



NATIONAL INUIT ACTION PLAN
on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women,
Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People



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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI



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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

The National Inuit Action Plan is dedicated to missing and murdered Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their families, friends and communities that have experienced these relentless tragedies.

Champions of this cause are often the families of missing and murdered Inuit women and girls.

The work we bring forward is grounded in creating positive change so no Inuk woman, girl, or any Inuk identifying as 2SLGBTQQIA+ has to experience this kind of violence and hardship.

2SLGBTQQIA+ stands for two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual persons.

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Introduction

Any and all forms of violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are unacceptable and must end. Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are more likely to experience violence than other women and girls in Canada, and the impacts of violence reverberate throughout our society and, too often, from one generation to the next.

Historical and continuing systemic discrimination and human rights violations by governments are among the factors that contribute to the high prevalence of violence experienced by many Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Other factors include long-lasting social and economic inequities between Inuit and most other Canadians such as overcrowding and lack of housing, limited access to public services, and poverty. These inequities can and must be eliminated and the systems and policies that contribute to them can and must be remedied.

Gender violence is often linked to intergenerational traumas caused by the harmful and enduring impacts of colonial policies and initiatives on our culture, communities and society.

Many Inuit families and communities are disproportionately impacted by traumatic experiences yet lack access to the tools and resources needed to support healing and healthy relationships, such as treatment for substance use and mental health service delivery systems.

The absence of emergency shelters and other safe spaces in most Inuit communities contributes to a situation where far too many Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are unsafe.

Inuit move to communities outside of Inuit Nunangat for a variety of reasons, and Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who are part of this growing population face unique challenges, including challenges in relation to navigating health and services systems, overt police discrimination, and the possibility of being targeted for trafficking or abduction.

These and similar challenges are further compounded by legislative and policy gaps that withhold the tools, resources, and supports needed to help break cycles of violence and support healthy families and communities.

Solutions exist that can help break cycles of violence and both complement and build on existing Inuit-led programs, interventions, and initiatives that support healthy families and communities.

The National Inuit Action Plan instructs governments, Inuit Land Claim Organizations (ILCOs) and other represented bodies on the Inuit Working Group about how to move forward with implementing the 46 Inuit-specific Calls for Justice provided in *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

Recognizing that each level of government, including established Inuit governments, have responsibility for their respective areas of jurisdiction, implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan must be led principally by those levels of government and the ILCOs.

The families of missing and murdered Inuit, the survivors, the leadership of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, and the voices of Inuit women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are all key to the successful implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan to end gendered violence against Inuit.

The National Inuit Action Plan respects differences between Inuit Land Claims Organizations and their governance structures, as well as their institutions or service agencies. These differences will influence how ILCOs prioritize and approach implementation.

National Inuit Action Plan Vision

Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are strong and resilient. We are entitled to the same standards of safety, health, education, justice and physical, emotional, economic, social and cultural security enjoyed by all Canadians. Today our reality is very different.

The National Inuit Action Plan will address the gaping inequalities faced by Inuit with concrete, timely and measurable positive changes. Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people must achieve substantive equality. We deserve nothing less.

Rassi Nashalik lights the qulliq at the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry hearings in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.



Preventing violence against Inuit women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people requires governments and Inuit to break intergenerational cycles of violence by addressing the systemic challenges known to increase the likelihood of violence.

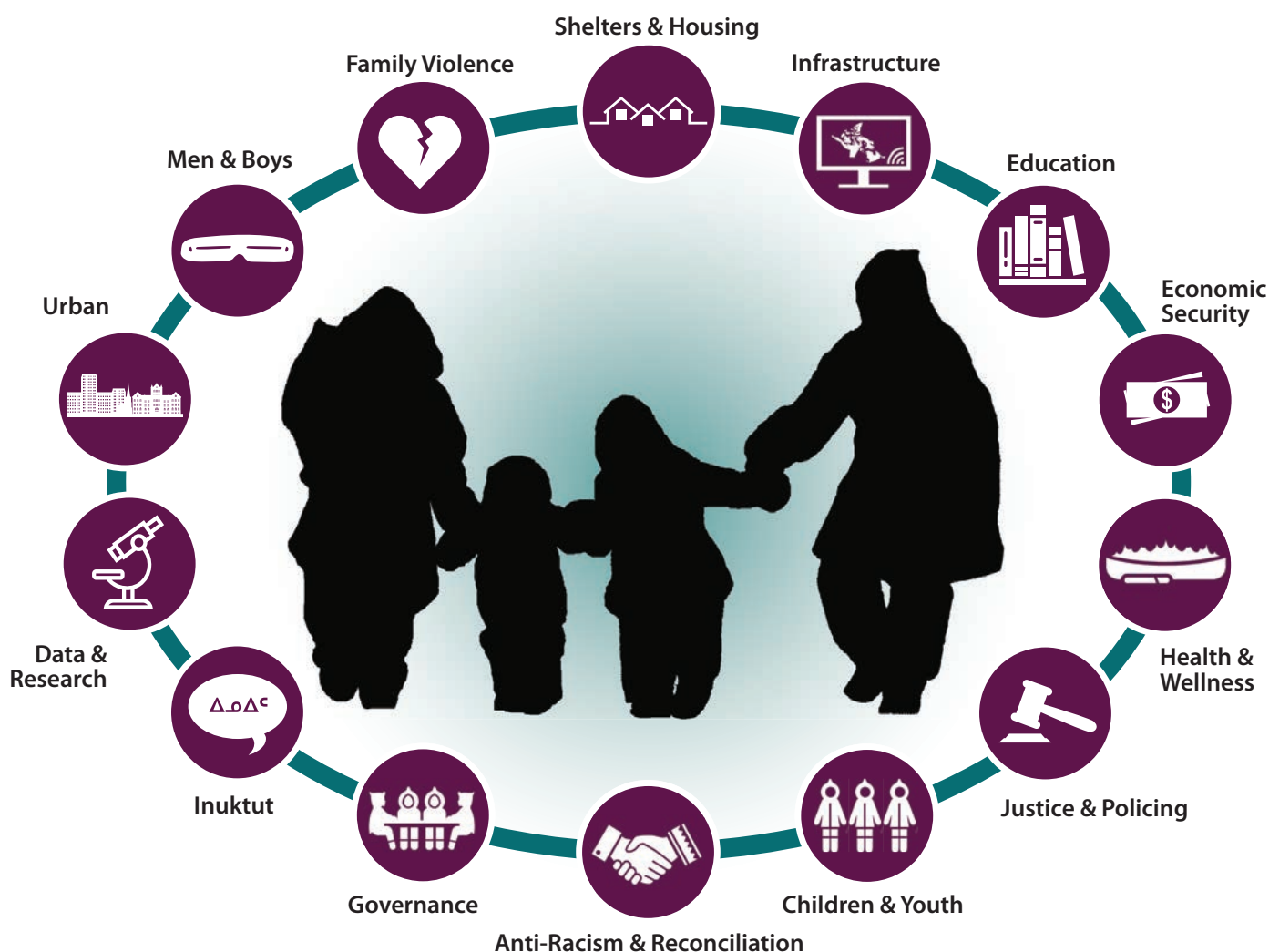


Figure 1: The 14 themes identified by the Inuit Working Group to guide development of the National Inuit Action Plan

Inuit Working Group

The National Inuit Action Plan was developed by the National Inuit Working Group on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The 10-member Working Group was co-chaired by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada.

It consisted of representatives from Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Makivik Corporation, and Nunatsiavut Government. Members also included representatives from four community-based organizations: Family and Survivors Circle, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, AnanauKatiget Tumingit, and Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik.



Figure 2: *Inuit Nunangat is the Inuit homeland, encompassing 51 communities across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut*

National Inuit Action Plan

The actions identified in the National Inuit Action Plan are intended to guide implementation of the 46 Inuit-specific Calls for Justice by governments and Inuit.

Actions are organized into 14 themes and are further broken down into federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions, depending on the areas of jurisdiction and authorities implicated by the action.

Inuit Nunangat & Urban Inuit

Inuit Nunangat (see Figure 2) is the Inuit homeland, encompassing 51 communities across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. It is a distinct geographic, cultural, and political region that forms nearly one-third of Canada's landmass and includes most of the country's coastline, as well as major marine areas.

The majority of Inuit live in Inuit Nunangat and speak Inuktitut as their first, only or preferred language.

Significant areas of Inuit Nunangat are co-managed by Inuit and federal, provincial and territorial governments through land and resource management regimes established by the following five Inuit-Crown land claims agreements:

- *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (1975)
- *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (1984)
- *Nunavut Agreement* (1993)
- *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (2005)
- *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (2006)

More than one-third of Inuit live outside of Inuit Nunangat and the proportion of Inuit living outside of the region grew by 62 per cent between 2006 and 2016. Although Inuit live in all provinces and territories, urban Inuit populations tend to be concentrated in Yellowknife, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Goose Bay and St. John's.

Urban Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people face challenges and threats to their safety that are unique to the circumstances of living in urban centres, including challenges in relation to policing, access to services, and being targeted for violence, abduction and trafficking.

Monitoring Action Plan Implementation

Governments and Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must lead implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan by utilizing a rights-based approach to implementation.

This means that implementation mechanisms must respect and support the distinct rights, status and jurisdiction of ILCOs, as well as the primacy and role of Inuit land claims agreements in supporting bilateral partnerships between Inuit and governments.

Government-led actions must be led principally by the Government of Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories, Government of Nunavut, Government of Quebec and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Other provinces with Inuit populations must also lead implementation of certain actions in relation to urban Inuit populations.

The invaluable leadership of Inuit advocacy and service delivery organizations has strengthened the National Inuit Action Plan. The expertise of Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada, Family and Survivors Circle, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, AnanauKatiget Tumingit, and Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik will inform and contribute to the successful implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan.

Inuit-led actions must be led principally by the four ILCOs, comprised of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Makivik Corporation and Nunatsiavut Government.

The ILCOs are signatories to Inuit-Crown treaties signed between 1975 and 2006 and are the rights holders and legal representatives of Inuit in our relationship with the Crown under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, as well as in our relationship with provincial and territorial governments.

Inuit are the beneficiaries of ILCOs, who determine their own membership in accordance with their own governance structures and membership eligibility policies, procedures and criteria enacted by them.

The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) will be utilized to coordinate, support and monitor implementation of federal-led actions as well as certain Inuit-led actions, including by developing implementation timelines. Members should report annually on implementation status to the ICPC as well as the public.

Implementation of provincial/territorial-led actions may require ILCOs to broker the establishment of new bilateral mechanisms in partnership with governments to coordinate, support and monitor implementation of provincial/territorial-led actions.

Respect and Support for Inuit Self-Determination

Implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan is contingent on governments respecting and supporting the right of Inuit to self-determination, as well as Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) exercising their right to self-determination.

Remedying the systemic problems that contribute to violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people requires governments and ILCOs to enact major new policy changes that are enabled by the development of new areas of jurisdiction as well as the expansion of organizational mandates.

Improving the overall quality of life for Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can only be achieved through the sustained and genuine collaborative action between all governments (federal, provincial and territorial) and Inuit.

Implementation will require governments and Inuit to broker the partnerships required to enact coordinated, effective and impactful measures for preventing violence, as well as for the ongoing monitoring of National Inuit Action Plan implementation.



01

Shelters & Housing

Inuit have been experiencing a housing crisis in some regions of Inuit Nunangat for more than half a century, causing crowding and homelessness and contributing to the high prevalence of family violence in Inuit communities.

Securing adequate shelters and housing for Inuit is therefore pivotal for preventing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Access to adequate housing is both a universal human right and a protective factor against domestic violence and abuse.

Furthermore, only 13 of the 51 communities in Inuit Nunangat have emergency shelters for women fleeing violence, leaving most Inuit women who experience violence with no safe place to go.

Conditions of crowding and homelessness caused by the limited availability of housing in Inuit communities, limited access to affordable housing in urban centres with significant Inuit populations — coupled with limited access to emergency shelters, second-stage transition housing and other safe spaces — make it difficult to break cycles of violence and for Inuit women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their children to flee violence.

Furthermore, Inuit women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who are experiencing homelessness, particularly in urban centres, are at greater risk of being targeted for violence.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to shelters and housing recognize that improving access to permanent housing, emergency shelters and second-stage transition housing is pivotal for preventing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Actions address needs in relation to new and more effective mechanisms to fund shelters and housing. They also reflect the need for major new investments in shelters and housing, as well as solutions for ongoing monitoring of housing needs to respond to them more effectively.

FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 1.1 To increase housing stock and critical housing support programs across Inuit Nunangat's housing continuum, the federal government must adopt an Inuit Nunangat Policy whose elements include a policy of:
 - a) implementing housing-related obligations in Inuit-Crown land claims agreement areas;
 - b) allocating federal funding intended to benefit Inuit directly to Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) in federal budgets, including federal funding for the provision of housing; and
 - c) establishing Inuit-specific funding envelopes in programs of national application, including housing-related programs.
- 1.2 To provide emergency safe spaces, the federal government must fund the establishment of shelters or other safe spaces in each community in Inuit Nunangat and in urban centres where there is significant need. The uses of the shelters and safe spaces will be determined by the needs of each community, and might include women and their children fleeing violence, homeless youth, those in need of respite, and those living with addictions. The federal government must provide sustainable annual funding for the shelters and safe spaces including operating, repairs and maintenance expenses, staffing, recruitment and training of staff, programming and services, indexed each year to the cost of living in that community. Indigenous Services Canada must fund shelters and safe spaces in Inuit Nunangat and Inuit-focused shelters in urban centres.
- 1.3 To provide transition and second-stage housing in each community in Inuit Nunangat and in urban centres where there is significant need, the federal government must provide funding to ILCOs for this housing including operating, repairs and maintenance expenses, staffing, recruitment and training of staff, programming and services, indexed each year to the cost of living in that community.
- 1.4 To improve safety for people fleeing violence, the federal government must recognize that existing Inuit-specific housing investments are insufficient to close the Inuit Nunangat housing gap, and commit to making additional, transformational investments in Inuit Nunangat housing through a distinctions-based granting mechanism directed towards Inuit-specific needs for capital, as well as operational and maintenance investments to increase housing stock and the availability of critical support programs across the housing continuum.
- 1.5 To ensure that federal investments in housing are effective for supporting the housing needs of Inuit, the federal government must implement the 2019 *Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy*.

Arctic cotton growing near Iqaluit, Nunavut.



Although access to housing is a universal human right and a protective factor against domestic abuse, only 13 of 51 communities in Inuit Nunangat have emergency shelters, leaving most Inuit women who experience violence with no safe place to go.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 1.6** To better monitor housing needs, the governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Quebec along with their respective housing agencies must partner with hamlet or regional governments and Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) to develop and fund information-sharing protocols and systems that enable continuous monitoring of community housing needs.
- 1.7** To more effectively address housing needs and priorities, provincial and territorial governments must invest in and support research capacity for hamlet governments and housing authorities.
- 1.8** To help house and protect urban Inuit women, P/T governments must support the provision of shelters, safe spaces, as well as transitional and second-stage housing for Inuit in urban centres.
- 1.9** To introduce transition and second stage housing services in Inuit communities, provincial and territorial governments must partner with Inuit Land Claims Organizations, shelter directors, service providers, and survivors of violence in the planning and delivery of these services.
- 1.10** To ensure that all Inuit families fleeing violence have a safe place to go — even in communities that currently lack shelters, safe houses or transition and second-stage housing — police services and provincial, territorial, and regional health authorities must implement policies and protocols for transferring Inuit women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and their children who wish to do so, to a community or jurisdiction that has these resources.
- 1.11** To help end the housing crisis in Inuit Nunangat, provincial and territorial governments must partner with ILCOs and the federal government to support implementation of the *Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy*.
- 1.12** To help ensure Inuit families have access to housing — and that Inuit employment is prioritized and supported — provincial and territorial governments, and/or responsible bodies, must end discriminatory housing policies that exclude Inuit employees from accessing housing benefits.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 1.13** To help keep Inuit safe, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) or their designates must partner with governments to develop regional strategies and cost-sharing agreements for building and administering safe houses, shelters and other safe spaces in each Inuit community.
- 1.14** To help keep Inuit safe, ILCOs must invest their own resources, whenever feasible, in the development and administration of new safe houses, shelters, transition and second-stage housing.
- 1.15** To help end the housing crisis in Inuit Nunangat and support Inuit home ownership, ILCOs must seek to contribute to investments made by governments in housing including, but not limited to, the investment of their own resources in the development of new housing, as well as Inuit-led initiatives to support home ownership and the promotion of access to other housing options along the housing continuum.
- 1.16** To help end the housing crisis in Inuit Nunangat and support Inuit home ownership, ILCOs must invest their own resources, wherever feasible, through partnership and collaboration, in measures that support Inuit self-determination in the delivery of housing, including in innovative housing design, financing arrangements and maximizing housing options along the housing continuum.
- 1.17** In order to support new and more affordable housing builds, ILCOs must lease, where feasible, Inuit-owned lands and structures for new housing, shelter and social infrastructure developments.
- 1.18** To help end the housing crisis in Inuit Nunangat and support Inuit home ownership, ILCOs must actively advocate for new and significant investments by governments and others in the housing continuum.

02

Infrastructure

Closing the profound infrastructure gap between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada is necessary to address underlying factors contributing to violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, as well as to enable Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to access all public services irrespective of where we live.

These underlying factors include high cost of living and poverty, as well as limited access to policing, health and justice services.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to infrastructure prioritize measures that improve broadband connectivity and enable Inuit to access justice and mental health services irrespective of where we live.

Actions also recognize the pivotal role social infrastructure plays in preventing violence and supporting victims of violence.

Annie Arnatuk, the President of Saturvitt, was a witness at the MMIWG Hearings in Montreal.

Social infrastructure plays a pivotal role in preventing violence and supporting victims of violence.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 2.1** To improve access to education, health and justice services in Inuit Nunangat, the federal government must create new funding envelopes that encourage and support investments in the use of videoconferencing and telehealth technologies by education, justice and healthcare systems, including investments in the capital costs associated with telecommunications infrastructure builds and videoconferencing facilities.
- 2.2** To close the digital divide between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada, the federal government must partner with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) and provincial, territorial and regional governments to develop and fund the implementation of a strategy for connecting all Inuit communities to the country's fibre optic network.
- 2.3** To ensure that Internet and telephone services are accessible to Inuit women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people fleeing violence, the federal government must invest in connectivity infrastructure.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 2.4** To improve access to services and close the digital divide, P/T governments must collaborate actively in the development and funding of feasibility studies for connecting all Inuit communities to Canada's fibre optic network.
- 2.5** To support the provision of services needed to prevent violence and support victims of violence, P/T governments must make major new investments in Inuit community social infrastructure, including spaces for coordinating the delivery of services to children and youth victims of violence, community wellness hubs, as well as informal safe spaces for children and youth.
- 2.6** To improve access to services and close the digital divide between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada, P/T governments must develop procurement strategies for connecting Inuit communities within their jurisdiction to affordable high-speed broadband.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 2.7** To improve access to services and close the digital divide between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must partner with others in developing procurement strategies for connecting their respective communities to high speed broadband.
- 2.8** To improve access to services and close the digital divide between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada, ILCOs must advocate for new investments by governments in fibre projects.

03

Education

Governments have historically used schooling as a tool to culturally assimilate Inuit and marginalize our language, culture and way of life.

Inuit continue to struggle in some regions of Inuit Nunangat to secure control of education systems and ensure they reflect our language, culture and educational priorities.

Improving access to Inuit early learning and child care programs as well as improving educational attainment among Inuit are necessary for more families to achieve health and prosperity.

At the same time, schools have an essential role to play in breaking intergenerational cycles of violence by delivering services to Inuit children and youth who have had traumatic experiences, and ensuring that students living with disabilities get the diagnoses and supports to which they and their families are legally entitled.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to education prioritize measures that support the provision of school-based, trauma-informed mental health services for children and youth in all Inuit communities as well as in urban centres with significant Inuit populations.

These actions seek to end human rights violations by ensuring that Inuit students living with disabilities are diagnosed and have access to the supports to which they are legally entitled.

The actions also seek to improve equitable access to education by directing governments and Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) to develop national education standards, and for ILCOs to prioritize measures that secure greater Inuit self-determination in the delivery of education services.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 3.1** To help improve educational attainment and prosperity, the federal government must use its federal spending authority to ensure that provinces and territories with significant Inuit populations prioritize the introduction of evidence-based, wraparound trauma-informed services and supports.
- 3.2** To help enable Inuit students to access an education provided in Inuktitut, the federal government must invest in initiatives supporting Inuit teacher recruitment, training and retention.
- 3.3** To support efforts to improve educational attainment in Inuit Nunangat and reduce poverty, the federal government must partner with Inuit to develop common education standards and use its spending authority to ensure that provincial and territorial governments prioritize investments to uphold them.
- 3.4** To help ensure that children have the best possible start in life, the federal government must integrate Inuit Early Learning and Child Care Framework priorities and strategies into Canada's forthcoming nationwide early learning and childcare system.
- 3.5** To enable Inuit to access existing education services provided by the federal government, eligibility for education programs administered by Indigenous Services Canada must be expanded to include Inuit communities.
- 3.6** To close gaps in access to educational services and supports for inactive status Nunavik Inuit students, the federal government must partner with Makivik Corporation to enable the provision of such services and supports.

Lesa Semmler of Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the National Family Advisory Circle reads part of the report findings.



Schools have an essential role to play in breaking intergenerational cycles of violence by delivering services to Inuit students who have experienced trauma and ensuring access to the proper diagnoses and supports for students living with disabilities.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 3.7** To discharge their human rights obligations to students with disabilities as well as reduce the risk for violence and incarceration, P/T governments must diagnose all students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and provide students and their families with corresponding educational and psychosocial services.
- 3.8** To help enable Inuit students to access an education provided in Inuktitut, P/T governments must invest in initiatives supporting Inuit teacher recruitment, training and retention.
- 3.9** To help enable students to access education as well as to assist in the diagnosis of potential disabilities, P/T governments must administer foundational hearing and vision assessments to all Inuit students.
- 3.10** To ensure that students living with disabilities or behavioural disorders that affect their learning have access to the supports they need and that P/T governments can be held accountable for the provision of those supports, P/T governments must provide the diagnostic services required to diagnose all Inuit students living with disabilities or behavioural disorders, as well as monitor and report on access to services and their quality.
- 3.11** To ensure that sufficient standards and policies are in place to protect and support students living with disabilities, P/T education legislation and policy must be brought into alignment with existing human rights obligations and policies on accessible education for students living with disabilities, as well as evidence-based practices for supporting students living with disabilities.
- 3.12** To provide students with the supports and tools they may need to heal, cope and prosper in society, P/T governments must integrate evidence-based, wraparound trauma-informed services and supports into schools in all Inuit communities, as well as in urban centres with significant Inuit populations.
- 3.13** To help end the normalization of violence against women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, P/T governments must build on the success of other jurisdictions in adapting and introducing age-appropriate curricula that teach students about healthy relationships and what to do if they experience or are exposed to violence.
- 3.14** To strengthen Inuit community control over education systems serving Inuit students, P/T governments must develop a statutory basis for the establishment of regional and/or sub-regional school boards in those regions where they do not exist.
- 3.15** To enable Inuit mothers to stay in school or return to school to complete their education, governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut as well as Newfoundland and Labrador must enable access to affordable childcare by introducing the early childhood centres model of Nunavik which provides flat, affordable and unified rates for childcare.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 3.16** To prevent human rights violations against students living with disabilities, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must prioritize sustained advocacy and support for Inuit students living with disabilities.
- 3.17** To ensure that Inuit students living with disabilities have equitable access to education and the services they require, ILCOs must endeavor to carry out or support independent research on access to education and service delivery for Inuit students living with disabilities, and engage governments or the regional school board in the development of solutions for improving support for these particular students.
- 3.18** To help monitor and improve educational attainment among Inuit, ILCOs must prioritize the development of national educational standards and advocate for their implementation through existing and new legislative and policy measures.
- 3.19** To support the development of the education systems we want for our children, ILCOs must prioritize securing greater Inuit self-determination in the administration of schooling where there is a willingness or interest to exercise jurisdiction in the delivery of education services, including through the delivery of services that are currently administered by provincial and territorial governments, as well as through collaboration with regional schools boards to draw down specific areas of jurisdiction or responsibility.

04

Economic Security

The poverty experienced by too many Inuit families is linked to challenges such as overcrowding, substance use and poor mental health, which can place Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their children at increased risk of experiencing violence.

Too often, Inuit women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their children who are experiencing violence are unable to flee dangerous situations because they lack financial security and have nowhere safe to go.

These obstacles can be compounded by high cost of living and barriers to educational attainment and employment.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to economic security are focused on addressing the root causes of poverty and helping families break intergenerational cycles of poverty and violence.

The actions prioritize the measures required to improve food security, reduce cost of living, and support access to employment among Inuit women.

Meeka Arnakak, with her husband Abraham on her left and Harper Dagg on her right, lights the quillq at the beginning of the ceremony.

Poverty is linked to a number of challenges among Inuit that contribute to an increased risk of experiencing violence, and can make it difficult to escape violent situations.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 4.1** To reduce poverty and improve food security among Inuit, the federal government must partner with Inuit and implement the 2021 Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy, including implementing a national Inuit-specific, evidence-based food security program and support for initiatives that strengthen food sovereignty.
- 4.2** To reduce poverty among Inuit, the federal government must develop a national basic income model in partnership with Inuit that, when implemented, will support Inuit families living around or below a jurisdiction's poverty line.
- 4.3** To support the participation of Inuit women in the economy, the federal government must partner with Inuit to develop Inuit-specific actions for inclusion in its forthcoming *Action Plan for Women in the Economy*.
- 4.4** To reduce poverty and risk of violence, the federal government must build on the positive and collaborative work undertaken between the province of Quebec and Nunavik entities by implementing similar cost-of-living reduction measures across Inuit Nunangat.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 4.5** To more effectively meet the needs of Inuit families that depend on social assistance programs and services, P/T governments must develop a poverty line that reflects regional cost of living.
- 4.6** To help prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and improve retention of Inuit women in the workforce, P/T governments must advance measures to improve employer compliance with the respective human rights legislation in each jurisdiction.
- 4.7** To support Inuit women entering the workforce, P/T governments must subsidize the costs of delivering services related to early learning, child care and assisted living, including through innovative policy measures such as providing land for child care infrastructure.
- 4.8** To reduce poverty and improve access to education and employment, P/T governments must invest in single-door service programs for adults that have not completed a secondary education, and that provide career guidance and support for job placement, as well as mentoring and skills improvement for both the labour market and educational opportunities.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 4.9** To support educational attainment and economic security, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must provide funding and support for affordable early learning and child care to Inuit women enrolled in post-secondary education programs. This funding must be adequate and reflect regional costs of living.
- 4.10** To help improve food security, strengthen food sovereignty and reduce poverty, ILCOs must prioritize implementation of the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy.
- 4.11** To help Inuit secure employment and improve economic security, ILCOs must support — and wherever feasible lead — existing initiatives focused on teaching literacy, numeracy and employability skills.

05

Health & Wellness

Improving access to health and wellness programs, services and supports by Inuit is imperative for preventing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

The limited availability of basic health and wellness services in Inuit Nunangat — such as counselling, psychological therapy, substance use service delivery systems, and psychiatric care — make it difficult to address the root causes of violent behaviour and break cycles of violence.

The limited availability of health and wellness services in Inuktitut remains a fundamental barrier to accessing health and wellness services for Inuit whose first, only, or preferred language is Inuktitut.

Despite the extensive evidence supporting the need for services to be closely coordinated across government departments, existing health and wellness services, programs and supports tend to be poorly coordinated both within and between government departments.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to health and wellness focus on the systemic changes to health and wellness programs, policies, services and supports that are required to help prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Actions focus on the need for federal leadership in supporting policies, interventions and initiatives that we know are necessary to help prevent violence. This includes support for trauma-informed interventions in schools that help Inuit children and youth, and the development of evidence-based programs that address risk factors for violence.

Actions also focus on long-term solutions for improving the delivery of health and wellness services and initiatives throughout the region, including the need for Inuit to exercise self-determination in the administration of healthcare systems.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 5.1** To help introduce and sustain innovative and evidence-based substance abuse and mental health services programs and interventions in Inuit communities, the federal government must establish a distinctions-based program to be administered by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Indigenous Services Canada. Program funding must be allocated to improve access to the full continuum of services for mental and substance use disorders, and support interventions and services for preventing and treating traumatic stress in Inuit children, youth and adults.
- 5.2** To help introduce and sustain innovative and evidence-based substance use and mental health services programs and interventions in Inuit communities, as well as in urban centres with significant Inuit populations, the federal government must support the provision of services through contribution agreements with service providers, where appropriate.
- 5.3** To support access to health services by Inuit as well as to create mechanisms enabling Inuit self-determination in the delivery of health services, the federal government must co-develop distinctions-based national Indigenous health legislation, in partnership with Inuit.
- 5.4** To encourage provincial and territorial governments to implement evidence-based, preventative health measures that improve Inuit health, as well as to support access to health services in Inuktitut, the federal government must use its spending authority to support implementation and enforcement of Inuit-specific standards for health service delivery.
- 5.5** To improve recruitment of Inuit into the health profession, the federal government must establish a distinctions-based grant program offered to colleges and universities to support the enrollment of Inuit to pursue careers in health care.
- 5.6** To restore federal support for grassroots and community-led programs, the federal government must work in partnership with Inuit to establish an Inuit Healing and Wellness Fund.

Emcees Lisa Koperqualuk and Valerie Courtois.



Limited availability of basic health and wellness services in Inuit Nunangat — particularly services in Inuktitut — makes it difficult to address the root causes of violent behaviour and break the cycles of violence.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 5.7** To improve access to health services for Inuktitut speakers, P/T governments must provide adequate financial support for the provision of interpretation services wherever the demand exists, and ensure that hospitals and health centres serving Inuit clients utilize trained interpreters to implement Inuktitut interpretation policies and protocols.
- 5.8** To improve access to substance use service delivery systems, P/T governments must prioritize investments that adequately support the provision of existing services, as well as partner with Inuit to identify and close gaps in relation to substance use service delivery systems, including in the provision of infrastructure supporting people affected by substance use.
- 5.9** To improve health, bridge gaps in service delivery, and prevent future traumatic experiences, P/T governments must prioritize investments through long-term contribution agreements that support existing and new Inuit-specific, trauma-informed wraparound services that are also integrated with justice systems in all Inuit communities, as well as in urban centres with significant Inuit populations.
- 5.10** To support healing among survivors of violence and their families, P/T governments must bridge gaps in service delivery by co-developing and funding wraparound services for survivors of violence through multi-year contribution agreements. These services include general health services, counselling, life-skills, and Inuktitut-speaking health system navigators (e.g., Umingmak Centre in Iqaluit, NU).
- 5.11** To improve access to services for Inuit women survivors of violence, P/T governments must partner with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) or their designates to implement one-stop-centre models that enable survivors of violence to more easily access multiple services through a single window approach.
- 5.12** To better support families in preventing traumatic experiences, P/T governments must partner with ILCOs or their designates to adapt and implement preventative health interventions, including nursing home visiting as well as prenatal to early childhood health surveillance systems.
- 5.13** To enable Inuit women to give birth in their home communities and regions, the governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Newfoundland and Labrador must establish and fund midwifery training programs and birthing centres in their regions and communities. The P/T governments must also provide adequate financial support for the maintenance and development of existing programs and centres.
- 5.14** To help ensure improved staffing and retention of healthcare professionals, P/T governments must implement multi-year recruitment and retention strategies that include support for the development of local Inuit capacity.
- 5.15** To secure equitable compensation for Inuit employed in the health sector, the governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Québec, must adapt their salary grids to reflect Inuit employees' unique contributions to the effectiveness of health service delivery.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 5.16** To support positive lifelong outcomes, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must broker partnerships with governments to support and fund interventions, programs and initiatives that foster early childhood development, as well as healing and coping skills in children and youth.
- 5.17** To prevent suicide among Inuit, ILCOs must support, partner, co-lead and invest in the development of evidence-based, culturally appropriate suicide prevention interventions, programs and initiatives that align with the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- 5.18** To improve the quality and effectiveness of healthcare systems, ILCOs must prioritize securing greater self-determination in the delivery of health services where there is a willingness or interest to exercise jurisdiction in the delivery of such services, including through national legislation.
- 5.19** To increase the number of Inuit working in the health profession, including the number of trained midwives in each region, ILCOs or their designates must broker partnerships with post-secondary institutions to develop and administer Inuit-specific training and degree programs.
- 5.20** To support healing among survivors of violence and their families, the Nunatsiavut Government must bridge gaps in service delivery by co-developing and funding wraparound services for survivors of violence. These services include general health services, counselling, life-skills, and Inuktitut-speaking health system navigators (e.g., Umingmak Centre in Iqaluit, NU).
- 5.21** To better support families in preventing traumatic experiences, the Nunatsiavut Government must adapt and implement preventative health interventions, including nursing home visits as well as prenatal to early childhood health surveillance systems.

06

Justice & Policing

Police and the courts are often the frontline responders to violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Inuit Nunangat. However, too many Inuit women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can face insurmountable barriers to getting the help they need.



Barriers include the limited availability of Inuktitut interpretation, systemic racism and discrimination within police and justice services, as well as delayed police responses to violence or the complete absence of law enforcement.

Improving access to justice and police services, as well as improving the effectiveness of these services, is pivotal for enhancing support for victims of violence and preventing future violence.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to justice and policing focus on improving the effectiveness of police services and justice systems and their response to violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Actions focus on improving Inuit recruitment and retention into the RCMP and Nunavik Police Services as well as ensuring that Inuktitut speakers are able to access justice services in Inuktitut.

The actions also identify measures for strengthening police accountability measures and reducing racism and discrimination against Inuit.

Louise Hauilli and granddaughter Desiree Attagutaluk of the National Family Advisory Circle reads the report findings.

Many Inuit victims of violence face insurmountable barriers to getting the help they need. Improving access to justice and police services, and improving their effectiveness, are pivotal for enhancing support for these victims and preventing future violence.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 6.1** To eliminate systemic racism in the justice system, the federal government must implement mandatory education and training for RCMP, crown attorneys, defence lawyers, court staff, justices of the peace, judges and correctional services workers in the areas of:
- a) anti-racism and anti-discrimination;
 - b) cultural competence and awareness;
 - c) trauma-informed provision of services;
 - d) gender-based violence;
 - e) harm reduction approach; and
 - f) victim-centred services.
- 6.2** To enable the provision of more effective police services, the federal government must implement the model of community policing by having the RCMP align, integrate and mobilize with community members (and other existing service agencies) through the development of multi-agency teams dedicated to addressing concerning situations and emerging problems where the likelihood of harm is looming. A successful example of community policing is the Mobile Intervention Team approach established in Nunavik.
- 6.3** To help keep Inuit women and children safe, the federal government must take measures to ensure that police detachments are stationed in all Inuit communities under its jurisdiction, and take immediate action to open an RCMP detachment specifically in Postville, Nunatsiavut.
- 6.4** To prevent delays in response to emergency calls, the federal government must localize dispatch systems in Inuit communities under its jurisdiction so victims of violence can contact local RCMP detachments directly.
- 6.5** To improve Inuit representation and retention within the RCMP and bring policing closer to Inuit communities, the federal government must broker partnerships between police services and Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) to develop regional Inuit recruitment, training and retention strategies that guide recruitment activities and support measures to retain members. Strategies may build on the Assisted Application Training Program administered by the RCMP in Nunavut in 2021, which supports recruitment of Inuit into the RCMP through the provision of literacy and numeracy skills, as well as other supports that reduce barriers which may exist in the application process.
- 6.6** To improve access to justice for Inuktitut speakers in Inuit Nunangat, the federal government must implement Inuit language policies in partnership with ILCOs and P/T governments, and allocate resources for the provision of Inuktitut language services where demand exists. Inuit language policies shall be implemented through partnerships between RCMP detachments and ILCOs, as well as through tripartite funding arrangements where applicable. The provision of Inuktitut language services by the RCMP and Nunavik Police Service shall be supported where demand exists in accordance with sections 10.1 and 10.2 of the *Indigenous Languages Act*.
- 6.7** To improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of RCMP members to gender-based violence, the federal government must revise investigative strategies to protect Inuit women from bias and discrimination, and provide RCMP members with training in trauma-informed approaches and responses to policing, specialized education on the dynamics of gender-based violence, and effective investigative strategies.

- 6.8** To improve the effectiveness of RCMP response to sexual assault and domestic violence, the federal government must revise investigative strategies to protect Inuit from bias and discrimination, and support protocols that are both culturally-appropriate and victim-centered.
- 6.9** To facilitate trusting relationships between the RCMP and Inuit communities and improve the effectiveness of police services, the federal government must ensure that police officers receive ongoing, in-depth competency training on Inuit culture, history, and community and regional challenges and priorities. Training must be region-specific and developed and led in partnership with ILCOs.
- 6.10** To ensure that Inuit in Nunavik have access to substantively equitable police services and to prevent funding for the provision of those services from lapsing, the federal government must undertake negotiations with the Government of Quebec, Makivik Corporation and Kativik Regional Government to develop a funding formula that enables recurring and sustainable funding for the provision of substantively equitable police services in the region.
- 6.11** To support Inuit recruitment and retention into the Nunavik Police Service and improve access to training, the federal government must provide the resources necessary to ensure that regular and continuing education at the École nationale de police du Québec is fully accessible in English and/or Inuktitut, as demand requires.
- 6.12** To improve the transparency and accountability of the RCMP, the federal government must introduce new federal legislation that amends the *RCMP Act*, placing the RCMP under effective civilian oversight and requiring the RCMP to report annually on the implementation of recommendations brought forward by the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission. The federal government further commits to ensuring that such legislation amends the establishment provisions (45.29(3)) of the Act in order to ensure that the Commission includes representation from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.
- 6.13** To help prevent racist and discriminatory police conduct against Inuit, the federal government must implement modern screening tools during recruitment and onboarding that detect racist and discriminatory attitudes and beliefs.
- 6.14** To improve trusting relationships and collaboration between RCMP and Inuit communities, the federal government must establish bilateral consultative bodies with Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and Nunatsiavut Government to share information and advance work on shared priorities.
- 6.15** To improve trusting relationships and collaboration between RCMP and Inuit communities, as well as to enable effective Inuit civilian oversight of policing in Inuit Nunangat, the federal government must establish bilateral bodies with Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and Nunatsiavut Government with the authority to oversee the implementation of recommendations.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 6.16** To improve access to justice for victims of violence, P/T governments must increase the frequency of court circuits in Inuit communities and invest in videoconferencing technologies, infrastructure and adequate human resources to ensure continuous access to justice services.
- 6.17** To support Inuit recruitment and retention into the Nunavik Police Service and improve access to training, the government of Quebec must ensure that regular and continuing education at the École nationale de police du Québec is fully accessible in English, and/or Inuktitut as demand requires.
- 6.18** To facilitate trusting relationships between the Nunavik Police Service and Inuit communities and improve the effectiveness of police services, the Kativik Regional Government must ensure that police officers receive ongoing, in-depth competency training on Inuit culture and history, as well as on the challenges and priorities of communities and regions. Training must be region-specific and developed and led in partnership with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs).

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 6.19** To improve access to justice and enable Inuktitut-speaking Inuit in Nunavik to communicate with police, Kativik Regional Government and Makivik Corporation must actively advocate for and support development, implementation and resourcing of Inuktitut interpretation protocols and policies by the Nunavik Police Service.
- 6.20** To provide Inuit harmed by gendered violence with dedicated support, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must advocate for the implementation of community-based, gendered violence prevention liaison positions tasked with coordinating access to resources offered by police and other social service agencies.

07

Children & Youth

Protecting and supporting Inuit children and youth is the most effective means for breaking intergenerational cycles of violence, as well as for reducing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in our society.



Violent behaviour tends to be learned and, in the absence of interventions, children and youth who experience abuse can become abusers or experience further violence and abuse as adults.

Inuit children and youth are more likely to be taken into care by governments than non-Inuit children and youth. Additionally, children and youth placed in the homes of non-Inuit or in institutions outside of Inuit Nunangat are usually deprived of access to our language, culture and way of life.

The limited transparency of child welfare systems contributes to Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) lacking access to information about the placement of their members.

Furthermore, Inuit youth who are no longer eligible to receive care after turning 18 are left without the skills, resources and supports needed to prosper, leaving many vulnerable to experiencing the very forms of adversity that they were taken into care to protect them from.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to children and youth focus on the urgent need for ILCOs to protect Inuit children and youth by asserting and exercising their jurisdiction over Inuit children and youth in care.

Actions support the need to implement evidence-based preventative health measures that enable healing and positive lifelong outcomes.

They address the need to strengthen advocacy for Inuit children and youth in all regions of Inuit Nunangat, as well as the need for governments to close gaps in service delivery and discharge their legal obligations to children and youth.

FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 7.1** In order to help reduce hunger among Inuit children, the federal government must, in partnership with Inuit, co-develop programs that help end Inuit child hunger, such as an Inuit Nunangat school food program, while also enhancing the impacts of existing initiatives and programs such as food banks, community freezers and kitchens, through greater federal investment and support.
- 7.2** In order to ensure that Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) have access to data and information about the placement of members who are taken into care, the federal government must commit, as per section 28 of the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families, to prioritizing on an urgent basis the work of entering into information-sharing agreements with Inuit governing bodies and provincial governments respecting the child and family services that are provided in relation to Inuit children.
- 7.3** In order to support wraparound services that systematically prevent adversity and/or to support healing and coping skills for children who have experienced adversity, the federal government must ensure that the Child First Initiative prioritizes group requests focused on targeted, evidence-based interventions, services, and programs that are designed to meet these needs, including by empowering ILCOs to approve requests.
- 7.4** In order to prevent trauma and abuse as well as to help children heal who have experienced adversity, the federal government must develop an Inuit-specific equivalent to Jordan's Principle whose focus shall include support for wraparound services that systematically prevent adversity and/or to support healing and coping skills for children who have experienced adversity.
- 7.5** In order to prevent violence and improve social and economic outcomes, the federal government must use its federal spending authority to encourage provincial governments to prioritize the provision of nurse-family home visitation programs, maternal child-health monitoring information systems, as well as other innovative, evidence-based programs and interventions designed to create foundations for lifelong health and wellness.

Nevaeh Okalik and Harper Dagg added lightness to sombre event held to mark the release of the MMIWG Final Report in 2019.



Closing gaps in service delivery and strengthening advocacy for Inuit children and youth can help protect them and break intergenerational cycles of violence.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 7.6** In order to improve access to Inuit-specific mental health services for children and youth, provincial and territorial government departments of education and health must streamline access to Inuit-specific mental health services, including universal programming, targeted interventions, and intensive interventions that are delivered in Inuit community schools, including in Inuktitut where demand requires.
- 7.7** In order to ensure that Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) have access to data and information about the placement of members who are taken into care, provincial and territorial governments must commit to prioritizing on an urgent basis the work of entering into information-sharing agreements with ILCOs and provincial governments respecting the child and family services that are provided in relation to Inuit children.
- 7.8** In order to ensure that the specific needs and circumstances of Inuit children and youth are monitored and addressed, and that the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child is being implemented and enforced in Inuit communities, the Government of the Northwest Territories must establish an independent representative for Inuit children and youth office.
- 7.9** In order to ensure that the specific needs and circumstances of Inuit children and youth are monitored and addressed, and that the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child is being implemented and enforced in Inuit communities, the Government of Quebec and Government of Newfoundland and Labrador must support the establishment of Inuit-specific child and youth advocate positions whose mandates include the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth.
- 7.10** In order to improve coordination in the delivery of child and youth-related services, provincial and territorial governments must develop and implement interdepartmental service coordination protocols in partnership with ILCOs both within and outside of Inuit Nunangat, for the delivery of child and youth-related services.
- 7.11** In order to support children and youth in getting the help they need, provincial and territorial government departments of education must provide basic mental health training to all school staff, including training on how to connect children and youth with appropriate mental health services and how to support them while this connection is being made.
- 7.12** In order to help close the mental health service gaps that exist in Inuit communities, provincial and territorial government health authorities must ensure that contracts that adequately meet service demands are established for out-of-region mental health services for children and youth where these services are not currently in a given region, and ensure that children and youth receive appropriate aftercare and follow-up upon return to their home communities.

- 7.13** In order to close data and information gaps about service delivery to children and youth, provincial and territorial governments must compile, document, monitor, and share certain Inuit-specific data with ILCOs as well as with child and youth advocates. These data should include detailed information about the types of services being provided to Inuit children and youth, duration and location of service delivery, and background information about children and youth receiving services.
- 7.14** In order to improve access to mental health services for children and youth, provincial and territorial governments must prioritize investments that adequately support the provision of existing services, as well as partner with Inuit to identify and close gaps in relation to psychiatric, psychological, behavioural, and counselling services.
- 7.15** In order to support the development and administration of an integrated continuum of Inuit-specific services for youth and families in Nunavik, the province of Quebec must invest in and support the Nunavimmi Ilagiit Papatauvinga initiative that has been designed to improve youth protection services in the region, possibly utilizing section 37.5 of the Youth Protection Act at the request of the region.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 7.16** In order to help end child abuse and prevent suicide, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must work to ensure that ending child abuse is part of the applicable policy agenda in every region of Inuit Nunangat as well as in urban centres with significant Inuit populations, and must take further action to de-normalize abuse, including through public messaging campaigns, Inuit-led training and interventions, and advocacy.
- 7.17** In order to help improve monitoring of the health status of Inuit children and youth, ILCOs must advocate with provincial and territorial governments to collect, document, monitor, and share data and information. The ILCOs must collaborate with service delivery organizations to support the children and youth who are accessing services.
- 7.18** In order to exercise self-determination over Inuit child welfare, ILCOs must prioritize developing and exercising their legislative authority over Inuit child welfare and child and family services under section 20 of the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families, and/or through other legislative and policy mechanisms of application in their respective regions.
- 7.19** In order to support cultural continuity and improve food security among Inuit children and youth, ILCOs must invest in and support, where feasible, land-based programming for children and youth.

08

Anti-Racism & Reconciliation

Systemic racism and discrimination contribute to violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Racist attitudes and beliefs continue to influence government policies and priorities in relation to Inuit and impact the availability and quality of community infrastructure and service delivery.

Colonial policies that were supported by racist and discriminatory attitudes about Inuit have contributed to the intergenerational trauma and suffering experienced by some families, and as well as conditions of social and economic inequity that many families still struggle with today.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to anti-racism and reconciliation focus on the need for continued support for ongoing reconciliation measures.

The following actions also emphasize the need for new mechanisms modeled on the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee that enable provincial-territorial governments and Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) to advance shared priorities.

Actions focus on the need for civil servants to receive improved education and training in relation to Inuit and our priorities, as well as the need for greater representation of Inuit within government.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. President Aluki Kotierk, Nadine Okalik and Shirley Dagg observe the release of the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* in 2019.

Curbing systemic racism and discrimination are critical to addressing the conditions that contribute to violence.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 8.1** To help end violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, the federal government must partner with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to implement the National Inuit Action Plan.
- 8.2** To improve the effectiveness of the civil service in addressing Inuit priorities, the Canada School of Public Service must develop an Inuit-specific curriculum for educating federal civil servants about Inuit rights, governance frameworks and areas of Inuit jurisdiction, as well as secure the resources required to support its implementation.
- 8.3** To improve Inuit representation in the civil service, the federal government must help remove barriers to Inuit employment by coordinating and funding the development and implementation of Inuit employment plans by departments.
- 8.4** To ensure the success of the Nanilavut initiative, the federal government must work through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to determine outstanding needs associated with the Nanilavut initiative and provide corresponding support for the continued work of this important initiative.
- 8.5** To build on Canada's 2019 apology to Qikiqtaaluk Inuit for forced relocations and sled dog killings, the federal government must work in partnership with Qikiqtani Inuit Association to implement any outstanding recommendations made by the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.
- 8.6** To effectively advance shared Inuit-Crown priorities, the federal government must continue to fund and participate fully in the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 8.7** To help achieve reconciliation between Inuit and governments, P/T governments must implement P/T-led actions identified by the National Inuit Action Plan.
- 8.8** To provide sustained support for reconciliation measures, P/T governments must broker permanent bilateral mechanisms with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) that enable governments and Inuit to address shared priorities.
- 8.9** To improve Inuit representation in the civil service, P/T governments must help remove barriers to Inuit employment by coordinating and funding the development and implementation of Inuit employment plans by departments.
- 8.10** To help achieve reconciliation between Inuit and governments, the Government of Quebec must implement the Inuit-specific recommendations of the 2019 report of the *Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress* (aka the Viens Commission).

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 8.11** To help advance Inuit priorities and reconciliation in each Inuit region, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must prioritize brokering cabinet-level partnerships with governments that include permanent tables for shared decision-making on Inuit and government priorities.

09

Governance

Factors that contribute to violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are influenced by government policy and as well as the effectiveness of policy mechanisms in supporting new and existing efforts to prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Existing governance structures and mechanisms in some cases have contributed to conditions that create risk for violence, while others are not utilized effectively and do not serve their intended purpose.

Existing governance structures and mechanisms must therefore be improved and new structures and mechanisms must be developed to address factors that contribute to violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to governance focus on the need for governments to discharge their obligations under Inuit-Crown land claims agreements, as well as under international treaties that have been ratified by Canada and are intended to protect vulnerable citizens from human rights abuses.

Elder Rebecca Veevee at the MMIWG Hearings in Quebec City.

Improving existing governance structures and mechanisms or creating new ones is necessary to better address factors that contribute to violence.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 9.1 To support capacity-building and skills development among Inuit, the federal government must continue to implement and support improvements to the Inuit Labour Market Strategy and to support and resource the Urban Inuit Labour Market Strategy.
- 9.2 To improve monitoring and implementation of Inuit-Crown land claims agreements, the federal government must partner with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) to establish a Modern Treaties Implementation Review Commission as an adjunct office within the Office of the Auditor General.
- 9.3 To hold governments accountable for implementing Canada's human rights obligations, the federal government must establish an independent oversight mechanism within the Office of the Auditor General for monitoring implementation of Canada's human rights obligations by federal, provincial and territorial governments, and whose mandate includes a focus on the specific situation of Inuit.
- 9.4 To implement the *United Nations (U.N.) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and ensure that Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have access to recourse and remedies for human rights violations, the federal government must establish an independent Indigenous human rights commission and tribunal.
- 9.5 To support sustained interventions and measures that help prevent and protect Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people from violence, the federal government must invest long-term, sustainable and equitable funding in Inuit women's, youths' and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people's groups, as well as community-based projects and initiatives.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 9.6 To focus and sustain work on ending violence against Inuit women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their children, P/T governments must establish permanent ministerial secretariats positions focused on ending violence against Inuit women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their children.
- 9.7 To implement Indigenous human rights and provide recourse for Indigenous human rights violations, P/T governments must develop legislation that implements the rights affirmed by the *U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and that expands the mandates of provincial and territorial human rights commissions and tribunals to include enforcement of Indigenous human rights.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 9.8 In order to improve representation of Inuit women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people within Inuit governance structures, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must take positive and constructive measures to promote and improve representation of Inuit women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people within their governance structures.

10

Inuktut

The Inuit language, Inuktut, is a pillar of Inuit culture and society. Most Inuit speak Inuktut as their first, only or preferred language, despite current and past government-led efforts to suppress and marginalize our language.

Inuktut is the language spoken most often in the home by the majority of Inuit living in Nunavut and Nunavik and Inuit are leading efforts to revitalize, maintain, strengthen and promote Inuktut in all regions of Inuit Nunangat.

Despite these linguistic realities, police services are provided almost exclusively in either English or French, foreclosing access to justice for many Inuit women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to Inuktut focus on the legislative and policy measures required to help revitalize, maintain, strengthen and promote Inuktut throughout Inuit Nunangat.

Actions focus on legislative and policy mechanisms that must be utilized to facilitate access to government services in Inuktut in communities and regions where demand exists.

The actions also identify the practical measures needed to create more effective support for Inuktut, including through the establishment of new programs and arrangements between Inuit and governments.

Barbara Sevigny acted as Mistress of Ceremony in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.

Inuktut is the language spoken most often at home, yet key local services like policing are provided only in English and French.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 10.1** To improve the effectiveness and impacts of federal investments in initiatives to revitalize, maintain and promote Inuktitut, the federal government must develop a new evidence- and distinctions-based program to replace the Aboriginal Languages Initiative and prioritize investments that develop, support and maintain Inuktitut immersion programs and initiatives for Inuit children, youth and adults.
- 10.2** To improve access to federal services for Inuktitut speakers, the federal government must partner with Inuit on the development of regulations, as per paragraph 45(1)(a.2) of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, to define the scope and meaning of access to services in Inuktitut in section 10.1 of the *Act* ("Access to federal services in Indigenous languages"). The federal government further commits, in accordance with the regulations, to supporting the provision of services in Inuktitut by federal institutions.
- 10.3** To help close the statutory gap in access to Inuktitut services in Nunavut, the federal government must comply with its service delivery obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.
- 10.4** To end discriminatory funding practices and provide for the equitable resourcing and support for Inuktitut in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, the federal government must enact a policy of aligning per capita funding allocations for Inuktitut with those for French as a baseline investment in the language, complemented by additional investments in Inuktitut reflecting variance in the availability of language materials and needs.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 10.5** To discharge its obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and *Official Languages Act*, the Government of Nunavut must amend the 2020 Education Act to include provisions developed in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. that enable the development of a fully bilingual education system.
- 10.6** To help enable the provision of Inuktitut services in Nunavik, the Government of Quebec must develop arrangements for funding institutions established by the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* for the provision of Inuktitut services and promotion initiatives in the region, including through sustainable and long-term investments in specialized translation and interpretation services.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 10.7** To help develop capacity for specialized and dialect-specific translation and interpretation services, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must advocate for and, where feasible, broker the partnerships required for the development and provision of accredited Inuktitut translation and interpretation training services.
- 10.8** To more effectively advocate for the delivery of government and para-governmental services in Inuktitut, ILCOs must complete detailed analysis about the demand for Inuktitut service delivery in their respective regions as well as the service types and levels required to meet that demand.
- 10.9** To help revitalize, maintain and support Inuktitut, through partnership and collaboration ILCOs must, wherever feasible, invest in and support the development and implementation of Inuktitut revitalization, maintenance and promotion of initiatives.

11

Data & Research

Access to the best available data and information is required to help inform effective solutions for preventing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



The limited availability of data and information about factors linked to violence and its prevention is a barrier to supporting more effective solutions for preventing violence as well as monitoring the effectiveness of prevention measures.

Research focused on violence prevention solutions must be prioritized by governments and Inuit in order to develop a more fulsome understanding of this critical problem.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions on research focus on closing data and information gaps that may inhibit the implementation of more effective, evidence-based violence prevention measures.

Actions focus on the role Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must play in prioritizing research on violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, as well as the need for governments to share existing and relevant data and information with ILCOs.

Saligmiut Drummers and Dancers from Tuktoyaktuk greeted the Prime Minister of Canada and performed for the Closing Ceremony Presentation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIGW) Final Report. (Back row) Diane Nasogaluak, Terri Lee Kuptana. (First row drumming) Joe David Nasogaluak, Henson Orrin Nasogaluak, Kolton Gordon-Ruben, Braydon Gruben, Larsen Nasogaluak.

The limited availability of information linked to violence is a barrier to preventing violence.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 11.1** To ensure that research conducted in Inuit Nunangat is impactful and beneficial to Inuit as well as to governments, the federal government must support implementation of the 2018 *National Inuit Strategy on Research*, including through Inuit-specific investments that support the development of the capacity required to complete its objectives and actions.
- 11.2** To close gaps in the national public health surveillance system and ensure that public health measures can be effectively targeted, monitored and evaluated, the federal government must lead the development of a national data system whose repository of comprehensive, centralized Inuit-specific health data is accessible to public governments and Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs).
- 11.3** To improve the effectiveness of policing policies for preventing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, the federal government must partner with ILCOs or their designates to analyze the effectiveness of mandatory charging and prosecution policies for preventing violence in cases of domestic violence and abuse, and determine whether these policies are implemented in Inuit Nunangat.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 11.4** To better understand risk factors contributing to violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, P/T governments must implement cross-departmental protocols for gathering, monitoring and sharing Inuit-specific data, disaggregating Inuit-specific data from those gathered about other Indigenous peoples, as well as for ensuring that these data are accessible to Inuit Land Claims Organizations.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 11.5** To improve the effectiveness of advocacy for Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must advocate for the collection and disaggregation of Inuit-specific data, and partner with governments to develop data-sharing protocols.
- 11.6** To support and inform evidence-based actions for preventing violence, ILCOs must develop new research on violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including research focused on trafficking.
- 11.7** To help secure accurate urban Inuit population data, ILCOs must partner with urban Inuit organizations to develop effective strategies for gathering and utilizing urban Inuit population data.
- 11.8** To improve the effectiveness of policing policies for preventing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Nunavik, Makivik Corporation with the Kativik Regional Government should partner in analyzing the effectiveness of mandatory charging and prosecution policies for preventing violence in cases of domestic violence and abuse, and determining whether these policies are implemented in Nunavik.

12

Urban Inuit

The proportion of Inuit that live outside of Inuit Nunangat is growing, compelling governments, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) and urban Inuit organizations to consider and respond to the unique priorities of this population.

Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who relocate from Inuit communities to urban communities can face distinct challenges, including navigating unfamiliar services or systems.

Urban Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can also face unique threats and challenges, including from trafficking, abduction, or more overt and life-threatening forms of racism and discrimination from police services and justice systems.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to urban Inuit focus on improving understanding of the urban Inuit population and its priorities.

These actions direct provincial and territorial governments to respond to challenges such as trafficking, and instruct ILCOs to prioritize improving support for urban Inuit organizations and populations.

FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 12.1** To determine accurate population counts of urban Inuit, the federal government must work in partnership with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) to ensure that the long-form Census administered in 2026 reflects priorities in relation to urban Inuit data collection, as well as to support more effective outreach to urban Inuit.
- 12.2** To improve support for urban Inuit organizations as well as to help prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, the federal government must provide urban Inuit organizations that deliver services to urban Inuit with adequate, sustainable and long-term funding.
- 12.3** To enable the provision of consistent, quality, long-term programs and supports for Inuit women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their families, Inuit organizations require long-term funding from the federal government that meets the reality of costs in their locations. This includes substantive equality of funding for core services with capacity funding to ensure the ability to hire and retain long-term, qualified Inuit employees.

Becky Michelin holds a photo of her mother, Deidre Marie Michelin.



Action at all levels is needed to improve understanding of Inuit living outside of Inuit Nunangat, and respond to the unique challenges they experience.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 12.4** To improve support for urban Inuit organizations as well as to help prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, P/T governments must provide urban Inuit organizations that deliver services to urban Inuit with adequate, sustainable and long-term funding.
- 12.5** To end the racism urban Inuit women and their children face in health care, education, housing, child protection, social services and policing, P/T governments must acknowledge systemic racial discrimination and, with Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs), develop and implement plans to address this racism.
- 12.6** To improve services for Inuit children in care outside of Inuit Nunangat, P/T governments must ensure that child and family services legislation:
- a) includes Inuit-specific provisions that recognize the special circumstances of Inuit children;
 - b) enables ILCOs to appoint Inuit child and family services authorities or otherwise engage in decision-making around child welfare processes for their beneficiaries;
 - c) meets the minimum requirements of An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families; and
 - d) enables continued support for youth who may otherwise age out of certain services.
- 12.7** To help prevent Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people from being trafficked, P/T governments must integrate Internet safety into school curricula as well as develop and share Inuit-specific public safety messaging about risk factors associated with this problem.
- 12.8** To help prevent Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people from being trafficked, P/T governments must develop protocols in partnership with police services for monitoring and sharing information with ILCOs about the circumstances of Inuit trafficking.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 12.9** To improve advocacy and support for urban Inuit, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's interim Urban Inuit Task Force must prioritize targeted research on trafficking and measures needed to help prevent violence against urban Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- 12.10** To improve support for urban Inuit, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must prioritize measures for supporting urban Inuit organizations, including by partnering with urban Inuit organizations to develop accurate and up-to-date urban Inuit population data and information.
- 12.11** To help prevent Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people from being trafficked, ILCOs must partner with provincial and territorial governments — as well as police services and service delivery organizations — to identify and implement prevention measures.
- 12.12** To improve the safety of urban Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, ILCOs must collaborate with urban Inuit service delivery organizations to promote awareness and utilization of urban-based Inuit-specific resources, services and supports, as well as the provision of basic safety programs targeting urban Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including self-defence.

13

Men & Boys

Colonization is oppressive and paternalistic to all Inuit; it interferes with, disrupts and fragments families and communities, and has had a particularly destructive impact on gender roles.

Violence in the Inuit community is a by-product of colonial and settler policies and initiatives that were often violent in and of themselves.

Amidst this historical context, Inuit men are often stereotyped as being inherently violent by settler systems and societies without consideration for the displacement, traumatic experiences and socio-economic conditions that contribute to the criminalization of men.

Therefore, engaging Inuit men and boys in Inunnguiniq (Inuit child-rearing practices), early intervention and violence prevention is pivotal for breaking cycles of violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Initiatives that foster cultural reclamation, socioeconomic opportunities, healing, as well as healthier attitudes and behaviours is an essential component of violence prevention and must be prioritized in order to address the root causes of violence.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to men and boys must focus on measures that we know are necessary to foster cultural reclamation, socioeconomic opportunities, healing, coping skills, as well as healthier attitudes and behaviours among Inuit men and boys.

These include actions focused on setting up our children to succeed (Inunnguiniq) with strong cultural roots, within their families and with their basic needs met. Early intervention programs also must be in place in education and community programs.

In the government systems, actions include improving corrections systems' approaches to case management and ensuring that obligations around providing rehabilitative programming and services are fully implemented.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 13.1** To help provide for the continuity of rehabilitative programming and services and to reduce recidivism among Inuit men, the federal government must enter into information sharing agreements with provincial governments and Inuit governing bodies. Such agreements must facilitate information sharing about Inuit beneficiaries who are incarcerated or on mandatory release between federal and provincial corrections systems and Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs).
- 13.2** To reduce recidivism among Inuit men and protect victims from being revictimized, the federal government must enter into agreements with ILCOs to advise on and support the provision of correctional services to Inuit offenders as per section 81 of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*, as well as to financially support implementation of reintegration plans brought forward by Inuit communities under section 84 of the Act that take into account the housing or other needs of offenders.
- 13.3** To break cycles of intergenerational violence, the federal government must prioritize investments in violence prevention measures focused on youth, men and boys, including by funding relevant Inuit-specific initiatives through The Gender-Based Violence Strategy as well as by prioritizing youth, men and boys in national legislation addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their families.
- 13.4** To improve rehabilitation among Inuit male offenders in the federal corrections system and to prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, the federal government must provide inmates with access to all rehabilitative programming and services to which they are legally entitled, as well as provide provincial and territorial governments and corrections systems with adequate and sustained funding to administer Inuit-specific rehabilitative programming and services.
- 13.5** To help support rehabilitation, healing, and reduce recidivism among Inuit men transitioning back into their communities from the corrections system, the federal government must invest in and provide ongoing support for the provision of halfway houses and transition housing in Inuit communities.

Kim Campbell MacLean at the Happy Valley-Goose Bay MMIWG Hearings.



Engaging men and boys in violence prevention through initiatives that foster healing and healthier attitudes and behaviours makes them part of the solution to help stop gender-based violence.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 13.6** To improve rehabilitation among Inuit male offenders and prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, P/T governments must remedy deficiencies in case management and implement their obligations under provincial and territorial corrections legislation by providing inmates with access to all Inuit-specific rehabilitative programming and services to which they are legally entitled.
- 13.7** To help break cycles of gendered violence, education service delivery agents in Inuit Nunangat must build on the success of programs such as the 'Good Touch/Bad Touch' program administered in Nunavik, by adapting evidence-based best practices for violence prevention identified by the World Health Organization and implementing school-based interventions focused on addressing gender, social norms and attitudes around 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, dating violence and sexual abuse, before they become deeply ingrained in children and youth.
- 13.8** To help prevent Inuit youth and boys from becoming perpetrators of violence, P/T governments must prioritize investments in measures that engage Inuit youth and boys in domestic violence prevention, anger management and knowledge of healthy relationships, including school-, community- and Inuit-led projects, programs and initiatives.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 13.9** To hold perpetrators of violence accountable, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must implement policies that discourage abusers from holding leadership positions, including by explicitly defining unacceptable behaviour and conduct in job descriptions and elections eligibility criteria.
- 13.10** To recognize and support men and organizations that positively contribute to preventing violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and supporting healthy families, ILCOs must take measures to formally recognize and support such individuals and organizations.
- 13.11** To support the work of community-based organizations focused on healing and healthy development of men and boys, ILCOs must invest their own resources, whenever feasible, in promoting and supporting such programs and initiatives.
- 13.12** To help reduce recidivism and support rehabilitation and healing among Inuit men returning to their communities from corrections systems, ILCOs must partner with service providers to strengthen supports for offenders and advocate for the continuity of relevant services and access to relevant supports, including transition and halfway housing.

14

Family Violence

Too often legislation, policies and procedures intended to guide frontline interventions and responses to family violence and abuse as well as help protect Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people fail to do so.

Family abuse intervention legislation exists in most regions of Inuit Nunangat, but the procedural tools provided by such legislation — including emergency protection orders — must be strengthened to improve their effectiveness.

At the same time, national legislation is required to help coordinate and improve frontline interventions and responses to family violence, support evidence-based violence prevention measures, and close policy gaps within and between jurisdictions that create vulnerability to violence.

Federal-, provincial/territorial-, and Inuit-led actions in relation to family violence focus on improving access to the tools and resources required to help prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people by closing legislative and policy gaps that contribute to vulnerability to violence.

Furthermore, the actions focus on the need to review and improve legislative and policy tools that are intended to help intervene in and prevent family violence.

Lastly, the actions also focus on the need to support parents and the transfer of parenting skills in order to foster healthy families.



FEDERAL-LED ACTIONS

- 14.1** To support comprehensive, efficient and effective responses to domestic violence, sex trafficking, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, the federal government must partner with Inuit and other Indigenous peoples in the development of national legislation that addresses these forms of violence against Indigenous women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their families. This legislative initiative must result in the provision of federal resources to encourage community-coordinated responses to combating violence, including programming to prevent violence, housing protections for survivors, funding for advocates and rape crisis centres, as well as culturally- and linguistically-specific services.
- 14.2** To ensure that Inuit have equitable access to available family violence prevention programs, services and funding, the federal government must expand eligibility for Indigenous Services Canada's Family Violence Prevention Program to include distinctions-based support for Inuit.
- 14.3** To denormalize domestic violence and promote healthy families and relationships across Inuit Nunangat, the federal government must fund the design and implementation of a multi-year public education campaign targeting Inuit men and boys, as well as women and girls.

Elder Monica Ugjuk participated in the MMIWG Hearings in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.



National legislation and other tools are needed to improve responses to family violence and support prevention measures.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL-LED ACTIONS

- 14.4** To improve the effectiveness of family abuse intervention legislation, the governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Newfoundland and Labrador must amend legislation to strengthen provisions intended to protect and support victims of violence, as well as introduce new provisions that address the root causes of violence and help prevent offenders from committing future acts of violence.
- 14.5** To help prevent family violence in Nunavik, the Government of Quebec must implement family violence legislation that provides mechanisms for protecting victims of family violence.
- 14.6** To help Inuit women and children remain safe in their homes and in their communities pending trial, P/T governments must conduct a review of emergency protective orders, restraining orders and peace bonds — including their enforcement and effectiveness — and make any necessary changes.
- 14.7** To provide Inuit harmed by gendered violence with dedicated support, P/T governments must establish and support community-based, gendered violence prevention liaison positions tasked with coordinating access to resources offered by police and other social service agencies.

INUIT-LED ACTIONS

- 14.8** To help provide the parenting skills needed to support healthy families, Inuit Land Claims Organizations (ILCOs) must invest in and support, where feasible, parenting and child-rearing programs and initiatives, including formal support for parents or caregivers of children living with disabilities.
- 14.9** To provide Inuit harmed by gendered violence with dedicated support, ILCOs must advocate for the implementation of community-based, gendered violence prevention liaison positions tasked with coordinating access to resources offered by police and other social service agencies.
- 14.10** To improve the effectiveness of family abuse protection legislation, ILCOs must advocate for the inclusion of provisions that strengthen existing measures and help prevent violence by addressing its root causes.
- 14.11** To help de-normalize domestic and sexualized violence and abuse, ILCOs and their leaders must speak out about, advocate for, and lead implementation of measures within their respective areas of jurisdiction that help end violence against Inuit women, children and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.



Conclusion

Commissioned studies and inquiries — including the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Qikiqtani Truth Commission, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, as well as the Viens Inquiry — have all documented the systemic inequities experienced by Inuit.

These initiatives have served to confirm that our people are harmed by systemic social and economic inequities, and that Inuit women and girls are disproportionately impacted.

We must now begin the urgent work of instituting real changes in our communities and society. All levels of government must respect and support the right of Inuit to self-determination.

With the provision of equitable resources, we can end the tragedy of violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

This National Inuit Action Plan is a road map for all governments, Inuit Land Claims Organizations and Inuit as a whole to deliver on their respective responsibilities to help end gendered violence.

Only when we as Inuit women, girls and gender-diverse people are able to fully exercise and enjoy our human rights — including our rights to safety — can lasting reconciliation be accomplished.

We deserve nothing less.

Opposite page: Elder Martha Grieg lights the ceremonial qulliq at the MMIWG Hearings in Montreal.





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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI

75 Albert Street
Suite 1101
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1P 5E7

☎ 613-238-8181
📠 613-234-1991

www.itk.ca



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ΔοΔεϛ ϘΑηϛ βαϘΓ
PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

1 Nicholas Street
Suite 520
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1N 7B7

☎ 613-238-3977
📠 613-238-1787

www.pauktuutit.ca