

CELEBRATING  
**40**  
YEARS



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**PAUKTUUTIT**  
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA



ANNUAL

2023 | 2024

REPORT



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# NANCY ETOK

I am truly honoured to have been elected as Interim President of Pauktuutit at our recent AGM. As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible work Pauktuutit has accomplished.



First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Gerri Sharpe, our former president, for her exceptional leadership over the past two years. Under her guidance, Pauktuutit experienced tremendous growth and made significant strides in advancing our mission. Her dedication and vision have been instrumental in steering our organization forward, and we are deeply grateful for her contributions.

This year, we have seen our presence in national and circumpolar relations grow significantly. This increased visibility allows us to have a stronger impact on important policy matters that affect our communities. Our voice is being heard, and we are making a difference where it matters most.

We have also enjoyed a period of amazing collaboration. It has been wonderful to work alongside our partners in the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) during our delegation to Ilulissat, Greenland, and to engage with the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) in Nain, Labrador. We are excited to continue these valuable

collaborations, particularly the great working relationship with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) as we focus on our shared goal of improving the lives of Inuit.

The culmination of our shelter initiative was a major highlight of this year. It is so inspiring to see these important projects come to fruition. These shelters and transitional houses will provide Inuit women with essential options for safety and support, and we look forward to watching their development with great anticipation.

The true highlight of the year was our 40th-anniversary celebrations in February. This milestone provided a unique opportunity to reflect on our journey and honour the remarkable individuals who have shaped Pauktuutit over the decades.



Past President Gerri Sharpe with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister Patty Hajdu, MP Mona Fortier, and Inuit leaders at the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) meetings in Nain, Labrador.

Our anniversary events began with our AGM where we were joined by eight of our past presidents. It was truly moving to see these amazing women reconnect and share their personal stories and experiences. These moments of reunion and reflection were a testament to the enduring spirit of Pauktuutit and the strength of our community.

The celebrations ended with our 40th anniversary gala, a night that was both joyous and deeply meaningful. We were honoured to have Governor General Mary Simon, a dear friend and a symbol of leadership and strength, as our guest speaker. Her presence and inspiring words made the evening truly unforgettable. The gala was not just a celebration of our past, but a vibrant acknowledgment of our rich culture and history. It was a night filled with music, dance, and storytelling, reflecting the vibrant spirit of our Inuit heritage.

Additionally, we took great pride in announcing our history project, and the publication of an amazing book that documents and preserves the

rich legacy of Pauktuutit. Entitled *Respecting Tradition, Protecting Our Future*, the project is a significant step in acknowledging the incredible work of those who have come before us and ensures that their stories and contributions are remembered. This initiative provides a valuable resource for our community and a tribute to our collective achievements. A final version is now available on our website - we hope you enjoy it.

As we move forward, I am reminded of the power of collaboration. Working together with our partners, our staff, and our communities, we will continue to build on our successes and strive for even greater achievements. Together, we are making a meaningful difference.

Warmest regards,  
Nancy Etok  
Interim President

# OUR MANDATE AND OBJECTIVES

Pauktuutit is the national non-profit organization 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 about social, cultural and economic development.

Our activities are guided by the following objectives:

- Promoting the rights of Inuit women and children
- Providing a united voice that represents Inuit women of Canada
- Working towards better social, economic, and political conditions for Inuit women
- Working for the betterment of individual, family, and community health conditions through advocacy and program action
- Encouraging Inuit women to take their rightful place in society
- Promoting equity for the views of Inuit women at all levels of Canadian governmental and non-governmental structures
- Motivating Inuit women to realize their potential as individuals and as a group
- Promoting self-confidence and self-reliance among Inuit women
- Providing resources to ensure that our children are raised with Inuit values, heritage, culture and language
- Encouraging the involvement of Inuit women at all levels of Canadian society
- Facilitating collaboration between Inuit women and other Indigenous Peoples



Staff and board members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.



## LIST OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2023-2024



Board members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

### EXECUTIVE

- Interim President: Nancy Etok from Nunavik, Ungava
- Interim Vice-President: Lois (Looee) Mike from Qikiqtani South
- Interim Secretary-Treasurer: Paige Kimiksana-Kreps representing Youth, Urban

### DIRECTORS

- Urban, Happy Valley-Goose Bay: Catherine Mitsuk
- Nunatsiavut: Vanessa 'Sissy' Webb
- Nunavik, Hudson: Sara Idlout
- Nunavut, Iqaluit: Elisapee Sheutiapik
- Qikiqtani North: Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko
- Kivalliq: Nancy Uluadlauk-Gibbons
- Kitikmeot: Josephine Tucktoo
- Inuvialuit: Kourtney Wolkie
- Urban, Yellowknife: Pauline Saturgina Tardiff
- Urban, South-East: Martha Flaherty
- Urban, South-West: Lillian Lundrigan
- Special Advisor: Charlotte Wolfrey, Nunatsiavut



# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada plays a vital role in government relations, advocating for the rights and empowerment of Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals on national and international fronts. By fostering open dialogue, we aim to shape policies that reflect our communities' diverse needs and preserve our rich cultural heritage.

## 22nd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

On April 17, 2023, Past President Gerri Sharpe and Executive Director Rosemary Cooper attended the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York. They participated in the Indigenous Peoples and Legislation forum and met with UN Ambassador Bob Rae.

## Tri-Lateral Working Group to End Violence Against Indigenous Women

On April 19, 2023, Pauktuutit participated in an engagement session in New York with Indigenous women leaders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States, addressing priorities like human trafficking and gender-based violence. We also contributed to the planning of September's Fifth Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls.



Past President Gerri Sharpe with ITK President Natan Obed and NTI President Aluki Kotierk at the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women.



From left to right: Past President Gerri Sharpe at the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); Past President Gerri Sharpe with Minister Patty Hajdu and MP Mona Fortier; Chief Operating Officer Sarah Kastner at the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Housing meeting with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives in Ottawa.

### UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

On April 20, Past President Gerri Sharpe participated in an international panel discussing the adoption of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 39 on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls. She highlighted the need for Inuit women’s priorities to be included in the UNDRIP Action Plan and advocated for an Inuit-specific GBA+ lens. The forum, hosted by the Inuit Circumpolar Council at the UNPFII in New York featured Indigenous women leaders and representatives from Denmark, Canada, and the USA.

### Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) Meeting

Past President Gerri Sharpe participated in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) meetings on May 12, 2023, in Nain, Labrador, and October 30, 2023, in Ottawa. In Nain, she joined Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Patty Hajdu, MP Mona Fortier, and Inuit leaders to discuss

collaborative efforts for Inuit women, girls, gender-diverse individuals, and their families. In Ottawa, the meeting focused on welcoming new federal Ministers and addressing shared priorities.

### Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Housing with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives in Ottawa

On June 27, our Chief Operating Officer Sarah Kastner represented Past President Sharpe at the Meeting of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Housing with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives in Ottawa. Hosted by Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Canada’s Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, the discussion focused on Indigenous housing issues and urban, rural, and remote housing priorities, including homelessness, shelters, and supportive housing.





From left to right: Past President Gerri Sharpe with other Inuit leaders at the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) delegation in Ilulissat, Greenland; Past President Gerri Sharpe at the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Status of Women (FPT SOW) meeting in PEI; Heritage Red Amauti displayed at the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women.

### **Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) delegation in Ilulissat, Greenland**

On July 21, past President Gerri Sharpe attended her first Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) delegation in Ilulissat, Greenland, where Arctic Peoples united for ICC workshops and the Arctic Peoples Conference.

The meeting emphasized asserting Inuit rights internationally and focused on advancing the goals of the “ICC 2022 Ilulissat Declaration.” This Declaration outlines seven priority areas: Good Governance, Security and Inuit Nunaat, Health and Wellness, Language and Culture, Hunting and Food Security, Arctic Ocean and the Marine Environment, and Infrastructure Deficit.

### **Federal, Provincial, Territorial Status of Women (FPT SOW)**

On July 30, 2023, Pauktuutit participated in the mid-year meeting of National Indigenous Leader Representatives (NILRs). Pauktuutit presented

co-developed principles of engagement to the Ministers responsible for the Status of Women. We also contributed to discussions on Pillar 4 of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, focusing on actions related to the Inuit MMIWG+ Calls to Action and supporting Indigenous women leaders.

### **Trilateral Working Group on Violence against Indigenous Women**

Pauktuutit participated in the Fifth Convening of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence against Indigenous Women in Ottawa on September 6-7, 2023. Past President Gerri Sharpe engaged with Indigenous leaders and government representatives. We showcased the Heritage Red Amauti, honouring Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

### Meeting with Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

On November 1, Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and Pauktuutit's past President Gerri Sharpe met to discuss Shelters and Transitional Housing and Missing and Murdered Indigenous woman and girls (MMIWG). The meeting marked a positive step towards addressing Inuit communities' specific needs and challenges.

### World Health Organization

On November 28, Past President Sharpe met with Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge and Martin Kraye von Krauss from the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide insight into Inuit health in the circumpolar region. Pauktuutit highlighted health challenges faced by Inuit women, emphasizing the need for gender-informed strategies. Discussions included addressing health disparities and

reviving traditional Inuit midwifery, with a focus on reproductive and sexual health, mental wellness, and suicide prevention. Pauktuutit is committed to supporting WHO's study of health priorities in Inuit Nunangat.

### United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Executive Director Rosemary Cooper and Youth Delegate Shayla Claringbold represented Pauktuutit as part of Canada's delegation at the 68th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW68) in New York on March 11, 2024. The annual conference is the UN's largest gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment and highlights the strength of collaboration in achieving shared goals and priorities.



From left to right: Past President Gerri Sharpe with Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations; Past President Sharpe with Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge and Martin Kraye von Krauss from the World Health Organization (WHO); Executive Director Rosemary Cooper and Youth Delegate Shayla Claringbold at the 68th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW68) in New York.



# PAUKTUUTIT'S PORTFOLIOS

Every department conducts its work through a range of activities to address the priorities and needs of Inuit women, their families, and gender-diverse Inuit. For more details and updates, visit our website at [pauktuutit.ca](http://pauktuutit.ca)

## Violence, Abuse Prevention & Justice

The Violence and Abuse Prevention team addresses a wide spectrum of issues affecting the safety and well-being of women and children, including gender-based violence, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), policing, and justice.

### United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Pauktuutit continues to collaborate with Justice Canada on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA), with a focus on enhancing the safety and well-being of Inuit women. This year, Pauktuutit completed a legal analysis of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), examining its specific implications for Inuit women. This analysis helps to clarify how UNDRIP can address and support their rights and needs.

To learn more about UNDRIP, its relevance and its potential impact on Inuit communities, go to [www.pauktuutit.ca/undrip](http://www.pauktuutit.ca/undrip).

**WHAT IS UNDRIP?**

The "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" defines the rights that Indigenous peoples around the world deserve. UNDRIP is not a law, but it tells the Government of Canada how to make sure its laws do not harm Indigenous peoples and do protect their rights.

UNDRIP has 46 articles that define Indigenous rights. They include the right to:

- Be free and equal to everyone else.
- Live in a safe and appropriate house.
- Access services for your health.
- Live a life that is safe and without violence.
- Practice and protect your culture.
- Stay in your community and on your land.
- Have a spiritual connection to your traditional lands and waters.
- Have your voice heard in decisions that may affect your rights.

**SELF-DETERMINATION**  
Indigenous peoples should have the power to make decisions for their own communities. They must be given it and agree to any decisions that affect them or their lands.

**CULTURE**  
Cultures, language, and traditions must be recognized and protected. This includes ensuring that that culture is preserved and not replaced with non-Inuit culture.

**ENDING VIOLENCE**  
Indigenous peoples deserve a life free from violence and to be treated equally. They shouldn't experience violence or unfair treatment anywhere, including in hospitals, by police or by child welfare agencies.

UNDRIP defines the rights of all Indigenous peoples around the world. Now that UNDRIP has been accepted in Canada, it tells the government how rights specific to Indigenous communities and individuals should be included in its laws.

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PAUKTUUTIT  
THE POWER OF CANADA

## Red Amautiit Project

On May 5, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada launched the Red Amautiit installation to honor Missing and Murdered Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse people. The project features five handmade Amautiit, each crafted by an Inuk seamstress from different regions: Eunice Tunraluk, Arctic Bay, Nunavut; Heather Angnatok, Nain, Nunatsiavut; Shirley Elias, Inuvik, Inuvialuit; Sarah Samisack, Inukjuak, Nunavik; and our Elder, Nancy Pukinaq Aupaluktuq, Baker Lake, Nunavut. The collection was previewed at the Iqaluit Centennial Library and later displayed at the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

Pauktuutit advocates for Inuit-led healing and culturally appropriate solutions to address gendered violence, focusing on prevention, new shelters, second-stage housing, and enhanced healthcare support.

<https://pauktuutit.ca/the-red-amautiit-project/>

## Engaging Young Men and Boys in Inuit Parenting Life Skills

The Engaging Young Men and Boys (EYMB) initiative builds on the Engaging Men and Boys project, teaching parenting skills and promoting healthy relationships through cultural programming rooted in Inuit traditions. This approach aims to reduce gender-based violence by involving men in the conversation.

The Ajuqiqtuq Parenting Life Skills Toolkit aids facilitators in delivering workshops that challenge harmful gender norms and promote gender equality. Participants learn to maintain healthy relationships, manage anger, and handle parenting stress. Workshops have been conducted in Ulukhaktok, NWT, and Iqaluit, NU. Train-the-trainer sessions will continue into 2024-25 to expand the program's reach.

<https://pauktuutit.ca/eymb>



Red Amautiit displayed at the Nunavut Legislative Assembly;  
Ajuqiqtuq Parenting Life Skills Workshop with men and boys in Ulukhaktok, NWT.



## Health

Sexual and reproductive health remains Pauktuutit's primary focus across the department's health initiatives, ensuring a distinctions-based and gender-based approach in all areas.

### National Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming

Pauktuutit is addressing critical sexual health issues like HPV, hepatitis C, and the emerging crisis of syphilis and congenital syphilis through active engagement with federal, provincial, territorial, and Inuit organizations. This included leading discussions on reproductive health rights at the Gender Equality Summit in Whitehorse and participating in a symposium on HPV elimination organized by the Urban Public Health Network and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.

### Community Action Fund - Inuit Youth Sexual Health Project

Pauktuutit's health programs team held regional engagement sessions in Iqaluit, the Western Arctic, and Nunavik to develop Inuit sexual health resources. With input from youth and service pro-

viders and mapped national services, these sessions provided valuable insights that are being adapted into youth-centred supports. Additionally, Pauktuutit established "Innasaat Katimajit," a Sexual Health Youth Committee made of Inuit youth across Canada, to guide messaging and resource development.

### CheckUp! Project

The CheckUp! project is an Inuit-specific initiative aimed at preventing sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) among Inuit youth. Through social media, the project empowers youth to navigate the healthcare system and normalize testing.

In February, Pauktuutit partnered with Native Montreal to host a land-based culture and arts retreat at Oka National Park. By featuring activities like sealskin sewing, throat-singing, and qulliq lighting, the retreat helped participants connect sexual health with body image, identity, and their relationship to the land. The weekend promoted healthy relationships, discussed gender, and worked to reduce the stigma surrounding sexual health.

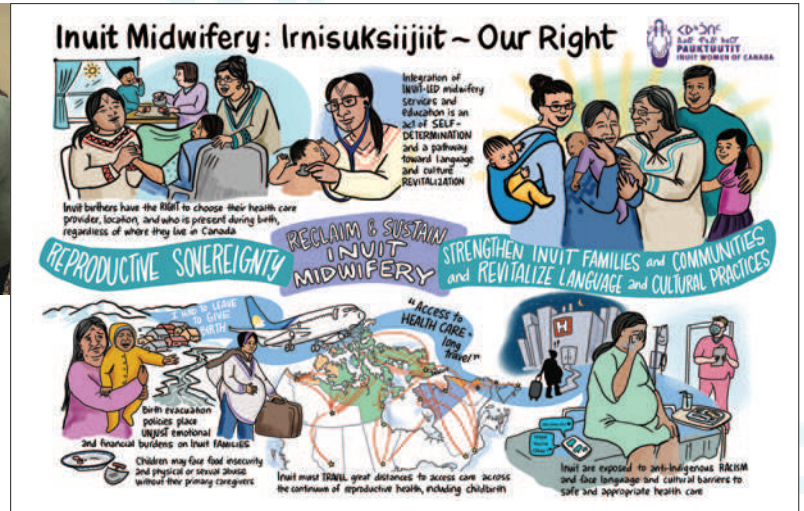


Engagements held in Yellowknife with Inuit youth and service providers on sexual health; Check Up Project – land-based culture and arts retreat.





Pauktuutit and ITK youth representatives, along with Inuit regional representatives, at Health Canada's Expert Panel Review for Cannabis Legislation.



## Cannabis in Our Communities

After launching the Cannabis Harm Reduction Toolkit, Let's Talk about Ujarak, Pauktuutit held virtual and in-person engagement sessions, gathering insights that will be compiled into a final report to be released later this year. Pauktuutit also participated in an Inuit-specific meeting with Health Canada's Expert Panel reviewing Cannabis Legislation in April and attended the first Ungammuataq Conference on Substance Use and Addictions at the Isuarsivik Recovery Centre in Kuujjuaq, Nunavik, in June.

## Cancer

In November, Pauktuutit visited Inuvik to discuss cancer care experiences and introduce the Inuusinni Aqquusaqtara - My Journey toolkit. The visit aimed to facilitate knowledge sharing, brainstorming, and advocacy among Inuvialummiut and service providers, while also providing a platform for cancer patients and their caregivers to share their experiences.

## Midwifery

In Spring 2024, Pauktuutit released the report Improving Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services across Inuit Nunangat, based on findings from the National Inuit Midwifery Forum held in March 2023. The report reaffirms Pauktuutit's commitment to restoring birthing practices in Inuit communities and outlines a pathway forward for midwifery in Inuit Nunangat. Pauktuutit is also developing a National Inuit Midwifery Framework to guide the re-establishment of traditional Inuit midwifery practices and education programs across the region.

## Social and Economic Development

Pauktuutit's Social and Economic Development team has a broad mandate covering various social and economic issues, including political equality, women's leadership, housing, early learning and childcare, and national and international engagement.

### Poverty Reduction

Pauktuutit has contributed to efforts to reduce poverty among Inuit women, children, and families in Canada. By working with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) on the Inuit Nunangat Poverty Reduction Strategy, Pauktuutit helped ensure that the strategy addressed gender considerations. The strategy's emphasis on "Respect for Gender Diversity" reflects the impact of these [advocacy efforts](#).

### Inuit-specific Shelters and Transitional Housing

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada led advocacy efforts to support the development of shelters and transitional housing for Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals escaping gender-based violence in both urban areas and Inuit Nunangat. The program has 12 shelters and eight transitional housing projects in various stages of the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation process.

**Inuit Nunangat:** Projects are underway in Sanikiluaq, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Puvirnituq, Aimagunga, Ulukhaktok, and Tuktoyaktuk. In Nunatsiavut, the CMHC is reviewing applications for a shelter in Makkovik and transitional housing in Nain.

**Urban Areas:** Shelters and transitional housing initiatives are progressing in Ottawa, Montreal, and Winnipeg.

With the application process closed, Pauktuutit will conduct a strategic review of its family violence prevention approach and housing advocacy. This includes assessing past housing policies, their impacts, and government investments over the past decade. Additionally, Pauktuutit will study successful low-income and Indigenous housing strategies, both domestically and internationally, using a gender-based perspective to guide future advocacy for [Inuit women](#).

### Early Childhood Development and Education

Pauktuutit works to enhance the lives of Inuit children, women, and families through policy review, strategic collaboration, and representation. By participating in the Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group (IECDWG) and the National Inuit Committee on Education (NICE), Pauktuutit has contributed to shaping the [National Strategy on Inuit Education and early childhood development policies](#).



Inuit Women in Business workshop focussing on business start-up and expansion.

### **Inuit Women in Business Network (IWBN)**

Pauktuutit's Inuit Women in Business Network (IWBN) provided community-specific programming both virtually and in person. Recent successful workshops in Pangnirtung and Cambridge Bay focused on business start-up and expansion. The IWBN website now features new resources on budgeting, operations, marketing, grant writing, hiring practices, and federal procurement opportunities. These resources and other research deliverables were presented to the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) at their national retreat in Ottawa in January 2024.

<https://pauktuutit.ca/resources/>

### **Reaching Home Research**

The research on Urban Inuit Homelessness and Housing Needs, completed in March 2024, sheds light on the challenges faced by Inuit women and families in urban areas. It identifies gaps in infrastructure and funding that limit service scope and highlights the unique experiences of Inuit women experiencing homelessness in urban settings across Canada. This research supports the efforts of Inuit advocacy partners and has impacted the development and funding for new Urban, Rural, and Northern housing investments by CMHC and the federal government.



## Inuit-Specific GBA+ Framework

Pauktuutit, representing Inuit women in Canada, advocates for policies and services that address the unique needs and experiences of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals. To support this advocacy, we have introduced our Inuit-specific Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) Framework, rooted in Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit principles. This framework ensures that policies and programs consistently reflect an Inuit-specific GBA+ perspective, acknowledging the strengths and capabilities of Inuit communities.

We are also developing culturally responsive learning modules for staff training, combining workshops with online self-guided options. These modules aim to enhance the understanding and application of our GBA+ framework.

## Communications Division

Over the past year, the Communications Division has been integral in supporting our board and all other divisions with communications. From drafting key messages and designing promotional materials to coordinating media outreach and managing event communications, we ensured that Pauktuutit's initiatives received the visibility and support they needed to succeed.

Our media relations efforts have significantly amplified the voice of Inuit women. We established and nurtured relationships with key media outlets, increasing coverage of our work, community events, and policy initiatives. By addressing critical issues such as gender-based violence, housing challenges, and access to healthcare, we ensured that the unique perspectives and experiences of Inuit women were represented at all levels.

**Pauktuutit's Inuit-Specific GBA+ Framework**

**Foundation of our Framework**

- Inuit Cultural Values and an Inuit Worldview
- Our Framework has its own Inuit Cultural Values Assessment

The infographic features a teal header with the title. Below the title is an illustration of a person in traditional Inuit clothing, possibly a woman, standing in a dark, swirling environment. To the right of the illustration, the text 'Foundation of our Framework' is followed by two purple rounded rectangular boxes containing the two points listed above. The entire graphic is set against a white background with a colorful horizontal bar at the bottom.





Staff, Board and Community members at the 40th Anniversary Celebrations.

Collaboration with government counterparts has strengthened our advocacy efforts. Working closely with various governmental agencies, we aligned our communication strategies and maximized the impact of our joint initiatives, advancing our policy goals and securing support for our programs.

Our social media strategy has been a cornerstone of our communication efforts. We implemented strategic campaigns to enhance our reach and effectiveness, raising awareness about critical issues and engaging our community in meaningful conversations. Through engaging content and multimedia storytelling, we saw a substantial increase in followers and engagement across all platforms.

Translation and the use of Inuktitut language remain central to our work. We prioritize ensuring that all communications are available in Inuktitut to honour and preserve our culture.

One of our major achievements this year was the successful organization of our 40th-anniversary community events and gala. These events celebrated our rich history, honoured our founders and showcased the achievements of Inuit women. The gala brought together community members, stakeholders, and supporters in a beautiful celebration of Pauktuutit.

The Communications Division also spearheaded the History Project, which included interviews with past presidents, research on Pauktuutit's history, and the layout and design of the project. This initiative not only preserves Pauktuutit's legacy but also inspires us to continue our work for the betterment of Inuit women.

Through these initiatives, the Communications Division has played a pivotal role in advancing our mission and strengthening our community connections. We look forward to building on these successes in the coming year, continuing to advocate for and empower Inuit women.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023-2024

On February 14 and 15, 2024, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada hosted its Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, marking the start of our 40th anniversary celebrations. This milestone event brought together past presidents and key contributors to reflect on Pauktuutit's significant journey.

The 40th Annual General Meeting was opened by Past President Gerri Sharpe, who highlighted the impact the organization has had over four decades in empowering Inuit women. She emphasized the importance of the contributions made by past presidents and delegates in shaping the organization's legacy. Gerri's reflections highlighted Pauktuutit's historical milestones and the wisdom and commitment of past leaders in guiding the organization.

On the second day of the AGM, Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, addressed attendees, reflecting on

his journey since being elected in 2015. He emphasized the significant progress made in rebuilding trust with Indigenous communities and the evolving dialogue on justice and action. Minister Anandasangaree highlighted that the Calls to Action are no longer just aspirational but are essential for driving real-life changes. He also stressed the importance of evolving relationships with Indigenous communities and the ongoing need to address persistent issues and systemic oppression.



## Honouring Pauktuutit's Past Presidents: The History Project

Anita Pokiak presented the history project “Respecting Traditions, Protecting Our Future,” a commemorative book. Marking Pauktuutit’s 40th anniversary, the colourful publication reveals the organization’s history and achievements through the perspectives of past presidents. Anita highlighted the pivotal roles of Mary Sillett and Lizzie Ittinuar in establishing Pauktuutit, celebrating their foundational contributions. The History Project emphasizes the courage, perseverance, and wisdom of past presidents in addressing the needs of Inuit women. “Respecting Tradition, Protecting Our Future,” is now available in both digital and printed formats.

## Empowering Indigenous Rights: UNDRIP and UNDA Presentations and Discussions

Shelagh Roxburgh from Pauktuutit’s Policy team presented on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), focusing on principles such as self-determination, recognition as distinct peoples, and free, prior, and informed consent. The discussion addressed the challenges and opportunities in implementing UNDRIP and highlighted the need for women’s associations like Pauktuutit to be included in decision-making and resource distribution.

Following this, Janine Stingel discussed the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA), which incorporates UNDRIP into Canadian federal legislation. This presentation emphasized the importance of amplifying Indigenous women’s voices in the interpretation and application of UNDRIP and the necessity of creating inclusive



and accessible approaches to rights and resources for Indigenous communities. Both discussions reinforced the critical role of effective implementation and representation in advancing Indigenous rights.

In conclusion, Pauktuutit's 40th Annual General Meeting was a heartfelt celebration of our commitment to empowering Inuit women and gender-diverse individuals. We celebrated our achievements, advocated for their rights, and honoured their contributions. As we look forward to the next forty years, we are inspired by a renewed sense of purpose and determination to advance the rights and well-being of those we represent.

## Board of Directors Elected

Following the Board of Directors meeting on February 16, 2024, we were pleased to confirm our newly elected leadership team.

### **Interim President**

Nancy Etok from Nunavik, Ungava

### **Interim Vice-President**

Lois (Looe) Mike from Qikiqtani South

### **Interim Secretary-Treasurer**

Paige Kimiksana-Kreps representing Youth, Urban

We also welcomed our new board members, who joined our team alongside our existing members.

### **Nunatsiavut**

Vanessa 'Sissy' Webb, acclaimed new board member

### **Kivalliq**

Nancy Uluadlauk-Gibbons, elected new board member

### **Kitikmeot**

Josephine Tucktoo, acclaimed returning member

### **Nunavut, Iqaluit**

Elisapee Sheutiapik, elected, returning member

### **Urban, Yellowknife**

Pauline Saturgina Tardiff, acclaimed new board member

### **Outgoing Members**

Gerri Sharpe

Iselena Natsiapik

*We express our gratitude to the outgoing and incoming members for their dedication to advancing the rights and well-being of Inuit women.*

*We especially thank President Gerri Sharpe, an invaluable leader for Pauktuutit during a time of great change and growth for the organization.*





# CELEBRATIONS 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Our 40th anniversary gala, held on February 5 at the Ottawa Art Gallery, was a memorable evening dedicated to celebrating four decades of advocacy for Inuit women. We were honoured to have Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, as our guest speaker. Her Excellency's early involvement with Pauktuutit and her continued support were deeply appreciated.



The gala featured the unveiling of our History Project with a presentation celebrating the achievements of our past presidents. It was a moving tribute to these remarkable women and the solid foundation they helped build. We were privileged to be joined by past presidents and a founding member, whose presence highlighted the enduring legacy of our organization.

We were also pleased to welcome President Natan Obed from Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), President Aatami from Makivvik Corporation, MP Lori Idlout, Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, President Melanie Omeniho of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwa, Indigenous Leader Sylvia Maracle, and other distinguished guests. Special

thanks to Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, President of the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, for her outstanding role as MC.

The evening featured vibrant cultural performances, including a performance by the Inuksuk Drum Dancers from Iqaluit, who shared their exceptional talents with us. We were also delighted to serve country food, showcasing the rich culinary traditions of our community.





Overall, the gala was a memorable celebration, marked by reflection and a renewed commitment to advocating for Inuit women and gender-diverse individuals. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our guests and attendees for their support, which made the event truly special.





## 40th Anniversary Community Event

We also hosted a 40th-anniversary community gathering with the Ottawa Inuit Community at Assumption Church in Vanier. This event was a wonderful opportunity to honour both past and present leaders and reflect on our shared achievements. The evening featured traditional Inuit games, the Best Bannock contest, and a Parlak celebration recognizing those who caught their first wildlife in the past year. Guests enjoyed samples of country food, seal carving, and lively music. We deeply appreciate everyone who joined us, making the celebration truly special and showcasing our strong community spirit. Congratulations to Jeannie Okalik, who was named Best Bannock Maker at the event! We thank our major sponsor, Canadian North, for providing a return ticket to Iqaluit as the prize. Past President Gerri Sharpe presented the award to Jeannie Okalik, alongside Jason Kilabuk from Canadian North. Jeannie's winning Bannock will be featured in the upcoming Pauktuutit cookbook.



Past President Gerri Sharpe with Jeannie Okalik, winner of the Best Bannock Maker at the 40th anniversary celebrations; History Project Book.

## The History Project Respecting Tradition, Protecting Our Future

Pauktuutit's History Project celebrates the remarkable legacy of our past leaders and founders, whose unbreakable spirits have shaped our journey. As we commemorate our 40th anniversary, we express profound gratitude and deep respect for those who have guided us through the decades.

This project offers an in-depth overview of Pauktuutit's history, as told by the courageous women who led the way. Through interviews, recollections, and shared memories, we honour the vision, dedication, and commitment of our past presidents and board members. Their contributions laid the strong foundation upon which we continue to build today.

More than just a book, this history project is a tribute to those who have tirelessly worked to empower Inuit women and advance our collective advocacy efforts. We encourage you to read it and immerse yourself in the powerful stories of strength, leadership, and unwavering dedication that continue to inspire our work.

# INUIT WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Every year, Pauktuutit's Board of Directors chooses remarkable women to be honoured with the titles of Inuk Woman of the Year and Young Inuk Woman of the Year.

This year, past President Gerri Sharpe, presented the Inuk Woman of the Year and Young Inuk Woman of the Year awards at Pauktuutit's Annual General Meeting on February 14 in Ottawa. The winners joined us virtually to receive their awards.

## **Alyssa Carpenter, Young Inuk Woman of the Year**

Alyssa Carpenter, originally from Inuvik, has been named this year's Young Inuk Woman of the Year.

Alyssa is a northern social worker currently residing in Whitehorse, Yukon, with her partner and daughter. Most of her work experience is within the grassroots and non-profit sector, working with various levels of government in both the Yukon and Northwest Territories, primarily with Arctic and Northern Indigenous youth.

Alyssa is the leading founder and Project Director of the Western Arctic Youth Collective, a youth-led organization based in Canada's Western Arctic region that focuses on empowering young people and promoting positive change in the community through on-the-land programming. Alyssa is a Laureate of the Arctic Inspiration Prize Youth Category for 2020.



### **Janine Lightfoot, Inuk Woman of the Year**

Janine Lightfoot from Makkovik, Nunatsiavut, was named this year's Inuk Woman of the Year.

Janine is a passionate advocate for revitalizing Inuit language and culture in an area deeply affected by language erosion. Janine holds a degree in Political Science and Native Studies and completed the Aurniarvik Program at the Pirurvik Centre in Iqaluit, where she resided and worked for several years, and whose work inspires Janine to find ways to incorporate Inuktitut into all areas of her life.

In addition to her academic achievements, Janine's efforts include initiating free weekly Inuktitut classes for learners, organizing enriching workshops centred around hunting, culture, and revitalization, and establishing a memorial bursary for high school students prioritizing Inuktitut, all done in loving memory of her Anaansiak, Clara Ford. Currently, Janine resides in Makkovik with her family, including their fierce and thoughtful 11-year-old, Panik Aaju Morgan, who dreams of becoming an astronaut.





## 2023-2024 FUNDERS

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's Board of Directors sincerely thank the funders below for their generous financial assistance in 2023-2024 and we look forward to future collaborations.

- Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Heritage
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)
- Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)/ First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB)
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)/Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)
- Justice Canada
- PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- Polar Knowledge Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- University of Calgary
- University of Ottawa
- University of Saskatchewan
- Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

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## CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION

As of March 31, 2024 with comparative figures for 2023

|  | <b>2024</b>          | <b>2023</b>           |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                            |                      |                       |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                    |                      |                       |
| Cash                                     | \$ 7,742,083         | \$ 7,810,819          |
| Accounts receivable                      | 2,690,002            | 1,818,660             |
| Prepaid expenses                         | 184,976              | 33,279                |
|  | 10,617,061           | 9,662,758             |
| <b>Tangible Assets</b>                   |                      |                       |
| Tangible Capital Assets                  | 443,247              | 61,518                |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                      | <b>\$ 11,060,308</b> | <b>\$ 9,724,276\$</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>        |                      |                       |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>               |                      |                       |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities | \$ 1,103,252\$       | \$ 779,559            |
| Deferred Revenue                         | 8,415,803            | 8,077,898             |
|  | 9,519,055            | 8,857,457             |
| Deferred Leasehold Inducements           | 365,829              | 1,009                 |
|  | 9,884,884            | 8,858,466             |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                        |                      |                       |
| Unrestricted                             | 732,177              | 804,292               |
| Invested in tangible capital assets      | 443,247              | 61,518                |
|  | \$ 1,175,424         | \$ 865,810            |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>  | <b>\$ 11,060,308</b> | <b>\$ 9,724,276</b>   |

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2024, with comparative figures for 2023

|  | <b>2024</b>       | <b>2023</b>       |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                         |                   |                   |
| Core Funding                           | \$ 488,024        | \$ 488,024        |
| Project funding                        |                   |                   |
| Government of Canada                   | 5,477,729         | 5,638,699         |
| Other Canadian funding                 | 355,368           | 227,244           |
| Interest and other                     | 417,881           | 188,493           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                   | <b>6,739,002</b>  | <b>6,542,460</b>  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                        |                   |                   |
| Consolidated expenses                  | \$ 6,429,388      | \$ 6,269,455      |
| Total Expenses                         | 6,429,388         | 6,269,455         |
| <b>Excess of Revenue over expenses</b> | <b>\$ 309,614</b> | <b>\$ 273,005</b> |

## REVENUES AND EXPENSES 2023-2024

### Abuse Prevention Projects

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Pathways to Violence Prevention   | 36,520            |
| National Conversations on Gender Equality                                     | 45,608            |
| Engaging Young Men and Boys (EYMB)  | 146,020           |
| Engaging Young Men and Boys (ISC)   | 118,506           |
| Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and the Family Justice System Response | 272,570           |
| <b>Violence and Abuse Prevention projects</b>                                 | <b>\$ 619,223</b> |

### Health Policy and Program Projects

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association                  | 17,836            |
| Tavva-National Inuit Sexual Health                      | 118,767           |
| The Check Up Project                                    | 78,149            |
| FNHIB Health Top-up                                     | 269,086           |
| HIV & HepC Community Action Fund                        | 381,760           |
| Ottawa U MOU  | 98,690            |
| Calgary U MOU   | 9,117             |
| <b>Health Policy &amp; Program Development projects</b> | <b>\$ 973,404</b> |

### Socio-Economic Development

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Enhancing Inuit Women's Economic Development      | 352,334           |
| First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy | 20,206            |
| <b>Socio-Economic Development projects</b>        | <b>\$ 372,540</b> |



## REVENUES AND EXPENSES 2023-2024

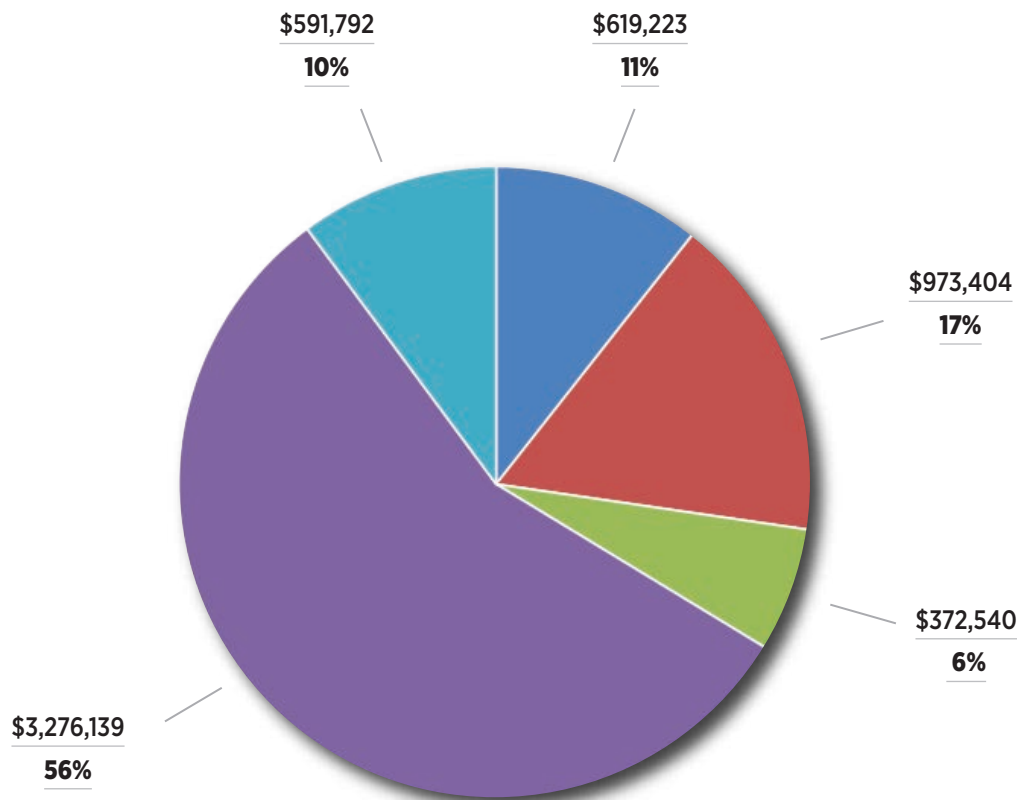
### Policy and Research

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Meeting Survivors Needs on Gender Based Violence     | 25,276              |
| Reaching Home  | 156,923             |
| Engagement Protocol                                  | 201,592             |
| Shelters - Inuit Women Fleeing Family Violence       | 355,350             |
| Inuit Crown Partnership Committee                    | 112,820             |
| Improving Policing Service in Inuit Nunangat         | -                   |
| Empowering Inuit Women in Leadership                 | 3,348               |
| MOU-GBA+   | 77,788              |
| MOU  | 992,984             |
| MOU UNDRIP   | 404,494             |
| CAF & Midwifery Forum                                | 59,687              |
| Midwifery Forum                                      | 21,687              |
| Indigenous Justice Systems Engagement                | 51,756              |
| Unique Challenges Faced by IW Housing & Homelessness | 86,806              |
| Working Together to Build Capacity                   | 411,204             |
| MMIWG IAP Phase 2                                    | 76,103              |
| MMIWG Data Research                                  | 65,301              |
| Federal Pathways                                     | 147,976             |
| Ilavut Meeting Family & Survivor's Needs             | 25,044              |
| <b>Policy and Research</b>                           | <b>\$ 3,276,139</b> |

### Other

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| BOC Top-up   | 52,368            |
| Arnait National Language Initiative                | 223,021           |
| Urban Programming for Indigenous People            | 50,000            |
| GBV Capacity                                       | 264,403           |
| Canadian network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse | 2,000             |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>\$ 591,792</b> |

## CONSOLIDATED CATEGORIES OF SPECIAL PROJECTS



|                                    |    |                  |
|------------------------------------|----|------------------|
| ■ Violence and Abuse Prevention    | \$ | 619,223          |
| ■ Health Policy & Program Projects | \$ | 973,404          |
| ■ Socio-Economic Development       | \$ | 372,540          |
| ■ Policy and Research              | \$ | 3,276,139        |
| ■ Other                            | \$ | 591,792          |
|                                    | \$ | <b>5,833,098</b> |



Pauktuutit's past presidents (from left) Mary Sillett, Martha Flaherty, Gerri Sharpe, Veronica Dewar, Martha Greig, Elisapee Sheutiapik, and Rhoda Innuksuk (not pictured : Jeela Alikatuktuk Moss-Davies, Eva Voisey, Mary Palliser, and Rebecca Kudloo).

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