



ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ  
ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ  
**PAUKTUUTIT**  
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

February 2026

# SULIQPITA

News from Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada





## In this issue:

- 3 Message from the Interim Chair of the Board, Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko**

---
- 3 Strengthening Leadership for the Future**

---
- 3 Leadership Transition

---
- 4 Nancy Etok, Interim President and CEO

---
- 5 Priorities Moving Forward

---
- 5 Raya Dumbrique, Interim Vice President of Operations**

---
- 6 Government and Community Relations**

---
- 6 Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee and ITK Working Groups

---
- 6 Heads of Corrections Meeting

---
- 6 Arctic Symposium: Perspectives on Gender

---
- 6 FPT Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women and NILRs

---
- 7 Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee Meeting with Mark Carney

---
- 8 ICC Greenland Inuit Women's Forum

---
- 9 Pauktuutit's Initiatives**

---
- 9 Health

---
- 9 Midwifery and Food Security Updates

---
- 10 Violence, Abuse Prevention & Justice (VAP&J)

---
- 10 Social and Economic Development

---
- 12 Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg**

---
- 12 Board of Directors**

---
- 13 Inuk Woman of the Year and Young Inuk Woman of the Year**

---
- 14 Looking Forward**

---
- 15 Mental Health Resources**

---



## Message from the Interim Chair of the Board

Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko

*I am honoured to step into the role of Interim Board Chair for Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada.*

Having served as both Vice Chair and as the Board Member representing Qikiqtani North in Nunavut, I am committed to providing strong, steady leadership and continuity during this important period of transition.

In my role as Interim Board Chair, I will focus on strengthening governance, upholding integrity, and ensuring that the voices of Inuit women, girls, gender-diverse Inuit, and their families remain at the centre of our decision-making. Together with the Board and staff, we will continue to advance initiatives that promote the health, safety, and economic empowerment of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit across Canada.

I encourage you to remain engaged with Pauktuutit by sharing your perspectives, participating in upcoming consultations, and supporting our collective work. Together we can make a lasting impact.

Thank you for your trust and support as we move forward together.

**Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko**

Interim Board Chair  
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada



## Strengthening Leadership for the Future

### Leadership Transition

In early October, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada announced the departure of President and CEO Nikki Komaksiutiksak, and Vice President of Operations Joseph Phillips. These changes are part of a strategic effort to ensure the organization's integrity and long-term stability.

We extend our gratitude to Nikki and Joseph for their efforts during their time with Pauktuutit, and we wish them success in their future endeavours.

### Nancy Etok, Interim President and CEO

Following recent staff changes, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada is pleased to confirm that Nancy Etok has assumed the role of Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, effective October 2025. Formerly the Board Chair and board representative for Nunavik-Ungava, Nancy brings extensive experience and a strong commitment to advancing the rights, health, and well-being of Inuit women, children, and families across Canada.

She will remain in this position until a permanent President and CEO is appointed, ensuring continuity, stability, and strong leadership during this important transition. Under her guidance, Pauktuutit remains dedicated to its mission of advocating for social, economic, and cultural equity for Inuit women and their families.

*"I am honoured to re-join Pauktuutit and contribute to our vital work," says Nancy. "I am pleased to support the incredible team here, as we work together to create positive change."*



We thank Nancy for stepping into this role and look forward to her leadership in the months ahead.



## Priorities Moving Forward

Our work continues to be guided by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the values passed down from our Elders. In the face of ongoing systemic challenges affecting Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit, these traditions remind us that actual progress is rooted in cultural wisdom, lived experience, and collective effort to achieve shared objectives.

As we navigate this period of transition, Pauktuutit remains focused on strengthening programs that prioritize **violence prevention**, **health and wellness**, and **economic empowerment** for Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit. We are committed to maintaining transparency, fostering collaboration with partners, and ensuring that Inuit women's voices continue to guide our work.



### Raya Dumbrique, Vice President of Operations

In October, Pauktuutit was pleased to appoint Raya Dumbrique as our Interim Vice President of Operations, and in January confirmed her role on a permanent basis. During her interim appointment, she demonstrated strong leadership, operational stability, and a clear ability to advance organizational priorities.

As the former Director of Finance and Operations, Raya brings over 15 years of experience in nonprofit management, operations, and strategic leadership. Her proven commitment to inclusive, culturally responsive practices aligns deeply with Pauktuutit's mission to advocate for and support Inuit women, families, and communities across

Canada. Raya oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization, ensuring that programs and initiatives continue to meet the evolving needs of Inuit women, while supporting Pauktuutit's long-term strategic objectives. She is passionate about building robust teams, strengthening internal collaboration, and driving thoughtful innovation to enhance organizational impact.

Raya's leadership comes at a pivotal and exciting time as Pauktuutit continues to expand its reach, deepen its influence, and strengthen its national presence.





## Government and Community Relations

Pauktuutit maintains strong relationships with both government and Inuit communities, advocating for the rights and empowerment of Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse Inuit. Through proactive government engagement, we help shape policies to better reflect the needs of our communities and preserve our Inuit worldview. Our advocacy is informed by our values and principles, as well as our lived experiences, with the goal of creating equitable representation at all tables.

### Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee and ITK Working Groups

In 2016, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the Government of Canada negotiated the creation of an Inuit-Crown committee for the purpose of facilitating a whole-of-government approach to complex issues impacting Inuit that could not be resolved by any individual department or agency alone. The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) includes Pauktuutit as a non-voting, permanent participant, where we participate in working groups focused on priority areas such as housing, homelessness, justice and violence prevention, and food security. Discussions were delayed during the prorogation of Parliament. Following the formation of a new government, ICPC meetings have resumed and are focusing on funding discussions, policy implementation, and future opportunities.

There are additional working groups led by ITK, which are composed of Inuit Treaty Organizations, ITK, and Pauktuutit, without federal partners, focused on priority areas such as early childhood development, poverty reduction, education, suicide prevention, and the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH).

### Heads of Corrections Meeting

Pauktuutit attended the Heads of Corrections Meeting hosted by Correctional Service Canada

in Iqaluit in May to speak about violence against Indigenous women and girls. Nikki Komaksiutiksak, former President and CEO, and Jamie McCullough, Director of Policy and Advocacy, delivered an impactful presentation on how violence against Inuit women is not an individual issue; rather, it is shaped by factors such as colonialism, forced settlement, and systemic inequality.

### Arctic Symposium: Perspectives on Gender

The Arctic Symposium: Perspectives on Gender was an international event for Inuit scholars, youth, artists, and community leaders to discuss how gender is experienced, expressed, and questioned in Arctic communities. Sponsored by Pauktuutit, the day-long event was hosted in Montreal on June 3. It is part of a broader effort to explore gender issues in the Arctic, including research on gender equality, security, and human rights. Two Pauktuutit staff members participated online and in person.

We continue to call for decarceration, housing, health care, and education—not punishment. The work ahead must reflect Inuit voices and lived realities.

### FPT Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women and National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives (NILRs)

On July 8, former President and CEO Nikki Komaksiutiksak and Secretary-Treasurer Paige Kimiksana-Kreps participated in a meeting with other National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives (NILRs) and the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) Ministers responsible for the Status of Women. This annual meeting was part of the 43rd annual meeting in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

Co-chaired by the Honourable Rechie Valdez, Canada's Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and



Tourism), and the Honourable Lucy Kuptana, Minister Responsible for Housing Northwest Territories, and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women for the Government of the Northwest Territories, this meeting with Indigenous leaders and representatives focused on critical issues affecting Indigenous women, including addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, combating human trafficking, and promoting economic empowerment.

Pauktuutit's participation in these meetings serves to ensure that Inuit-specific perspectives are included to help shape strategies and foster lasting progress in gender equality through culturally informed, community-driven solutions.



## Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee Meeting with Mark Carney

On July 24, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Natan Obed, federal Cabinet ministers, and elected Inuit leadership from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Makivik, and the Nunatsiavut Government gathered for a meeting of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. This was the first time the new Carney government attended an ICPC meeting. As a permanent participant in the ICPC, Pauktuutit was represented at this meeting by former President and CEO, Nikki Komaksiutiksak.

The leaders discussed critical issues, including housing, infrastructure, Arctic sovereignty and economic growth through the new Building Canada Act and ways to implement it effectively and consistently with Inuit Modern Treaties and in partnership with Inuit.



## ICC Greenland Inuit Women's Forum

From October 20 to 27, Inuit women gathered from across Inuit Nunaat, Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland), Canada, and Alaska for a transformational three-day summit in Greenland. Pauktuutit sponsored the event and attended the forum.

The Summit featured thoughtful and engaging knowledge-sharing sessions, all rooted in self-care, well-being, and culturally grounded practices. Participants exchanged ideas, strengthened community ties, and celebrated the resilience and leadership of Inuit women.

The Summit celebrated Inuit women who advocate for change and tackled systemic barriers stemming from colonialism and violence. Through group discussions, participants shared steps towards transformational change and healing.

The Summit concluded with a historic declaration, outlining key priorities and actions that promote inclusion, advocacy, and equality for Inuit women, marking a milestone in promoting gender equity and cultural integrity.

**[Inuit Women's Summit concludes with a historic declaration | Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada](#)**





## Pauktuutit's Initiatives

### Health

Our Health Policy Team continued to make strides, focusing on Midwifery, STBBIs and Food Security. In September 2025, Pauktuutit hired new staff members to build capacity and advance our key agenda items.

Our Inuit Social Determinants to Health Approach to Community-Based STBBI Testing Opportunities project is an Inuit-led initiative focused on improving sexual health and reducing the high rates of sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections across Inuit Nunangat. Inuit communities continue to experience barriers to testing, challenges with access, and persistent stigma around sexual health. This project responds to those realities by grounding all work in Inuit knowledge, community priorities, and the social determinants of health, while drawing from current research and territorial reports on Inuit STBBI trends.

Pauktuutit leads the project in collaboration with the Inuit Sexual Health Network, regional health partners, and the National Microbiology Laboratory. The foundation work, including drafting the Steering Committee Terms of Reference, is complete. It will guide the project's governance structure, ensuring that Elders, youth, and regional partners play meaningful roles in decision-making. With these components nearing completion, the team began the project activities formally in December.

### Midwifery and Food Security Updates

#### Recent Engagements

Our team attended the National Gathering of Indigenous Graduate Students in Banff, where speakers like LeRoy LittleBear, Lindsay Crowshoe, Esther Tailfeathers, Adam Murray, and Joanne Archibald shared insights on ethical research through an Indigenous lens. Karen Aglukark presented her

work on Inuit approaches to stress, resilience, and recovery, creating safe spaces that restore agency. We also made valuable connections to advance discussions on data sovereignty and Indigenous ethics.

#### Health Discussions

The Inuit Public Health Task Group (IPHTG) reviewed regional health status, with a focus on TB, influenza, and STIs. We discussed updating the 2010 economic cost-of-illness analysis to better inform future planning.

#### Food Security Initiatives

The Inuit Food Security Working Group (IFSWG) travelled to Inuvik in early December, with federal, provincial, and territorial partners, to address food insecurity in Inuit Nunangat. The visit included a tour of the Country Food Processing Plant and discussions about food sovereignty.





## ArcticNet

In December, we attended the ArcticNet Conference and participated in workshops that brought together researchers who are developing and distributing knowledge of climate and socio-economic changes in the Arctic. By developing our research capabilities and leveraging opportunities to engage with researchers working in Inuit Nunangat, Pauktuutit continues to build our advocacy efforts, focusing on the need for solid, culturally grounded evidence to support policies that meet the unique needs of Inuit women and gender-diverse Inuit.

## Midwifery Framework

Work is progressing on the review and finalization of our upcoming Midwifery Framework. By centring and amplifying the voices of Inuit women, Pauktuutit is developing a clear roadmap to support the return of culturally grounded, safe, and community-led midwifery services across Inuit Nunangat.

## Violence, Abuse Prevention & Justice (VAP&J)

Pauktuutit's Violence and Abuse Prevention & Justice team has made considerable progress over the

past few months. Bolstered partnerships continue to enhance our work, and we remain committed to supporting Inuit women through both local and regional advocacy.

Our current initiatives focus on key priorities, including addressing Intimate Partner Violence, advancing the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*, raising awareness of the ongoing MMIWG2S+ crisis, and supporting the revitalization of Inuit justice systems.

We are also developing a new podcast series on gender equality. Regional and community interviews—capturing the voices and experiences that shape this work—have now been recorded.

Together, these efforts reflect Pauktuutit's ongoing dedication to uplifting Inuit women, families, and communities by amplifying their voices and driving meaningful, lasting change.

## Addressing Intimate Partner Violence: Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Our recent engagement session brought together partners and community voices to address both historical and ongoing injustices, with a focus on advancing Inuit perspectives on Intimate Partner Violence.



Held over two days, January 13–14, the event featured presentations, workshops, and cultural activities aimed at deepening understanding among justice practitioners and offering practical strategies to better support Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

Participants included representatives from the Public Legal Information Association, the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Nunatsiavut Government.

This gathering marks a key step in an ongoing conversation—one that continues to guide and consolidate our Intimate Partner Violence project.

## Social and Economic Development

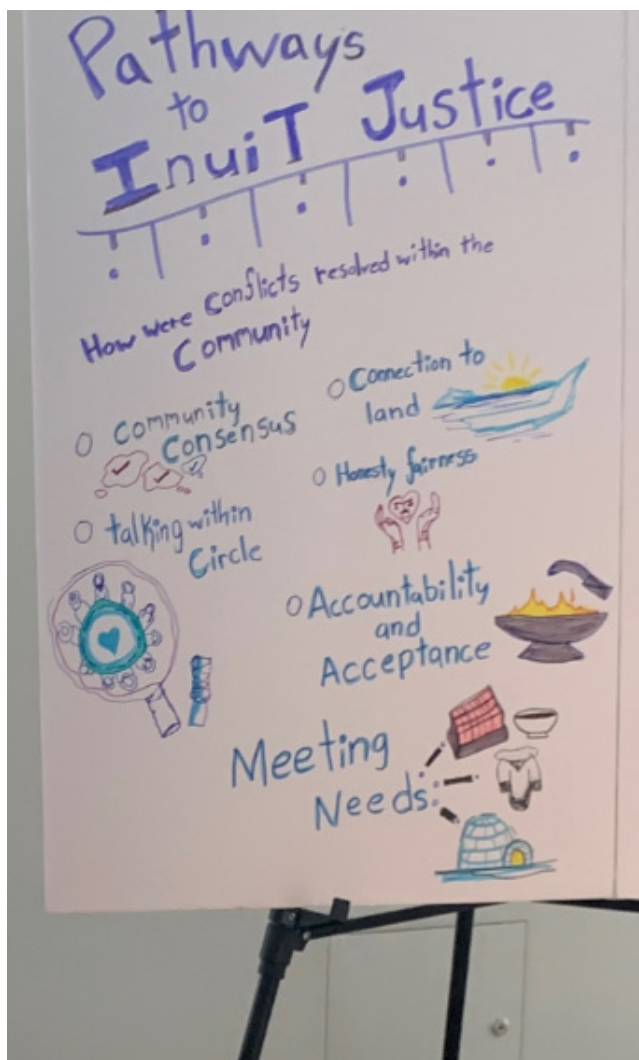
### Housing and Shelter Research

Pauktuutit's housing and shelter research project is well underway. Ethics approvals were secured across all regions in Inuit Nunangat, and engagement with shelter operators and wraparound service providers was established. Respecting regional protocols and data sovereignty is central to our approach. This initiative, comprising three distinct research projects, will inform a robust advocacy strategy to enhance housing and shelter services for Inuit women, their families, and gender-diverse Inuit.

A [video campaign launch](#) will share key findings and urge all levels of government to support Inuit-led housing solutions.

### Food Security: Pathways to Food Sovereignty

This project explores innovative ways to deliver food subsidies and programs in remote communities. Its goal is to develop or improve policies that support Inuit families while demonstrating the broader social and economic impacts of food security.





## Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada hosted its Annual General Meeting for the first time in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The two-day gathering, held on September 22-23, brought together Inuit women from across Inuit Nunangat and Canada to share knowledge, build relationships, and chart a collective path forward for the next year. The energy and engagement throughout the meeting reflected the strength of Inuit women and Pauktuutit's Board of Directors.

As part of regular business, we held elections to fill vacant positions on our Board of Directors.

These newly elected leaders will help guide the organization's mission to advocate for the rights and well-being of Inuit women, children, gender-diverse Inuit, and their families throughout Inuit Nunangat and Canada.

Pauktuutit also extends sincere gratitude and best wishes to outgoing members Board Chair Nancy Etok, who represented Nunavik-Ungava, Board Secretary-Treasurer Paige Kimiksana-Kreps, who represented Urban-Youth, and Lillian Lundrigan, who represented Urban-South-West.

## Board of Directors

### Newly Elected Members

#### Crystal Lennie

Inuvialuit Region (resigned in November 2025)

#### Louisa Alunik

Urban-Yellowknife (re-elected)

#### Leonie Qaumariaq

Nunavut-Iqaluit

#### Abigail Webb

Urban-Happy Valley-Goose Bay (re-elected)

#### Melynda Ehaloak

Urban-South-West

#### Rhea Muckpah-Gavin

Urban-Youth

### Continuing Members

#### Josephine Tucktoo

Nunavut, Kitikmeot

#### Nancy Uluadluak-Gibbons

Nunavut, Kivalliq

#### Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko

Nunavut, Qikiqtani North

#### Vanessa 'Sissy' Webb

Nunatsiavut

#### Kailey Webb-Nochasak

Youth, Inuit Nunangat

#### Priscilla Kuksuk

Urban-South-West (resigned in October 2025)

#### Looee Mike

Nunavut, Qikiqtani South (resigned in February 2026)



## Inuk Woman of the Year and Young Inuk Woman of the Year

In addition to the elections, Pauktuutit proudly presented its annual awards recognizing exceptional contributions by Inuit women:



**Teena Kakee**  
Inuk Woman of the Year



**Jennifer Kilabuk**  
Young Inuk Woman of the Year

*“These awards reflect the strength, resilience, and brilliance of Inuit women,” said outgoing Board Chair Nancy Etok. “We are honoured to recognize these amazing women who continue to shape our communities and inspire others.”*

Pauktuutit extends heartfelt congratulations to all nominees, elected members, and awardees and looks forward to a year of continued collaboration and progress.



## Looking Forward

As we move through 2026, Pauktuutit remains deeply committed to advancing the rights, well-being, and priorities of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit. With Parliament now back in session, we will continue to amplify Inuit voices locally, nationally, and globally while strengthening our work in key areas such as health, safety, justice, and cultural revitalization.

### Advocacy Day Thursday, March 26

Pauktuutit will host our first annual **Advocacy Day** on March 26. It will provide the opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate the work being done to support Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit across the country. Our **Open House** will feature a showcase of our current initiatives, recently completed projects, and the exciting plans shaping our future. It is a chance to meet our team, explore our work, and reflect on the impact of our shared efforts. **Contact us to attend.**

No matter the shifts in the political landscape, our focus remains steady: to ensure that Inuit women's voices shape the policies and programs that impact our communities and lives. Change may take time, but through persistence, partnership, and the strength of Inuit leadership, we know meaningful progress is possible.

We welcome your feedback and look forward to continuing this important journey together.





## Mental Health Resources

**Mental health is a universal right — and for Inuit communities, that means ensuring access to culturally grounded care.**

Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse Inuit deserve healing spaces that reflect who we are. That's why we're calling for new and greater investments in community healing centres and wellness programs rooted in traditional knowledge and cultural practices.

Access to culture and language is essential. It's a key part of healing, resilience, and mental wellness.

**Resources are available:**

---

**24/7 Hope for Wellness Help Line:**  
1-855-242-3310

---

**Kids Help Phone's free, 24/7**  
1-800-668-6868 or text 686868

---

**Kamatsiaqtut Nunavut Helpline**  
867-979-3333 or  
toll-free 1-800-265-3333

---

**Community resources:**  
<https://pauktuutit.ca/community-resources/>





## Housing is our Right in Inuit Nunangat

We are leading a national initiative to strengthen understanding of housing and shelter realities for Inuit women, gender-diverse Inuit, and their families.

This work aims to:

- close persistent data gaps
- inform funding and policy reform
- advance Inuit-led housing solutions

The project is grounded in Inuit data sovereignty principles and the National Inuit Strategy on Research.

The project will inform Pauktuutit's five-year advocacy strategy, translating research into actionable policy and funding recommendations.

[www.pauktuutit.ca/advocacy/housing](http://www.pauktuutit.ca/advocacy/housing)

### Who We Are

Pauktuutit is the national representative organization of Inuit women, girls and gender-diverse Inuit in Canada. We foster greater awareness of their needs, advocate for equity and social improvements, and encourage participation in the community, regional and national life of Canada.

### Suliqpita means 'what we are doing'.

Suliqpita is our seasonal newsletter that provides 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  
613-238-3977 or 800-667-0749

Suliqpita Newsletter by  
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of  
Canada