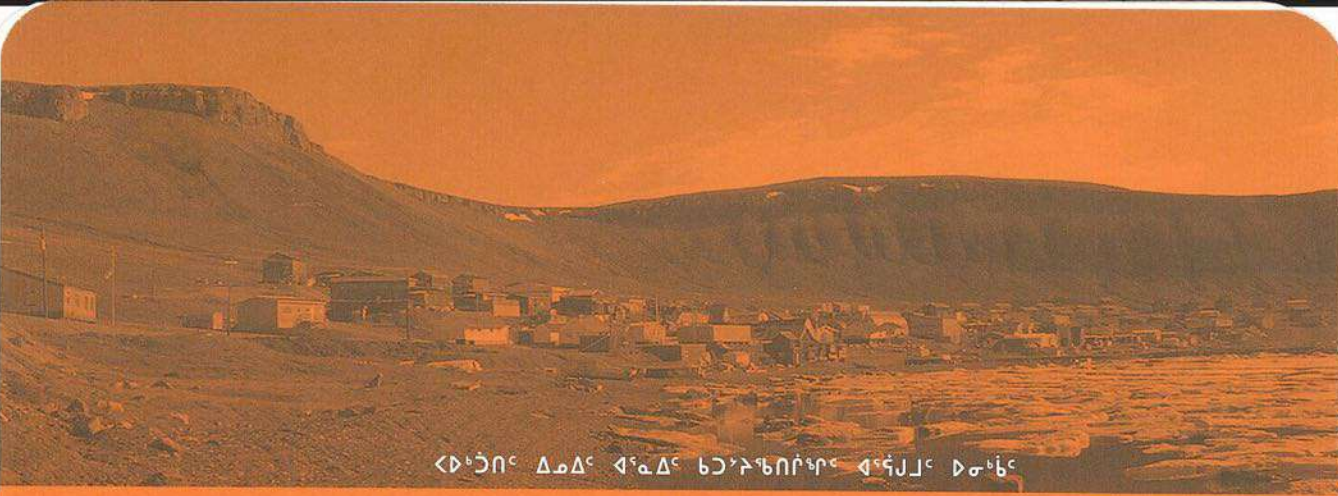


Panktuutit Inuit Women's Association Annual Report | 2000-2001

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year has been one of growth and success for Pauktuutit. Among our major accomplishments during 2000/2001 was participating in domestic and international preparations for the United Nation's World Conference Against Racism, held in Durban South Africa. Racism is an issue that undermines the equality of Inuit women, and Pauktuutit remains committed to working with governments and others to address and resolve these serious problems in Canada.

There were also many projects undertaken by Pauktuutit and its staff, which we describe in detail in this report. While the Association may be spreading its wings within Canada and around the world, our core priorities are those that affect us on a daily basis such as violence, addictions, and our overall health and well-being.

I am very proud of this Association and the women it represents. Together we are continuing to work towards achieving Inuit women's rightful place in our communities and across Canada. We can truly take pride in Pauktuutit's reputation for strength, courage, commitment and vision at home and around the world.

Veronica Weaver

Veronica Dewar
President

Veronica M. Decker

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ጥሪ ጋራ





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PAUKTUUTIT'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Pauktuutit is the national non-profit association representing all Inuit women in Canada. 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;
- ☛ Act and be recognized as the official representative for Inuit women;
- ☛ Familiarize our children with Inuit values, heritage, culture and language;
- ☛ Work towards better conditions for all Inuit women;
- ☛ Motivate Inuit women to realize their potential as individuals and as a group;
- ☛ Promote self-confidence and self-reliance amongst Inuit women;
- ☛ Encourage Inuit women to take their rightful place in society;
- ☛ Work for the betterment of individual, family and community conditions through health, social, and economic action;

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Western Arctic

Δ/ΛΔ° βΝΛ°ϑϑ° | Executive Committee



ΔΡσβ Δ°ϑ
Veronica Dewar



ϑα Ρ°
Donna Kisoun



Ρ°ϑ° Δ°Λ°
Sharon Edmunds

ϑΔ°Δ°/ΛσΔ°σ βΝΛ°Δ° | Regional Directors



Ρ°Δ° Δ°Λ°
Silpa Edmunds



Γσ ΔΝ°Δ
Minnie Etidlui



ϑ° ΔΔ°β°ϑ
Lizzie Nowrakudluk



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Quanaq Mikigaq



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Sabrina Qumangapik



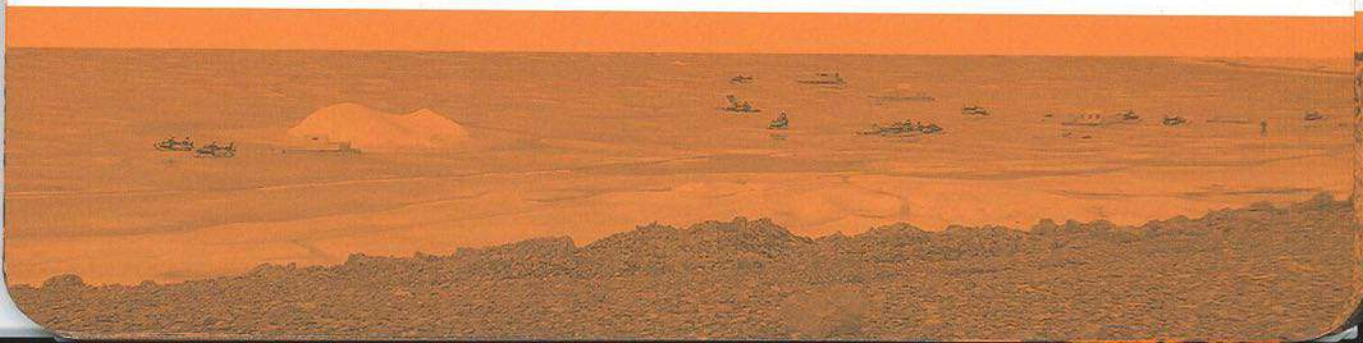
ΓΔΛ ΛΔ
Mary Matoo



Δσ Δ°
Annie Buchan



ΔΔ°Δ° Λ°ΔΔ°
Ester McLeod





Since its inception over 17 years ago, a primary focus for Pauktuutit has been to address the high levels of family violence that occurs in many Inuit communities. While the causes of this tragic problem are diverse and complex, Pauktuutit has dedicated significant human and financial resources to trying to understand the issues impacting upon family violence. These efforts have helped ensure that the voices of Inuit women are heard and that their input contributes to the development of appropriate resources

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for both the victims and offenders, and ultimately, towards creating solutions to the problem.

Over the past year, Pauktuutit has received funding to undertake a survey of the resources available to survivors of child sexual abuse in Inuit communities. A Steering Committee, comprised of six Inuit specialists in issues relating to child sexual abuse from across the North, was established to assist in refining the research methodology and to review research instruments. The initial research process has begun and, when completed, the results will be compiled into a final report and circulated to all Inuit communities. Gaps in the existing resources available to Inuit families will be identified and drawn to the attention of the appropriate government agencies. The second stage of the project will involve an in-depth study into the operations of four successful Inuit-specific projects addressing child sexual abuse. These "best practices" will serve as examples of how similar programs may be established across the North.

Another major initiative in the area of family violence has been the Aboriginal Women's Justice Consultation. Pauktuutit, the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Metis National Council of Women were



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According to traditional Inuit values, once an offence took place within a community, the priority of the community was to restore the balance and tranquility it had enjoyed prior to when the offence took place. This perspective often runs counter to the southern attitude towards criminal offenders, which tends to focus more upon punishment of the offender and, in more serious cases, their removal from the community. In an effort to reintegrate Inuit offenders serving time in federal prisons, Pauktuutit and Inuit Tapirisat of Canada representatives have been involved in meetings with the Correctional Service of Canada to work towards assisting prisoners serving time in federal institutions to successfully reintegrate into their home communities upon their release. It is hoped that if these offenders receive adequate treatment and support

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the preservation and development of their expertise in the area of clothing production. Their expertise and skill in this area is widely recognized and, on occasion, copied without their prior knowledge or consent.

To address this growing problem, Pauktuutit developed a proposal to explore the issue of how to define and protect Inuit intellectual property using the amauti as a test case. This proposal was approved and funding was obtained to conduct research into the topic and to hold a conference on the issue. After much hard work, a conference has been organized for early in the 2001-2002 fiscal year in Rankin Inlet. The tentative participant list includes seamstresses and designers from across the Arctic along with various Inuit organization representatives. Participation of some international delegates including the Kuna Indians from Panama is expected. The case of the Kuna is of particular interest as the traditional designs of the Kuna are now protected by legislation of the Panamanian government. Their participation at the meeting will add a very interesting element to what promises to be a unique and enlightening exploration of Inuit intellectual property rights.





Substance abuse continues to be a primary health and social problem afflicting all Inuit communities. Pauktuutit, through its Substance Abuse Coordinator, has continued to lend its support to front-line substance abuse workers in the communities and to ensure government agencies are aware of the urgency of this issue. Over the past year, Pauktuutit staff have attended many meetings and sat on a number of committees including the Inuit Survivors of Sexual Abuse Steering Committee, the Ministerial Advisory Council on Tobacco Control, the BC FAS/FAE Support Network, the Aboriginal Health Institute, and the National Steering Committee for FAS/FAE.





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The Substance Abuse Project provides a good example of how Pauktuutit can assist in drawing attention at the national level to important issues within Inuit communities and to help develop resources that are Inuit-specific and meet the needs of front line workers.

HIV/AIDS Project

Pauktuutit's work in the area of HIV/AIDS has received widespread recognition and respect for raising awareness about this serious health issue among Inuit and for the production of a number of excellent resources specifically tailored to the needs of Inuit.

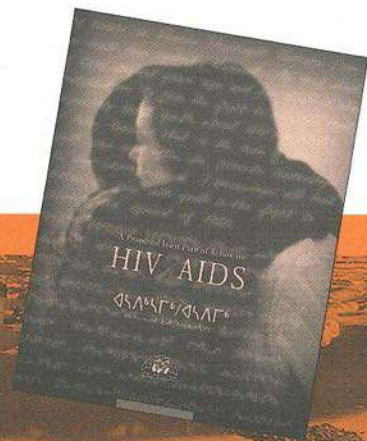
New over the 2000 – 2001 fiscal year, Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS project staff were instrumental in establishing the Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network (CIHAN), a network of Inuit HIV/AIDS workers. CIHAN oversees the promotion of HIV/AIDS awareness and education among Inuit communities but perhaps most importantly, presents a clear unified Inuit voice on HIV/AIDS issues. Some of the activities overseen by CIHAN over the past year included holding a number of successful HIV/AIDS Fairs. These events are held in high schools in the North and serve to focus awareness building with Inuit youth. A number of educational and promotional

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resources are handed out to make sure the impact of the Fairs endures long after the events are completed. It is anticipated that in the near future, HIV/AIDS Fairs will be held in every region.

Another key initiative undertaken by CIHAN was preliminary work on an Inuit HIV/AIDS Action Plan. While the work is thus far only in the early stages, once completed, the Action Plan will be forwarded to a number of individuals and organizations including the Pauktuutit and Inuit Tapirisat of Canada Boards of Directors, Inuit MPs, Senators and Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs). The Action Plan builds upon the strengths of community action to further extend the accomplishments of CIHAN in increasing the awareness and public education of HIV/AIDS.

CIHAN was originally created to produce a series of resources but its activities have greatly expanded and grown beyond the capacity of its Board members to continue to meet the high expectations of the communities. The objective of the Action Plan is to develop coordinated community action plans to deliver information on HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. Skills and





A critical part of awareness building in the communities involves training local residents. Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS Coordinator continued to deliver a number of training programs in northern communities where participants learned how to teach others in their communities and regions about HIV/AIDS. These people play a key role in the fight against the disease and a number of training workshops are planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

Approximately 3-10% of children born in Nunavut suffer from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and/or Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS/FAE). This completely preventable affliction can greatly limit a child's ability to learn and places great pressure on families and communities as they try to provide additional support and resources for these young victims. Pauktuutit has worked hard to gather funding and support for the development of resources that focus specifically upon the needs of Inuit families in regards to FAS/FAE. Specifically, Pauktuutit is in the process of producing a video, radio show and supporting materials on FAS/FAE with the objective of raising the awareness of Inuit youth about the condition and how it can be avoided. Through the guidance of a Steering Committee overseeing the project, great care has been taken to develop materials that not only present the hard medical facts about FAS/FAE, but also present the information in a manner that reflects Inuit culture and values. To make the material accessible to Inuit youth, the medical facts are combined with a dramatic storyline that keeps the viewer interested and attentive while learning more about the impact and prevention of FAS/FAE.





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It is anticipated that the video, radio show and supporting materials will be presented to the public during the summer of 2001. The information package will be available in several Inuktitut dialects, English and French, and will be distributed to the health centres in all Inuit communities across the North. Once this phase of the project has been completed, it is anticipated that training events will be sought to help expand awareness of FAS/FAE prevention and education.

Health Projects

Over the past several years, there has been a growing interest in Aboriginal women's health issues combined with funding to explore these issues and bring them forward. Of particular note, a very successful Inuit Health Forum was held in early 2000 bringing together stakeholders from across the county. As it's contribution to the forum, Pauktuutit produced a paper entitled "Inuit Women's Health: Overview and Policy Issues". This past year, the Prairie Centre of Excellence for Women's Health began a project to address Aboriginal women's health issues and research. Pauktuutit's President attended a consultation meeting organized by the Centre and a subsequent report was produced. One key finding of the report was

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the fact that there were few research projects undertaken that focused specifically on Aboriginal women's health issues. The Centre is continuing to promote a research agenda that more fully recognizes the unique health issues affecting Aboriginal women. Focus groups are also being planned across the country including a northern one to be held at a yet undetermined location.

Health Canada has funded two workshops on Inuit Women's Health Issues at Pauktuutit's AGM's including one at this year's meeting in Nain, Labrador. At the October 2000 workshop, the women identified the need for more information on women's health issues. A proposal has been developed to address this and plans include production of three booklets on various priorities such as menopause, osteoporosis, heart disease and cancers specific to women. The objective of these workshops has been to assist in restoring ownership and control of Inuit women's health to Inuit women. The information provided by the workshop participants indicated that there were significant improvements necessary to the health care system in the North. (For further information on the findings of the workshop at this year's AGM, please refer to the appropriate section within the "Report on the 17th AGM").





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REPORT ON THE 17TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Pauktuutit's 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Nain, Labrador in November 2001. The three-day meeting enabled Inuit women from Inuvik to Goose Bay to gather to exchange information with other delegates and to draw attention to issues of concern within their respective regions. The AGM continues to provide Pauktuutit with critical input and direction in regard to its current and future efforts to represent Inuit women on the national stage. AGMs also enable delegates to elect new Board and Executive Committee members as their respective terms expire. This year saw the election of Mary Palliser as the new Vice-President and Sharon Edmunds to the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

An important element of the meeting involves staff and Executive members informing the delegates about ongoing project activities, the financial condition of the organization and various issues that are impacting upon Inuit women at the national level. In addition, senior staff provide an update on efforts to address any action items directed by the resolutions passed at the previous

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AGM. Although the amount and complexity of the information presented can be quite substantial, delegates always listen attentively and provide valuable insights and perspectives on a host of important issues. This rich input provides the source of many of the resolutions that are passed at the AGM that, in turn, give clear objectives and future actions that the organization will strive to achieve.

Each year, special guests are invited to listen to the discussions and to make presentations. This year, the President of the Labrador Inuit Association, William Barbour, welcomed the delegates to Nain and wished them a productive meeting. As well, the Deputy-Mayor, Margaret Fox, also greeted the delegates and encouraged them to walk around the community and meet the residents. Fran Williams, of the OKalaKatiget Society, also attended portions of the meeting.

One of the most important elements of any AGM is the update on projects provided by Board and staff members. The updates provided at the AGM were based on the Report on Issues found in the above text.

The AGM presents a unique opportunity for Inuit women from across the country to both meet and share information and to discuss



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issues of mutual concern. This gathering also provides an excellent chance for governments to present information on new and existing programming as well as to receive valuable input from the delegates. Pauktuutit's 2000-2001 AGM incorporated three workshops that covered a wide variety of topics of concern to Inuit women.

Pauktuutit's own Franco Buscemi, Assistant Project Coordinator for HIV/AIDS, facilitated the first workshop on HIV/AIDS. Franco gave an overview of the many activities the project had been involved in since its inception. An important accomplishment was the successful establishment of the Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network (CIHAN), a network of Inuit HIV/AIDS workers. CIHAN promoted HIV/AIDS awareness and education and met throughout the year to discuss issues and work on various projects.

Along with the production of educational and promotional resources, including a training video and manual for CHRs, AIDS Fairs had been organized in four communities to increase the awareness of Inuit youth about HIV/AIDS. In 2002, the number of these Fairs was to be increased substantially and held in every Inuit region. The focus of

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these Fairs will be "We are all in this together" and include contacts with Aboriginal groups from other countries.

Workshop participants were asked to review and comment on a survey that had been developed for circulation among youth at the HIV/AIDS Fairs. The survey's results would enable resources to be focused on those areas in most need of attention.

CIHAN also oversaw the Inuit component of the successful AIDS Walk that had taken place in the past year. The Inuit HIV/AIDS Walk was particularly notable for the fact that it was the first time such a walk had taken place in a federal prison (Fenbrook) and that Grise Fiord had the highest percentage participation rate in Canada. In all, over 41 Inuit communities were involved in the Walk.

The HIV/AIDS Action Plan was also reviewed. The Action Plan built upon the strengths of community action to further the accomplishments of CIHAN in increasing the awareness and public education of HIV/AIDS. The objective of the Action Plan was to develop coordinated community action plans to deliver information on HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. Skills and equipment are to



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be transferred to regional coordinators to build capacity at the regional levels. It was hoped that the Regional Inuit Associations would become involved enabling each region to implement the plan to assist them in addressing regional concerns and priorities.

The second workshop built upon one of Pauktuutit's key areas of expertise – Inuit women's health. The workshop was part of an initiative launched by the Centres of Excellence for Women's Health. The information gained in the workshop was to be included in a report that would provide direction for new research and to promote changes in policy development and health care delivery in the North.

The format of the workshop was the presentation of a number of questions to the delegates for discussion and the recording of the primary points on a flip chart. After the questions were reviewed, the delegates responded to each one. The questions ranged from what basic health care services were available in their communities to how often the delegates had regular check-ups and what quality of health care they received. Some of the major concerns included a lack of health professionals in the communities



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In conclusion, the facilitators described some of the projects undertaken by the Eco-Action Program and suggested that communities apply for funding to help address some of the environmental issues facing them. For example, a community could apply for funding to send toxic garbage south for disposal. As well, Pauktuutit could develop a policy on hazardous materials and their disposal. Many resources were identified in the communities to help address the issue of hazardous waste. In addition, the federal government could contribute funding and other resources to help.

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Woman of the Year

Each year an Inuk Woman of the Year is selected by the Pauktuutit AGM in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the betterment of their community and for all Inuit women. This year's winner was Mabel Angulalik from Cambridge Bay. Mabel was to be presented with a plaque by the mayor of Cambridge Bay.

Regional Reports

Time is allocated during each AGM for regional reports. Each regional delegation reports to the main group on the various activities, issues and concerns that have arisen over the past year in their respective regions.

Nunavik (Ungava)

The highlights of the Ungava report described a number of activities undertaken by the local women's groups. These include the formation of women's committees that were involved in helping establish a sewing circle and buying food for community feasts. In addition, some women were assisted in buying sewing materials and building space was found for their use. Makivik Corporation had provided some of the funding used. The women's groups also continued to organize activities for youth including a children's







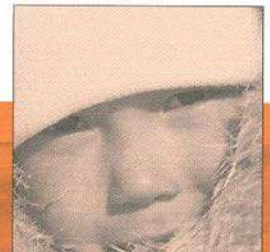
Day care centres had been established in most communities and were providing good programs. Communities that didn't have day care centers were trying to get funding. Additional issues included: interest in getting funding to establish sewing circles and to train people; the tobacco reduction facilitators' training program held by Pauktuutit was a success, and in the new

[illegible]

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year, Breathing Easy sessions were to begin in the region; women's shelters were needed; and efforts were being made to keep the Health and Social Services Minister informed of women's needs. There was also a lack of funding for training to help disabled people and elders. More funding was needed for substance abuse and suicide prevention and training.

In the Kivalliq region, a number of issues and activities were reported: women continue to have to go to Rankin to deliver their babies; more health staff were needed in the communities; young people were being trained in sewing programs funded by the Kivalliq Inuit Association; daycares were established and had helped a number of women explore different opportunities available to them; male abusers continued to be in need of counseling support; a counseling support project had been initiated in Rankin Inlet; high unemployment levels remained a serious problem; a jewelry making program had been established with some success; and youth were being taken on the land to learn traditional skills and Inuit culture.



[illegible]

Nunavik (Hudson)

A number of initiatives had been undertaken in the region: a women's committee had been established in Inukjuak and had nominated a delegate to attend the AGM; some people do not understand what the women were trying to do but there was a general understanding of what Pauktuutit does; healing sessions had taken place in the community including some for men; child care remained an important issue; the women's group fundraised to help pay for various activities and rented out their building for additional funding; various members go to meetings to explain what they do and to discuss issues.





35

2001-06

[illegible]

2001-07

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2001-08

[illegible]

2001-06

Health Prevention and Promotion Initiatives – urges Health Canada and regional and provincial health departments ensure the active involvement of Inuit women in the design and delivery of health prevention and promotion activities and that adequate financial and human resources be allocated to support their meaningful involvement in these activities and initiatives.

2001-07

Social Impacts of Development Activities – encourages Regional Inuit Associations and other bodies involved in land use and development to require social impact assessments as a mandatory component of land use impact assessments.

2001-08

FAS/FAE Training and Diagnostic Services – calls upon Health Canada in partnership with territorial and provincial governments to provide Pauktuutit with funds to develop prevention training materials and to conduct training activities in the Inuit regions. The resolution further calls upon Health Canada in partnership with territorial, provincial and regional health systems to provide FAS and FAE diagnostic and support services for people affected by FAS and FAE.





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2001-09

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2001-10

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2001-11

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2001-09

Inuit Action Plan on HIV/AIDS – draws attention to the fact that delegates to the 2000/2001 AGM endorse and support the proposed Action Plan on HIV/AIDS, and calls upon the Regional Inuit Associations to endorse and implement the Pauktuutit Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS.

2001-10

Voluntary Sector Initiative: Building Capacity in the Regions and Communities directs the federal government to recognize the substantial contribution Inuit women make to their communities through their voluntary activities and that funding be provided to Pauktuutit to identify and meet the capacity needs of Inuit women and voluntary organizations in the communities.

2001-11

Nunavik Status of Women Council calls for the creation of a status of women's council as part of the self-governing structures and institutions to be developed in implementing self-government in Nunavik.

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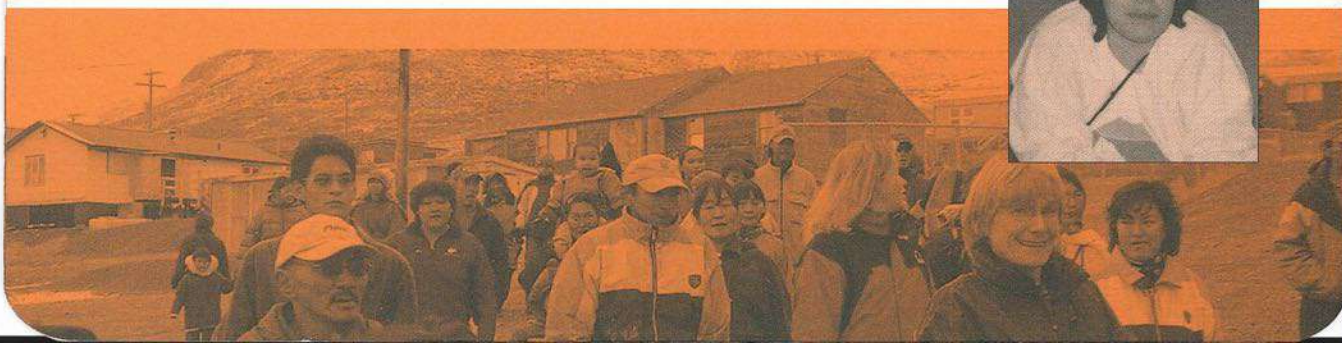
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ዕድገት	\$297,270	\$1,159,080	\$1,456,350	\$1,096,396
ጥገና/ጥገና	\$283,555	\$1,159,080	\$1,442,635	\$1,132,961
ጥገና/ ጥገና	\$13,715	0	\$13,715	(\$36,565)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Annual Summary

For the year ending March 31, 2001

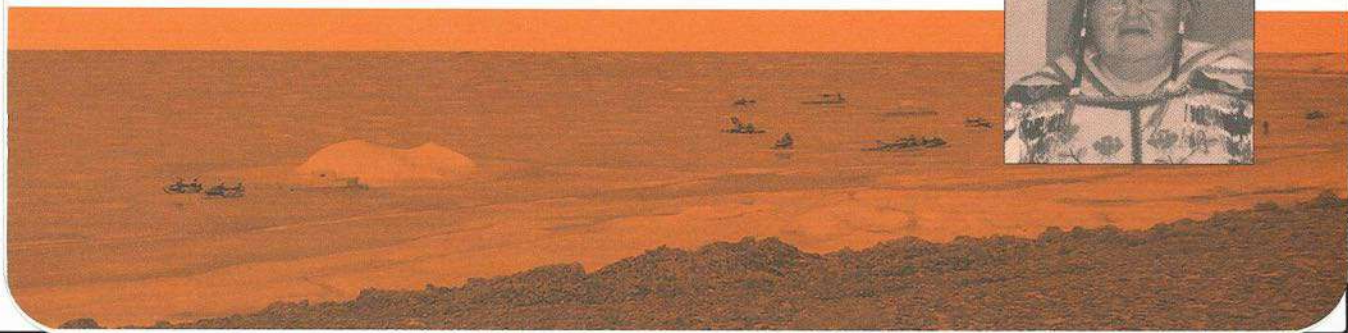
Activities	Core Operations	Special Projects	Total 2001	Total 2000
Revenue	\$297,270	\$1,159,080	\$1,456,350	\$1,096,396
Expenses	\$283,555	\$1,159,080	\$1,442,635	\$1,132,961
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$13,715	0	\$13,715	(\$36,565)



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