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**PAUKTUUTIT**

**INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA**



## ***KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT***

### **Inuit Women's Action Plan**

Ottawa  
October 1 2006

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# **KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT**

## **Inuit Women's Strategy Proposal**

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# KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT

## Inuit Women's Action Plan

### INTRODUCTION

Pauktuutit is pleased to release, to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and to other relevant Government of Canada Departments, *Keepers of the Light*. The work was funded by INAC, to inform arrangements between the Inuit women of Canada and the Government of Canada, regarding programs and services developed with and on behalf of Inuit women and their families, living in northern and southern communities.

*Keepers of the Light* outlines Pauktuutit vision for a strengthened partnership between Canadian Inuit women and the Government of Canada. It stands on its own as the substantive and comprehensive perspective of the autonomous national voice of Inuit women.

In addition, *Keepers of the Light* is drafted as one of three components of an INAC funded Inuit Action Plan. We understand that the other two are being prepared by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada). We look forward to receiving these ITK and ICC contributions to the plan and to collaborating closely as together with colleagues in the Government of Canada we engage in the implementation phase of the important measures contained in all three components.

In the meantime, the matters raised in *Keepers of the Light* are urgent and have daily consequences in the lives of the women we serve and their families. We sincerely hope for an early, serious and positive consideration of and response to this document.

### OVERVIEW

Inuit women play an integral role in governing our communities and our society. Inuit women are the links to the past and to the future; Inuit women are the vessels of culture, health, language,

*The qulliq is a traditional crescent-shaped Inuit stone lamp. It was used to light and heat the igloo, melt ice for water, dry clothes, and cook food. A wick made of moss or Arctic cotton was used to draw seal, caribou, or beluga oil to the flame. In the winter, it was the only source of light. It was the woman's responsibility to make sure that the qulliq was always lit. Without it, Inuit would not have survived Canada's Arctic conditions. The qulliq symbolizes survival and Inuit physical and emotional well-being.*

traditions, teaching, care giving, and child rearing. These qualities are fundamental to the survival of any society. *Keepers of the Light* reflects this perspective. We are truly the 'keepers of the light'.

This document presents a vision for a continued and strengthened partnership between Pauktuutit and the Government of Canada, predicated on the tangible contribution that Pauktuutit makes towards positive change in Inuit communities. To the task of moving forward, Pauktuutit brings twenty-two years of community-based experience and expertise — a long record of delivering timely, relevant projects and initiatives that manage, with appallingly few resources,

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to bring about positive and measurable change within Inuit communities.

With this document we identify initiatives that will bring about the most beneficial early outcomes for Inuit women, families and communities. The most effective priority choices must be strategic, financially realistic and also practical and results based. With that in mind, Pauktuutit identifies four priority policy areas that require immediate attention. These are:

- 1. EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT;**
- 2. HEALTH AND SAFETY;**
- 3. STRENGTHENING INUIT FAMILIES AND**
- 4. INUIT WOMEN'S INDEPENDENT VOICE IN GLOBAL ISSUES.**

These are broad themes that do not lend themselves to containment within specific or separate sectors, government departments, or agencies. They are to be taken as a whole, to inform all programs and services that are developed by, for, and with Inuit. This document will establish these four priority areas and then link each to projects and initiatives that might best deliver practical results over the next three years. The Appendices outline Pauktuutit's current role and activities, illustrate the contribution Pauktuutit has made to the development of modern Inuit society and point to the practical experience we offer to a strong and dynamic working partnership with the Government of Canada.

Pauktuutit develops and implements a range of policies, programs, and strategies in partnership with Canada's public and private sectors. Through Pauktuutit, Inuit women are becoming empowered and their participation in relevant decision-making is increasing. Inevitably, this enhances the strength and vitality of all Inuit, their families, and communities.

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## PRIORITY #1: EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

**Status as a National Aboriginal Organization:** In order to fulfill its commitment to gender equity, the Government of Canada makes it a priority to provide Pauktuutit recognition and resources commensurate with that provided to the other five National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs). Pauktuutit must at last, be recognised for the independent national voice of Inuit women that it is, and supported to contribute optimally to the creation of solutions to the critical issues facing Inuit women, their families and communities, with the same stature, resources, responsibilities and influence afforded the other NAOs.

The past 25 years has seen Canada take major steps towards improving gender equity in most of the country. Gender equity is a fundamental human right and is expected to guide all federal policies and legislation.<sup>1</sup> Many of the problems in Inuit communities are impacted by the cross-cutting issue of gender fairness and the need to empower Inuit women. Problems range from unequal employment and economic opportunities, to violence and abuse in the home, to systemic discrimination in the justice system, to the marginalisation of Pauktuutit as the national voice of Inuit women. As such, an essential pillar of the Inuit Women's Action Plan is to commit to gender equity by recognising, finally, the twenty two year old national organization that democratically represents Canadian Inuit women. Without it, a majority of Inuit society will continue to be marginalized.<sup>2</sup>

Inuit stand out from other Canadians in that they have by far the highest rates of poverty, the highest rates of unemployment, the lowest levels of formal education, the highest cost of living, the lowest levels of housing quality and availability, and one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Since Inuit women truly are the 'Keepers of the Light', the impacts of many of these appalling circumstances are disproportionately borne by Inuit women.

Pauktuutit's mandate is to foster greater

*"I can very easily relate to women and their roles and responsibilities, which were always greater than men's. I've watched my mother, lighting the qulliq in the morning, when she first woke up, and it's minus 5 or 10 in an iglu. She was not only a keeper of the light; she was a family counsellor and our 'medicine person', like a psychiatrist. She sewed all our clothes, mended our clothes, cooked our food, collected all the moss for cooking in the summer time, dried caribou meat and fish, she gave wise advice about Inuit culture."*

Peter Taqtu Irniq,  
Commissioner of Nunavut 2000-2005

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<sup>1</sup> Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982) guarantees all Canadians equality before the law and Section 28 confirms equal rights and freedoms to male and female persons. See also *Setting the Stage for the Next Century: the Federal Plan for Gender Equity* Status of Women Canada. 1995. Objective 6 - the promotion of women's perspectives in governance. See also Standing Committee on Status of Women: Second Report, May 16, 2006. (See page 32 of this document).

<sup>2</sup> The 2001 Census indicates that almost half the Inuit population are female and almost 20 percent are males under the age of 15 years. As such, Inuit women and their children make up almost 70 percent of the entire Inuit population.

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awareness of the needs of Inuit women and to support Inuit women by providing leadership, voice, and project excellence for the betterment of Inuit women, their families and communities in the areas of equity, health, social well-being, cultural traditions and economic development.

When it comes to implementing the Government of Canada's Inuit policy agenda, Pauktuutit is the primary, and often the only, national organization to develop and implement northern community-based programs. Despite the breadth of Pauktuutit's work, the organization has been marginalized in influence and limited in resources when compared to those of the other five National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs). Though Pauktuutit is broadly recognized as one of Canada's six NAOs, this status has yet to be acknowledged formally by the most senior levels of the Government of Canada.

This failure of recognition translates into systematic discrimination against Inuit women. Equitable access to funding and independent representation at policy tables — support that is provided to the other NAOs — would enable Pauktuutit to optimize its mandate to engage in our important work in northern communities.

As the national voice of Inuit women, Pauktuutit works to ensure we are able to enjoy all the rights and benefits afforded to women as Canadian citizens. Through Pauktuutit, Inuit women are recognized for our wisdom, perspective, and insight regarding regional, national, and global issues and for our powerful influence on community social issues, health, and wellness. Through Pauktuutit, Inuit women are recognized as equals, are empowered, and have an independent voice. Through Pauktuutit, the Government of Canada can fulfil its Inuit-specific gender equity priorities in a consistent, coherent, culturally appropriate, and cost-effective manner.<sup>3</sup>

Over the years, Pauktuutit has gained valuable experience and expertise working with federal departments and agencies, and have contributed to the degree that we could to the development and implementation of government policy in these areas.

A practical demonstration of the Government commitment to gender equity will be the provision to Pauktuutit of sufficient long-term financial and human resources to bring about substantive, measurable, and lasting change. Only in this way will Inuit women be empowered to accomplish significant improvements in our lives and in the well-being and vitality of our children and communities.

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<sup>3</sup> The Inuit Land Claims Agreements (ILCA) are not mandated to deal with the complete range of social, cultural, and economic issues facing Inuit (e.g. urban issues, many health, social and economic matters); they are vehicles to utilize Inuit land and financial resources and benefits. ITK is their representative agency in Ottawa (See ITK, *The Case of Inuit Specific: Renewing the Relationship between the Inuit and the Government of Canada*. (2004: pg. 4); URL: <http://www.itk.ca/roundtable/roundtable-inuit-specific.php>). Pauktuutit is the only non-political, national, community-based democratic organization serving Inuit - not financed through the ILACs and requiring support if it is to implement Government policy and meet the needs and expectations of Inuit women and families.

Table 1 outlines the immediate steps that Pauktuutit has identified to meet the priority needs for Inuit women's equity and empowerment. Fundamental to this is recognition by the Government of Canada that Pauktuutit is indeed one of six full NAOs. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has officially recognized Pauktuutit in this status but this is not yet reflected in terms of commensurate financial support to Pauktuutit or in terms of inclusion and resources to participate effectively in national and international policy development. Our formal inclusion at these tables will enhance policy outcomes and is critical to Canada's commitment to gender equity.<sup>4</sup>

<b>TABLE 1: INUIT EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT: NEXT STEPS (2006 – 2009)</b>		
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
National Aboriginal Organization Recognition for Pauktuutit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure participation of Pauktuutit in relevant national and international policy making;</li> <li>▪ Improve Inuit women's access to the Government of Canada and</li> <li>▪ Secure adequate resources to allow Pauktuutit to achieve lasting results in health, social and economic issues among Inuit women and their families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Convene Ministerial-and other senior level briefings and discussions as appropriate;</li> <li>▪ Assess and increase current economic investment to achieve equity with other NAOs;</li> <li>▪ Participate in inter-departmental policy and communication mechanisms;</li> <li>▪ Ensure Pauktuutit's place at all National Inuit and Aboriginal discussions.</li> </ul>
Commitment to Gender Equity in Inuit-Related Programming and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure that gender equity principals inform Inuit-related programming and services; and</li> <li>▪ Strengthen the capacity for Inuit women with respect to Inuit-related programs and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review Inuit-related Government of Canada programming to ensure gender equity compliance;</li> <li>▪ Recommend necessary actions;</li> <li>▪ Provide Pauktuutit sufficient resources to ensure Pauktuutit's participation in policy, program, and service development initiatives.</li> </ul>

Pauktuutit's support and participation as an independent and effective partner must be assured and our NAO status recognized by the most senior levels of Canada's federal departments and agencies.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix V: Recommendations of the Standing Committee on Status of Women: Second Report, May 16, 2006. (page 32 of this document).

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix II: Pauktuutit Inuit of Canada: Mandate (page 25 of this document). Located in Ottawa, Pauktuutit's role is to represent Inuit women at the national, regional, and international level. Pauktuutit's NAO status was determined through a democratic process among Canada's Inuit women. In 2002 then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Robert Nault, recognized Pauktuutit as a NAO to participate at Federal, Provincial and Territorial Aboriginal meetings.



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## PRIORITY #2: HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Violence and Health in the Community:** The Government of Canada must engage Pauktuutit to play a pivotal role in bringing about practical, real and lasting change in the critical program areas of the health needs of Inuit women, their families and communities, and the overriding issue of violence and abuse — a multi-faceted problem that is undermining the health and well-being of everyone in Inuit communities.

Pauktuutit is the leader in research, policy development and implementation of projects that address the specific health and safety needs of Inuit women, children and communities. For over twenty years we have worked with appallingly limited resources, to address disparities in health care services available to Inuit women, children and youth. Priority issues in this area include:

- The urgent need for stronger community-level infrastructure, including: health information and human resources, leading edge tele-health capacity and willingness of physicians and other front line providers to use the technology, and state of the art northern-based equipment and medical facilities and
- Attention to the complex health conditions that contribute to — but are not limited to — unacceptable levels of smoking, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), alcoholism, and such mental health concerns as the legacy of residential schools and suicide. Less urgent but important matters are sexual health issues, injury prevention, and diabetes. National, community-based initiatives in these and many more areas are actively undertaken exclusively by Pauktuutit, usually with vastly inadequate resources.

Our work consists of basic assessment, strategy and consensus development, and effective and positive community-level projects and initiatives.<sup>6</sup> Achieving concrete, community-based results that improve the health of Inuit in our communities continues to be a priority mission for Pauktuutit.

A key dimension to community health and well-being is finding and implementing solutions to the various forms of violence and abuse within our communities. These are multi-faceted problems that have huge hidden costs — financial, social, and psychological — that *counteract many of the potential benefits of all federal programming dollars allocated to Inuit*. It is essential that the Government of Canada recognizes the experience and expertise of Pauktuutit and ensures that we are provided the resources required to play a pivotal role in bringing about positive change.

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Further, a financial review completed by DIAND in 2004 identified Pauktuutit as one of six NAOs. DIAND, however, does not as yet provide Pauktuutit any core funding (see *Reviews of Funding to Provincial/Territorial Organizations (PTOs) and National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs)*).

<sup>6</sup> For a list of Pauktuutit's current projects and activities related to health, see the table *Inuit Health and Community Well-Being: Current Pauktuutit Projects and Initiatives* Appendix I (page 20 of this document).

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Pauktuutit has conducted extensive analysis and submitted many recommendations on basic counselling skills, on child sexual abuse, on abused and battered women, on the link between poor housing conditions and family violence, and more.<sup>7</sup> In addition, Pauktuutit has developed and is currently implementing the unique and highly respected *2006 National Strategy for Abuse Prevention in Inuit Communities*. See [www.pauktuutit.ca](http://www.pauktuutit.ca)

Ongoing solutions must consider the importance of public education about health issues; the need for counselling of male abusers — including access to Inuit-specific counselling within correctional services; the inter-generational legacy of the residential schools; the need to sensitize community policing to gender issues; the need for training programs for Inuit health care providers; and the need for more community-based services, support groups, and shelters. This ambitious strategy needs to be coordinated among several federal departments and agencies with Pauktuutit serving as the focal point.

Table 2 identifies the key priorities, objectives, and recommended actions to be taken during the next three years to improve the health and safety of our communities. The aim is to identify the priorities of Inuit women and ensure they are reflected within federally funded programs and services. Inuit women and their children form a significant proportion of the Inuit population and their concerns and needs must not be overlooked during such policy development and project funding.

Health and safety issues are urgent priorities that deserve immediate attention. As noted earlier, poor quality and overcrowded housing has a devastating effect on the health and social well-being within Inuit communities. Inuit women and their young children tend to bear the brunt of this crisis and are often left without the social support alternatives that are routinely found in most southern communities. Poor housing conditions lead to more violence and distress for Inuit women and their children. This is a multi-sectoral issue that is linked to community well-being and social development. Poverty begets poor housing, which, in turn, fosters circumstances that lead to homelessness and to poor health and violence in the home.

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<sup>7</sup> For a summary of recent initiatives undertaken by Pauktuutit see *Appendix III: Pauktuutit - Projects and Activities* (page 26). A selection of publications prepared by Pauktuutit is provided in *Appendix IV: Pauktuutit - Publication List* (page 29). These lists demonstrate the practical work and products that distinguish Pauktuutit as the voice of Inuit women and their communities.

**TABLE 2: HEALTH AND SAFETY: NEXT STEPS (2006 – 2009)**

Priority	Objective	Action
Abuse and Family Violence within Inuit Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Reduce the tolerance and incidence of abuse and family violence in Inuit communities;</li><li>▪ Coordinate government departments' mandates to address violence and abuse;</li><li>▪ Support culturally relevant counselling and healing programs and services; and</li><li>▪ Maximize training and capacity building and sustain front-line workers and community services.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Consult with Pauktuutit on needs, priorities, and expectations;</li><li>▪ Secure multi-departmental financial commitments to support the <i>2006 National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities</i>; and</li><li>▪ Review programs and initiatives and make recommendations for sustainability and future activities.</li></ul>
Safe and Healthy Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Make safe, healthy, appropriately designed and adequate housing for Inuit a priority issue;</li><li>▪ Build the financial and analytical capacity of Pauktuutit to monitor and assess housing needs; and</li><li>▪ Empower Inuit women to participate in all housing-related projects and initiatives.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Consult with Pauktuutit on housing needs, priorities, and expectations;</li><li>▪ Liaise with INAC, CMHC, and PWGSC on initiatives related to Inuit housing; and</li><li>▪ Establish financial and human resources for Pauktuutit to participate in all housing-related policy and program development and delivery.</li></ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Recognise that Inuit women and their national organization play a pivotal role in the health of our communities and our society;</li><li>▪ Build the financial, analytical, and programming capacity of Pauktuutit to address the health needs of Inuit women, children and communities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Pauktuutit be a primary national partner with Health Canada regarding Inuit health programming;</li><li>▪ Establish financial and human resources for Pauktuutit to ensure that public policy meets Inuit women's and families health needs.</li></ul>

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## PRIORITY #3: STRENGTHENING INUIT FAMILIES

**Inuit Children and Youth:** A strong partnership between Pauktuutit and the Government of Canada includes consistent and adequate support for Pauktuutit's work in the areas that benefit Inuit children and youth. Childbirth, childcare, FASD, the middle years, teen pregnancies, early childhood development, and child sexual abuse demand attention. Pauktuutit has years of experience dealing with the full dimension of these problems extending from birth to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools. It builds upon experience and employs practical, measurable solutions that offer long-term benefits to Inuit women, their families, and their communities.

Inuit have witnessed significant social change with the development of permanent settlements in the North. Unfortunately, the adjustment to living in these communities has not always been easy. The legacy of the residential school system, poverty, rising suicide rates, poor diets, growing concerns over contaminants and climate change, inadequate health care, and such infrastructural problems as inadequate and overcrowded houses and limited access to health and social services have undermined the overall health and well-being of Inuit.

Within our communities, *it is women who tend to suffer the most, but ironically, they also are the best primary agents for bringing positive change.* Over the years Pauktuutit has worked hard to support women to promote social development within Inuit communities and to mitigate the negative impacts of change that came with established community life.

A strong partnership between the Inuit women of Canada and the Government of Canada is an investment in the future. For Pauktuutit, this must include a commitment that also benefits Inuit children and youth. Childbirth, childcare, FASD, teen pregnancies, early childhood development, and child sexual abuse all cry out for attention. Pauktuutit understands the policy, cultural, and practical dimensions involved in meeting Inuit needs and expectations. This extends from the birth of our children to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools. The Government of Canada must commit to supporting programs in these areas; it is an investment in long-term support for Inuit women, their families, and their communities.

The average age of all Inuit is 20 years... and 40% of Inuit are under 14 years old.<sup>8</sup> As our third priority issue, building stronger families embraces a broad range of initiatives that promote progressive economic, health, and social change, leading to healthy and sustainable communities. These priorities are closely associated with the broad concept of self sufficiency and it can be difficult to delineate between issues of health, diet, violence, safe shelters, safe and healthy housing, mental wellness counselling, and economic development. Within our communities the distinctions between these areas are neither clear nor straightforward.

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<sup>8</sup> The Well-Being of Inuit Communities Strategic Research and Analysis Directorate INAC

To be successful, national Inuit policy and programming must support holistic, multi-dimensional initiatives that rest on core Inuit values and culture. The challenge is to identify and act upon those elements of Inuit society that require immediate attention and which will have sustainable outcomes. To this end, we must start with strengthening Inuit families.

Many of the current problems found within our communities can be linked to the erosion of traditional community support mechanisms and the need to reinforce traditional parenting skills. In response to these needs, Pauktuutit has been instrumental in establishing daycare centres in most Inuit communities, conducting parenting workshops, and promoting communication between Elders and youth. Policies and programs for Inuit children must include the maintenance of strong Inuit cultural values and language in an effort to promote the physical, mental, spiritual, social, and emotional well-being of Inuit children.<sup>9</sup> These steps will help ensure Inuit families are strengthened - a priority for the Inuit Women's Action Plan.

<b>TABLE 3: STRENGTHENING INUIT FAMILIES: NEXT STEPS (2006 – 2009)</b>		
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
Early Childhood Development (ECD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Make Early Child Development a priority issue;</li> <li>▪ Ensure ECD programs reflect Inuit values and culture;</li> <li>▪ Promote Inuit parenting skills;</li> <li>▪ Promote the physical, mental, spiritual, social, and emotional well-being of Inuit children; and</li> <li>▪ Promote awareness about FASD, teen pregnancy, and sexual health (HIV/AIDS and Hep-C).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Partner with Pauktuutit to identify needs, priorities, and expectations;</li> <li>▪ Conduct an interdepartmental review for funding sources for ECD, parenting, FASD, and related projects and initiatives;</li> <li>▪ Partner with Pauktuutit on all Inuit ECD and related policies, programs and initiatives; and</li> <li>▪ Review past and present ECD programs and recommend changes for sustainability and future activities.</li> </ul>
Inuit Midwifery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish Inuit midwifery as a viable, cost-effective option for birthing in Inuit communities; and</li> <li>▪ Develop and disseminate health promotion information about Inuit pregnancy, childbirth, and midwifery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support Pauktuutit's 2006 comprehensive proposal to strengthen Inuit midwifery;</li> <li>▪ Coordinate regional, provincial, territorial, and federal agencies to promote the role of midwifery in Inuit communities; and</li> <li>▪ Develop midwife training modules that promote culturally appropriate Inuit birthing and midwife techniques.</li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Traditionally, the community did not support violence against women — wife beaters were ridiculed. Today, there is a role for Elders to promote customary rules that protect women from violence.

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Table 3 outlines the necessary steps that Pauktuutit has identified as the priority direction for strengthening Inuit families over the next three years. Our commitment is to Inuit children and youth and to a birthing system that reinforces Inuit family and social values. There is a need to invest in the parenting skills that will provide the social network that will strengthen community life. Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a broad-based concept that must be directed towards the health and social development of Inuit children. It is much more than simply creating more daycare positions; it is healthy pregnancies; it is increasing the knowledge about sexual health; and it is the social support network that ensures our children have a healthy environment in which to grow.

Childbirth in the north is another priority concern. The legacy of southern medical intervention and evacuation of Inuit women for childbirth has not always served the social and cultural interests of Inuit women and their families. Inuit women recognize the need to establish healthy community-based birthing practices that are culturally sensitive to Inuit ways and preferences — practices that reinforce family and cultural integrity. Pauktuutit has extensive knowledge about traditional Inuit pregnancy and midwifery that complements our experience with Inuit childcare, child support, and the overall health of Inuit women and children.

These are priority issues that beg for practical, community-level responses. Action must be seen as an investment in the future of Inuit society and must be a key component of the first Inuit Action Plan.

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## PRIORITY #4: INUIT WOMEN'S VOICE ON GLOBAL ISSUES

**Financial and Analytical Capacity:** It would benefit the Government of Canada to establish a predictable and reliable funding strategy that supports Inuit participation in international issues and events. Inuit women are often called upon to provide input to international fora and issues. Pauktuutit requires support if it is to contribute effectively to Canada's negotiating positions sufficiently in advance of relevant international meetings, and to participate at national and regional discussions that deal with implementing international decisions

Pauktuutit has a history of contributing to international issues<sup>10</sup>. We have been granted special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and have in addition gained a national and international reputation in the realm of intellectual property rights (IPR) and the protection of Inuit traditional knowledge. Many of the IPR discussions take place in the context of the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations' Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Financial and analytical resources are needed in order for Inuit women to better represent Inuit women's unique perspectives, traditions, and contributions. Ideally, a coherent and consistent funding strategy, established by the Government of Canada will support our international participation.

At the national level, Pauktuutit is sometimes consulted as part of government of Canada international position development on policy matters related to traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights, access and benefit-sharing, human and women's rights, circumpolar health, and matters related to Inuit and the Arctic environment in general. Mechanisms and protocols need to ensure that Pauktuutit has the resources necessary to contribute effectively on these important matters. This requires a review of interdepartmental communication and funding mechanisms. Relevant departments include: INAC, DFAIT, CIDA, Environment Canada, Health Canada, the Status of Women Canada, and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Global issues influence national policies and strategies. Pauktuutit's participation in international issues and events must be based on meaningful, fairly-resourced participation during national meetings, discussions, and consultations related to Canada's position at international events, and in terms of implementing at the national level the international commitments made by the government.

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<sup>10</sup> Pauktuutit preparation work on international issues is almost entirely pro bono. Funds secured have been for specific costs related to convening and/or attending meetings and to represent the Inuit perspective on key issues.



Table 4 identifies necessary steps to achieve a more effective and productive role for Pauktuutit within the international arena – steps that will allow Pauktuutit to prepare in advance for international meetings. Our significant contributions to (for example) the Convention on Biological Diversity, to WIPO’s Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge and Folklore have resulted in our being in more demand than current capacity is able to support.<sup>11</sup>

<b>TABLE 4: PAUKTUUTIT’S VOICE ON GLOBAL ISSUES: NEXT STEPS (2006 – 2009)</b>		
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
Develop a practical, dependable Strategy for International Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve Pauktuutit’s contribution to relevant international issues (UN ECOSOC, CBD, WIPO, UNESCO, OAS, and UNPFII); and</li> <li>▪ Ensure that Pauktuutit has input into interdepartmental committees and/or working groups that develop Canada’s position at international meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish a government support strategy for financial and analytical capacity to participate at international-level events;</li> <li>▪ Review interdepartmental communication mechanisms and recommend changes for improvement; and</li> <li>▪ Ensure Pauktuutit’s place at relevant National Inuit and Aboriginal discussions.</li> </ul>
Inuit Women’s Intellectual Property Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow-up to Pauktuutit’s 2001 Amauti Project;</li> <li>▪ Examine additional Inuit women’s IPR economic opportunities; and</li> <li>▪ Increase the knowledge transfer at the community-level to understand and address the intellectual property rights associated with traditional knowledge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and secure project funding for continued IPR-related work;</li> <li>▪ Disseminate Pauktuutit’s IPR findings to national and international audiences; and</li> <li>▪ Secure Pauktuutit’s attendance at WIPO and the CBD so that Inuit-specific strategies and case studies can be developed in the context of international discussions and domestic economic development.</li> </ul>

For there to be any hope of economic self sufficiency for Inuit women, Canada must protect Inuit women’s traditional knowledge and wisdom. In the immediate term our objective is to continue the Amauti Project. Our successful 2001 intellectual property rights workshop in Rankin Inlet garnered international recognition. We need to further explore the practical issues associated with protecting Inuit women’s traditional knowledge, the importance of protecting this knowledge in the context of small-scale craft commercialization, and to share the experiences and lessons within

<sup>11</sup> See Appendix I for more details about Pauktuutit’s international-related work (page 23).



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Canada and abroad. This work is closely linked to developments within the CBD and to work unfolding at WIPO. Support for this project will benefit Inuit and Canada's other Aboriginal peoples and will contribute to Canada's intellectual property right policies.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to United Nations-sponsored initiatives, Pauktuutit participates within several international networks that tackle the broader issues related to Indigenous women. Pauktuutit uses these opportunities to share our experiences and to identify common goals and strategies. For example, as a member of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women, we sit on its Intellectual Property Commission. We also are a member of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) which meets prior to Conference of the Party meetings of the CBD and related working groups. This broad-based networking is essential in the struggle to reduce gender discrimination and improve the well-being of Indigenous communities' world-wide. Positive strategies and initiatives adopted in Canada serve as models within the larger global community.

Participation in global negotiations is important to Pauktuutit in the context of conventions that address human rights, intellectual property rights, and in the context of sustainable development and environmental protection. Our participation in such discussions benefits all Inuit as well as Canadians as a whole.

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<sup>12</sup> The small-scale arts and home based business potential of Inuit women extends beyond Inuit seamstresses and clothing and includes the heritage of Inuit women as carvers and printmakers. In the 1950s and 60s when commercial sale of these crafts became popular, women carved to supplement the family's income. Some women became known around the world for their carving and printmaking. As a result, Inuit women are still the main achievers in Inuit society. It is important that their creative intellectual property be recognized and protected.

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## INUIT WOMEN'S ACTION PRIORITIES: SUMMARY

Inuit women have an integral role in governing our children, families, communities and our society. Pauktuutit, the democratically elected independent voice of all Inuit women, must take our rightful place as equals in the development and implementation of relevant governing arrangements and institutions.

Pauktuutit is pleased to contribute to the process of strengthening the relationship between Inuit in Canada and the Government of Canada. There are many issues that need to be addressed and it can be difficult to prioritize them into a short list. The effort here has been to synthesize from Pauktuutit's past and present work a statement of priority needs and expectations. Pauktuutit offers more than twenty years of experience in policy development and in the creation of practical tools, resources, and community initiatives that have brought about measurable changes. It is to these achievements that the Government of Canada should look to for guidance on future projects, programs, and initiatives that are directed towards Inuit.

To move forward, a realistic choice of priorities must bring about beneficial outcomes for Inuit women and their communities. As such, the following points deserve particular attention and immediate action:

**Priority #1: Equality and Empowerment: Status as a National Aboriginal Organization.**

Through recognition as an NAO, Pauktuutit can better help the federal government to fulfill its commitment to integrate gender equity into Inuit policy and program development. Such status must include meaningful support and recognition of Pauktuutit's place at national and international meetings. Pauktuutit's constituency, mandate, and programming are unique. Our participation as the independent voice for Inuit women must be assured.

**Priority #2: Health and Safety: Violence in the Community.** The Government of Canada must engage Pauktuutit - with sufficient policy commitment and financial resources - to play a pivotal role in bringing about real and lasting change in the critical program areas of the health needs of Inuit women, our children and communities, and the related issue of violence and abuse - a multi-faceted problem that is undermining the health and well-being of everyone in Inuit communities.

**Priority #3: Strengthening Inuit Families: Inuit Children and Youth.** A strong partnership between Pauktuutit and the Government of Canada includes consistent and adequate support for Pauktuutit in the areas that benefit Inuit children and youth. Childbirth, childcare, FASD, teen pregnancies, early childhood development, and child sexual abuse demand attention. Pauktuutit has years of experience dealing with the full dimension of these problems. This extends from birth to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools. It builds upon experience and employs practical, measurable solutions that offer long-term benefits to all Inuit women.

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**Priority #4: Pauktuutit's Voice on Global Issues: Financial and Analytical Capacity.** There is a need for the Government of Canada to establish a predictable and reliable strategy that supports participation in international issues and events. Inuit women must have the tools to provide input to Canada's negotiating position well in advance of relevant international meetings. In addition, Inuit women need to participate at national and regional discussions that deal with implementing international decisions. Support must extend beyond travel and accommodation, to funding and capacity-building that assures meaningful contributions to the processes.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, Pauktuutit is the leading national Inuit organization in developing community-based, Inuit-specific programs that reflect the critical priority needs of Inuit women, their families, and ultimately, their communities. Of fundamental concern to Pauktuutit in meeting its priorities is to have consistent and appropriate levels of financial and human resources so that Inuit women can contribute substantively in program and policy development in partnership with the Government of Canada.

Pauktuutit's constituency is optimistic that *Keepers of the Light* will result in a stronger partnership with the Government of Canada, to help us overcome the barriers and challenges we face today. Inuit women continue to actively strive to improve our lives and those of our families and to address the difficult social, health, and economic conditions common to our communities and move toward greater self-sufficiency.

Our optimism rests, in large part, in the confidence we have placed in Pauktuutit as the national organization that actively and consistently seeks out our views and concerns and then works to find concrete practical solutions. Partnership between the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada must include recognition that Pauktuutit provides a strong, unique, and independent national voice for Inuit women. Pauktuutit's Board of Directors is independently elected directly from northern, youth and urban communities. Pauktuutit's mandate and priorities are directed to the grass roots needs of a national constituency located across northern and southern Canada. Pauktuutit looks forward to a close, positive, and cooperative partnership with the Government of Canada.

*"Family connectedness is an Inuit way. Perhaps, the time has come to have men and women work together for the betterment of our communities and for the survival of our families. We must be imaginative, innovative and courageous to make this happen. We must have more determination, honesty and trust, to make sure that we give men and women, more responsibilities and thereby encourage them...to provide the balanced leadership that we require. Together, men and women, we are stronger!"*

Peter Taqtu Irniq

Commissioner of Nunavut 2000-2005

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## **Appendix I: Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada: Background**

Pauktuutit was incorporated in 1984. It has strong democratic roots within all Inuit regions as well as within southern urban areas. This foundation is reflected by its Board composition. Delegates from communities located in clusters of communities across Canada elect ten board members during Annual General Meetings.<sup>13</sup> In addition, two urban Inuit and two Inuit youth are elected to sit on the board. Through Pauktuutit, Inuit women have a clear and unimpeded voice at the national level.<sup>14</sup>

Pauktuutit's mandate is to address a broad range of social, economic, and health issues at the community, regional, national, and international levels. Priority issues include gender equity, many forms of abuse, the protection of cultural and traditional knowledge, and economic development. Other important areas of advocacy and programming include substance abuse, HIV/AIDS/Hep-C, diabetes, tobacco cessation, suicide prevention, and respite for caregivers.

The issues relevant to Inuit women do not fit under the neat category or archaic heading of 'women's issues.' The scope of activities pursued by Pauktuutit on behalf of Inuit women and their families is far reaching and not limited to gender. For example midwifery, childcare, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), violence against women and children are multi-faceted problems where solutions are not gender-specific but require broad community-based strategies. Inuit economic development benefits from distinct women's components such as Pauktuutit's highly successful work on the amauti and craft commercialization. And on work on traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights benefits all Inuit and all Canadian Aboriginal peoples.<sup>15</sup>

Pauktuutit's strategy for all our files is to build community networks and advisory bodies that solicit broad and comprehensive Inuit input and expertise. This strategy ensures that the differing socio-economic and regional circumstances of Inuit are captured and incorporated during program and project development. The resulting initiatives are inspired and guided by Inuit women to meet their needs and those of their families and communities. Essentially, Pauktuutit's broad-based expertise in delivering timely and cost-effective initiatives 'operationalizes' policy into products for use at the community level, ensuring value-for-money vis a vis federal funds. Thus Pauktuutit is the leading national Inuit organization in developing community-based, Inuit-specific programs that reflect the critical priority needs of Inuit women, their families, and ultimately, their communities.

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<sup>13</sup> Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada) share a Board of Directors drawn from the four Inuit Land Claim Organizations. Pauktuutit's Board members are directly elected to represent Inuvialuit, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, North Qikiqtani, South Qikiqtani, Hudson coast (Nunavik), Ungava Bay (Nunavik), and Nunatsiavut in addition to two urban Inuit and two youth.

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix II: Pauktuutit's Mandate.

<sup>15</sup> Appendix III provides a list of Pauktuutit recent projects and activities. The list demonstrates the range of issues and concerns — and the long-term commitment made by Pauktuutit — on a number of topics.

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Pauktuutit has a reputation for researching, developing, and implementing practical projects and initiatives that promote knowledge transfer and deliver community-level tools and resources designed to improve the health and well-being of Inuit women and their families in both northern and southern communities. Over the past twenty years Pauktuutit has developed an extensive and mutually beneficial relationship with the Government of Canada. The local, national, and international issues of concern to Inuit women, and the role that Pauktuutit plays in initiating positive change, involves working directly with government departments, branches, and agencies.

Inuit women are essential stakeholders and critical catalysts in the development of strong and dynamic northern communities. Despite the many challenges and barriers Inuit women face, Pauktuutit has continued to provide an array of effective initiatives in the communities and has often taken a leadership role in areas where the need is most acute. According to the 2001 Census, almost half the Inuit population are women or female children under the age of 15 years. In addition, almost 20 percent of Inuit males are under the age of 15 years. Based on these figures, Inuit women and their children make up almost 70 percent of the entire Inuit population.<sup>16</sup> This is an important factor to consider when planning activities and initiatives that will guide the government and Inuit partnerships in the years to come. Inuit women form the unwavering core of families and bear the primary responsibility for raising future generations. They often play a vital role in the transmission of knowledge between Inuit Elders and youth. Any effort to improve the conditions of Inuit communities and Inuit families therefore has to be developed and implemented in full cooperation and consultation with Inuit women.

## **PAUKTUUTIT AND INUIT EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT**

Since its inception, Pauktuutit has developed and distributed practical and timely community-level tools on basic counselling skills, on child sexual abuse, on abused and battered women, and on the link between the housing crisis and family violence. In addition, Pauktuutit has developed and is implementing the first ever National Strategy for Abuse Prevention in Inuit Communities (the Nuluaq Project). Pauktuutit's success in partnering with governments to make prevention a priority issue and to provide services to victims is increasing, but programs remain for the most part marginal and under-funded. There is a need to invest in training and knowledge transfer in order to sustain front-line workers and community services. Programs that build on Inuit strengths and prevent abuse must be promoted. The focus must be on delivering culturally-relevant services that heal — services that recognize healing as a process rather than a single act or event or a compensation payment. In the end, any relationship between the Inuit of Canada and the government of Canada must include clear and unequivocal support for initiatives that address the multi-faceted dimensions of violence within Inuit communities.

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<sup>16</sup> The 2001 Census indicate that 49.9% of single response Inuit were female and 19.7% were identified males under the age of 15. Single response refers to those individuals citing only Inuit as their Aboriginal background. See Statistics Canada's *2001 Aboriginal Population Profile*, URL: <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/Profil01ab/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm> (last accessed May 2006).

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Pauktuutit also partners with the justice and corrections systems regarding domestic violence, sexual abuse, and the need for Inuit-specific programs for Inuit inmates. This is indispensable for stopping the cycle of violence and to improve community well-being. Pauktuutit is concerned about the over-representation of Inuit within the federal corrections system and sees a need for programs and services that help offenders return to Inuit communities. In addition, the issue of unreported crimes within Inuit communities needs further attention.

The following table summarizes two projects undertaken by Pauktuutit that are directly linked to equity issues. In reality, equity permeates all aspects of society, thus this programming cannot be considered adequate in scope. The table illustrates the paucity of actual programming dollars devoted to gender equality and gender analysis for Inuit.

<b>EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT: SAMPLE OF PAUKTUUTIT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES</b>	
<b>Specific Projects and Initiatives</b>	<b>Relevant Departments and Agencies</b>
Gender and Decision-Making in Arctic Fisheries	• Status of Women Canada
We Speak for Inuit Women.	• Canadian Heritage
Federal, Provincial, Territorial Aboriginal Process	• Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

## **PAUKTUUTIT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Pauktuutit is the leader in the research and development of resources that address the specific health needs of Inuit women and communities. For over twenty years, Pauktuutit has been working to fill some of the major gaps that have existed in health care for Inuit women. The work has focused on basic research into issues, policy statements, and community-level projects our program initiatives often take the form of public education and awareness. For example, Pauktuutit has worked to meet the needs of Inuit women for more information, support, and northern-based equipment and medical facilities to deal with cancers, osteoporosis, teen and tubal pregnancies, heart disease, hormonal therapies, and menopause. As an initial response, Pauktuutit has developed health information booklets for distribution in northern communities.

Pauktuutit's tobacco cessation projects — for example, Aniqsaattiarniq - Breathing Easy — exemplify a results-orientated approach that addresses real health needs of Inuit. The project included the development of resources for use within the communities and the training of Inuit to deliver services that support tobacco cessation activities. This initiative has been widely acclaimed as a primary example of effective grass-roots health care programming.

Similarly, Pauktuutit took the lead in developing HIV/AIDS resources for Inuit communities and continues to be the leader in the development of Sexually Transmitted Infections resources for Inuit communities. These were developed in the total absence of any Inuit-specific health

information and met a very real need. Pauktuutit was instrumental in establishing the Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network (CIHAN) which has received international attention for its effective and innovative approach to this disease. Sufficient and stable resources and capacity development are needed to support communication strategies, workshops, networking, and family and social support in an effort to prioritize sexual health.

<b>INUIT HEALTH AND SAFETY: SAMPLE OF PAUKTUUTIT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES</b>	
<b>Specific Projects and Initiatives</b>	<b>Relevant Departments and Agencies</b>
Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network (CIHAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Health Agency of Canada.</li> </ul>
Canadian HIV/AIDS Network – HIV/AIDS – Hep C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Secretariat and Health Canada</li> </ul>
HIV/AIDS Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) – Health Canada</li> </ul>
Aniqsaattiarniq – Breathing Easy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and Social Services - Government of Nunavut</li> </ul>
Distance Education for Smoking Counsellors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FNIHB – Health Canada</li> </ul>
Smoking Sucks – Youth Tobacco Cessation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Secretariat, Health Canada</li> </ul>
Youth and Elders Community Action Plan Tobacco Control Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FNIHB – Health Canada</li> </ul>
Inuit Diabetes Awareness Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lawson Foundation</li> </ul>
Prevention and Management of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Inuit Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FNIHB – Health Canada</li> </ul>
Mapping FASD Training Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Nations Child and Family Caring Society</li> </ul>
Injury Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FNIHB – Health Canada</li> </ul>

All Inuit communities have been impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Pauktuutit has taken assertive action to develop a wide range of programs and resources to help Inuit families and communities address this critical health issue. Resources include videos, posters, information booklets, and training workshops. The future health and well-being of Inuit communities requires continued work in this area.

Since Pauktuutit's inception, Inuit women have expressed concern about birthing policies in the North and the desire to bring birthing back to the community. Pauktuutit has conducted some



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innovative work in this area and has recently completed an extensive analysis of its data set on traditional Inuit birthing and midwife practices. An important proposal was submitted in May<sup>17</sup> to move forward to address the jurisdictional and administrative barriers that prevent the practice of Inuit midwifery at the community-level and to integrate traditional birthing choices into the practice.

The above table summarizes the most recent and current health-related projects and initiatives undertaken by Pauktuutit. The list illustrates the breadth of the programming that Pauktuutit has accomplished. In addition, the list indicates that Pauktuutit has had to seek financial support outside of the government. While it is to the credit of private sector funders that their critical work is possible, it does demonstrate the government is failing to meet the minimal needs of Inuit Canadians, and further, that the needs and expectations of Inuit women are falling outside of current departmental and programming mandates. The commitment to a new partnership between Inuit and the Government of Canada must resolve these differences.

### **PAUKTUUTIT AND STRONG INUIT FAMILIES**

Over the years Pauktuutit has identified many of the root causes of social problems in the north. These include poverty, the legacy of the residential school system, suicide, and such infrastructural problems as inadequate and overcrowded houses. These are complex problems that require a strong commitment by the Government of Canada to support Inuit in the search for solutions.

For example Pauktuutit is concerned that work related to the residential schools will stop when current funding runs out in 2008. The legacy of the residential schools continues to impact the safety and well-being of Inuit communities and the healing will not be completed over the next two years. The inter-generational legacy of the residential schools is one of the root causes of violence within Inuit communities. In recent years Pauktuutit has prepared an inventory, history, and comparative analysis of existing program and service models within Inuit communities that offer support for child sexual abuse survivors, including survivors of residential school abuse. The project served to increase awareness about available services and to identify the need for services for child sexual abuse survivors both young and old.

Support for the social development of Inuit children is important. Many of the current health and social problems found within Inuit communities can be linked to a decline in traditional family and community support mechanisms. Important Pauktuutit initiatives include support for childcare and the need for youth and Elders to communicate. Pauktuutit has been instrumental in establishing daycare centres in nearly all Inuit communities in the North. As well, Pauktuutit is partnering with Social Development Canada to produce *An Inuit Community's Guide to Best Practices in Early Learning and Child Care*.

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<sup>17</sup> This proposal developed at the invitation of and with ongoing input from a senior government department has been waiting for over five months for approval. Pauktuutit has lost two key staff while waiting.



The table below summarizes some recent and current initiatives undertaken by Pauktuutit that promote early childhood development, promote stronger families, promote safer and healthier communities, and overall, ensure Inuit women are active participants in social development. The table highlights the track record Pauktuutit offers as an organization that can act on need. Pauktuutit works to seek practical solutions and then delivers tools and resources to the community-level to meet the needs that Inuit women have identified.

<b>STRONG INUIT FAMILIES: SAMPLE OF PAUKTUUTIT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES</b>	
<b>Specific Projects and Initiatives</b>	<b>Relevant Departments and Agencies</b>
Journey to Success: Inuit Women in Business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian and Northern Affairs Canada;</li> <li>• Kivalliq Partners in Development; and</li> <li>• Kitikmeot Corporation</li> </ul>
Early Childhood Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.</li> </ul>
Inuit Community Guide to Best Practices in Early Learning and Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Development Canada – Social Development Partnerships</li> </ul>
Inuit Pregnancy and Birthing Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNIHB – Health Canada</li> </ul>
Inuit Family Caregivers Respite Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation</li> </ul>
Managing Canada’s Radioactive Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuclear Waste Management Organization</li> </ul>
Sivumuapallianiq - Journey Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada</li> </ul>
Meeting of Inuit Women Shelter Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Heritage.</li> </ul>
National Inuit Strategy for Abuse Prevention in Inuit Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Safety &amp; Emergency Preparedness Canada: National Crime Prevention Centre;</li> <li>• Indian and Northern Affairs Canada;</li> <li>• Justice Canada and</li> <li>• Government of Nunavut</li> </ul>
Violence Against Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of Women Canada</li> </ul>
<i>The Inuit Way</i> publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Heritage and</li> <li>• Government of Nunavut</li> </ul>
Urban Inuit Early Learning and Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INAC (by way of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami)</li> </ul>

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In the broader context, Pauktuutit plays an important role informing national and international audiences about Inuit and life in the north. The organization is regularly asked to provide speeches and presentations about its activities and these often serve as a platform to broaden the understanding among non-Inuit about life in the Arctic. This leads to greater respect for Inuit and our way of life. An important and often cited publication prepared by Pauktuutit is *The Inuit Way*. This document provides insightful information about Inuit — both past and present.<sup>18</sup>

### **PAUKTUUTIT - INUIT WOMEN'S INDEPENDENT VOICE ON GLOBAL ISSUES**

Issues that effect Indigenous women are not restricted to the national level. Pauktuutit is often invited to contribute to efforts to improve the lives of women in other countries, many of them have social, legal and economic lives that are in more need of help than ours. However, too often Pauktuutit has been overlooked, under-funded, and denied federal support to participate in important meetings that take place outside of Canada. Too often when funds are available, they are last minute arrangements that result in more expensive travel and accommodation costs, and more importantly, results in the inability to effectively prepare in a substantive way for the event. These circumstances are not cost-effective or suitable for strong and effective participation.

A key area where Pauktuutit has gained a national and international reputation is in the realm of intellectual property rights (IPR) and the protection of Inuit traditional knowledge. The federal government has benefited from this work as an example of Canada's efforts to meeting international commitments. Many of the IPR discussions are taking place in the context of the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations' Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Pauktuutit has participated in various CBD meetings since 1996 and is an accredited observer at WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge and Folklore since 2002. Pauktuutit also has special consultative status at the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1998 and participates at sessions of the UNPFII, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC. Pauktuutit works hard to inform Inuit about the CBD and the issues before WIPO and other international meetings, and has provided submissions and presentations at these events in order to keep Inuit interests and concerns on the table. However, as a rule, Pauktuutit does not receive project funding to attend or prepare for these events — much of the Pauktuutit's professional support for submissions and for attendance is provided *pro bono*.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *The Inuit Way*, first published by Pauktuutit in 1989, was completely revised and republished in 2006.

<sup>19</sup> Pauktuutit has submitted two reports on traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights, and the amauti to WIPO. These are now available on WIPO's web site (URL: <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/ngo/ngopapers.html>). Recently, Pauktuutit submitted a discussion paper to the Secretariat of the CBD on biotechnology and Arctic genetic resources (URL: <https://biodiv.org/doc/meetings/tk/wg8j-04/information/wg8j-04-inf-06-en.pdf>).

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Pauktuutit also participates within international networks that examine the broader issues related to Indigenous women. Pauktuutit uses these opportunities to share its experiences and to identify common goals and strategies with other Indigenous women's organizations. Pauktuutit is a member of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women and sits on its Intellectual Property Commission.<sup>20</sup> In addition, Pauktuutit is a member of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) which meets prior to Conference of the Party meetings of the CBD and before other CBD working group meetings. This broad-based networking is essential to reducing gender discrimination and improving the well-being of Indigenous communities' world-wide. Participation in the international dialogue is important to Pauktuutit in the context of declarations and conventions that address human rights, Indigenous rights, women's rights, intellectual property rights, and in the context of environmental protection. Participating in such discussions will benefit all Inuit as well as Indigenous peoples around the world.

An important initiative undertaken by Pauktuutit was the Amauti Project.<sup>21</sup> The successful 2001 intellectual property rights workshop in Rankin Inlet garnered international recognition. Next steps include exploring the practical issues associated with protecting Inuit women's traditional knowledge and of small-scale craft commercialization, and sharing the lessons within Canada and abroad. For example, the plain-language workshop manual prepared for the Rankin Inlet Amauti Project has been translated into Spanish and is being widely distributed to Indigenous communities throughout South and Central America. Despite follow-up funding proposals to continue with the amaui initiative, to date, Pauktuutit has not received federal financial support.

In May 2006, Pauktuutit participated in Caracas, Venezuela as part of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women's Intellectual Property Commission. Pauktuutit described the Amauti project to Venezuelan Indigenous women and detailed issues that are unfolding within the CBD and WIPO. As a result of this meeting, Pauktuutit has been tasked to carry the interests of the Network forward to the next WIPO meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. To date, however, Pauktuutit has not received federal financial support to participate in the Network meetings. Further, Pauktuutit does not receive any project funding to pursue its work on international matters. Even minimal funding to attend meetings is *ad hoc* and unpredictable which leaves Pauktuutit ill prepared to participate effectively.

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<sup>20</sup> Currently, the Continental Network of Indigenous Women includes organizations from South and Central America and from Canada.

<sup>21</sup> The final report on the Rankin Inlet workshop is entitled: *Inuit Women's Traditional Knowledge Workshop on the Amauti and Intellectual Property*, Ottawa, 2001. URL: [http://pauktuutit.ca/pdf/publications/pauktuutit/Amauti\\_e.pdf](http://pauktuutit.ca/pdf/publications/pauktuutit/Amauti_e.pdf)

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## **Appendix II: Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada: Mandate**

### **Pauktuutit's Mission**

Pauktuutit fosters greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women, advocates for equality and social improvements, and encourages their participation in the community, regional and national life of Canada.

Pauktuutit leads and supports Canadian Inuit women in policy development and community projects in all areas of interest to them, for the social, cultural, political, and economic betterment of the women, their families, and communities.

### **Pauktuutit's Vision**

Pauktuutit's vision is to be a dynamic, visible, influential organization, supporting Inuit women and providing leadership, voice, and excellence for the betterment of Inuit women, their families, and communities.

### **Pauktuutit's Mandate is to:**

1. Promote the rights and interests of Inuit women and children;
2. Provide the Inuit women of Canada with a united voice;
3. Work towards better social, economic, and political conditions for Inuit women;
4. Work for the betterment of individual, family and community health conditions through advocacy and program action;
5. Encourage Inuit women to take their rightful place in society;
6. Promote equity for the independent view of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian governmental and non-governmental structures;
7. Motivate Inuit women to realize their potential as individuals and as a group;
8. Promote self-confidence and self-reliance amongst Inuit women;
9. Provide resources to ensure that our children are raised with Inuit values, heritage, culture, and language;
10. Encourage the involvement of Inuit women in all levels of Canadian society; and
11. Facilitate collaboration between Inuit women and all other aboriginal peoples.

### Appendix III: Pauktuutit - Projects and Activities

SUMMARY LIST OF PAUKTUUTIT PROJECTS		
YEAR	SUBJECT	PROJECT NAME / ACTIVITY
2006	Abuse Prevention	Implementation of the National Strategy for Abuse Prevention
		Creation of an Association of Inuit Women's Shelters and Training Module for Shelter Workers
		Sivumuapallianiq – Journey Forward: A Residential Schools Healing Strategy
		Supporting Communities to achieve Community Wellness
		Zero Tolerance Community Mobilization Meetings to end Violence Against Women and Children
	Children & Youth	Early Childhood Development Program
		Community Guide to Best Practices in Early Learning and Childcare
	Maternal and Child Health	Substance Abuse Prevention: Working Together to Understand Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
		Inuit Pregnancy and Birthing Practices – CD Rom
	Tobacco Cessation	Aniqsaattiarniq - Breathing Easy, Smoking Counsellors training program
		Youth and Community Action Project - Tobacco Control Strategy
	Health Awareness	Inuit Diabetes Awareness Initiative
		International Arctic Indigenous Injury Prevention Initiatives
	Sexual Health	The Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network and Strategy: Sexual Health & HIV Conference
		Building Supportive Communities for Inuit Living with HIV/AIDS
		HIV/AIDS – Hep C: Community Fairs and Symposium
	Justice / Corrections	Liaison with Corrections Canada on Justice and corrections issues

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**SUMMARY LIST OF PAUKTUUTIT PROJECTS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME / ACTIVITY</b>
2006	Economic and Social Development	Inuit Women for Tomorrow: Economic Development Facilitator Training Project
		Local Host Initiative for Nunavut Volunteers
		Inuit Families Caregivers Respite Strategy
		The Inuit Action Plan
		Gender and Decision-making in Arctic Fisheries
		The Inuit Way publication

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME / ACTIVITY</b>
2005	Abuse Prevention	Nuluaq: The Development of a National Strategy for Abuse Prevention
		Zero Tolerance Community Mobilization Meetings to end Violence Against Women and Children
		First ever meeting of Leaders of Inuit Women's Shelters
		Sivumuapallianiq – Journey Forward: A Residential Schools Healing Strategy
		Aboriginal Women Against Abuse Everywhere
	Children & Youth	Urban Inuit ELCC Gathering
		Capacity Building in Early Childhood Education
		Community Guide to Best Practices in ELCC
	Maternal and Child Health	Inuit Pregnancy and Birthing Practices
		Maternal and Child Health Services - Building Healthy Babies
		Substance Abuse Prevention: FASD Prevention and Management
	Health Awareness	Inuit Diabetes Awareness Project
		Injury Prevention
	Sexual Health	The Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network
		HIV/AIDS Strategy

YEAR	SUBJECT	PROJECT NAME / ACTIVITY
		HIV/AIDS – Hep C: Community Fairs and Symposium
		Smoking Sucks – Empowering Indigenous Youth to reduce tobacco use
	Tobacco Cessation	Distance Education for Smoking Counsellors
		Youth and Elders Community Action Project
		Aniqsaattiarniq – Breathing Easy
	Justice / Corrections	Liaison with Corrections Canada on Justice and corrections issues
2005	Economic and Social Development	Managing Canada's Radioactive Waste Workshop
		Inuit Women for Tomorrow: Economic Development Training Project
		Inuit Families Caregivers Respite Strategy
		Gender and Decision-Making in Arctic Fisheries
		Federal Provincial Territorial Aboriginal Process
		The Inuit Way publication
		We Speak for Inuit Women Leadership Workshop

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## Appendix IV: Publication List

The following list illustrates the range of materials produced by Pauktuutit to operationalize policy into products and tools that are valuable at the community level and essential to bringing about meaningful and positive change in the lives of Inuit. [www.pauktuutit.ca](http://www.pauktuutit.ca)

### General Health-Related Material

- A Community Perspective on Health Promotion and Substance Abuse
- Inuit Healing in Contemporary Inuit Society
- The Inuit Women's Health Issues Workshop Report to the Communities
- Ikajurti: Midwifery in the Canadian Arctic VIDEO
- Inuit Family Caregivers Respite Strategy
- Inuit Mental Health Workshop: Summary report, Iqaluit, NT 1993
- Teen Pregnancy in Inuit Communities: Issues and Perspectives – Summary
- Teen Pregnancy in Inuit Communities: Issues and Perspectives - Full Report
- Inuit Women's Health Series:
  - Aging: As Time Goes On
  - Menopause and Aging
  - Cancers: Actions I Can Take to Reduce My Risks of Developing Cancer; and
  - Love Your Heart: Encouraging Healthy Inuit Hearts;

### Tobacco Cessation Material

- Aniqsaattiarniq - Breathing Easy
- Tobacco Use Prevention and Reduction Resource Materials
- Guidelines For Inuit Communities Working on Reducing Tobacco Use
- Inuit and Tobacco - Phase I Project Report
- How to Help Your Patients Quit Smoking and Stay Quit
- Grandpa and His Pipe (book)
- Healing From Smoking (also in VIDEO)
- Smoking Sucks
- Our Ancestors Never Smoked
- How to Quit Smoking and Stay Quit

### Abuse Issues

- The Housing Crisis and Violence: Report prepared for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Naalatsiarlutit: A Presentation of Artwork By Northern Artist on Spousal Abuse
- No more Secrets: Child Sexual Abuse in Inuit communities
- There is a Need so we Help: Services for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse: Analysis Report



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- What to Do If You Are Abused and/or Battered
  - Abuse Prevention Services in Inuit Communities
  - Applying Inuit Cultural Approaches in the Prevention of Family Violence and Abuse: Research Report
  - Zero Tolerance for Child Sexual Abuse
  - A Listing of Services for Inuit Survivors of Child Abuse
  - National Violence Consolation
  - Stop the Violence (Sticker)
  - Child Rearing Series ( four video)
  - Does Your Husband or boyfriend Beat You?
  - Tamainnut: An Introduction to Basic Counselling Skills

### **Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS**

- Lifesavers Condom Campaign – condom covers, poster, caps, t-shirts
- AIDS Puzzle
- The LAIDSies Man (CD or DVD)
- HIV/AIDS: Building our Understanding Treatment Fact Sheets (24)
- HIV/AIDS Booklet Series Volumes 1-8
- A Proposed Inuit Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS
- Action in Inuit Communities: What Does it Take? Report from Sexual Health Symposium in Iqaluit, NU, 2006
- Sheepa's Story: A radio series about love, family, sexuality, stereotypes and choices

### **Justice and Corrections:**

- Summary of Work-To-Date on Violence/Justice Issues
- Inuit Women and Justice: Progress Report

### **FASD**

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Resource Materials
- Report on the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Substance Abuse
- Before I was Born: VIDEO, viewing guide, radio play (poster)
- Children Comes First: FASD Workshop

### **Child Care and Support Material**

- Child Care Resources:  
Information poster
- Tusarannaat;
- Community programs for Healthy Inuit Babies: Guidelines
- Guide To Start a Day Care.

### **Miscellaneous**

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- Arnait: The Views of Inuit Woman on Contemporary Issues
  - Inuit Women's Traditional Knowledge Workshop on the Amauti and Intellectual Property Rights
  - Journey to Success: Aboriginal Women's Business Planning Guide
  - Nuclear Waste Management Organization Workshop Report
  - UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
  - Suvaguuq - National Newsletter on Inuit Social and Cultural Issues

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## **Appendix V: Recommendations of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women**

Second Report, May 16, 2006

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
OTTAWA, CANADA 39th Parliament, 1st Session

The Standing Committee on the Status of Women has the honour to present its SECOND REPORT (May 16, 2006)

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2), the Committee has considered the findings of the Second Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women presented to the House in the 1st session of the 38th Parliament, entitled “*Gender-Based Analysis: Building Blocks for Success*”. The Committee agrees with the findings of that report.

In accordance with Standing Order 109, the Committee requests that the Government table a comprehensive response to the following recommendations:

### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

- That the Government of Canada immediately initiate consultations, in time for the 2006-2007 budget, aimed at the development of legislation that would ensure the systematic application of gender-based analysis (GBA) to all federal policy and program activities;
- That the Privy Council Office (PCO) establish a secretariat with responsibility for ensuring the development and eventual implementation of effective gender equality legislation; and
- That the PCO secretariat table annually in Parliament a public report outlining progress toward the legislation.

### **RECOMMENDATION 2**

- That Status of Women Canada immediately re-activate the Interdepartmental Committee on Gender-based Analysis to provide a full assessment of existing accountability mechanisms for gender-based analysis;
- That the Interdepartmental Committee on Gender-based Analysis be expanded to have representation from all government departments;
- That each department on the Interdepartmental Committee on Gender-based Analysis provide an overview of their particular measures for ensuring accountability on GBA and provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of these measures, and that this information be communicated

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through each department's departmental performance report as well as through the departmental performance report of Status of Women Canada;

- That Status of Women Canada coordinate the production and distribution of information on the state of GBA accountability mechanisms on an annual basis; and
- That Status of Women Canada be allocated increased funding specifically for the evaluation of GBA accountability measures.

### **RECOMMENDATION 3**

- That Status of Women Canada ensure that equality-seeking organizations are engaged in a thorough consultation on the equality goals for priority action in the 2005-2010 action plan on gender equality;
- That the outcomes from such consultations be made public; and
- That a one-time supplementary funding amount be allocated to Status of Women Canada during this fiscal period to make such a consultation possible.

### **RECOMMENDATION 4**

- That the Department of Finance designate one senior official with clear responsibility for implementing a gender-analysis process;
- That the Department of Finance provide a written report to Parliament annually on the steps taken to implement gender-budgeting; and
- That the Department of Finance report to Parliament include examples of areas where gender analysis produced specific results and that this report be referred to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women.

### **RECOMMENDATION 5**

- That the Privy Council Office immediately designate one senior official with clear responsibility for initiating and coordinating accountability on GBA;
- That the Privy Council Office begin the coordinating process immediately;
- That the Privy Council Office provide a written report to Parliament about any consultations on accountability and about the options within 120 days; and
- That the options include measures to penalize departments that do not comply.

### **RECOMMENDATION 6**

- That the Privy Council Office immediately establish a committee of deputy ministers responsible for analyzing all memorandum to cabinet and other cabinet documents for gender-based analysis; and

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- That Privy Council Office officials and all deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers and associate deputy ministers participate in workshops that provide training to assess GBA content.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 7**

- That the Treasury Board Secretariat designate a senior official to take responsibility for ensuring that GBA is included in policies, directives, and regulations pertinent to the 2005-2010 action plan on gender equality which is currently being developed by Status of Women Canada;
- That all program expenditure proposals with respect to priority areas identified for the 2005-2010 action plan on gender equality include GBA analysis and implementation goals;
- That the Treasury Board Secretariat provide wide and clear communication to the general public, equality-seeking organizations and other government departments in order to ensure a high level of support for the expected equality goals;
- That the Treasury Board Secretariat support and participate in work to identify, and, where necessary, develop indicators, to measure progress toward the identified equality goals; and
- That the Treasury Board Secretariat report annually to Parliament on progress toward gender-based analysis goals and the activities of departments and agencies both in active measures to attain gender equality goals and in increasing their capacity to implement gender-based analysis to ensure that unintentional negative impacts of programs and policies do not hinder progress toward gender equality goals.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 8**

- That the Treasury Board Secretariat establish clear criteria for reporting on GBA; and
- That the Treasury Board Secretariat ensure consistent annual reporting to Parliament on GBA in departmental reports on plans and priorities and performance reports.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 9**

- That every federal department and agency immediately designate an assistant or associate deputy minister with responsibility for GBA;
- That all federal departments and agencies ensure regular and active participation in the Interdepartmental Committee on GBA;
- That all federal departments and agencies develop a strategic framework for GBA and action plans for implementation;
- That all federal departments and agencies provide additional resources for data needed for GBA and for staff to ensure that it is used;

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- That all legislative, program and policy initiatives undergo GBA;
  - That senior level departmental policy and other committees within all federal departments and agencies require regular, at least annual, progress reports on GBA with a particular focus on specific results; and
  - That federal departments and agencies make this information about GBA available to Parliament and to the public in their reports on plans and priorities and departmental performance reports.