

SULIQPITA

News from Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada



Celebrating 40 Years of Empowering Inuit Women



In this issue:

- 3 President's Message Interim President Nancy Etok
- 4 Government and Community Relations
- 7 Quarter Highlights
- 7 Pauktuutit's In-Person Board Meeting
- 8 UNDRIP Inuit Specific Resources
- 8 Engaging Young Men and Boys in Parenting Life Skills
- 9 Midwifery Forum Report
- 10 Recent Initiatives
- 10 Health
- 12 Social and Economic Development
- 13 Violence, Abuse Prevention & Justice
- 14 Inuit Specific GBA+
- 15 Board Members Update
- 16 Looking Forward





President's Message: Interim President Nancy Etok

As I look back on my time as president since February, I feel incredibly grateful and honored to advocate for Inuit women at this level. These past few months have been very busy, but also very rewarding.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my role has been the chance to take part in various activities, from media interviews to events, and presentations to government committees. Together, we have focused on important issues that directly impact the lives of Inuit women, such as midwifery, housing, food security, and the development of policies that support our community.

Networking with other Indigenous leaders has been particularly rewarding. In May, I had the privilege of attending the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York. This gathering provided wonderful opportunities to connect with and learn from Indigenous leaders from around the world. Additionally, while in Ottawa I was able to meet with ITK President Natan Obed to discuss our shared goal to improve the lives of Inuit communities.



President Nancy Etok, Executive Director Rosemary Cooper and Piita Irniq at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Later that month, I attended the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) Leaders' Meeting in Ottawa, that included Inuit leaders and Prime Minister Trudeau. This important gathering provides a platform to discuss key priorities, including health, education, food security, housing, and community infrastructure. This was my first ICPC meeting, and I look forward to participating more in the future.



Nancy Etok with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) President Aluki Kotierk and Makivvik Corp. president Pita Aatami at the ICPC meeting.

However, the highlight of my term so was our June in-person board meeting. Coming together with other Inuit women with shared goals, and bringing different perspectives, is incredibly heartwarming. The energy and sense of community is truly inspiring.



Nancy with board members at the Pauktuutit office.

During the meeting, we participated in strategic planning discussions that will guide our work in the coming months and years. It was a rewarding process, and I am excited about the direction we are heading in. Meeting face to face allows us to deepen our connections and strengthen our commitment to work together towards our shared vision.

Qujannamiik,

Tuey It

Nancy Etok Interim President Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

I am continually inspired by the incredible women on our board and look forward to us achieving great things together!



Government and Community Relations

Pauktuutit maintains strong relationships with government entities and Inuit communities, advocating for the rights and empowerment of Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals. We shape policies that reflect our communities' needs and preserve our cultural heritage through proactive government engagement. Our advocacy is informed by lived experiences, aiming to create positive change and address the unique challenges faced by Inuit.

The Governor General's Symposium: Building a Safe and Respectful Digital World

On April 11, Nancy Etok, Pauktuutit Interim President, attended a one-day symposium at Rideau Hall hosted by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada. The event brought together individuals who experience online violence and experts from across the country to share their experiences, explore solutions, and create allyship and networks of resilience.



Interim President Nancy Etok with the Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



Executive Director
Rosemary Cooper
and Youth Delegate
Shayla Claringbold
represented Pauktuutit
as part of Canada's
delegation at the 68th
Session of the United
Nations Commission on
the Status of Women

(UNCSW68) in New York on March 11. The event is the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment and highlights the strength of collaboration in achieving shared goals and priorities.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York.

Nancy Etok, Interim President, attended the twenty-third session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The theme of the 2024 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) was "Improving the self-determination rights of Indigenous Peoples within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a focus on the perspectives of Indigenous youth." The Forum was held in person from April 15 to April 26, 2024, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.



Nancy Etok with Robbie Watt, Director in the Office of Commissioner of Indigenous Languages of Canada, and Language advocate Leena Evic.

Senate Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples (APPA) – UNDRIP

On April 16, Interim President Nancy Etok spoke at a Senate hearing on implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Act. Highlighting the lack of progress on housing, intimate partner violence, and child removal over 40 years, she emphasized the need for safe and adequate housing. Nancy also raised concerns about the overrepresentation of Inuit children in government care, calling for meaningful engagement with Inuit communities, especially women, youth, elders, and gender-diverse individuals. She stressed the importance of genuine consultation, a broad interpretation of UNDRIP, and targeted investments to uphold Inuit rights and well-being.

You can view the hearing here: https://bit.ly/3VZupSE



Women's Day and Northern Strength

Pauktuutit board member Martha Flaherty represented Pauktuutit at events in Ottawa, including the International Women's Day event on March 8, hosted by the Canadian Club of Ottawa and the Women Heads of Diplomatic Mission. Her Excellency the Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, delivered the keynote address. Additionally, on April 29, Martha attended the Canadian Club of Ottawa's meeting titled 'Northern Strength is Canada's Advantage,' where Nunavut Premier PJ Akeeagok was the guest speaker.



Martha Flaherty, Pauktuutit's Ottawa board member with Nunavut Premier PJ Akeeagok.

Inuit Crown Partnership Committee

Pauktuutit Interim President Nancy Etok attended her first Inuit Crown Partnership Committee on May 11. Joined by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, ITK President Natan Obed, federal Cabinet ministers, and elected Inuit leadership from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivvik, and the Nunatsiavut Government, the committee discussed key priorities including health, education, food insecurity, housing, and community infrastructure. Nancy looks forward to more participation in the future.







Tapiriit 2024

On May 30, Martha Flaherty, Pauktuutit Board Members and staff enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating Inuit culture, with delicious country food at Tapiriit 2024 hosted by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.







Photos: Pauktuutit Staff with Natan Obed, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; Martha Flaherty, Pauktuutit Board Member with Braden Kadlun Johnston and Hovak Johnston.

Red Amautiit at the Indigenous History & Heritage Gathering

Our Red Amautiit display was prominently featured at the Indigenous History and Heritage Gathering Cultural event on Sunday, June 2, at the Westin in Ottawa. Hosted by The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC), the event provided a significant platform for our work.



Signing ceremony between Government of Canada and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Nancy Etok, Pauktuutit Interim President and Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages, signed the extension of the Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) - Pauktuutit Engagement Protocol Agreement (EPA). Read the full joint statement here



Nancy Etok, Pauktuutit Interim President, Looee Mike, Interim Vice-President, Paige Kimiksana-Kreps Interim Secretary-Treasurer with Minister Boissonnault.



In-Person Board Meeting

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada held a board meeting in Ottawa on June 6-7, 2024. The gathering brought together board members from across Inuit Nunangat and urban areas, to discuss key issues, celebrate achievements, and plan strategically for the future. Interim President Nancy Etok warmly welcomed attendees, emphasizing unity and shared purpose.

Significant Partnership: Engagement Protocol Agreement

A major highlight was the signing of the Engagement Protocol Agreement (EPA) with Minister Randy Boissonnault from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). This agreement, effective until March 2029, aims to enhance the well-being and safety of Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals by incorporating an Inuit-specific Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens into federal policies and programs



Enhancing Governance and Financial Stability

The Executive and Governance Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee presented recommendations to ensure effective governance and financial stability. These discussions pave the way for strengthened organizational practices, supporting Pauktuutit's long-term success.

Strategic Planning and Vision

The second day focused on strategic planning, facilitated by partners from Arktis Piusitippa. President Nancy Etok emphasized aligning organizational goals to achieve greater impact for Inuit women and communities. Executive Director Rosemary Cooper shared strategic directions, and Arktis Solutions led an engaging session to refine Pauktuutit's strategic plan.





Conclusion

Pauktuutit's in-person board meeting was a testament to the power of collaboration, strategic planning, and our ongoing commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of Inuit women across Canada. The board's collective efforts during the two-day meeting have laid a solid foundation for future initiatives, ensuring continued advocacy and support for Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals.



UNDRIP – Inuit Specific Resources



Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada has developed resources focused on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) tailored for Inuit communities. These resources aim to empower Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals to advocate for their rights effectively.

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

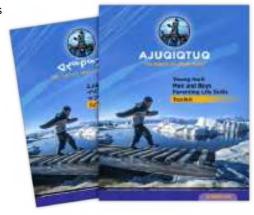
These resources demonstrate Pauktuutit's commitment to empowering Inuit, enabling them to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities. These valuable tools promote Indigenous rights and ensure Inuit voices are heard and respected.

You can find the resources here: https://pauktuutit.ca/undrip

Engaging Young Men and Boys in Parenting Life skills

On Father's Day, Pauktuutit released the Ajuqiqtuq Parenting Life Skills Toolkit, part of our Engaging Young Men and Boys (EYMB) initiative. The Ajuqiqtuq toolkit is designed to help facilitators conduct workshops focused on parenting life skills for young Inuit men and boys. This initiative aims to foster healthier relationships, communication, and community involvement, reducing gender-based violence by actively involving men in the discussion.

As part of the initiative, Pauktuutit hosted a workshop in Iqaluit from May 10-12. Facilitators David Korgak and Jonah Oolayou led discussions on character and emotional growth, emphasizing culturally specific approaches to parenting Inuit children. Participants gain practical skills for maintaining healthy relationships, managing anger and stress, and promoting gender equality, equipping young fathers with effective coping strategies for the stress of parenting.



You can find the toolkit here: https://pauktuutit.ca/eymb











Midwifery Forum Report

On May 5th, Pauktuutit released our National Inuit Midwifery Forum Report: Improving Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services across Inuit Nunangat. This report marks a significant step in our work to create a National Inuit Midwifery Framework.

The report summarizes the forum's discussions and outcomes. It also includes an illustration titled "Irnisuksiijiit – Our Right," showing the benefits of allowing Inuit individuals to choose where and how they give birth. The illustration focuses on themes like reproductive sovereignty and the revitalization of Inuit midwifery, culture, and language, serving as a powerful advocacy tool.





As we move forward, our focus remains on determining how to best support Inuit regions with regulatory exemptions for Indigenous midwifery services and assessing training and education options for midwifery, Doula training, and other wrap-around services. Pauktuutit is committed to developing a National Inuit Midwifery Framework that will serve as a roadmap toward the re-integration of midwifery services and education into health service delivery.

For more information: https://pauktuutit.ca/midwifery



Pauktuutit Portfolios

Health

Sexual and Reproductive health remains Pauktuutit's primary focus across the department's health initiatives, ensuring a distinctions-based and gender-based approach guides and informs Canada's planned responses.

National Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming

In response to the federal call for sexual and reproductive health programming, Pauktuutit is working with stakeholders, Inuit treaty organizations, and service providers to map health system barriers and care frameworks at provincial, regional, and community levels. Pauktuutit aims to ensure the effectiveness, inclusivity, and understanding of the rollout of STBBI screening and testing options by the Public Health Agency of Canada and National Micro-Biology Labs, considering the unique realities of Inuit living in both Inuit Nunangat and the south and their access to sexual health services.

Taava: Inuit Sexual Health Network

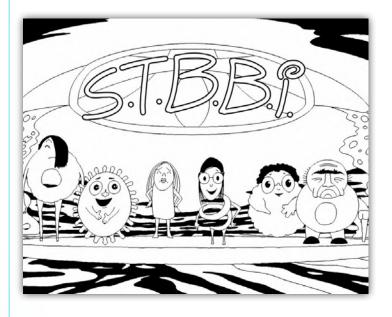
In November, the Inuit Sexual Health Network will gather to provide a comprehensive update on the extensive engagements conducted in the past year on sexual and reproductive health. Continuing the strategic conversations held at the last gathering in 2022, this event will build on the substantial momentum created from in-person community engagements across projects and Inuit regions.





CheckUp!

As the Checkup! Project approaches its conclusion, Pauktuutit, University of Saskatchewan, and our partners are focusing on developing manuscripts, protocol papers, and a "What We Heard" report. These documents will detail the project's activities, the design of the on-the-land programming, and the topics and themes discussed with youth participants regarding sexual health. We are also exploring opportunities to present at conferences to highlight our community-led, land-based approach to promoting sexual health.



Cancer Portfolio

Pauktuutit is preparing a "What We Heard" report for a return trip to Inuvik in July. We plan to report back on stories shared by Inuvialuit in November 2023, present a graphic design or infographic highlighting themes, engage in sewing or crafting with participants to gather more stories, and meet with care providers to understand gaps in the cancer care pathway.



Community Action Fund - Inuit Sexual Health Project

The Community Action Fund - Inuit Sexual Health Project has completed all Regional Engagement Sessions, focusing on Inuit sexual health information gaps, needs, and opportunities with Inuit youth and service providers. The project has formed a diverse Inuit Youth Committee - Innasaat Katimajiit, which, along with the insights from these engagements, has informed strengths-based messaging shaping



resources and tools for addressing sexual health needs among Inuit youth and their care providers. This quarter, the project team finalized key messages from the engagement sessions, developed a list of resources for providers and youth, and continued planning for an in-person gathering of the youth committee to determine its name, share information, and co-design resources.

CanWaCH Healthy World Conference

Pauktuutit Executive Director Rosemary Cooper spoke at the CanWaCH Healthy World Conference on May 14, highlighting the urgent need for food sovereignty in Inuit communities. Rosemary emphasized the disproportionate impact of food insecurity on Inuit women and children and calls for sustainable solutions in partnership with Inuit organizations.



Rosemary Cooper joined by panelists Ka'nahsohon Deer, Larissa Crawford and Michelle Brass at the CanWaCH Healthy World Conference in Montreal.

Social and Economic Development

Pauktuutit's Social and Economic Development team has a broad mandate that covers a range of social and economic issues.

Inuit Women in Business Resources

Pauktuutit continued to provide user-friendly resources for Inuit entrepreneurs, helping Inuit women establish financial security without leaving their communities. Added resources including a Marketing Strategy and Pricing Tool, as well as a Budgeting and Operational Costs Tool are now available on the IWBN website. Additionally, a new research report exploring access to federal procurement opportunities for Inuit businesses is complete and will be available later this month.



Unique Challenges Faced by Inuit Women and in Urban Centre's Regarding Housing and Homelessness

This quarter, our research, policy, and programming on housing needs and homelessness focused on the needs of Inuit women and families in urban areas, providing a critical overview of government and community-specific housing services, infrastructural and fundings gaps. A full report will be available later in the summer.



Inuit-specific Shelters and Transitional Housing

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada successfully advocated for federal funding to build and operate shelters and transitional housing for Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals escaping gender-based violence in both urban areas and Inuit Nunangat. Since the program's inception, plans are underway for 12 shelter and eight transitional housing projects. Applications for the program are now closed, although a few proposals remain under review, including shelters for Nain and Makkovik and transitional housing in Nain.

Inuit Nunangat: Shelters and transitional housing projects are progressing across Inuit Nunangat.

Approved projects include shelters and transitional houses in Sanikiluaq, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake, and Gjoa Haven in Nunavut; a shelter and transitional housing project in Puvirnituq, Nunavik; and applications for shelters in Aimayunga and Ulukhaktok and a transitional house in Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvialuit. Nunatsiavut has applications for a shelter in Makkovik and transitional housing in Nain under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) review.

Urban Areas: Urban shelter and transitional housing initiatives include Ottawa, Montreal, and Winnipeg. The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) recently received city land for an Inuit women's shelter, supported by Pauktuutit.

Violence & Abuse Prevention, Justice (VAP&J)

Pauktuutit is dedicated to addressing a wide spectrum of issues affecting the safety and well-being of women, children, and gender-diverse Inuit.

Inuit-Specific Report for Indigenous Justice Strategy

Pauktuutit recently completed an Inuit-specific report for the Indigenous Justice Strategy. A second report including a comprehensive survey focused on Inuit justice systems, with over 200 Inuit participants contributing valuable insights will follow. Together these reports, which will be available in the coming months, will offer crucial perspectives for Inuit justice revitalization.



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Pauktuutit recently contributed a chapter to a civil society response organized by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. This response highlights the Government of Canada's lack of action on women's equality commitments made at the Beijing +30 conference. Our chapter, specifically focusing on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), calls for an immediate end to the ongoing genocide faced by Indigenous communities in Canada.



Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and the Family Justice Systems Response

Pauktuutit recently completed this initiative, which aims to bridge this gap between law practitioners and Inuit individuals affected by Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). By providing specialized training and resources, The Saimaniik Toolkit aims to enhance understanding among justice practitioners of the historical and current contexts shaping IPV experiences. It provides practical strategies to help Inuit communities deal with IPV, addressing the overrepresentation of Inuit women in experiencing IPV and the barriers they face in accessing support. As part of the initiative, Pauktuutit recently hosted workshops in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet in partnership with the Law Society of Nunavut. The toolkit is now available, free, for others to facilitate these workshops: https://pauktuutit.ca/ justice-ipv



Perspectives on Policing from Inuit Woman:

We have recently completed a pilot project that empowers Inuit women to share their experiences with policing through multimedia storytelling. Funded by Public Safety Canada, this work includes sending care packages to select shelters. With art supplies and envelopes, these kits invite voluntary submissions from participants. This creative provides a platform for Inuit women to share their experiences in a meaningful and empowering way. The pilot is currently being evaluated, with the final report expected in March 2025, as well as a decision on further rollout.

Bill S-233- basic livable income for all Canadians

Pauktuutit attended the first national conference on guaranteed basic income, where we expressed our support for Bill S-233 introduced by Senator Kim Pate. This bill aims to develop a national framework for a basic livable income for all Canadians. You can learn more about this important initiative and the conference at the Basic Income Canada Network's website <a href="https://example.com/here.c

Government of Canada's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

In consultations with Women and Gender Equality Canada regarding the Government of Canada's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, we highlighted a critical concern: the current discourse and actions around gender-based violence (GBV) do not adequately address colonialism as the root cause of this pervasive issue.

Inuit Specific GBA+ Framework

During the June board meeting and strategic planning sessions, we recognised the importance of enhancing our organizational capacity around the GBA+ Framework. We are committed to providing more opportunities to learn about the GBA+ model's history, evolution, and relevance in federal-level advocacy, ensuring alignment with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Principles.

While Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit values are the cornerstone of our work, we aim to embed the Inuit-specific GBA+ Framework across our policies, resources, and practices to enhance our advocacy for Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals.

In the coming months, we will develop culturally responsive GBA+ training resources, including modules, onboarding materials, case studies, and a resource library focused on Inuit Knowledge in arts, language, culture, research methodologies, projects, and policy analysis.

Additionally, we will continue working with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Indigenous Partners Working Group to develop GBA+ training materials and a knowledge-sharing platform to support federal partners in implementing the Inuit-specific GBA+ Framework.



Board Members Update

Our Board Members are the heart of Pauktuutit, representing the diverse communities across Inuit Nunangat. These remarkable women bring their lived experiences and the unique needs and perspectives of their communities to the board. Their dedication, advocacy, and knowledge are instrumental in guiding Pauktuutit's work towards empowering Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse individuals across the region.

- Interim President Nancy Etok, Nunavik, Ungava
- Interim Vice-President Lois (Looee) Mike, Qikiqtani South
- Interim Secretary-Treasurer Paige Kimiksana-Kreps, Youth, Urban
- Urban, Happy Valley-Goose Bay Catherine Mitsuk
- Nunatsiavut Vanessa 'Sissy' Webb
- Nunavik, Hudson Sarah Idlout
- Nunavut, Iqaluit Elisapee Sheutiapik
- Qikiqtani North Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko
- Kivalliq Nancy Uluadluak-Gibbons
- Kitikmeot Josephine Tucktoo
- Inuvialuit Kourtney Wolkie
- Urban, Yellowknife Pauline Saturgina Tardiff
- Urban, South-East Martha Flaherty
- Urban, South-West Lillian Lundrigan
- Youth, Inuit Nunangat Vancant

Follow us on social media for more information about the upcoming call for nominations before our AGM in October.



In-person Board meeting participants included, L- R: Kourtney Wolkie, Nancy Uluadluak-Gibbons, Nancy Etok, Looee Mike, Charlotte Wolfrey (special advisor), Vanessa 'Sissy' Webb, Sarah Idlout, Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko, Elisapee Sheutiapik, Paige Kimiksana-Kreps and Pauline Saturgina Tardiff (not pictured: Catherine Mitsuk, Martha Flaherty, Lillian Lundrigan and Josephine Tucktoo



Looking forward

As we move into the summer months, traditionally a time for getting out on the land, we are gearing up for a period of focused action. With a renewed emphasis on our policy and government relations work, we aim to make lasting impacts for Inuit women across Canada.

Our primary focus in the coming months will be the development of our strategic plan, a roadmap that will guide our efforts and drive change. We are excited to unveil this plan at our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for October. This will be a pivotal moment for us to come together, celebrate our achievements, and renew our commitment to empowering Inuit women.

Additionally, we look forward to the public release of our history project, a celebration of 40 years of Pauktuutit. This project not only honors our past but also inspires us as we look towards the future.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we can create a brighter future for Inuit women, children, and gender diverse.





Join our Team!

Choose Pauktuutit to take an active role in changing the lives of Inuit that we represent

Grounded in Inuit societal values, we partner with Inuit women, communities and organizations to advocate and provide guidance for improvement of health, economy, safety, justice, and ultimately empower Inuit women to have greater opportunities to thrive.

We offer

- An inclusive, and respectful work environment
- Flexible work arrangements including remote work
- Paid personal well-being days, vacation and sick leave
- Health and dental benefits
- Cell phone and Internet allowance
- Language allowance (Inuktut)

and more



Visit our website for available job openings and to apply: www.pauktuutit.ca/careers/

Who We Are

Pauktuutit is the national representative organization of Inuit women in Canada. We foster greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women, advocate for equality and social improvements, and encourage Inuit women's participation in the community, regional and national life of Canada.

What Is Suligpita?

Suliqpita means
'what we are doing'.

Suliqpita is our seasonal
newsletter where we
provide updates on
what we've been working on
and what's coming up.

Contact Us

Pauktuutit.ca info@pauktuutit.ca

350 Sparks St. Suite 805, Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7

T: 613.238.3977 or 800.667.0749

Suliqpita Newsletter by
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada







Pauktuutit.ca