

Resource Extraction and Inuit Sexual Health

Sexual Health is Everyone's Responsibility

CONFERENCE REPORT April 2, 2008



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INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA



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RESOURCE EXTRACTION AND INUIT SEXUAL HEALTH CONFERENCE Sexual Health is Everyone's Responsibility

Conference Report and Evaluation Summary

Background

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada¹ works to foster greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women, to advocate for equality and social improvements, and to encourage the participation of Inuit women in the community, regional and national life of Canada. Pauktuutit became involved in the HIV/AIDS movement in 1998 as a response to the growing concern over this disease within the Inuit community. Since then, Pauktuutit has expanded its approach to incorporate all aspects of sexual health, including but not limited to prevention and awareness on HIV/AIDS. As with many other facets of Inuit health, sexual health must be approached holistically since the factors that can lead to teenage pregnancy, such as the absence of condom use (as indicated by very high birth rates), also contribute to the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like gonorrhea, Chlamydia and HIV.

Health statistics show that the rate of teenage pregnancy is four times higher than the national Canadian average in Nunavut² where Inuit make up 85 per cent of the overall territorial population. The rates of STIs like gonorrhea and Chlamydia are high among Inuit regions. Infection rates for gonorrhea and Chlamydia in the Northwest Territories are the highest and second highest respectively in Canada.³ In Nunavut, the opposite is true with rates of Chlamydia being the highest in Canada and gonorrhea the second highest.⁴ We also know that most mothers are sent away from their communities in order to give birth in southern cities, a factor creating a huge burden for the health care system of both the North and southern Canada. Rates of STIs as high as eight times the national average greatly increase the chances of infertility for Inuit, since the most common of STIs are often asymptomatic, thereby masking the need for treatment. Lastly, Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus-Type 1, an extremely rare illness (in Canada) that can develop into cancer for about one-guarter of those infected, has been detected in Nunavut. Sexual health is an important factor in the overall health of Inuit communities; and an integrated holistic approach is needed.

Resource extraction activity and other economic development initiatives are taking a strong hold in Inuit communities. From the Voisey's Bay Nickel Mine in Nunatsiavut to the Mackenzie Gas Project in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, there is cause to hope for economic improvements in the communities.

The mining industry and pipeline development offer huge economic potential for Canada's territorial governments, northern Aboriginal governments and Aboriginal community members.⁵ This activity is changing the social dynamics of northern communities. "Population increases, strains on existing social, health and recreational services, strains on a community's infrastructure, and the strain on traditional values and culture are common. These must be considered in the context of the prospects of an improved standard of living, new training, and the opportunities for new businesses and valuable work experience."⁶ Pauktuutit believes that increased awareness about the impacts of resource extraction activity on the overall sexual health of community members must be considered and addressed.

1. For more information, please visit www.pauktuutit.ca

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6. Ibid.

^{2.} Statistics Canada. 2000 Census. Ottawa. 2001.

^{3.} Chlamydia rates in Nunavut and Northwest Territories were 210 and 130 per 10,000 cases respectively compared with 10 cases per 10,000 in the rest of Canada; gonorrhea rates in Nunavut and Northwest Territories were 27 and 30 per 10,000 cases respectively compared with two cases per 10,000 in the rest of Canada. Health Canada. *Canadian Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance Report. Ottawa. 2000.*

^{4.} Health Canada. Canadian Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance Report. Ottawa. 2000.

^{5.} National Aboriginal Health Organization. *Exploring Community-Based Responses to Resource Extractive Development in Northern Canada*—Issue Paper. Ottawa. 2008.



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In March, 2007 Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada convened its Annual General Meeting. At the gathering, Pauktuutit's Board of Directors and delegates, comprised of democratically elected Inuit women from the geographic areas of Canada where Inuit reside, put forth and passed a resolution for Pauktuutit to explore the implications of resource extraction activity in Inuit regions on the sexual health of community members.

From this resolution, and following the direction set by the Board of Directors, Pauktuutit developed the theme for an upcoming conference planned for 2007/2008 and funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The PHAC funding for the conference was part of a two-year agreement (2006–2008) for the project called *Increasing Sexual Health Capacity and Building Supportive Communities for Inuit Living with HIV/AIDS*, with funds flowing from the Non-Reserve First Nations, Inuit and Métis Communities HIV/AIDS Project Fund.

Rationale

For Inuit communities, there is cause for concern when it comes to resource extraction. The influx of transient workers and the increase in economic prosperity may come at a cost to social and physical well-being for some Inuit. Here are some things we know:

- Women bear the brunt of increased violence, unwanted pregnancies and STIs;⁷
- ... "prostitution catering to miners can elevate already high rates of STI's and increase the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the North";⁸
- There is an 'ethic of exploitation' of women, resulting in increased levels of sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies;⁹ and
- Norms around sexuality and Inuit are consistent with the general community, where sex is not a topic that is easy to discuss and providing a framework for dialogue can transmit effective information.¹⁰

The Resource Extraction and Inuit Sexual Health Conference: Sexual Health is Everyone's' Responsibility was a unique and ground-breaking conference bringing together front-line workers and community members, industry stakeholders and researchers. The event provided an opportunity for those working directly in health promotion throughout the North as well as representatives from the oil and gas and mining sectors to engage in a frank dialogue about how to minimize the negative impacts of industry activity, while maximizing the benefits to individuals and communities. The research component of the conference provided an empirical basis to the dialogue as well as an opportunity for skills-building and the sharing of wise practices.

Conference Coordination

In planning the conference, Pauktuutit sexual health staff used Pauktuutit's already established regional sexual health symposia as the model. Since 2006, Pauktuutit has convened a number of regional sexual health symposia across the North. At these two-day events, front-line workers from across a specific northern region, e.g., the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, are brought to a central location for skills-building workshops and networking opportunities. The regional symposia provide a venue for front-line workers to share successes in sexual health promotion from their respective communities. The sharing of promising practices among front-line workers contributes to the reduction of the geographic, social and professional isolation for those tasked with the job of delivering a safer sex message to community members.

Promising practices are shared and developed over the course of the gathering. At the end of the two-day event, an action items list is finalized. This resource has sexual health promotion activities, tactics and strategies that participants can implement in their respective home communities.

- 9. Mining Watch Canada. Gaining Ground: Workshop on Women, Mining and the Environment. Ottawa. 2000.
- 10. Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. Action in Inuit Communities, What does it Take? Report: Sexual Health Symposium. Ottawa. 2006.

^{7.} Status of Women Council NWT. Review of Diavik Diamond Mines Project Socio-economic Environmental Effect Report. Yellowknife. 1999.

^{8.} Gibson, G & Klinck, J. Canada's Resilient North: The Impact of Mining on Aboriginal Communities. Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous and Community Health. Edmonton. 2005.



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This conference followed the same model as recent symposia but extended its reach to a national audience of front-line workers from Inuit communities across Canada. Front-line workers were invited to participate in a three-day learning opportunity that focused on the issue of resource extraction activity in and around Inuit communities and their possible impacts on the sexual health of community members. The same action items list was compiled as a result of the discussions held over the three-day conference.

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada assembled and chaired a national planning committee that was pan-Arctic in scope. It was comprised of the four Inuit land claim organizations, youth, urban Inuit and national partner organizations. The following is a list of the planning committee members and the organization/region they represented:

Sharon Edmunds	Nunatsiavut Government, Department of Health and Social Development
Becky Kilabuk	Youth Coordinator— Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Faye Legresely	Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services
Crystal Lennie	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Marilee Nowgesic	Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Anita Pokiak	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada—Board member, Western Arctic
Esther Powell	Rankin Inlet Community Health Centre
Alice Thrasher	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Chuck Schouwerwou	ConferSense Planners Inc. (observer)
Denise Rideout	NAHO, Ajuunginiq Centre (observer)
Jeanette Doucet	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada (staff)
Pitsiulala Lyta	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada (staff)

The planning committee convened in late September 2007, and held three teleconferences in the lead-up to the conference, with one update bulletin distributed between October 2007 and February 2008. From the main committee, an abstract adjudication sub-committee was formed in order to evaluate the submissions of possible presentations to the conference.

An initial call for abstracts and official announcement of the conference was launched on September 17–19, 2007 at the CAAN Annual General Meeting and the National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS (NACHA) Policy Forum in Montreal, Québec. A brochure with the description of the conference was distributed, along with a mini-CD that contained the same information as a screensaver to be viewed on a computer. The call for abstracts was launched in mid-November with a deadline of December 20, 2007 for submissions. The call was sent out through various public and women's health networks with an estimated total reach of 5,000 researchers and other potential presenters. From this call, 25 submissions were received and 12 of these were chosen to be presented at the conference.

As mentioned previously, the main objective of the conference was to provide an opportunity for dialogue between communities, industry and researchers. A list of key players in resource extraction in the North, as well as manufacturers of contraceptive products was compiled in the interest of securing additional resources for the conference. An invitation to participate in the conference was included in the letter that was distributed to those on the list. While the efforts in fundraising through corporate donors were marginally successful, raising \$12,500 in both monetary and in-kind contributions, no industry representatives attended. This may have been due to a number of factors, including the limited time to RSVP to the event, and previous commitments on the part of industry representatives.

Given the shortfall in funding for the conference, it was necessary to seek additional funding from beyond the corporate domain. Through several proposals written to different departments of federal and territorial governments, Pauktuutit secured an amendment to the original contribution agreement for the project. This additional funding enabled a significant number of participants to travel to the conference, thereby ensuring a full discussion through regional representation from across the North.



These additional funds supported the production of conference materials such as a program and promotional material. Most importantly, Pauktuutit was able to provide simultaneous English/Inuktitut interpretation during the conference.¹¹

Potential participants were identified by members of the planning committee. Invitations were sent in November, 2007, with a deadline for responses of January 18, 2009. From these forms, the conference planners were able to arrange travel itineraries that suited the participants' needs as closely as possible. Participants were booked into the Capital Suites Hotel in Inuvik, a short walk from the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex where the conference was held.

Conference Description

The Resource Extraction and Inuit Sexual Health Conference was held in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, from February 12–14, 2008.

The conference was opened by keynote speaker, singersongwriter and Inuit cultural icon, Susan Aglukark. Her message of choice, personal potential and responsibility was extremely well received by those assembled. Ms Aglukark's address was directly followed by a performance by the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers. Advanced registration for the conference indicated that there would be upwards of 75 people participating, many of whom were local/regional stakeholders who could attend at little or no cost. A total of 82 participants registered. Participants comprised front-line workers, federal and territorial government representatives, and a select group of youth representatives from across the Inuit North (see Successes and Weaknesses section of this report).

The three days of the conference were divided into the themes of scientific information, cultural approaches and promising practices, corresponding to the three conference days (see Appendix A). The content of each presentation, as well as a short biography of each presenter is available in the conference booklet (enclosed). The original presentation scheduled for the fourth session of the third and final day, *Partnership in Health and Education: A winning Strategy for Inuit Youth* by Aline Roy, Community Health Liaison Nurse in Nunavik, was replaced by a panel discussion on north and south

travel and the realities experienced by urban Inuit. This last-minute change was in response to Aline Roy's cancellation. The focus of the presentation was the vulnerability of Inuit who find themselves in southern urban centres and their risk of exposure to HIV and Hepatitis C infection through specific risk behaviours. Two Inuit women with HIV were part of the urban panel and shared their unique perspective on urban realities for Inuit in general, and specifically for Inuit living with HIV/AIDS in urban centres.

As mentioned in the *Conference Coordination* section of this report, the conference set out to meet similar goals as past regional sexual health symposia organized by Pauktuutit. In addition to the overall symposium goals of networking and skills-building among front-line workers in Inuit communities, the conference set the following additional objectives:

- To provide a forum where Inuit front-line workers, health workers and industry stakeholders can effectively communicate health promotion needs in a manner that is beneficial to Inuit communities;
- To increase understanding among front-line health workers and other stakeholders in Inuit communities of the impacts of the resource development industry on Inuit sexual health;
- To provide successful models for community and Industry partnerships in health promotion in general, and sexual health promotion in particular;
- To provide an opportunity for front-line workers to share successes and other experiences related to sexual health promotion in their communities;
- To offer successful models for providing sexual health education within Inuit communities through the integration of cultural and traditional practices, among others;
- To facilitate workshops to increase the capacity of community members and frontline health workers for community mobilization and delivery of sexual health information in their families and/or communities; and
- To reduce the isolation felt by front-line health workers in Inuit communities and offer skills-building opportunities in sexual health promotion.

11. This involved hiring, transporting and housing two interpreters from Yellowknife, a technician from Ottawa, and the shipping of an interpretation booth and related equipment from Ottawa.



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Action Items List—Highlights

The regional symposium model was used as a template for the planning and structure of the conference. As mentioned earlier, part of the facilitation of the gatherings included compiling an action items list that notes ideas, successes and strategies that could be helpful in the promotion of healthy sexuality messages in Inuit communities. An important aspect of the action items list is including promising practices tried in Inuit communities that may be readily adapted in other communities with similar demographics. There is also an emphasis on items that require little funding, and a focus on existing capacity within the community that reflects the cultural, social and linguistic realities of Inuit communities.

The following is a sample of the items from the conference action items list. The complete list is attached in Appendix B:

- Educate parents/increase awareness about sexual health;
- Work with community member to address sexual abuse, including keeping children safe from sexual abuse;
- Use positive imagery in social marketing campaigns;
- Utilize peer training/peer education;
- Advocate for industries to consider sexual health policies;
- · Family members educate other family members;
- · Bridge gaps between Elders and youth;
- Convene day of action and/or celebration for sexual health;
- Acknowledge successes and role models—health promotion "star of the month";
- Include information from Elders, traditional knowledge;
- · Collaborate with faith-based organizations;
- Capitalize on events in the community—opportunities for sexual health social marketing;
- Bring in local government officials—build relationships; and
- Engage and mobilize parents to advise school councils.

Evaluation Highlights

An external consultant was contracted to conduct the evaluation of the conference. Please refer to Appendix C for the complete evaluation report.

The evaluation framework included three sections:

- · Conference planning and organizing;
- Data collection and analysis (conference feedback); and
- Evaluation report.

Three separate sets of questions (See Appendix D) were developed to gather input including:

- Questions for members of the Advisory Committee;
- · Questions for conference participants; and
- Questions for conference presenters.

It is unclear whether conference participants understood the importance or the content of the evaluation questionnaires because the number of responses was low compared to the numbers attending—16 respondents out of a possible 82. One reason for the low response may have been 'conference fatigue' when it came time to respond to evaluation questions at the end of the event.

Despite the low response rate, the responses received indicate that both participants and presenters were largely satisfied with conference arrangements and outcomes. Most see this as a stepping stone to future gatherings that Pauktuutit could initiate to address diverse needs through workshops and skills building activities.

Increased youth and Elder participation at future conferences and other community level initiatives may be encouraged through use of more visual displays and an increased effort to find Inuit presenters.

Some questioned why they were asked about Pauktuutit's role in sexual health and HIV/AIDS. The explanation is clear in that there is a need for leadership among all Aboriginal groups if policy makers are to be influenced on behalf of a certain population. Pauktuutit has taken, and continues to play, a leadership role in Inuit sexual health issues.

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Some of the challenges faced by Pauktuutit in arranging the conference included late arrival of funding, the increased costs of workshop implementation in the North and the varying capacities of Pauktuutit's partners in providing support to the workshop. Despite the challenges, it was important to convene a national conference in order to raise awareness among all jurisdictions and follow-up regional workshops would be helpful to solidify the discussions initiated at the conference.

Successes and Weaknesses

The conference was a success in many respects, yet there is always room for improvement. From Pauktuutit's perspective as the primary organizers of the conference, the following outlines the main successes of the conference in relation to the objectives set forth for the gathering.

Success: As a networking opportunity for front-line workers in Inuit communities, the conference was a success. For front-line workers in the 53 remote, fly-in Inuit communities experiencing considerable professional isolation the nature of sexual health promotion work can further isolate those working in this field. It is critical to offer opportunities where front-line workers can exchange promising practices, ideas and make connections for support.

Success: Similarly, by gathering front-line workers to discuss sexual health, the conference participants shared their respective successes with their counterparts in other communities, which further enhances the work being done.

Success: One presentation focused on the social determinants of health and resource extraction in the North, and the interplay between the two. This presentation was well received and increased the participants understanding of the potential impacts of the resource development industry on Inuit sexual health.

Success: Throughout the conference, there were many successful models presented in the area of sexual health promotion for Inuit communities. Such promising practices were prominent in the conference presentations as well as the working group and plenary discussions.

Weakness: The anticipated dialogue between industry, community stakeholder and knowledge-keepers/ researchers did not happen. Of the approximately 80 participants, none were representative of the resource

extraction industry. The participation of industry representatives would have enriched and/or provided an alternative perspective to the dialogue on the resource extraction industry and its implication for Inuit sexual health. It will be important to communicate the outcomes of this conference to industry stakeholders in order to develop collaborative partnerships for sexual health awareness and promotion.

Conclusions

The conference confirmed the need to continue to raise awareness about the social and health impacts of resource extraction on the overall health of Inuit communities, and in particular sexual health. The conference had many objectives targeted to a diverse audience, and was the first national conference exploring this particular set of issues. It was remarked in one of the evaluations that the event tried "to be all things to all people". This conference must be viewed as a stepping stone to increased collaboration between researchers, front-line workers and industry. Ongoing partnerships are essential to build on the outcomes of the conference.

The presence of the oil and gas and mining sectors would have enhanced the conference, however significant input was provided on community issues and priorities. The participants of the conference are now better equipped to initiate or contribute to discussions with industry concerning sexual health.

The fact that the conference happened indicates that the issue of resource extraction activity, and its implications for Inuit sexual health, is important to Inuit communities. The implementation of the first national *Resource Extraction and Inuit Sexual Health Conference* also sends a message to industry stakeholders that this is an issue that must be considered in future discussions with communities. The report could possibly be included as part of impact and benefit assessments that industry is required to conduct prior to undertaking extraction activity in a region. This report will be distributed to all industry invitees and other stakeholders in order to continue to raise awareness about resource extraction activities and the implications for the health of Inuit individuals and communities.

INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

SUNDAY, February 10 and

MONDAY, February 11 FLY-IN DAY

(organizers & delegates)



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Appendix A

Conference Agenda

February 12-14, 2008

Inuvik, Northwest Territories— Midnight Sun Recreation Complex

TUESDAY, February 12 WEDNESDAY, February 13 Thursday, February 14 DAY 1 **DAY 2 DAY 3** SCIENTIFIC TRADITION AND PROMISING TIMES CULTURE PRACTICES Sign-In 7:45 a.m. **CONFERENCE OPENER** 8:00-9:00 a.m. Elder KEY-NOTE SPEAKER: Susan Aglukark Inuvik Drummers and Dancers **SESSION 1** STIs in the Hep C Inmate to Drugs, Sex and Love Bugs 9:00 a.m. **Northwest Territories** Inmate Manual JOANNE MACKINNON WANDA WHITE TAMMY CHAULK (YELLOWKNIFE HEALTH AND (GOVERNMENT OF NWT) (HIV/AIDS LABRADOR PROJECT) SOCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY) Q and A Q and A Q and A **Health Break Health Break Health Break** 10:00 a.m. **SESSION 2 Monitoring and Measuring** Inuit Women's Wellness **Understanding the Health** the Mental Health and Social **GWEN HEALEY** and Safety Needs of Sexual 10:15 a.m. Determinants of STI's in (QAUJIGIARTIT-ARCTIC HEALTH Minority Youth in Canada Inuit Communities RESEARCH NETWORK-NUNAVUT) KRISTOPHER WELLS DIONNE GESINK-LAW (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO) EDMONTON) Discussion and Break-out groups **Group Discussion Recommendations** Brainstorm resources and How do we make survey strategies to address key instruments more appropriate issues raised in presentation and relevant for Inuit Communities?

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	TUESDAY, February 12	WEDNESDAY, February 13	Thursday, February 14
	DAY 1 SCIENTIFIC	DAY 2 TRADITION AND CULTURE	DAY 3 PROMISING PRACTICES
Reporting/Plenary	ACTION ITEMS LIST	ACTION ITEMS LIST	ACTION ITEMS LIST
LUNCH 12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
SESSION 3 1:00 p.m.	Engaging in Community-Based Research Renee Masching (Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network)	Resource Extraction and Well-Being in the North Marlene Larocque (National Aboriginal Health Organization)	Northern STI Teaching Resources – A Collaborative Initiative JOANNA RUSSELL (YELLOWKNIFE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY)
	<i>Group Discussion</i> What are some barriers to research and possible solutions?	Break-out groups What are the fears for your community/region and the impacts of resource extraction on sexual health? Possible solutions?	Break-out groups What collaborations could be made in your community/region to develop similar resources?
2:30 p.m.	Health Break	Health Break	Health Break
2:45 p.m. Sex	Preventing and Controlling Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among American Indian and Alaska Natives LORI DERAVELLO (INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE)	Teaching our Kids About Sex Dr. Madeleine Cole (Qikiqtani Regional Hospital)	North and South Travel and Sexual Health Risks Pitsulala Lyta (Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada)
	Break-out groups How can the US methods be adapted for use in Canadian Inuit Communities?	Group Discussion	Q and A
SESSION 5 3:45 p.m.	ACTION ITEMS LIST	Aboriginal Reproductive Justice and Mobilizing Youth Jessica Yee	ACTION ITEMS LIST
Reporting/Plenary		ACTION ITEMS LIST	CONFERENCE CLOSE
			Friday, February 15 and Saturday February 16 FLY-OUT (organizers & delegates)

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Appendix B Action Items List

- · Sexual health needs to be addressed in schools
- Sexual health must be incorporated into the school curriculum
- Need more males in sexual health promotion
- Southern and Northern sexual health statistics are not comparable
- Youth have the right to be educated about sexual health
- Examine/consider the impact of sexual abuse in Inuit communities
- Design and develop culturally-relevant resource materials (language is important)
- Avoid STIs 'haunted house" approach. Fear is not the way to educate
- Encourage leadership by Elders and community members
- · Create safe spaces to discuss sexual health
- Engage teens through humour
- Focus on sexual safety, child-proofing, prevention
- Demand centre resources; community language; urban; culturally relevant implementation plan
- Incorporate feedback from local community and health workers
- Teach parents about sexual health
- Teach/inform children about sexual abuse, and develop culturally relevant resources
- Community ownership-leader/youth
- Form community groups to champion the cause
- Create partnerships at all levels and areas
- Use positive imagery in social marketing campaigns
- Utilize peer training/peer education
- Encourage ownership in making good decisions
- · Incorporate traditional values and knowledge
- Think positive-it is a way to take control
- Increase communication with companies and MLAs (politicians)

- · Increase awareness of sexual health
- Advocate for increased funds for resources, health/wellness initiatives
- Identify the community needs in consultation with community members
- Advocate for industries to consider sexual health policies
- · Address community priorities
- Encourage the sexual health promotion infrastructure within industry
- Address sexual health within the childcare and family context
- Involve youth—value the youth perspective our next generation
- Create cultural pride
- Acknowledge the success in people
- Family members educate other family members
- Bridge gaps between Elders and youth
- Convene a day of action and/or celebration for sexual health
- · Create website
- Implement holistic outreach that involves Elders
- Engage and create paid opportunities for youth; minimize barriers
- Provide social supports for workers, i.e. flexible childcare options
- Use cultural relevant messaging
- Acknowledge success and role models, for example sexual health promotion "star of the month"

Ideas for Continued Collaboration:

- Use academic institutions for evaluation of sexual health projects
- Create partnerships for proposal development
- Advocate for Health and Wellness Coordinators, Elders/youth Coordinators
- Health translation
- Increase access to culturally relevant sexual health
 resources
- · Find the right person to move things forward
- Connect with the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health



- Continue to organize community, regional and national conferences in the North
- · Build on existing available resources
- Take advantage of youth conferences to obtain and provide information on sexual health
- Use teachers as resources; implement youth leadership creation initiatives
- Value and use Elders as resources for traditional knowledge
- Ensure that sex education is mandatory in schools to graduate
- Work in partnership
- Access funding at all levels
- Partner up with grass roots
- · Create academic partnership
- Form collaborations between government and local organizations
- Ask for donated air time from TV/radio stations
- Educate school boards about safe sexual education
- Collaborate with faith-based organizations, where appropriate
- · Form partnerships with printing companies
- Explore unique ways to partner up/gatherings
- Obtain sponsorship from sexual health organizations
- Use sporting events, community buildings for sexual health promotion activities
- Tie in sexual health promotion to community entertainment
- Produce contest on sexual health
- · Collaborate with RCMP
- Solicit youth testimonials
- Galvanize community together
- Involve local government officials—build relationships
- Engage parents to advise school councils

Appendix C

Evaluation Report

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Background and Objectives

To begin the evaluation process an evaluation framework was developed that included three sections (see Appendix D for questionnaires):

- Conference planning and organizing;
- Data collection and analysis (conference feedback); and
- Evaluation report.

Three separate sets of questions were developed to gather input from:

- members of the Advisory Committee;
- · conference participants; and
- conference presenters.

The conference was held in Inuvik, NWT, from February 12–14, 2008, and over 80 people participated. However, only 16 participants responded to the evaluation questions, while all 12 conference presenters responded. Participants and presenters came from Yellowknife, Halifax, Albuquerque, Phoenix, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, Inuvik, Inukjuak, Pangnirtung, Edmonton, Chesterfield Inlet and Kuujjuaq. Participants and presenters attended from Yellowknife and Inuvik, NWT; Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Iqaluit and Pangnirtung, Nunavut; Inukjuaq and Kuujjuaq, Nunavik; Edmonton, Alberta; Nova Scotia; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Phoenix, Arizona.

Evaluation Findings

Conference Planning and Organizing

In terms of whether or not the project was carried out according to the work plan (time lines, etc.), the delay in receipt of funds for the conference caused a number of subsequent delays in the original timeline. However, the activities and related milestones were all met, including the activities of the national advisory committee.



When participants and presenters were asked if they heard about the conference well in advance, most said they had heard of the conference through the call for abstracts, and while Pauktuutit was planning the conference in the summer of 2007. Others said they did not receive the agenda until the "last minute" but all said they received information in a manner that was easy for them to understand.

In terms of travel arrangements most evaluation respondents said they made their own arrangements but some complained about connecting flights, long wait times and poor hotel conditions at stopovers in Edmonton.

Presenters at the conference indicated that all of their equipment and material needs were met, and were impressed with the technical assistance provided.

When presenters were asked if they accomplished what they set out to do in their presentations all said yes and received positive feedback from participants.

When conference participants were asked why they attended the conference they responded:

- To learn more about the impacts that large scale mining projects impact the sexual health of Inuit communities;
- To meet other people involved in the sexual health of Inuit and to establish a network to share resources and expertise; and
- All respondents said they met their objectives in attending the conference.

Participants responded to specific questions in the following ways:

- "I wish I had more time to-talk to all of the delegates, network, attend the whole conference and have small group discussions.
- "I wish the Conference spent more time on-feedback to industry, policy implications and how to engage and partner with industry.

Conference Feedback

It is unclear whether conference participants understood the importance or the content of the evaluation questionnaires because of the low number of responses. The conference coordinator suggested that people may have been suffering from 'conference fatigue' when it came time to respond to evaluation questions.

Participants were asked to comment on Pauktuutit's approach to the conference in terms of bringing Inuit in from across the Arctic rather than undertaking a communitybased approach. Responses included the following:

- It was great to bring a diverse group together to share ideas. Also Pauktuutit offered to host community-based events as well;
- It was a broad scope that encouraged collaboration;
- Inviting two people from each community increases the likelihood that people will bring information back to the community;
- Some participants did not realize that the clinical information may not apply in their region and this may lead to confusion;
- The conference should have had one plenary then a series of workshops to meet different needs. For example, not everyone is interested in research;
- People are at different levels and they should be able to choose something that meets their needs;
- · Would have benefited from more participants including government observers to learn from us;
- · It's good to network across jurisdictions;
- · Great mix of participants;
- This meeting was a stepping stone and as such, it was a success; and
- Both community-based and larger scale confer-• ences are needed.

Participants were asked to complete the following sentence: "The conference was good but I really need to know more about..."

- How to be of assistance with respect to affecting policy;
- Regional impacts of industry on Inuit;
- · Regional efforts to address STDs;
- Traditional Inuit views of sexuality and sexual health;
- How to work with industry effectively;
- Safer sexual health for Inuit youth;
- · Research and policy consideration in the North;
- What is actually being delivered now in Aboriginal communities;



- What grad students are doing in terms of research;
- I hope Pauktuutit builds on the success of this conference; and
- Need more time to learn about Inuit culture and the land.

Participants were asked what they would like to see in future conferences on sexual health. They responded:

- An effort to address men's health;
- Develop concrete materials for use in the communities;
- Skills building in smaller groups. Ex. Developing a proposal, accessing funds, developing partnerships, using the internet etc.
- Invite school students;
- Accommodate the diverse interests of participants through workshop sessions they can choose;
- More youth;
- More Inuit presenters;
- Highlight community level initiatives;
- Include Elders to give a traditional perspective.

Pauktuutit's Role in HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health of Inuit

Conference participants were asked if they thought Pauktuutit was the most appropriate Inuit organization to address the sexual health of Inuit including issues related to HIV/AIDS. Reponses included:

- Yes, because they have an established track record;
- Yes, they have all the right people and information;
- I don't know because Pauktuutit can't do this alone but hosting conferences in different venues will help advance awareness;
- Yes, as long as they are open to working with other organizations;
- Yes, because they represent local, regional and a national perspective;
- I don't know but it seems that Pauktuutit represents the cultural issues and expectations of those Inuit at risk; and
- Partnerships are important.

Conclusions

Both participants and presenters were largely satisfied with conference arrangements and outcomes. Most see this as a stepping stone to other similar gatherings that Pauktuutit could initiate to address diverse needs through workshops and skills building through hands on small group activities.

Greater effort should be placed on reaching out to youth and Elders to attend future conferences and community level initiatives should be highlighted both through visual displays and through presentations at plenary sessions. This may satisfy comments related to the need for more Inuit presenters.

Some questioned why they were asked about Pauktuutit's role in sexual health and HIV/AIDS. The explanation is clear in that there is a need for leadership among all Aboriginal groups if policy makers are to be influenced on behalf of a certain population. Ongoing partnerships are essential.

Although Pauktuutit did not reach its goal for the conference with regard to engaging representatives of industry, organizers were nonetheless satisfied with the results.

Some of the challenges faced by Pauktuutit in arranging the conference included late arrival of funding, the increased expense of workshop implementation in the North and the varying capacities of Pauktuutit's partners in providing support to the workshop. It was important to convene a national conference in order to raise awareness among all jurisdictions. The agenda was ambitious and follow-up regional workshops would be helpful to solidify the discussions initiated at the conference. INUIT WOMEN OF

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Appendix D

Evaluation Forms

Evaluation Questions: Conference Participants RESOURCE EXTRACTION and INUIT SEXUAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada is undertaking an evaluation of the results and outcomes of the **Resource** *Extraction and Sexual Health in Inuit Communities Conference*. Your input into the following questions will help Pauktuutit improve and expand on its activities to address issues such as HIV/AIDS across the Arctic in a way that is respectful and effective in its approach.

As a key stakeholder in this issue, you are being asked to provide your impressions of how the Conference was carried out and to provide suggestions you may have to make future activities better. Please take a few moments to complete the following questions in confidence knowing that you need not attach your name to this survey and knowing that ONLY the conference evaluator will review your answers.

- 1 Where is your home community?
- 2 a) How did you hear about the conference?

b) Did you receive information about the conference well in advance?Yes O No O Not Sure O and

If you received conference materials were they provided in a language you could easily understand? Yes O No O Not Sure O

c) Were your travel arrangements satisfactory? Yes O No O

If you answered "No" how could your travel arrangements be improved? Please respond:

- **3** a) Why did you attend? Please check all that apply:
 - O To learn more about HIV/AIDS prevention
 - To learn how mining projects and other large scale projects impact Inuit communities in terms of sexual health
 - O To learn new skills that I can use in my prevention and education work
 - O To meet other people involved in the sexual health of Inuit and to form a network
 - O To share materials and resources with others
 - O Other (please explain)

and when did you hear about the conference?



- b) Did you accomplish what you set out to do? Yes O No O I don't know O
- c) Please complete the following sentences: *I wish I had more time to...*
- f) What workshop did you find the **least** useful and why? Please briefly describe:

I wish the Conference spent more time on...

- d) What new skills or information did you learn from the conference? Please briefly describe:
- 4 This conference involved Inuit from across the Arctic. Did you think this was a good approach or do you think the community-based approach to skills building is more effective? Please comment:

e) What workshop did you find the **most** useful and why? Please briefly describe:

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5 Pauktuutit has been involved with the sexual health of Inuit for some time. Do you think Pauktuutit is the best organization to take the lead in educating Inuit, preventing the spread of STDs, HIV/AIDS and supporting those who are affected by the disease? Yes O No O I don't know O

Why? Please explain your answer:

7 Please complete the following sentence: "If Pauktuutit has another conference on the sexual health of Inuit I hope they:

Notes:

6 Please complete the following sentence: "The conference was good but I really need to know more about:



Evaluation Questions: Conference Presenters RESOURCE EXTRACTION and INUIT SEXUAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Pauktuutit, Inuit Women of Canada is undertaking an Evaluation of the results and outcomes of the **Resource Extraction and Sexual Health in Inuit Communities Conference**. Your input into the following questions will help Pauktuutit improve and expand on its activities to address issues such as HIV/AIDS across the Arctic in a way that is respectful and effective in its approach.

As a key stakeholder in this issue, you are being asked to provide your impressions of how the Conference was carried out and to provide suggestions you may have to make future activities better. Please take a few moments to complete the following questions in confidence knowing that you need not attach your name to this survey and knowing that ONLY the Conference evaluator will review your answers.

- 8 Where is your home community?
- 9 a) What was your role at the conference? (i.e. workshop presenter and title of workshop)

b) Did you receive information about the conference well in advance?
Yes ○ No ○ Not Sure ○ and

If you received conference materials were they provided in a language you could easily understand? Yes O No O Not Sure O

c) Were your travel arrangements satisfactory? Yes O No O If you answered "No" how could your travel arrangements be improved? Please respond:

 d) As a presenter at the conference, were all of your needs met? For example AV equipment, materials such as flip charts etc. Please comment:

10 a) What was the purpose of your presentation?

b) Did you accomplish what you set out to do? Yes O No O I don't know O

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- c) Please complete the following sentences: *I wish I had more time to*
- e) Were participants actively engaged in the conference? Were they interested? Did they ask questions? Please comment:

I wish the conference spent more time on

d) What new skills or information did you bring to the conference? Please briefly describe:

11 This conference involved Inuit from across the Arctic. Did you think this was a good approach or do you think the community-based approach to skills building is more effective? Please comment:



12 Pauktuutit has been involved in the Sexual health of Inuit for some time. Do you think Pauktuutit is the best organization to take the lead in educating Inuit, preventing the spread of STDs, HIV/AIDS and supporting those who are affected by the disease? Yes O No O I don't know O

Why? Please explain your answer:

Evaluation Questions: Conference Advisory Committee RESOURCE EXTRACTION and INUIT SEXUAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

As you know, Pauktuutit, Inuit Women of Canada is undertaking an Evaluation of the results and outcomes of the **Resource Extraction and Sexual Health in Inuit Communities Conference**. Your input into the following questions will help Pauktuutit improve and expand on its activities to address issues such as HIV/AIDS across the Arctic in a way that is respectful and effective in its approach.

As a member of the Advisory Committee, you are being asked to provide your impressions of how the Conference was carried out and to provide suggestions you may have to make future activities better. Please take a few moments to complete the following questions in confidence knowing that you need not attach your name to this survey and knowing that ONLY the Conference evaluator will review your answers.

14 Where is your home community?

13 Please complete the following sentence:"If Pauktuutit has another Conference on the sexual health of Inuit I hope they:

Thank you for completing our evaluation questions.

Notes:

a) How and why were you selected as a member

of the Advisory Committee? Please comment:

b) What was your role as an Advisory Committee member?

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c) Did you feel your input was valued as an Advisory Committee member? Yes O No O

Please explain your answer:

f) To your knowledge,did Conference participants receive information about the Conference well in advance?
 Yes O No O Not Sure O and

Were Conference materials provided in a language participants could easily understand? Yes O No O Not Sure O

15 a) Did the Conference achieve its goals? Yes O No O Don't know O

If No what was lacking? Please comment:

d) How were conference participants selected? Please explain:

e) How were conference presenters selected? Please explain: b) Was the Conference well organized and managed?
Yes O No O

If No what was lacking? Please comment:





- **16** Were participants actively engaged in the Conference? Were they interested? Did they ask questions? etc. Please comment:
- 18 Pauktuutit has been involved in the Sexual health of Inuit for some time. Do you think Pauktuutit is the best organization to take the lead in educating Inuit, preventing the spread of STDs, HIV/AIDS and supporting those who are affected by the disease? Yes O No O Don't know O

Why? Please explain your answer:

- **17** This Conference involved Inuit from across the Arctic. Did you think this was a good approach or do you think the community-based approach to skills building is more effective? Please comment:
- **19** Please complete the following sentence: "If Pauktuutit has another Conference on the sexual health of Inuit I hope they:

Thank you for completing our evaluation questions.

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Notes:

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Appendix E

Acknowledgements

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge everyone who contributed to the coordination of the Resource Extraction and Inuit Sexual Health Conference, and without whom the event would not have been possible.

National Planning Committee:

Sharon Edmunds	Nunatsiavut Government, Department of Health and Social Development	
Becky Kilabuk	Youth Coordinator— Qikiqtani Inuit Association	
Faye Legresely	Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services	
Crystal Lennie	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	
Marilee Nowgesic	Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	
Anita Pokiak	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada—Board member, Western Arctic	
Esther Powell	Rankin Inlet Community Health Centre	
Alice Thrasher	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	
Chuck Schouwerwou	ConferSense Planners Inc. (observer)	
Denise Rideout	NAHO, Ajuunginiq Centre (observer)	

Keynote Speaker: Susan Aglukark



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