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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

June 2026

SULIQPITA

News from Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada





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Message from the Interim Chair of the Board

Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko

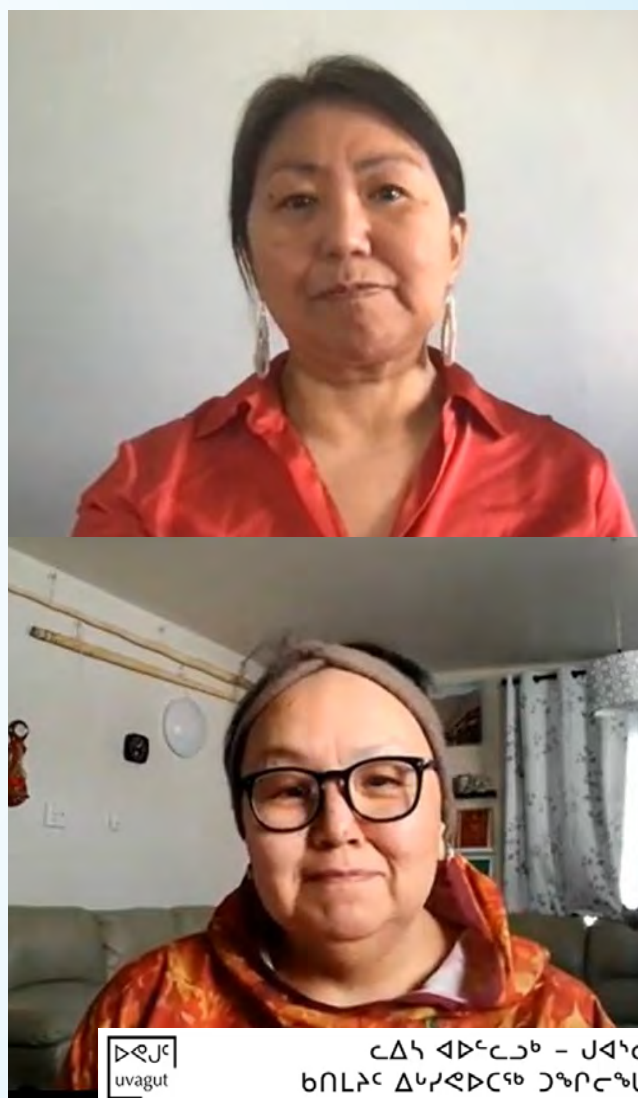
The past few months have been busy and energizing. It is an exciting time for our organization as we continue to build momentum, strengthen relationships, and advance our shared priorities for Inuit across the country.

I have had the opportunity to participate in several media interviews to amplify our work and raise awareness of the issues that matter most to Inuit women and communities. These conversations are an important part of ensuring our voices are heard and understood at all levels. I was pleased to be the first guest interviewed on Lucy Tulugarjuk’s Uvagut TV on May 5 to mark Red Dress Day and discuss MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+.

I also appeared in a CBC interview that looked into the expiration of the federal government’s original MMIWG2S+ funding and the announcement that it would not be renewed. We issued a statement expressing our support for our Indigenous partner groups and calling for the reinstatement of reliable, stable funding.

[Please read the full text here.](#)

Our engagement with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and other key partners has also been a priority. Through ongoing collaboration and dialogue, we are strengthening relationships that support Inuit self-reliance and self-determination. Working together with other Inuit organizations allows us to build on our collective strengths and ensure that our efforts are impactful and sustainable.



Uvagut TV Interview with Lucy Tulugarjuk



A few weeks ago, I appeared – virtually – before the Senate Committee on the Status of Women to share Pauktuutit’s point of view on the “Role and Capacity of Women’s Shelters and Transitional Housing to Support Women and Girls in Canada.” I was able to explain how the current lack of safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing is a crisis that places Inuit women in danger every day. I put forward four key recommendations:

- Establish a Dedicated Inuit Women’s Housing and Shelter Fund
- Permanently Fund the Shelter Initiative for Inuit Women and Children
- Serve Urban Inuit
- Establish Accountability Mechanisms

All of these could help the government meet its commitments outlined in the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, the National Housing Strategy, and the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee.

I was also pleased to speak in a panel discussion at the Day of Dialogue – Forum of Ministers on Human Rights. It was a meeting between federal, provincial, and territorial Ministers, partners, and stakeholders. Canada has been reviewed by five United Nations (UN) human rights bodies in the past few years, and the same issues continue to be highlighted: violence against Indigenous women and girls, inadequate housing, racism in healthcare, and poverty as a rights failure.

The one-day session provided a valuable opportunity to advocate directly for Inuit perspectives, share our priorities, and contribute to national human rights conversations.

My roundtable discussion explored ways Canada can strengthen the implementation of its international human rights obligations, with a particular focus on Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups.

These forums provide valuable opportunities to advocate directly for Inuit perspectives, share our priorities, and contribute to national conversations on human rights.

Overall, this has been a period of meaningful engagement and progress. I look forward to continuing this important work alongside our partners and communities as we move ahead.



Message from the Interim President and CEO

Nancy Etok

Our work continues to be defined by collaboration, advocacy, and an ongoing commitment to advancing Inuit priorities. I am grateful to be part of this passionate group and very impressed by the staff and board members' effort and commitment to our organization.

Over the past several months, I've attended several important engagements that continue to shape our collective path forward.

In a recent interview, Pauktuutit contributed to the Evaluation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. I had the opportunity to emphasize the importance of Inuit-specific approaches that recognize the unique realities of our communities. This will ensure that Inuit voices are meaningfully reflected in both evaluation and implementation processes. While some good work has been done, more effort is needed to achieve lasting, culturally grounded outcomes.

Strengthening relationships across jurisdictions has also been a priority. Meetings involving Senior Officials from Canada and New Brunswick, as well as National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives (NILRs), are underway to plan the upcoming July meeting in New Brunswick.

I am pleased to be part of Women and Gender Equality Canada's (WAGE) Indigenous Women's Circle, a group that brings together Indigenous women leaders and subject matter experts from the public and private sectors.

Members discuss the challenges they face and their priorities for advancing gender equality in Canada.

Finally, I had the opportunity to participate in a virtual call with Deputy Minister Francis McCrae, where we discussed key areas of mutual interest and the importance of ongoing partnership in advancing Inuit priorities at the federal level.

Across all these engagements, one theme remains clear: progress is achieved through partnership, persistence, and the leadership of Inuit voices. I am deeply grateful to our staff, teams, and partners for their dedication to advancing our work every day.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and collaboration.



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 a collective effort to achieve shared objectives.

Pauktuutit is 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.



Message from the Vice President of Operations

Raya Dumbrique

Over the past quarter, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada has continued to strengthen its organizational capacity, governance, and operational effectiveness to support its mandate and long-term sustainability.

Key areas of focus have included enhancing internal systems and processes, advancing governance modernization efforts, strengthening collaboration across teams, and supporting organizational planning and leadership continuity. These efforts are helping to build a stronger foundation for future growth while ensuring the organization remains responsive to policy developments and advocacy priorities impacting Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

Following the success of our first Policy Advocacy Day, plans are underway to make this an annual event. This exciting new initiative is designed to showcase the organization's advocacy and policy work while fostering engagement with partners, stakeholders, and decision-makers.

Throughout the quarter, the organization has continued to invest in staff collaboration, operational improvements, and the integration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) principles into workplace practices. Efforts to strengthen governance structures and organizational accountability remain ongoing.

Looking ahead, Pauktuutit will continue to focus on governance and organizational development, leadership transition planning, partnership-building, staff capacity, and long-term sustainability, while advancing its advocacy priorities and supporting positive outcomes for Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit across Canada.



Advocacy Day

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.

Pre-Budget Submission – Investing in Inuit Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse Inuit is Investing in One United Canada

Building a strong, united Canada means leaving no one behind.

Pauktuutit submitted a pre-budget submission to the federal government for consideration for Budget 2026. It said:

Focused on upholding the inherent rights and dignity of Inuit women, girls, gender-diverse Inuit, their families, and their communities, we call on the federal government to move beyond promises and take concrete, sustained action to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples while supporting Inuit-led solutions that strengthen daily lives, protect futures, and build a just and united economy for all Canadians.

Pauktuutit recommends that the federal government:

1. Build communities strong by improving access to affordable housing, safe spaces, and second-stage housing for Inuit women fleeing violence.
2. Leave no one behind – ensure equitable access to culturally grounded, gender-specific health and healing programs designed for Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.
3. Support Inuit women-led economic development in urban areas and across Inuit Nunangat.



delivered her remarks at the Roundtable alongside other Indigenous Representatives. Canada has been reviewed by five United Nations (UN) human rights bodies in the past few years, and the same issues continue to be highlighted: violence against Indigenous women and girls, inadequate housing, racism in healthcare, and poverty as a rights failure.

Bringing together federal, provincial, and territorial ministers, Indigenous representatives, human rights commissions, and others, the session explored ways that Canada can strengthen the implementation of its international human rights obligations, with a particular focus on Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups.



Interim Board Chair Laisa and Minister Marc Miller



Head table at the Day of Dialogue – Forum of Ministers on Human Rights event in Regina

Testimony to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women (FEWO) – Study on the Role and Capacity of Women’s Shelters and Transitional Housing

Pauktuutit Interim Board Chair Laisa Audluluk-Watsko was pleased to appear at the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women to testify as part of its study: Role and Capacity of Women’s Shelters and Transitional Housing, on May 28.

She highlighted the need for solutions to address the housing and shelter crisis, including permanent funding for Inuit women’s shelters, funding to expand shelter strategies to serve the growing urban Inuit population, and accountability systems to ensure Canada’s housing commitments are met.



Laisa at the House of Commons’ Standing Committee on the Status of Women

Arviat Celebrates the Announcement of Inuit Nunangat University

On April 23, Nancy Uluadluak–Gibbons, Pauktuutit’s Kivalliq Board Member, was pleased to join Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed, alongside Senator Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Premier John Main and local, regional, and territorial Inuit leaders in Arviat to celebrate the announcement of Inuit Nunangat University coming to the community. Inuit-led education is vital to strengthening Inuit self-determination. It promotes culture, knowledge, and language while supporting future generations to learn and thrive in Inuit Nunangat.



Nancy Uluadluak-Gibbons and Natan Obed, ITK President, in Arviat for the Nunangat University announcement

Anti-Human Trafficking Workshop

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada was proud to take part in the Anti-Human Trafficking Workshop held in Kuujuaq from May 5-7.

Hosted by LP⁹Δ^b - Makivvik, this important gathering brought together leaders, community members, and partners to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and advance efforts to prevent and address human trafficking affecting Inuit in Nunavik.

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to these critical discussions and to stand alongside those working to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

Together, we continue to build awareness, promote culturally grounded solutions, and support safer communities.



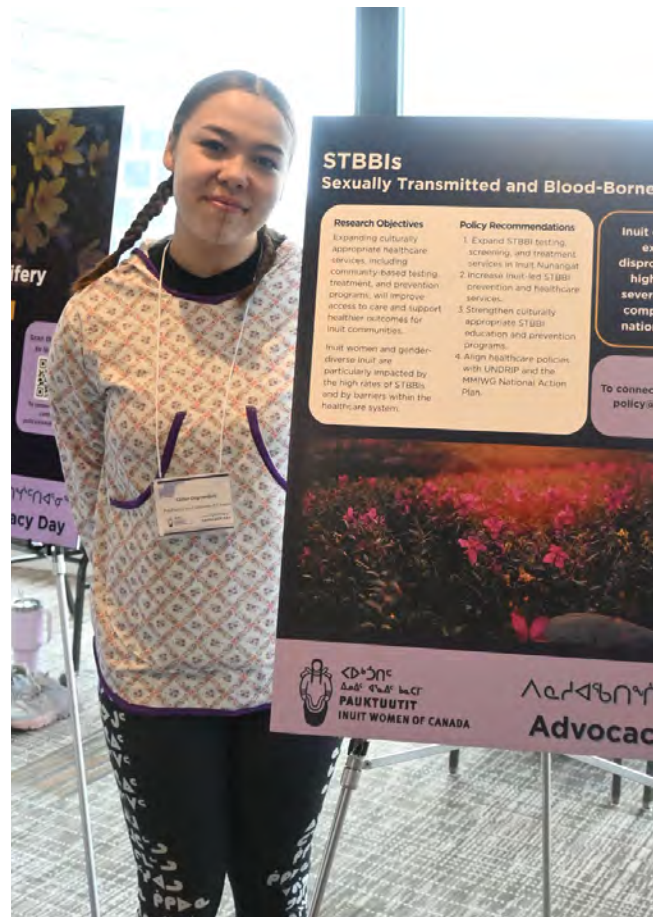
Left to right: Nancy and Jamie in Kuujuaq

Tapiriit

Pauktuutit staff members and guests were pleased to attend the ITK gala event Tapiriit on May 25 in Ottawa. The annual event celebrates Inuit food, music, and culture, as well as being an important networking event.



ITK Tapiriit



Advocacy Day



Pauktuutit's Initiatives

Policy Briefs Are Here

We are excited to share our series of newly published Policy Briefs. Nine documents presenting key information and recommendations are available on our website in English, with Inuktitut editions to be added soon.

<https://pauktuutit.ca/publications/#policy-briefs>

- Ending Gender-Based Violence Against Inuit Women, Girls and Gender-Diverse Inuit
- Inuit Justice Revitalization
- Expand Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infection (STBBI) Testing, Screening, and Treatment Services Throughout Inuit Nunangat
- Advancing Federal Action on Inuit-Led Housing and Shelter Solutions for Inuit Women, Girls and Gender-Diverse Inuit, and their Families
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+)
- Research and Data – Inuit Women, Girls and Gender-Diverse Inuit
- Midwifery is Essential Healthcare
- Impacts of Resource Extraction: Employment and Gender-Based Violence
- Inuit-Specific Gender-Based Analysis + (ISGBA+)



Celebrating GBA+ Week

Promoting Pauktuutit's work on Inuit-Specific Gender-Based Analysis

The Government of Canada's Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) Awareness Week occurs annually during the second week of May. Our social campaign, highlighting our Inuit-Specific GBA+ Framework, coincided with updates to the website and the release of a corresponding **policy brief**.

Rooted in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) beliefs and principles, the ISGBA+ Framework creates the necessary space to amplify and prioritize the perspectives and priorities of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit who, traditionally, are systemically neglected or ignored.

Coming soon: Our ISGBA+ learning modules will be published soon. Watch our social channels for the launch details.

[Read more about ISGBA+](#)



Health

Our Health Policy Team continued to make strides, focusing on Midwifery, STBBIs, and Food Security. The team continues to build capacity and advance our key agenda items.

On May 1, Pauktuutit participated in the Inuit Maternal-Child Health & Cultural Safety Conference, hosted in Winnipeg, by presenting our recommendations to expand Inuit-led midwifery education and training opportunities and ways to promote midwifery as a rewarding career option.



Inuit Maternal-Child Health & Cultural Safety Conference

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.

Inuit Justice Engagement Session

In April, Pauktuutit hosted engagement sessions in Iqaluit at the Inuusirvik Community Wellness Hub. The meetings brought together community members with backgrounds in Inuit Justice to engage in meaningful discussions on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, with a particular focus on Call to Action 50 and revitalizing Inuit Justice.

The engagement sessions provided valuable guidance on how Pauktuutit can continue developing content for community members on Inuit legal and justice systems. Participants discussed the development of an Inuit Justice Digital Archive, a future space where reports, resources, conversations, and artwork related to Inuit Justice can be preserved and shared for public access. This work is currently in development and is expected to be launched in 2027. The gatherings included cultural performances and country food, and community members of all ages were welcomed to participate in the discussions and activities.

Pauktuutit plans to host additional engagement sessions in urban centres and communities across Inuit Nunangat to create more opportunities for sharing knowledge and perspectives on these important topics. Those interested in participating in future conversations are encouraged to contact policy@pauktuutit.ca.



Praise and Recognition for Mary Simon, Governor General



The Right Honourable Mary Simon

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada proudly recognizes The Right Honourable Mary Simon for her historic and inspiring term as Canada's Governor General.

As the first Indigenous person—and first Inuk—to serve in this role, Mary Simon has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, resilience, and commitment to advancing reconciliation and elevating Indigenous voices across the country. Her journey is a powerful testament to the strength, wisdom, and vision of Inuit women.

We were honoured to welcome Mary as a speaker at our 40th anniversary gala, and we are deeply proud of her longstanding connection to Pauktuutit.

As a key contributor to our organization's history, her leadership helped establish and shape our collective voice.

Her legacy will continue to inspire generations of Inuit women and girls to pursue leadership with confidence and pride. She has shown what is possible when we amplify our voices and our leadership is embraced.

We celebrate her achievements and honour the path she has paved—for today and for the future.



Pauktuutit's Board of Directors and staff members join Her Excellency Governor General Mary Simon at Rideau Hall

May 5 – National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

We paid tribute to our loved ones and continue to call for action from all levels of government to end the cycle of violence against Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

As part of our annual media campaign, we shared links to our MMIWG Commemorative Red Amautiit project, along with the advocacy, education, and awareness-raising work we do.

Pauktuutit continues to push for the full implementation of all Calls for Justice and advance Inuit-led solutions through research, advocacy, and education to ensure safety, justice, and accountability.

[Read our latest Policy Brief here.](#)

We offer workshop content to address violence against Inuit women. The Saimaniik Justice and Intimate Partner Violence workshop equips justice professionals to better understand and support Inuit survivors. The Engaging Young Men and Boys (EYMB) workshop helps prevent gender-based violence by promoting healthy relationships and accountability among young men and boys.

To bring these workshops to your community, contact us: policy@pauktuutit.ca.



Media Interviews

Media interviews are a key component of our strategic communications plan.

Here are some recent highlights:



CBC Iglaaq - ᐱᐱᐱ ᐃᓄᓄᓄ

Watch Video

Iglaaq Inuktitut Television – CBC Iqaluit
– International Women’s Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EmgfsTu5cY>



Read Article

APTN News Interview with Mark
Blackburn – Auditor General’s report on
the child abuse crisis in Nunavut

<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/nunavut-needs-to-accelerate-its-actions-to-protect-vulnerable-children-youth-auditor-general/>



CBC Iglaaq - ᐱᐱᐱ ᐃᓄᓄᓄ

Watch Video

Iglaaq Inuktitut Television –
CBC Iqaluit – Inuit Justice Engagements

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n20-zc2Y3_I



CBC Northbeat

Watch Video

CBC Nunavut Interview – MMIWG2S+
programs at risk of losing federal funding

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7174153>



Watch Video

Uvagut TV Interview with Lucy Tulugarjuk - MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+ Red Dress Day

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhI_zbVsyJk

HEALTH MAY 21, 2026 - 8:30 AM EDT
Pauktuutit podcast weaves 'beautiful tapestry' of Inuit women's stories

Guests come from across Inuit regions and urban areas to discuss housing, food and traditional values



Read Article

Nunatsiaq News article on podcast launch event

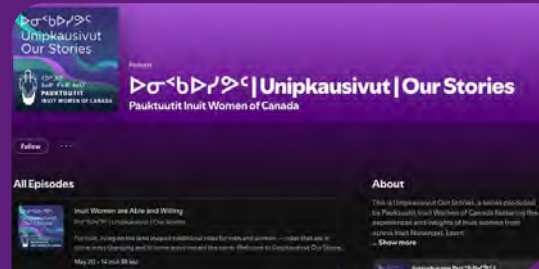
<https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/pauktuutit-podcast-weaves-beautiful-tapestry-of-inuit-womens-stories/>



Watch Video

June 9 CKCU 93.1 and Uvagut TV Interview - Podcast Launch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uRU5hxyYFo&t=2420s>



Listen Here

Unipkausivut | Our Stories: Spotlight on Gender Equity

<https://open.spotify.com/show/033jqTiybxqgfJF35RyrG8>





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.

Board Meetings

Our next board of directors meeting is planned for June 16-17. This in-person gathering in Ottawa gives our board members the time they need to exchange ideas, streamline governance procedures, plan strategically, and strengthen relationships.

Following that, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for September 15-16 in Montreal. Elections to fill board vacancies, the Annual Financial Report, and other board business will be tabled as we celebrate the successes of our fiscal year 2025-2026 and plan for the next one.

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

Additionally, as part of the AGM, we'll be announcing the recipients of the annual Inuk Woman of the Year and Young Inuk Woman of the Year. Watch our social channels for the Call for Nominations.

Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC)

Scheduled for June 30, the ICPC Senior Leaders Meeting will be hosted by ITK in Kuujjuaq. Pauktuutit is looking forward to taking part as an ITK Board member. This is a national, high-level forum that brings together the Prime Minister and federal cabinet ministers with elected Inuit leaders from across Inuit Nunangat.

Federal | Provincial | Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women and Indigenous Leaders Meeting

In mid-July, Pauktuutit will take part in the meeting of FPT Ministers responsible for the Status of Women and Indigenous Leaders and Representatives in New Brunswick, co-hosted by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) and the Government of New Brunswick's Department of Women's Equality.

The meeting is chaired by the Honourable Rechie Valdez, Canada's Minister of Women and Gender Equality. The provincial co-host and New Brunswick representative is the Honourable Dr. Lyne Chantal Boudreau, Minister responsible for Women's Equality.

These annual gatherings convene federal and provincial ministers, National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives (NILRs) to discuss critical issues, gender equality, and joint agreements on gender-based violence prevention.

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) General Assembly

Pauktuutit is excited to attend the 15th Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) General Assembly, scheduled for July 22-25, 2026, in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Hosted by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), the four-day event will draw over 200 delegates representing Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka.

The ICC chair role will rotate from Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland) to Canada, concluding Dr. Sara Olsvig's term and ushering in a new Canadian ICC Chair.



Inuit Women in the Resource Extraction Industry

As Canada moves forward with renewed nation-building efforts, Pauktuutit wants to draw attention to the fact that there has been very little mentioned about the effects the proposed major projects will have on Inuit living in remote communities. Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit are at increased risk of harassment and sexual violence while employed in and around remote major projects and work sites.

In our recent publication, "Impacts of Resource Extraction: Employment and Gender-Based Violence," we outlined several critical measures to address economic disadvantages in the workforce.



Many women value mining employment as a meaningful source of income and family support and deserve to be safe and supported.

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.

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Suliqpita Newsletter by
 Pauktuutit Inuit Women of
 Canada