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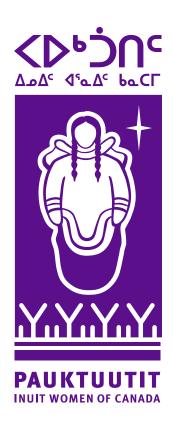


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### RESPECTING TRADITION, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

In honour of Pauktuutit's founding members, we recognize their courage to speak out, their strength to persevere and their wisdom to ensure the needs of Inuit women do not go unanswered. In honour of the women who came before them, who despite adversity, showed strength, and nurtured the voice of women. In honour of the women who have come after them, who have led by example, amplifying the voice of Inuit women, and your unwavering belief in the women to come. Across the years, together we are stronger.

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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 the Inuit Women's Association of Canada are:

- 1. To unite the Inuit women of Canada;
- 2. To act and be recognized as the official representative for Inuit women;
- 3. To familiarize our children with Inuit values, heritage, culture and language;
- 4. To work towards better conditions for all Inuit women;
- 5. To motivate Inuit women to realize their potential as individuals and as a group;
- 6. To promote self-confidence and self-reliance amongst Inuit women;
- 7. To encourage Inuit women to take their rightful place in society;
- 8. To work for the betterment of individual, family and community conditions through social and economic action;
- 9. To promote the rights of Inuit women and children:
- 10. To promote the equality of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian governmental and non-governmental structures;
- 11. To encourage the involvement of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian society; and
- 12. To encourage communication between Inuit women and all aboriginal peoples.

## **Δος Τable of Contents**

<⊳onumber 5 Pauktuutit

ጋኒጭበናበJበ ⊳զዲኒጭጋጭ አውሲ ኒሩ 7 Message from President Gerri Sharpe ለቦላኈበና/c ኦኈጋና bበLትና 11 Founding Members − P<sub>2</sub>Y5Y<sub>6</sub>Φ<sub>2</sub>L<sub>2</sub> CPD<sub>2</sub>MQ<sub>2</sub>PCP<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub> — Realizing the Vision 'ዕ'ር ና ልዕ L ር አ ልላር ላ የ ሲው 15 A Qulliq for Women is Lit くかういゅって パタ・こかりいけんで 19 Pauktuutit Priorities **ರ**್ಗಳುರ್ಶಿ 25 Our Presidents ∆♥ ९√√, 1986-1987 **29** Eva Voisey, 1986-1987 LC ペートへへ, 1991-1998 **35** Martha Flaherty, 1991-1998 % ფინ ებ, 1998-2003 **40** Veronica Dewar, 1998-2003 「식c くっと、2003-2005 **44** Mary Palliser, 2003-2005 LC Jn<sup>1</sup>, 2005-2007 **47** Martha Greig, 2005-2007 <sup>2</sup>C Δ\_o<sup>b</sup>/<sup>b</sup>, 2007-2009 **51** Rhoda Innuksuk, **2007-2009** ት⊳ሲ ጎ<, 2022-2024 **63** Gerri Sharpe, 2022-2024 ⊃Ġფ<c⊂⊲σფ ფρ<<Δc 68 Towards Tomorrow b∩Lት Þ₽೬೪೬⊀୮ 71 Board Members Through the Years

PAUKTUUTIT RESPECTING TRADITION, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

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#### **Pauktuutit**

Prior to contact with Europeans, Inuit were self-sufficient. They depended on hunting, fishing and gathering for survival and for all their physical needs. Their prosperity was dependent on the women's abilities to process the bounties of a hunt or harvest into usable materials for sustainable clothing, shelter, hunting weapons and tools, items essential for survival.

One of the most important pieces needed for the processing of skins were the "pauktuutiit". The pauktuutiit were stakes used to stretch the hides during processing.

Pauktuutiit needed to be solid, flexible, stable, unbreakable, gentle and strong.
Pauktuutiit are vital to properly and effectively process skins and hides that would ensure the survival of Inuit families and communities.

The Inuit women's group is called Pauktuutit in recognition of the qualities needed to ensure that Inuit values and traditions are carried on and available for everyone to see and emulate. The women, who so aptly selected this simple yet vital tool from their culture, were well aware that this was exactly what they wished to portray.

The women who founded the organization were all solid, flexible, stable, gentle, and strong; and their spirits were unbreakable.







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Tungasugitsi! It is my pleasure to present this special publication commemorating the history to date of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada (Pauktuutit).

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This commemorative publication recognizes our 40th Anniversary and the incredible evolution of our organization.

I invite you to learn more about our unique story: from the trailblazing women who dared to say that Inuit women deserved their own organization, to the realities of life for Inuit women then and now, as



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well as the work Pauktuutit does to support them through our advocacy and specialized projects.

Over these last four decades, we've been both fortunate and honoured at Pauktuutit: Fortunate to see the fruits of our labour as we've reached key milestones and honoured to receive notable awards in recognition of our successes.

By working tirelessly through the years with government, community leaders and other Inuit organizations, Pauktuutit continues to support Inuit women to reach their full potential in safe, happy communities.

Nakurmiik! Qujannamiik! Thank you!

Gerri Sharpe ≯▷∿ ່\<

Pauktuutit President <▷ÞÞÔ∩ÞdC ◁∿レ≺ˤÞĠ∿ᲡC





Pauktuutit Annual General Meeting 1987-1988 <▷ʰᠫᠬʰơˤ ◁ŚJCĹˤʔ▷ˤ ७∩²L♂ˤ♭ 1987-1988



## Founding Members – Realizing the Vision

First important year — priorities and drive for change — legacy of pride, a voice for women to be heard.

ΔΔΔς CΛΛς bacr (ITC), CΔὐλιδης ΔΔΔς CΛλς bacr (ITK) ς βΡΟΡΟΡΙΡΟς σΛίθηΓλΡσιμε ΔΔο Δο υς υςυνόμος Ασδιος αντιστικές διαστικές διαστικές

Traditionally, Inuit women played crucial roles in the survival of the family and were considered equally as important as men, being given due respect and an even share of influence and power. However, modernization, urbanization, and the effect of European culture, changed their roles, upsetting the traditional balance of influence and power.

Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC), which later became Inuit Tapriit Kanatami (ITK) had been established to provide a voice for Inuit with the federal government's policies and procedures as they pertain to Inuit of Canada. The Inuit Brotherhood, however, were not equipped to advocate for all Inuit, so in 1975 it was suggested



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Pauktuutit's 1985 board of Directors: Back row: Anna Samsack, Helen Tolognak, Lizzie Ittinuar. Middle row: Innoya Inuk, Jeela Moss Davies, Annie Okalik, Okpik Pitseolak. Front row: Rosie Veevee, Eva Voisey, Andrea Webb (and son)

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#### **Founding Members**

The group's early efforts to lay a foundation focused on consulting Inuit women across Canada and the circumpolar world to distill the mission and mandate of the proposed organization.

that Inuit Women should have their own organization to address the specific needs of Inuit Women.

Over the course of the next several years, the Inuit women trailblazing this possibility began consulting with Inuit women across Canada, and there was an overwhelming feeling that an Inuit Women's organization was very much needed.

In 1981 at ITC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) Mary Sillett, an Inuk woman from Hopedale Labrador, made a convincing case for Inuit women to have their own organization. After much discussion, ITC passed a resolution supporting the creation of a national Inuit Women's Association (IWA/Pauktuutit), now known as Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, in part as "recognition of their expertise on social matters."

Once it was clear that a women's organization was needed, these determined women gathered funding and organized the initial meeting of Pauktuutit, which was held in March of 1983.

The meeting was a great success, with participants from across the Arctic, and after elections and initial motions, Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association was created. It was then incorporated by April of 1984, and their first offices were established in the headquarters of ITC in Ottawa.



L々c ィc Mary Sillett

The founding members were excited to be able to establish a forum for Inuit women to speak out and be heard on issues that were of great importance to them. The establishment of Pauktuutit is a testament to the abilities and drive of Inuit women and their pride and power that they were very capable of exercising. This began the legacy of returning pride and equality to Inuit Women in Canada.

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#### **Did You Know?**

Mary Simon was deeply involved in the early days of Pauktuutit as the organization's constitutional coordinator. A true trailblazer, she laid the groundwork for future generations of Inuit women leaders, championing their rights and going on to serve her people and country in numerous high-profile leadership roles.

For example, Mary helped negotiate the first land claims agreement in Canada as an executive with both the Northern Quebec Inuit Association

(now Makivvik Corporation) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). In 1986, she became the first Canadian and woman elected president of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (now the Inuit Circumpolar Council).

Mary also led the Nunavut Implementation Commission and served as policy co-director of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP). In 2021, she became Canada's first Indigenous governor general and the first Inuit woman to hold this office.



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## A Qulliq for Women is Lit

The origin of Pauktuutit serving as the voice of Inuit women dates back to the late 1980s, when constitutional issues captured attention in Canada. Aboriginal issues including gender equality and defining Aboriginal rights were of interest to Pauktuutit.

Pauktuutit embraced the importance of this process to ensure the voice of Inuit women was heard during the national discussions and by participating in the 1985 First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters.

Pauktuutit stressed the importance of protecting language and cultural rights, as well as assuring sexual equality for Inuit women and gender-diverse individuals in any Constitutional agreement.

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Once the organization was established the elected members set to work determining their priority issues. Using the information brought forward at the initial meeting, and the information from the years of consultations prior to incorporation, the major issues were identified and then refined with courses of action explored.

For 40 years, Pauktuutit has worked to address the gaping inequalities and systemic discrimination faced by Inuit women, gender-diverse individuals and their children in the areas of health care, food insecurity, economic opportunity, and physical well-being.

### The following are overviews of the major issues identified

A call for better understanding of and involvement in Health Care initiatives and a requirement for translations into Inuktitut for patients at hospitals to ensure a better understanding and assistance for Inuit during their interactions with Health Care professionals.

The recognition of Midwifery in the North and public education on traditional Inuit Parenting and Midwifery practices, to ensure that traditional and high-quality care is available to women from conception to delivery.

An increase in assistance for development of

Pauktuutit stressed the importance of protecting language and cultural rights, as well as assuring sexual equality for Inuit women and gender-diverse individuals in any Constitutional agreement.



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#### **Representation Wherever We Live**

Pauktuutit's work supports Inuit women, gender-diverse people and their children across the four regions of Inuit Nunangat — Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut — as well as those who live in cities and towns in the south and outside of Inuit Nunangat.

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business opportunities and business training for women that would allow them to improve their ability to better provide for their families and establish themselves as community leaders.

The hard work and unwavering commitment by the founders blossomed into the crucial first year that set the stage for Pauktuutit to evolve into the internationally respected women's organization it is today. The founders' vision, courage, tenacity, and wisdom has inspired young Inuit women to strive for excellence in our modern society; setting themselves up to be role models for more young women to achieve the respect and power of traditional Inuit women.

The story of Pauktuutit's evolution is recognition that, while there is much work to be done to protect and promote the human rights of Inuit women and gender-diverse people, the input and leadership of Inuit women are imperative to thriving communities and essential to making a difference.

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Over the course of the past 40 years, Pauktuutit has advocated for the distinct needs of Inuit women, girls, and more recently, gender-diverse individuals. Established in 1984, our organization's founders identified critical issues that continue to shape its mission today.

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The concerns that prompted Pauktuutit's creation remain strikingly relevant. Health and well-being, including midwifery's vital role, the pervasive challenges of violence and domestic abuse, the pursuit of employment and economic development, and the preservation of cultural awareness and customary law, were the focal points shaping the organization's formative years.

As Pauktuutit established its identity during this period, recurrent themes and issues emerged as the foundation upon which the organization would stand for the next four decades to serve the unique needs of Inuit women, girls and gender-diverse

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 people: Health and Wellbeing, Violence and Abuse Prevention, and Social and Economic Development.

As Pauktuutit embarks on its fifth decade, we remain committed to addressing these challenges and evolving with the times. The narrative of the past 40 years serves as both a testament to the progress made and a reminder of the ongoing journey towards empowerment, equality, and the well-being of Inuit women and their communities.

#### Health

Improving the health status of Inuit women and their families has been a priority since Pauktuutit's establishment in 1984. Recognizing the challenges posed by high rates of violence in Inuit Nunangat, the organization actively addresses issues such as violence, sexual health, and family planning, emphasizing the strengths of Inuit communities.

Through the guidance of its membership and Board of Directors, Pauktuutit has successfully implemented a range of health projects, celebrating accomplishments in maternal and child health, midwifery, tobacco cessation, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, FASD, early childhood development, injury prevention, cancer, and health research. The organization is committed to raising awareness and building the capacity of Inuit communities to independently deliver health programs, harnessing





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their inherent strengths.

Despite health disparities, Pauktuutit remains focused on promoting positive change. Inuit communities, while facing challenges like lower life expectancy, high infant mortality, and elevated suicide rates, are vibrant and strong. The organization acknowledges the unique strengths of Inuit women, men, Elders, and youth in crafting policies and initiatives to address health disparities.

Pauktuutit recognizes that health challenges are intertwined with socio-economic conditions such as poverty, limited education, job opportunities, and inadequate housing. We strive to transform these challenges into opportunities for growth and development.

Despite the geographical challenges of accessing healthcare, Pauktuutit continues to champion a strength-based approach, influencing policy and program development to better serve Inuit women and families. The organization develops plain language bilingual resources that address health issues and celebrate the unique strengths, languages, cultures, and genders of our community. In this way, Pauktuutit endeavors to create positive, culturally relevant, and empowering solutions for Inuit health and well-being.

For more information on specific programs and policy, visit our website: <a href="https://pauktuutit.ca/">https://pauktuutit.ca/</a>

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Inadequate and overcrowded housing

Impacts of colonial government policies

Colonization

Increased alcohol and substance abuse

Challenges with the justice system

Pauktuutit's Shelters and Transitional Housing initiative, cultivated through nearly 40 years of dedicated advocacy, represents a substantial achievement in ongoing efforts to provide safer environments for Inuit women and children.

#### **Violence and Abuse Prevention**

Violence and abuse prevention has been a top priority for Pauktuutit since its establishment in 1984. Our organization addresses a range of issues related to the safety and well-being of women and children, including family violence, child sexual abuse, Elder abuse, human trafficking, and victims' rights.

Spanning just three generations, forced settlement and the enduring impact of Residential Schools have eroded traditional Inuit culture, practices, and family/community roles. This erosion is worsened by contemporary challenges like inadequate housing, unemployment, and substance abuse, contributing to elevated violence rates in our communities. Compounding these challenges is the lack of specialized counselling to address intergenerational trauma, a major mental health concern among us Inuit. Pauktuutit remains committed to advocating for urgently needed resources, including crisis and long-term counselling, safe shelters, second-stage housing, and training for Inuit frontline workers to tackle these critical challenges effectively.

We are also taking a holistic approach to reducing violence against women by engaging with men and boys. Our Engaging Young Men and Boys toolkit is designed to raise awareness and empower Inuit men and boys in combating gender-based violence. The initiative includes role model campaigns promoting healthy relationships, gender equality, and a violence-free lifestyle, encouraging community members to nominate those who reflect our Inuit societal values.

The absence of safe shelters in our communities poses a significant challenge. In times of crisis, the cost of a plane ticket to another community may be prohibitive, leaving women and children with no

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safe haven. Pauktuutit's Shelters and Transitional Housing initiative, cultivated through nearly 40 years of dedicated advocacy, represents a substantial achievement in ongoing efforts to provide safer environments for Inuit women and children.

Addressing systemic issues, Pauktuutit advocates for ongoing education and training within policing to eliminate systemic racism. The organization is committed to implementing National Inuit Action Plan, addressing Calls for Justice, and advancing themes identified by Inuit communities. Pauktuutit's efforts reflect a comprehensive, community-driven approach to creating positive change in the lives of Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals.

For more information on specific programs and policy, visit our website: <a href="https://pauktuutit.ca/">https://pauktuutit.ca/</a>

### Social and Economic Development

Pauktuutit addresses a diverse range of social and economic issues, including political equality, women's leadership, education, housing, early learning and child care, traditional knowledge, resource extraction, environmental issues, including climate change, and national and international engagement.

The organization actively collaborates with internal departments, external partners, funders, and community stakeholders to fulfill its mandate, seeking input from various perspectives. Pauktuutit is grateful for the support of like-minded partners dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of Inuit women, families, and communities.

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Inuit women excel in diverse skills, including traditional clothing design, arts, tourism, catering, and interpreting and translating. Despite their talents, launching small businesses poses challenges. To promote economic self-sufficiency, the organization connects community delegates with government and industry resources, emphasizing economic development through small businesses, local employment, sustaining crafts, and addressing key women's issues such as family planning and the urgent need for childcare services in Inuit Nunungat. A sustained commitment and long-term investments are crucial to overcoming barriers and ensuring the ongoing success of women in business and entrepreneurship.

In summary, Pauktuutit is committed to addressing economic disparities and empowering Inuit women by recognizing their skills and facilitating opportunities for economic self-sufficiency. The organization's holistic approach encompasses various dimensions, fostering positive change in economic opportunities for Inuit women and contributing to the overall well-being of our Inuit communities.

For more information on specific programs and policy, visit our website: <a href="https://pauktuutit.ca/">https://pauktuutit.ca/</a>





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Nakurmiik to our presidents, past and present, whose unwavering dedication, strength, and enduring contributions have shaped the legacy of our organization and made a lasting impact on the lives of Inuit we represent.



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As founding president of Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association, Jeela Alikatuktuk Moss-Davies congratulated members in her president's message at the end of the first year of her tenure, saying, "Let us take the opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments over the past several years! We have been successful in founding a national organization for Inuit women and we have now completed our first year of operation."

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Moss-Davies recounted how, "The idea for an organization for Inuit women grew out of a recommendation, made in 1975 during a meeting held in Pangnirtung, that the time was right for Inuit women to represent themselves."

After a year spent consulting Inuit women from across Canada and the circumpolar regions, "it became very evident that there was a unanimous feeling that we wanted and needed our own



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 organization. I then took on the task of finding the funds for and organizing the founding meeting."

That meeting was held in what was then called Frobisher Bay, NWT, in March 1983. Following this meeting, women's groups were started in communities across the Arctic. By April 1, 1984, the association was officially incorporated, core funding had been received, and an office was established in Ottawa in the same building as what was then called the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. As Moss-Davies said, "But our work had only just begun..."

Moss-Davies articulated her vision for the association as follows: "As a leader I feel that the IWA [Inuit Women's Association] must operate first and foremost as a support base to help Inuit women across Canada to strive to take our place in the Inuit struggle for greater self-determination. We must play an equal role with our men in promoting a holistic approach to economic, social, cultural and political development." She added, "Our priority for the coming year will be social and cultural issues of concern to all Inuit women."

Aside from issues of primary concern in 1984-1985, which included constitutional research, health, adoption and midwifery, the main focus of the year was planning and delivering a national conference on Inuit women and economic development, which



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It is now time for women to play a greater role in political, economic and social activities within the community. There is a need to develop a northern economy that reflects both traditional values and modern needs but also supports the aspiration of both Inuit men and women.

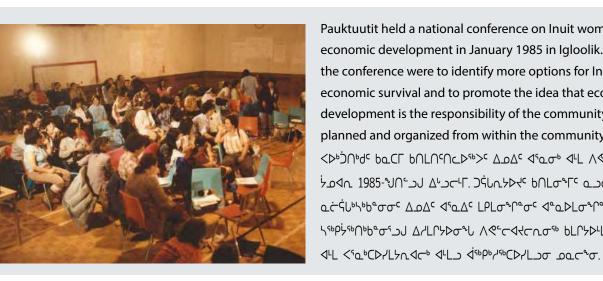
#### Jeela Moss-Davies,

President 1984-1986

was held in conjunction with the new association's annual general meeting in Igloolik in January 1985.

The conference brought together two delegates from each community, as well as representatives of government and industry, who discussed the basics of economic development, including how to start a small business, how to create ongoing employment in isolated communities and the future of the craft industry in the North, as well as the relationship between economic development and issues such as a lack of child care and family planning.

At the conference, Moss-Davies stressed the need for Inuit women to become more actively involved in developing their communities and regions and in promoting Inuit self-sufficiency. She said, "Women must take steps to change their own attitude about themselves and the attitudes taken by many men that women are lesser beings. If present attitudes persist, the opportunities that exist for today's Inuit women and those that await future generations will never be realized."



Pauktuutit held a national conference on Inuit women and economic development in January 1985 in Igloolik. The goals of the conference were to identify more options for Inuit women's economic survival and to promote the idea that economic development is the responsibility of the community and must be planned and organized from within the community. . γραν 1985-μης ος Δηρικής το συσυργήσης και συσυργήσης με συσυργήσης και συσυργήσης με συσυργήσης και συσυργήσης με συσυργήσης και συσυργήσ مـــــــ المحمد ١٩٠٨ عنم ١٩٠٨  $^{5}$ 



At the start of her tenure as second president of Pauktuutit, Eva Voisey noted that Pauktuutit had maintained its involvement in the Canadian constitutional process, which was a priority for the organization, having participated in the 1985 First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters.

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 The organization was represented there by Voisey and by then-president of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference Mary Simon, who worked with Pauktuutit as the organization's constitutional coordinator.

The theme of Pauktuutit's annual general meeting in 1986 was Inuit women and development, where much of the discussion focused on health and social issues. Key concerns expressed by the delegates were family violence, midwifery, the future of young single mothers, the lack of daycare facilities, drug and alcohol abuse, and the need for improved health awareness programs in the North. A resolution was passed urging daycare centres to subsidize young

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single mothers so that they could pursue their education, and another to include health awareness programs in elementary and secondary schools in all Inuit communities.

At that time, it was noted in Pauktuutit's annual report that new Inuit women's groups were being established and they were voicing their concerns, ranging from the lack of Inuit midwifery to child sexual abuse. Efforts were being made to hire fieldworkers for the regions to support these local groups in their attempts to improve the quality of life of all Inuit women.

In 1986, Voisey toured what was then called the Keewatin region, now the Kivalliq region, to consult with people in the communities about childbirth practices and facilities. Several medical staff from the hospital in Churchill, Manitoba, travelled with her, as did a doctor from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Medicine. The tour provided Pauktuutit with the opportunity to discuss concerns and push for action on a resolution passed at the annual general meeting in Igloolik in January 1985 that called for the

Pauktuutit President Eva Voisey and the organization's Constitutional Advisor, Mary Simon, attended the First Ministers' meetings on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters in 1985 and 1987 on behalf of Pauktuutit. The 1985 conference focused on the topics of self-government and sexual equality rights. The 1987 conference focused on self-government and treaties and treaty issues. Pauktuutit's involvement ensured that Inuit women were at the table.

Pauktuutit members attended a three-day national workshop on child sexual abuse in 1986-1987 held by the Indian and Inuit Nurses Association of Canada called "National Consultation on Child Sexual Abuse – What Can Be Done?" The workshop addressed the causes and effects of child sexual abuse on victims and perpetrators and methods of prevention. It was an initial attempt to identify the scope of the problem.



Pauktuutit Annual General Meetina 1987 < ΔΦΟΛΟΘΟ ΔΩΙΟΙ ΥΝΟΙ ΒΟΙΑΘΊΟ 1987

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recognition of midwifery in the North.

According to Pauktuutit's annual report for 1986-1987, efforts were being made by women to re-establish midwifery in the North: "In Puvirnituk, northern Quebec, the women worked very hard to get midwives into the hospital. Now there are four Inuit women in the hospital who have been trained by a midwife to deliver babies."

That same year, Pauktuutit continued its work with the Women in Conflict with the Law program and participated in a national conference in Winnipeg in June 1986.

Voisey attended the fourth Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Kotzebue, Alaska, in July 1986, the year in which Mary Simon became the first Canadian and the first woman to be elected president of the ICC. Voisey stressed the benefits of members of the association participating in meetings with other groups, such as what was then called the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Inuit Committee on National Issues. Furthermore, she said, "There is a need for Pauktuutit to strengthen the ties between Inuit women and all Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. By working more closely together with other organizations, Pauktuutit can enhance the future of all Inuit."

There is a need for Pauktuutit to strengthen the ties between Inuit women and all Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. By working more closely together with other organizations, Pauktuutit can enhance the future of all Inuit.

**Eva Voisey,** President 1986-1987



「**く**C **/**C **!** Mary Sillett 1987-1991

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There were many Inuit leaders at the national level who basically said there was no legitimate reason for a national Inuit women's organization, because existing organizations represented all Inuit in all communities.

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The onus was upon Inuit women to say there is a need, because many of the Inuit representative organizations focused on land claims: they focused on constitutional issues to the exclusion of women's issues.

Pauktuutit was incorporated in 1984, and here we are in 2024 and I think the organization has spoken for itself. There is a need: there are many issues that need to be voiced, for example, the issues of family violence and child sexual abuse.

The vision for Pauktuutit wasn't so much my vision, as it was the vision of a collective board. There were many women in the communities who had a real knowledge of the issues facing Inuit women there, so they helped form priorities and helped with the communication.

I'm not fluent in Inuktitut, although it was my

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Mary Sillet - Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) Annual Meeting 1991
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ላ<sup>6</sup> ላ<sup>7</sup> የሚቴጋቴሪ እቴጋቴ ይበLσሮኒያ ላ<sup>6</sup> የሁለላሪ እቴርዎና, ለር ይሆሴ ለላ<sup>6</sup> አህ, እያሁለያ ላይ የተጠቀቀ ላይ አንድ አስር አል የተጠቀቀ ነው።

Pauktuutit is only as strong as the unity of Inuit women. We must organize women's groups in all Inuit communities and at the regional level...so we can intervene on matters at the local, regional and national levels.

#### Mary Sillett,

President 1987-1991

first language. I lost it along the way. I've heard that if you're a national leader, you should speak Inuktitut, but then I ran against people who were fluent in Inuktitut and I won through that democratic process. We're a national organization: we represent people who speak Inuktitut and some who can't.

There were challenges: there were all the meetings that we tried to organize, trying to deal with the weather, the distance and translation.

We did a lot of fundraising to survive and to do extra projects, like, for example, a film, "Ikajurti," that talked about the need for Inuit midwives, because many of our women would have to leave their communities for long periods of time without their children and their families to have children in the south. I know this is an issue that's still very current.

We produced the booklet "The Inuit Way" to educate non-Inuit about Inuit culture, especially with respect to parenting and child-raising practices. Many of our people would go to schools and to other qallunaaq organizations to give cross-cultural training, using that book, so that was pretty exciting.

We did ground-breaking work on child sexual abuse and family violence. Just to voice it, just to say, yes, it is a problem, and it shouldn't happen

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The premiere showing of the video Ikajurti at the 1990 AGM marked a major accomplishment for Pauktuutit. The hour-long video, co-produced by Pauktuutit and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC), was the first television documentary ever made on the subject of traditional Inuit midwifery and modern child-birthing practices. Ikajurti was broadcast by IBC on June 3, 1990, and received an overwhelming response from viewers who called in their concerns and opinions during a live phone-in segment following the broadcast.

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.

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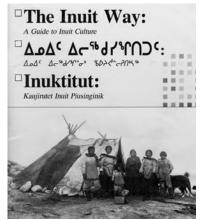
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and we're going to do whatever we can to educate our people about it and to make people understand that it's wrong. It shouldn't be happening. I felt particularly excited about that work.

I remember Joanna Anderson, who was an elder from Nain. After one meeting in Inuktitut, she said, "Nukiqavugut, nipiqavugut, tusaattaulaaqqugut," and that was really powerful. "Even though we are women, we have voices and we will be heard, and we have strength." Those words, I think, guided all of us for many years.

One person who worked very hard for a very long time with us was Tracy O'Hearn [Pauktuutit's former executive director], and she passed, so I'd like to remember the work that she did. She helped us out a lot.





#### Did You Know?

'The Inuit Way - A Guide to Inuit Culture' was first published by Pauktuutit in 1989 and revised in 2006. The document has become a trusted resource in understanding Inuit culture, surpassing ten thousand copies in print, and stands as one of Pauktuutit's most significant contributions in its forty-year history. More than just an introduction to traditional Inuit culture, 'The Inuit Way' serves as a foundation for comprehending the cultural roots that guide modern Inuit. Despite monumental societal changes, we maintain strong connections to our land and traditions. This publication is a fundraiser for Pauktuutit. for copies, please contact info@ pauktuutit.ca

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LC ペc▷n∩ Martha Flaherty 1991-1998

The safety of children and women was my priority at Pauktuutit. At the beginning, everybody was being silent about violence against women.

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When I was appointed to the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, we went to every province and every small community for two years and the topic of violence against women was number one for me. I remember it was very hard when this issue was first raised and our leaders were pretty much all men. I felt like I was all alone on this mission.

I first joined Pauktuutit after they had asked Tunngavik, where I was an interpreter, to send a representative. I didn't know anything about Pauktuutit, about the issues, nothing. I didn't know anything about abuse, even though I had been abused. I only realized that I had been abused when someone started telling a story about being abused.

Many women still tell me they are proud of me, after Pauktuutit fought against violence against women. I've been told more than once, "If it wasn't for you, I would be dead." This brings me to tears.

Money was a big challenge, we barely had



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 anything, but we kept going.

I remember my old committee members, I call them "my best teachers." They were very strong women, who were very good teachers: Lizzie Ittinuar, who is still alive; Rhoda Karetak; Lizzie Palliser, a powerful lady from Inukjuak; Inooya Enook from Pond Inlet; and Celine Qitsualik from Cambridge Bay. I learned so much from them, from their strength, and they were not scared to say anything. They talked about women's issues. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have become strong.

I wanted those that are going through hardship to have a voice, to be able to get help and have shelter. We worked very hard on these issues. As we speak, the shelters project is on its way, given the new funding from the federal government for five new shelters.



1995 Fashion Show 1995 Cd5 さんらん ちゅうしょって

Pauktuutit brought attention to the issue of family violence with a conference devoted to this topic in Iqaluit in 1991, during which participants identified measures that needed to be taken within communities, and Territorial Court Judge Bev Browne outlined the judicial procedures involved in bringing cases of abuse to court. Discussions of family violence were a central part of the 1992 annual general meeting in Kuujjuaq, Nunavik. Among other advocacy efforts, Pauktuutit issued a report on the need for policing in Labrador communities to keep women safe, as well as a report outlining how the housing crisis in Inuit communities increases women's and children's vulnerability to violence.

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Toronto Fashion Week 1995 フダウン CdSでいいいく ちょとしって 1995

Knowing that Inuit women everywhere are very artistic seamstresses, I wanted every region to get together to have a fashion show. So, in Iqaluit at the 1994 annual general meeting we had our first big fashion show. It was on the news, and then after that we were taken to Toronto for three weeks for a fashion show there. I am so proud of all the women from all different regions; they are very capable, and they make unique clothing that is different from anything else in the world.

This was really the start of Inuit empowerment when they started bringing out Inuit clothing and culture. Before that, Inuit were very shy about wearing their traditional clothing.

Also, I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work with Mary Simon, as I learned a lot working on gender equality.

I am also happy that women are now acknowledged today, they're part of committees, even though people once used to laugh at me.

Pauktuutit will continue to address some of the key issues of concern to Inuit women today. Child sexual abuse, family violence and high suicide rates are ongoing problems which require a constant, focussed response. We must eliminate the causes of these problems and, in the meantime, provide adequate assistance for the victims and their families.

Martha Flaherty, President 1991-1998 In response to advocacy by Pauktuutit and other Indigenous women, in 1995 the federal government created an Inuit and Aboriginal Child Care Initiative. The initiative provided \$14 million for Inuit with the intent of creating child-care spaces in Inuit communities. Pauktuutit distributed the funds to the regions and helped the regions develop their own child-care strategies, putting Inuit in control of decision making for child-care needs.



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#### **Did You Know?**

Did you know that Martha Flaherty played a crucial role in Nunavut's 1995 groundbreaking initiative to establish the first modern Legislative Assembly actively promoting gender equality in politics? The Nunavut Implementation Commission proposed a pioneering two-member constituency model, ensuring each district elected one male and one female Member of the Legislative Assembly, achieving 50 percent female representation. This innovative approach challenged traditional voting norms, aiming to eliminate systemic barriers hindering women's political participation. The positive community response signaled a potential shift towards a more inclusive political landscape in the emerging territory of Nunavut.











Toronto Fashion Week 1995 フゔュント Cdマューいって トロトレック 1995



## **>**Ġσb ⋂϶ς Veronica Dewar 1998-2003

"Ϥናለንበሰ°ዺኦሃ። CΔLΔΩናνιλαίστε სዊ៤৬৫-σ Ρυσολλοτσ Δας Ανίσερε Κουρουν Ασαδίτου Ρυσολοτε Δαρσ Αίασε Αγλίσερες αρισολοκτου."

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"A challenge that we constantly faced was in getting government representatives to recognize Pauktuutit for the work required in representing Inuit women from many different regions."

As Dewar said in her president's message in the 1998-1999 annual report, "One of the greatest challenges currently facing Pauktuutit and its ability to adequately represent Inuit women is the fact that Pauktuutit is 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."

Within a relatively short time, Pauktuutit prevailed, and then-Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC), the Honourable Robert Nault, recognized Pauktuutit as the sixth national Indigenous organization, granting Pauktuutit a seat at the table when INAC was meeting with Indigenous peoples at the national level.



Pauktuutit took the lead in recognizing the need to safeguard Inuit intellectual property, specifically, amauti designs. The organization hosted a workshop on this topic in May 2001, which was attended by Inuit and non-Inuit from Canada and participants from overseas. Following this, Pauktuutit was invited to sit on an international committee of the Intellectual Property Commission of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women along with representatives from Panama and Peru.

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 During Dewar's tenure as president, Pauktuutit conducted a study of the issues relating to intellectual property using the amauti as a focus for the study, because the amauti represents Inuit women's traditional knowledge, cultural expression, and practical use in carrying babies in the harsh Arctic climate.

"The priority we spent considerable time on was developing intellectual property rights for Inuit art and designs, specifically amauti designs, to protect Inuit from having their designs appropriated by non-Inuit."

Pauktuutit raised awareness of the issue, hosting a workshop on the topic in May 2001 that was attended by Inuit and non-Inuit from Canada and participants from overseas. Connections were made with the Kuna people from Panama whose traditional designs are protected in Panamanian law.

Dewar said that she took particular pride in Pauktuutit's work on bringing HIV and AIDS awareness and information to Inuit women across the North.





Pauktuutit Condom wrappers 2001

Pauktuutit's HIV/AIDS project staff were instrumental in establishing the Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network (CIHAN), which, in conjunction with Pauktuutit, has undertaken many educational activities to inform Inuit and prevent the spread of the disease in Inuit communities. These activities have included workshops for health care providers; the translation and publication of educational booklets; AIDS fairs for Arctic youth, so they can participate in their own education about the disease; and the organization of AIDS walks in both Inuit Nunangat and Ottawa to raise awareness.

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 Dewar,**President 1998-2003

In 2001-2002, then-Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC), the Honourable Robert Nault, recognized Pauktuutit as the sixth national Indigenous organization, granting Pauktuutit a seat at the table when INAC was meeting with Indigenous peoples at the national level. Achieving this recognition had been a priority for Pauktuutit for a number of years.

As Dewar put it in her president's message in Pauktuutit's 2001-02 annual report, "The work of Pauktuutit's experts has played a unique and substantial role in enabling Inuit to learn about HIV/AIDS and how to avoid becoming infected. This has involved overcoming immense challenges including our traditional discomfort in talking about sexual activities, the complete lack of Inuit-specific materials about HIV/AIDS prior to Pauktuutit's involvement in the issue, and the vast distances between our small communities."

Dewar says that one special memory of her time as president would be the round table meetings held with Inuit women across the North that were so informative and educational.



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#### **Did You Know?**

Pauktuutit has been instrumental in championing the interests of Inuit women during land claims negotiations and environmental assessments. The organization has played a crucial role in addressing gender issues and recommending inclusive discussions and equal representation for Inuit women in past land claims and environmental policies.

Further details on these efforts can be found in the publication titled "If Gender Mattered:

A Case Study of Inuit Women, Land Claims, and the Voisey's Bay Nickel Project" (November 1999): <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.688479/publication.html">https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.688479/publication.html</a>



「くっくっと」 Mary Palliser 2003-2005

In her President's message towards the end of her term, Mary Palliser spoke of the systemic challenges still facing Inuit women in spite of Pauktuutit's continued efforts. Those challenges included independent participation in policy-making around health matters, equity issues, cultural awareness and customary law, and the justice system in the North.

 Palliser noted that "our task list is long and the agenda ambitious for a modest organization — nothing short of improving the lives of Inuit women and ensuring us an independent voice in matters that affect us."

The year before, Pauktuutit had celebrated both its twentieth anniversary of incorporation and its achievements in improving the day-to-day lives of Inuit women across Canada. Palliser highlighted how the organization had worked tirelessly to end various forms of abuse by raising awareness of the problems,

Pauktuutit developed an Inuit-specific resource on building healthy babies that was distributed in every Inuit community in the Arctic. The manual covered a wide variety of topics, including the importance of eating healthy foods, keeping physically fit and healthy weight gain. The manual also included a series of handouts for the use of health care workers whose patients included expectant mothers in the communities.

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labelling them as problems, and setting up programs and workshops to change attitudes and behaviours. Pauktuutit had also been instrumental in enabling Inuit communities to establish high-quality childcare centres to provide appropriate language and cultural programming. The organization had continued to advocate for Inuit-specific health policies, programs and resources, "including ground-breaking work in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, tobacco use and midwifery."

Two workshops that were held at the November 2004 annual general meeting in Ottawa illustrate the wide range of issues that Pauktuutit has brought to the attention of Inuit women. The first workshop, "Understanding the choices," provided participants with information about the use of nuclear energy in Canada and the specific issue of how Canada's spent nuclear materials might be managed in the long term. Participants' ideas and views about how Canada might manage this challenge were solicited.

The second workshop, "Sivumuapallianiq — The Journey Forward," provided an overview of the residential school system in Canada and its impacts on First Nations and Inuit. The workshop was presented by the Director General of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada (IRSRC), which had been established to address the legacy of the residential school system.

Subsequently, Pauktuutit and IRSRC entered into a five-year partnership to enable Pauktuutit to address the legacy of residential schools among Inuit. The first phase of the project focused on the development of a strategy to address the serious intergenerational impacts of residential schools



Mary Palliser at Tea with the Governor General 2005 「くこ くこう うっちん もって かっしゃ しゅく かしゅうしょ 2005

upon Inuit in Canada. Through this work, Pauktuutit aimed to increase awareness of the history and legacy of residential schools and to encourage people to discuss the issues. The identification of the best approaches for healing and resolution was a further goal, as well as increased readiness for action on issues related to the legacy of residential schools.

In 2009, Pauktuutit presented the Inuit Residential Schools Healing Strategy at the Resolution Health Support Workers and Cultural Support Providers national training event in Montreal, which was coordinated by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada.

In 2011-12, Pauktuutit partnered with Encounters with Canada to deliver workshops to youth, including Inuit youth, to help them understand the legacy of the Inuit residential school experience and to foster a dialogue of reconciliation.

Pauktuutit has worked for many years to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking and on the promotion of resource materials to help Inuit reduce their dependence. In 2004-2005, Pauktuutit had three projects underway that focused on increasing the capacity of Inuit youth in the communities to deliver and evaluate tobacco cessation programs. In addition, Pauktuutit continued to provide advice and review documents of the First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy Advisory Circle.

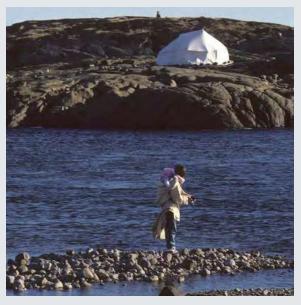


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Martha Greig
2005-2007

"I had a lot of experience as an employee of Pauktuutit and as vice-president, but I was not in the position of president for long. We were handling so many different topics, but the most important to me have always been healthy relations in families and HIV/AIDS, which we had put a lot of focus on. It was an important issue for me when I was an employee."

"I did all I could on the HIV/AIDS program. In 1992, I was home for 85 days in total. There are 365 days in a year, and I was only home for 85 of them! I toured communities with co-workers to give information to people who had HIV/AIDS. I was very proud of what we did and thankful for the late Leetia Geeta [the first Inuk woman to be diagnosed with HIV]. She was the one who gave good information to those who needed it.

Midwifery has also been a priority for Pauktuutit. We made a lot of effort to re-establish traditional



In 2005-2006, Pauktuutit brought together the twelve shelter directors from Inuit communities across Canada to discuss the challenges and future directions for shelters and the needs of the staff. One of the pressing needs identified was training for staff. As a result of the meeting, the National Inuit Women's Shelter Association was formed.

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midwifery, and now we have midwives in our communities in Nunavik. I was invited to go to Inukjuak in November 2023 to help celebrate the 25-year anniversary of the opening of the midwifery centre, which is one of my greatest memories. I also have good memories of the other women involved in this effort, such as the late Annie Napayok, Martha Flaherty, Mary Sillett, Eva Voisey, Annie Buchan and Anita Pokiak."



Annie Napayok √o o<√<sup>5b</sup>

Greig also took pride in the Keepers of the Light action plan that Pauktuutit produced during her tenure to outline the organization's vision of a strengthened partnership between Canadian Inuit women and the Government of Canada: "We women have a lot to do and this work needs to be continued."

"There were a lot of challenges, but we did our best to continue in order to achieve our objectives. One challenge was very personal to me: my mother got sick and died in December 2006. My father was also not in good health. I had never resigned or stopped working before, but I had to help my father. I knew that my co-directors would be able to continue what they were working on. I had no choice but to discontinue my presidency.

Αξενείτε Αρειστικές Αυτουριών Αυτου

What is important is that the federal government now has clear and definable steps it can take, working closely with Pauktuutit, to address the many challenges that Inuit continue to face.

#### Martha Greig,

President 2005-2007

I am always aware that we women are very knowledgeable and skillful. We can do great things together. I have been very proud of our skills, being able to highlight mental health issues. Although we have had some obstacles, we are resilient and fight to achieve our goals. We need to try because if we don't, we will never know what we are capable of. I encourage everyone to become involved and work together, because working together is a great way to achieve what we want.

I am always grateful that there had been strong presidents before me, like Jeela Moss-Davies and others. I also received support from Annie Okalik, Enooya Inook and Silpa Edmonds, and Mary Matook."

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Providing information to northern communities about HIV/AIDS became one of Pauktuutit's priorities in 1989-1990. Efforts were made through radio and Pauktuutit's newsletter, Suvaguuq, to inform communities and individuals about the nature of the disease, its symptoms, what preventive measures should be taken



and the ways in which AIDS is and is not transmitted. Pauktuutit went on to produce resource materials designed for Inuit and to host workshops to educate Inuit in the North and in Ottawa about the disease. Pauktuutit's HIV/ AIDS project staff were instrumental in establishing the Canadian Inuit HIV/ AIDS Network (CIHAN), which, in conjunction with Pauktuutit, has undertaken many educational activities to inform Inuit and prevent the spread of the disease in Inuit communities.



Brenda Epoo, center, a midwife at the Inukjuak clinic and a Pauktuutit board member 2020-2023, checks a patient as a student midwife observes. In the past, Canada pressured Inuit women to travel south to give birth in hospitals. Now hometown maternity clinics allow them to deliver closer to home with midwives attending.

#### **Did You Know?**

Martha Greig played a pivotal role as the president of Pauktuutit in establishing Nunavik Women's Midwifery (now The Inuulitsivik Health Service). With locations across Nunavik, Inuulitsivik has offered Inuit midwifery services in Puvirnituq since 1986. The initiative expanded to Inukjuak in 1998, Salluit in 2004, and Kuujjuaq in the mid-2000s and now serves seven communities in the region. Today, 92.2% of deliveries in Nunavik are done in-the-community, through the work of Inuit midwives. Inuulitsivik midwifery is seen nationally and internationally as a model for remote maternity care and Indigenous midwifery.

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Martha Greig at Pauktuutit's Annual General meeting 1988 (on Pauktuutit's staff as health coordinator), and again lighting the ceremonial qulliq at the National Enquiry into MMIWG Hearings in Quebec City in May 2021.

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© John Burridge

## אלים <mark>לכ</mark> Rhoda Innuksuk 2007-2009

In her president's message reviewing the first year of her tenure, Rhoda Innuksuk spoke of the need to encourage and enable Inuit youth to have a stronger say on the issues that affected them.

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"When I look at Pauktuutit's two youth Board members, I am reminded about how far our young people have come and how essential it is to have them as active and vocal participants in our organizations."

She spoke of her interest in ensuring that Inuit living in urban areas are not forgotten. "Urban Inuit face many challenges in accessing services and programs many Inuit in Inuit Nunaat take for granted. Ensuring Inuit are able to lead healthy and productive lives in urban centres will continue to be a strong interest for me."

She also spoke of her pride in the work Pauktuutit had undertaken towards building healthy Inuit communities. "This is a role that Pauktuutit is uniquely qualified for as the only national Inuit organization that represents Inuit women. Inuit

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Inuit women form the core of our communities in many areas and work tirelessly to help make their communities the best they can be.

#### Rhoda Innuksuk,

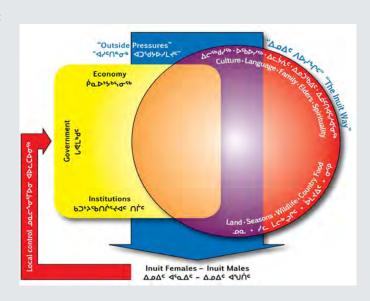
President 2007-2009

women form the core of our communities in many areas and work tirelessly to help make their communities the best they can be."

Pauktuutit's primary areas of activity in 2007-2008 included abuse prevention, prenatal and maternal health care, and sexual health, in addition to building stronger and healthier Inuit communities. In support of its National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities, Pauktuutit delivered numerous programs and workshops across the North, including the Family Counseling On-the-Land program developed in Hopedale, Nunatsiavut.

Work continued on Pauktuutit's midwifery project to develop an Inuit midwifery strategy that would facilitate the ability of Inuit midwives to practise in all Inuit communities. The work largely took the form of creating resources and providing technical support to a working group on the issue. The long-term goal of the project was to contribute to excellent maternal and child health care in the North.

In 2006, Pauktuutit was asked by the Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis at Health Canada to develop a framework for an Inuit-specific culturally relevant gender-based analysis of health determinants. The use of this framework helps determine whether new federal policies and programs affect Inuit women differently from other groups.

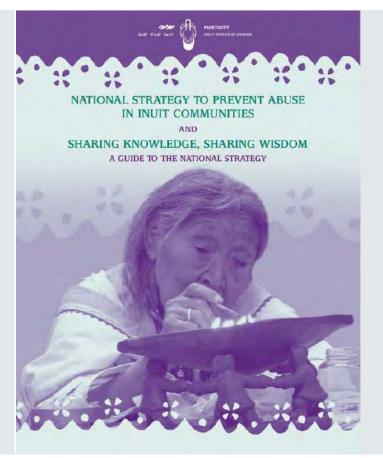


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In the report on the second year of Rhoda Innuksuk's tenure, she highlighted Pauktuutit's achievements in what was also the organization's twenty-fifth year of operation, saying that "from the initial stirrings of the newly founded organization in 1984, Pauktuutit has proven to be a major force in improving the lives of Inuit women, their families and their communities for over a quarter century." She noted that "political equality, health and social issues have been and continue to be the top three priorities of Pauktuutit's membership," based on analyses of all resolutions passed by delegates to the organization's annual general meetings since 1984.

One aspect of Pauktuutit's work since its inception has been to ensure that government programs and services meet the needs and priorities of Inuit women. Pauktuutit applied an Inuit-specific, gender-based analysis to the Federal Food Mail Program, and to potential changes to the program, to assess how proposed changes to eligible food products might affect Inuit women and men in the North in different ways. The project provided an important opportunity to test Pauktuutit's work to date on a particular federal policy initiative.



Pauktuutit has always been active in building capacity to address and prevent abuse. The overall goal of the National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities, which was launched in 2006, was to encourage a steady reduction in incidents of violence and the eventual predominance of caring and respectful relationships. Pauktuutit has run numerous workshops and programs to support this goal.





## Δς \Λ γοη ηλο Elisapee Sheutiapik 2009-2012

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At the beginning, given she was only going to have a one-year term as president, Elisapee Sheutiapik said that her focus was on getting a good orientation, so that she could identify what she should do for a year to help Pauktuutit. She noted the importance to the organization in having a bilingual president, like herself, able to speak on behalf of Pauktuutit.

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 "My vision for Pauktuutit was always to be a voice for women, especially those who are vulnerable, the 'have nots.' Because the 'haves' are very good at representing themselves so to me that has always been in my mind for Pauktuutit.

As the president I had a saying, 'if I can do it, you can do it,' because there's always a team behind the scenes, and I'm a team player. I remind women 'you can,' and I remind young women 'you can.' It's not just older women who can. It's us women who touch on everything. When we think family, we think of a home. If we help the most vulnerable women, they're





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For a number of years, the Inuit Women in Business project has delivered workshops to Inuit women interested in starting up businesses. The workshops evolved in 2011-2012 specifically to serve Inuit women who wished to start small businesses generally starting with fewer than five employees. The resources provided included a strong focus on financial literacy and an Inuit-specific asset-mapping tool.

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going to help everyone in the home.

In the future, I hope we have more women in leadership because I find politics to be still very much politics and not leadership."

In the annual report on the third year of Sheutiapik's time as president, she spoke of her history as a business owner in Iqaluit and her belief that "owning your own business can be an important opportunity for many Inuit women to move towards a better life for themselves and their families."

She took particular pride in Pauktuutit's efforts to support and encourage Inuit women who were interested in starting a business. That year, the Inuit Women in Business project updated the content of their workshops to meet the current needs of Inuit women. The new resources included a stronger focus on financial literacy. Progress was also made on a pilot version of an Inuit Women in Business Network that was intended for women to learn directly from one another's experiences. One resource that proved to be popular was the development of a series of case studies of successful Inuit businesswomen across Inuit Nunangat.

Sheutiapik recounted how Pauktuutit did a project in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, "where we gathered



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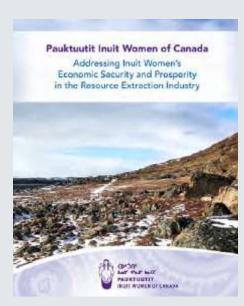
interpreters from across the regions in the church because we were going to create glossaries for Elders on male and female anatomies. As Inuit, we are shy to say those words. At the church we talked about body parts and discussed how we would create the glossary, and I was a part of that. We knew that this is a tool that will be used in the communities. That's what I loved about Pauktuutit."

She said that a particular memory of her time at Pauktuutit was a trip she took to Mexico with then-Executive Director Tracy O'Hearn and Special Projects Manager Lucille Villasenor-Caron. The latter spoke Spanish and acted as interpreter and also guided Sheutiapik away from food that was too spicy! On a more serious note, Sheutiapik noted that organizations they met with in Peru were not as well set up as Pauktuutit, and they were not doing the same type of policy work. She said, "That trip really made me think that we're more advanced than some countries."

In 2011-2012, Pauktuutit began a research project on the impacts of mining on the Inuit women of Baker Lake, Nunavut, where the Meadowbank goldmine operates. Pauktuutit's goal was to identify the effects of commercial resource extraction in the community, in order to provide Inuit with a powerful tool to increase

their understanding of the benefits, and potential costs, of resource development and solutions to mitigate the negative impacts. As part of continued work on this topic, Pauktuutit released a ground-breaking report in 2012 on the experiences of Inuit women in the resource extraction industry.

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کن کا کا کے Rebecca Kudloo 2012-2022

"Our priority right from the beginning, and with my background, was always for shelters and community-based treatment needed for the communities. Those were my priorities."

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"There is no alcoholism treatment in a lot of communities and a lack of safe shelters for women. The federal legislation does not fit us sometimes. For example, the federal government spent millions of dollars on shelters on reserves. We didn't qualify since we are not on reserves."

Pauktuutit and its leadership have been emphasizing the urgent need for safe spaces for Inuit women since the organization's inception in the early 1980s. During my tenure, we succeeded in Pauktuutit's 37-year call for shelters when in January 2021, the federal government announced funding to support the creation of five new shelters for Inuit women and children, one for each of the four regions of Inuit Nunangat and one in Ottawa. The announcement was in direct response to the



On June 15, 2017 Pauktuutit and the Government of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This historic agreement, led by Carolyn Bennett and Rebecca Kudloo, aimed to establish a government-to-government relationship addressing issues affecting the well-being of Inuit women and children. The MOU, rooted in trust and cooperation, aimed to strengthen Pauktuutits's role, enhance collaboration with the government, and advance priorities like preventing abuse and violence against Inuit women and children.

formal request for support put forth by Pauktuutit at its 2020 AGM, Which launched a year-long communications campaign.

"I think my vision was that I wanted people to know what we do and what our mandate is, and I think I accomplished that by being able to speak English and Inuktitut, and I explained a lot to Inuttituusuut media (media that interview in Inuktitut). People told me that they were starting to understand what Pauktuutiit does, so that was rewarding."

"I think the challenging part was living up here (Baker Lake) and trying to travel, even going to Ottawa was challenging. It takes a lot out of you, and I



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#### **Did You Know?**

Did you know during Rebecca's tenure, Rosemary Cooper was appointed the first Inuk Executive Director in the 37-year history of Pauktuutit? This remarkable achievement marked a significant milestone, paving the way for greater representation within the organization. As the inaugural Inuk Executive Director, Rosemary Cooper's legacy is a testament to the importance of lived experience in leadership, fostering a stronger and more inclusive future for Pauktuutit and Inuit we represent.



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**/b▷ሮ' ▷°>ሲ,** ⊲ኈቦ≺⁰ዕ⁰ 2012-2022 If we are to end the tragedy of gendered violence, Inuit women must be at the forefront of implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan for Inuit. This is not a preference - it's an imperative - consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

#### Rebecca Kudloo,

President 2012-2022

lived in hotels and out of suitcases for a long time. So that was challenging physically and mentally, but it was for a good cause. When I felt discouraged or tired, I would say, 'I wanted to do this."

"I think I was really happy to be involved in the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) and ITK, where we collaborated with other countries because we all have similar issues and working together like that was very rewarding. With ICC, I made sure that the Inuit women's perspective was always heard. I also pushed for Pauktuutit's seat at ITK to become a voting status, as we are just observers at the table. Before the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, I tried very hard to have an Inuk commissioner to represent us."

I think the most memorable and the proudest feeling was sitting at a session of the United Nations at the Canada table, meeting Indigenous women from all over the world trying to make our communities a better place to live no matter where



In January 2021, Pauktuutit welcomed the opportunity to establish a formal working relationship with the RCMP by signing the Pinasuqatigiinniq Agreement to improve the protection and safety of Inuit women, children and gender-diverse persons. RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki noted that Pauktuutit's review of police policies and practices was instrumental in identifying key issues and steps that need to be taken to improve police services in Inuit Nunangat.

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you are. Talking with other women's organizations, I learned that in Inuit Nunangat we lack so much in resources that we need to help our people.

What was really rewarding too, was men who supported me in my work, sometimes saying they heard me on the radio and men who approached me, sometimes at the store, and said they are against violence too because someone in their family was abused.



In January 2021, the federal government announced funding to support the creation of five new shelters for Inuit women and children, one for each of the four regions of Inuit Nunangat and one in Ottawa. The announcement was in direct response to the formal request for support put forth by Pauktuutit at its 2020 AGM. Pauktuutit and its leadership have been emphasizing the urgent need for safe spaces for Inuit women and children since the organization's beginnings in the early 1980s.



**١٠٠ ١٠٠ ١٠٠ Gerri** Sharpe 2022-2024

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During my presidency, it has been essential to me that we make progress on key issues such as violence against Inuit women, the provision of shelters and transitional housing, and midwifery.

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**ንሶ ብዓሩ** 2022-2024 ማፅማንግ<sup></sup>ሶ Women's access to health services, such as midwifery, should be equal throughout Canada, regardless of where we live. Recognizing gender-diverse Inuit was also a priority for me, and our activities are now focused on the well-being of not only Inuit women and their families but also gender-diverse Inuit.

I have especially enjoyed our representation at circumpolar and international forums, which in 2022 included discussions about economic development, self-determination, climate change, health and education with Māori and government leaders in Aotearoa-New Zealand. At a national level, much of my time has been spent at Inuit



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I am very proud of my tattoo lines and their meaning, and I treasure our foremothers who carried on this tradition and our young Inuit women who are now continuing the tradition, showing the strength and vibrancy of Inuit culture.

### **Gerri Sharpe,**President 2022-2024

Tapiriit Kanatami board meetings and Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee leaders' meetings.

My vision for Pauktuutit is that all Inuit women's voices are heard, regardless of where they live. The legacy of my mother having been part of Pauktuutit is important to me and inspires me to seek equality for those we represent.

I still recall what it meant to women in my community when my grandfather's wife told them about the early planning meetings for the national Inuit women's group that became Pauktuutit. I remember the smiles, the laughs, the togetherness and the excitement of planning new things.

I became president while the organization was going through a lot of growth, and that made for

The Pope's visit to Iqaluit as part of his penitential pilgrimage to Canada in 2022 provided the President of Pauktuutit, Gerri Sharpe, with an opportunity to highlight an important Inuit cultural tradition. Sharpe drew the Pope's attention to her tattoos, explaining that even though government and churches had tried to suppress this traditional practice, it continues to flourish among young Inuit women, a testament to the vibrancy of Inuit culture.



In 2023, Pauktuutit embarked on a strategic initiative to establish board portfolios. This involves assigning specific areas of focus to each board member based on their individual strengths, passions and lived experience. This approach ensures that we not only amplify the voices of Inuit women but also broaden the knowledge and expertise of portfolio holders at the national level.

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 a lot of work behind the scenes by our various committees to accommodate that. I feel at this stage that we are on a path that will help us provide added value to those we represent.

A significant step forward for Pauktuutit was the opening of our first-ever regional office in Iqaluit. This office is part of a pilot project that is set to pave the way for regional offices across the country, which will provide a platform for Inuit women to come together and communicate their distinct and shared priorities

There are bound to be challenges in leadership. I can only say that my experience representing Pauktuutit has helped me grow a lot and gain a greater appreciation for the work of our board and our staff. I have been most proud of the dedication of our staff, as well as the sheer commitment shown by our existing and new board members, who have supported me in my role.

Ultimately, my drive and commitment have been rooted in my desire to be an example to my grandbabies. We all need role models, and I



President Sharpe at the Inuit -Crown Partnership Committee Meeting in Nain, Nunatsiavut, with Inuit Leaders, Prime Minister Trudeau, and Federal Ministers MAY 2022

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imagine that I'll leave behind lasting memories not only of the time spent together day to day but also a legacy, where they will look back on my role at Pauktuutit and hope that the next generation of my family will follow in my footsteps.

One particularly important memory that I'd like to share was the opportunity I had in 2022 in Iqaluit to address the Pope, when I drew his attention to my tattoos. Both the government and religious organizations attempted to suppress Inuit traditional tattoos, as they did with other traditional practices and our language. I was very passionate while addressing the Pope and surprisingly the story went viral. I am very proud of my tattoo lines and their meaning, and I treasure our foremothers who carried on this tradition and our young Inuit women who are now continuing the tradition, thus showing the strength and vibrancy of Inuit culture.







## フらいく こく でしている Towards Tomorrow

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, we reflect upon a remarkable journey that spans four decades of unwavering commitment and dedication.

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The organization, born out of a vision for empowering Inuit women, has grown into a formidable force advocating for the rights and well-being of Inuit communities across Canada.

The journey towards tomorrow has been marked by significant milestones and achievements. From its humble beginnings with 14 employees, Pauktuutit has expanded its reach, now boasting a team of over 50 individuals dedicated to its cause. The growth is not merely in numbers; it is a testament to the increasing impact and influence the organization has on shaping the narrative for Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse Inuit in Canada.

As we celebrate this milestone, we acknowledge the challenges faced by Inuit women in navigating the dual worlds of tradition and modernity.



Pauktuutit is dedicated to preserving cultural values while addressing contemporary issues like substance abuse, unemployment, family violence, and intergenerational gaps in Inuit communities undergoing rapid transformation.

The organization's commitment to growth and progress is set out in our strategic plan for the next decade, which is currently in development. The strategic plan will set the course for continued progress and innovation. With a growing budget reflective of increased support, Pauktuutit is poised to tackle emerging challenges and champion the rights of Inuit women with renewed vigour. Our commitment to the cause remains unwavering, and the organization is resolute in its determination and committed to persist until we see tangible, lasting change.

The 40th anniversary is not merely a celebration of the past; it is a call to action for the future. It is an opportunity to inspire and mobilize support for the

ongoing mission to create a better future for Inuit communities. As we take pride in our achievements, we also acknowledge that the work is far from complete. The anniversary serves as a moment of reflection, renewing our commitment to the welfare, prosperity, and empowerment of Inuit women.

In marking this new chapter, we embrace the challenges ahead with determination and hope. The vibrant legacy passed down through generations continues to guide us as we forge ahead, ensuring that the voices and aspirations of Inuit women remain at the forefront of our collective journey toward a brighter, more equitable future.



# bበLትና ኦቦኦህላΓና Board Members through the years

The women who founded the organization and the women who continue to lead Pauktuutit on our journey, are all solid, flexible, stable, gentle, and strong; and their spirits are unbreakable.

<b>વ</b> જ્∿ન્રજ્ફેર		Presidents
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<b>רער ץבי,</b> אֹסִיפֹּ	1987-1991	Mary Sillett, Ottawa
<b>ĹC <i>ペ</i>~ኦሲበ,</b> ላਂጋኞ	1991-1998	Martha Flaherty, Ottawa
<b>ፇና፞፞፞፞፞ፚኯ ∩፟ኦ</b> ና, ላ፞ጋኆ፞	1998-2003	Veronica Dewar, Ottawa
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<b>ĹC Jሲ<sup>ι</sup>,</b> ውαል <sup>ቴ</sup>	2005-2007	Martha Greig, Nunavik
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<b>ልረ ነ / ሶበ</b> ላ ላ ነ ይጋልና	2009-2012	Elisapee Sheutiapik, Iqaluit
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<b>ትሶ</b> ሲ <b>ኣ፞</b> ና, ትላ_ጋ <sub>0.</sub> Δ<	2022-2024	Gerri Sharpe, Yellowknife
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<b>ልኆ &gt;⊲/</b> , ∩ዖႱናረ⊲%	1984-1986	Eva Voisey, Whale Cove
<b>&gt;</b> ₾Ი <b>°</b> ᠘ᡶ <b>ॽ᠘°₯</b> , 〈ጏぐ	1986-1987	Bernadette Immaroitok, Ottawa
<b>ት/                                    </b>	1987-1988	Rosie Aggark, Kivalliq
<b>Là Þa ਼⁵º</b> , २४ 그०.᠘<	1988-1989	Marie Uviluq, Yellowknife
<b>bʔር॰                                    </b>	1989-1990	Caroline Niviaxie, Nunavik Ungava Coast
<b>Ĺር                                    </b>	1990-1991	Martha Flaherty, Ottawa
<b>ĹC Jሲ<sup>ι</sup>, </b> _oaል <sup>ь</sup>	1991-1993	Martha Greig, Nunavik
<b>፭°ጋሲ4 Þ4′</b> , ዾሲና/ፈ%ና	1993-1996	Andrea Webb, Nunatsiavut
<b>ĹC Jሲ<sup>ι</sup>,</b> _oaልʰ	1996-1998	Martha Greig, Nunavik
<b>Lσb Δρ°</b> , Δ°b_Δ°	1998-2000	Monica Ell, Iqaluit
<b>Ċ</b> ᢩᠳ <i>᠙ᡭ</i> ᠳ, ▷◁ᠸᠦᠲ ▷ዖ▷ᠲᢗᠲ᠌ᢃᠳ	2000-2001	Donna Kisoun, Western Arctic
<b>「⟨ċ。。。</b> , ዾዾልष ዾዾልÞ¸‹ ノ╙ケ゚レσ	2001-2004	Mary Palliser, Nunavik Hudson Coast
<b>┌◁ሲ ĻϽ̇</b> , ᠨ᠙ᡃᠸᠲ	2004-2009	Mary Matoo, Kivalliq
<b>ἀτι δι Δι.</b> , Δαρανονιά θευά ααθυσ	2009-2012	Anita Issaluk, Urban Inuit
<b>ዻ፞፞፞፞፞ ልዾ</b> ፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞ <b>ኇ ፞</b>	2012-2014	Annie Buchan, Kitikmeot
<b>ላ</b>	2014-2015	Anne Curley, Qikiqtani North
<b>&gt;^^ ይፈሲ՝</b> ,	2015-2016	Brenda Norris, Yellowknife
<b>ላ</b>	2016-2021	Anne Curley, Qikiqtani North
<b>J፣ሲ \Þ፣ለ,</b> ኦ◁ᠴᠣ᠘<	2021-2022	Gerri Sharpe, Yellowknife
<b>企°</b> ሪ Δጋ%,	2022-2023	Nancy Etok, Nunavik Ungava Coast

<b>೧೧९% ԻՆ </b>	1984-1985	Secretary Treasurer Olassie K. Machmer, Pangnirtung
<b>Δċ¹ ⟨⟨√, Δ², Δ², Δ², Δ², Δ², Δ², Δ², Δ², Δ², Δ²</b>	1985-1986	<b>Elise Attagutaluk,</b> Iglulik
λίς ρλα, D <c 56="" 56<="" c="" d="" dpd="" th="" δ="" σ=""><td>1986-1988</td><th>Shirley Kisoun, Western Arctic</th></c>	1986-1988	Shirley Kisoun, Western Arctic
<b>٥</b> ٢٠ <b>١٠ ٠١٠ ١٠ ٥٠</b> ٩	1988-1989	Ovilu Goo-Doyle, Ottawa
<b>ĽC <b>%</b>ሮ<b>ኦ</b>ሒበ, ∢ਂጋぐ</b>	1989-1990	Martha Flaherty, Ottawa
<b>ጋላበ                                    </b>	1990-1991	Dorothy Mesher, Nunavik Ungava Coast
<b>፭ºጋሲላ Þଏ</b> ʻ, ጔሲና/ላ <b>୬</b> ና	1991-1993	Andrea Webb, Nunatsiavut
<b>በ&gt;ና ርJºሲና</b> •, ሲኦኑ <sup>ር</sup>	1993-1996	Deborah Tagornak, Naujaat
<b>Γላ</b> ሮ	1996-1997	Mary Nashook, Pond Inlet
<b>bc&gt;ና Δል<sup>6</sup> &gt;Jd<sup>ι</sup>L<sup>c</sup></b> , 'የበ'Γ> <sup>c</sup>	1997-1998	Clara Ivilik O'Gorman, Kitikmeot
<b>Ca P/a</b> , D< <a>Co</a> <a< th=""><td>1998-2000</td><th>Donna Kisoun, Western Arctic</th></a<>	1998-2000	Donna Kisoun, Western Arctic
<b>ᠨዾናᅆ ᠘ᢩᢗ᠘ᢄᡃᠬ</b> , ᠘ᠣᡗᠨᡧᢀᢗ	2000-2004	Sharon Edmunds, Nunatsiavut
<b>፭</b> σ <b>ፇ</b> ቴ•, '₽∩'Γ⊳'	2004-2009	Annie Buchan, Kitikmeot
<b>4° ძċ</b> , 'የዖ%ርơ ኦላሲ ህơ	2009-2014	Anne Curley, Qikiqtani North
<b>ዻ፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞ ፇ፞፞፞፞፞</b> ኯ፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞	2014-2015	Annie Buchan, Kitikmeot
<b>Γ່b                                    </b>	2015-2018	Meeka Otway, Edmonton
<b>ኣ<b>ሬ° ቓ&gt;</b>፞፞፞<b>ռ</b>, ዾ፞፞፞፞ፚ<b>°</b></b>	2018-2022	Charlotte Wolfrey, Nunatsiavut
<b>LcΔ۶ ϟϷ·</b> , ⓓϽঔ	2022-2023	Malaya Zehr, Ottawa

#### b∩L់²c ⊳p⊳೪ುನ್c Board Members through the years

「ムヘ ぐに」 / Mary Adams シィ dいしゃ / Rosie Aggark Δ¹Ͻ ϤჼჂჼbˤჼ-<▷&▷° / Ester Aglukark-Powell <<sup>5</sup>σ∪ ΔΡΔΡ<sup>5</sup> / Parniga Akeeagok 」 く dd d f b / Lucy Akoak LC dbd」b / Martha Akoluk Han acしcb / Hattie Alagalak Γσ ¬
d
d
Minnie Alaku ΔΔヤ d°つ5° / April Anderson L宀 엑ీ쇼쇼 / Maggie Annanack ألم المام / Pasha Arngak oor dod / Nancy Arreak ΔC ΔCJC<sup>b</sup> / Ida Atagootak ΔC 〈 CJ」 / Elise Attagutaluk ک<sup>2</sup> ⊲ک⊃<sup>c</sup> / Jane Autut ごう ぐゅん / Myrtle Banfield ۸⊂ خٰ <ٰونم / Billie Jo Barnes ⊲C⊳Γ δċ⁻♭ / Ataomie Blake ἀσ %b° / Annie Buchan ላ亡\ b▷ለ°ጋና / Alyssa Carpenter ሲር b∧°⊃ / Rita Carpenter コタス イペア・ / Laura Churchill d° dċ / Anne Curley ነ° ርት°d<sup>c</sup> / Seane d'Argencourt タĠσb ハト / Veronica Dewar C<sup>ら</sup>SC<sup>-</sup>b A んり / Tagalik Eccles <code>\DS^ ΔCLDC\ / Sharon Edmunds</code> ∠'< Δ'L⊳'\ Silpa Edmunds <いΔ Δ∩ つΔ / Betsey Eetidloie CCΦ° ΔCΔ♭¹ / Liliane Elias Ĺσb Δρ° / Monica Ell Δف ک طف / Enooya Enook ልخ کمط۲<sup>۹</sup> / Nubiya Enuaraq P∩°C Δ> / Brenda Epoo Γσ Δ∩°→Δ / Minnie Etidlui **\_**ግ Δጋ% / Nancy Etok Αςς / Jeannie Evalik ጋሲረ <sup>ዕ</sup>ペ<sup>ዓ</sup> / Tracy Evans LC ペートへ / Martha Flaherty Spence ₹८० १०० / Julia Ford トペカッ・ J-DΔペー/ Ovilu Goo-Doyle

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ارم عن Annie Nulukie dσ ⊳bc¬ь / Annie Okalik Λ<sup>C</sup>イト亡<sup>Sb</sup> ト<sup>b</sup>Λ<sup>b</sup> / Pitseolak Okpik Γ̈́b < C>Δ / Meeka Otway P47C PACJ69 / Caroline Oweetaluktuk PC <cd゚-dもしくし / Rhoda Paliak-Angootealuk Cィ 〈こィ / Lizzie Palliser 「くっくっと / Mary Palliser c < ° σ → / Leah Panniluk P∩ ∧⊳५° / Kitty Pearson &▷°L ∧∪⊂<sup>b</sup> / Wilma Pigalak トゥヘゥ ヘイント Chpik Pitseolak 「しゅ ハイ c Δイ / Megan Pizzo Lyall dĠC >Pd♭ / Anita Pokiak ¿⊂ >P⊲⁵-⊂└\∩° / Sheila Pokiak-Lumsden da¹\n^° > / Christine Porter Ċィ ららりん / Leesee Qaqasiq Γ⊳∩ ¹d⊂°C⊂° / Mary Qulitalik 与へc 'dL°し∧b / Sabrina Qumangapik أم لاباه / Anna Samsack Lc らっつ / Malee Saunders ΔC \δ√ / Ida Saviauk ት⊳ሲ ፟፟፟
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ሳርካ σኄቦኦግሀ / Alice Ningeongan

P⊲P⊂<sup>a</sup> σδ</br>
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Pauktuutit requires financial support to continue our mission.

These critical investments mean that we can continue to support Inuit women and gender-diverse individuals, their families and their communities, wherever they live in Canada.

Pauktuutit sincerely thanks the funders below for their generous financial assistance

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- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
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