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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

SULIQPITA

News from Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada



At Pauktuutit, we are currently experiencing a period of substantial growth. We are proactively enhancing our organizational capacity in programs, staffing, and infrastructure to fortify our foundation and ensure long-term sustainability.



– Gerri Sharpe President, Pauktuutit



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President's Message: Gerri Sharpe

Over the past few months, Pauktuutit has been persistent in its commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals. A significant milestone was the unveiling of the Red Amautit Project at the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut in May. I would like to extend my gratitude to Honourable PJ Ageeagok, Premier of Nunavut and Honourable Margaret Nakashuk, Minister of Family Services for joining Pauktuutit Board member Looee Mike at our opening reception and to everyone who attended the unveiling of the Red Amautit project.

Another important event was my participation, along with Rosemary Cooper, Executive Director, in the 22nd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held at the UN Headquarters in New York. Throughout the five-day forum, I had the honour of advocating for the interests of Inuit women and articulating our concerns in diverse international gatherings.

As a permanent member of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC), I participated in the May meeting in Nain, Nunatsiavut, alongside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, federal ministers, and Inuit leaders. The gathering centered on crucial priority areas such as health, economic development, Inuktitut language revitalization, sovereignty, defense, and security. Notably, homelessness has been newly identified as a priority this year. To delve deeper into the discussions, you can [follow this link](#).



President Sharpe, alongside delegates from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka (Russia) at the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) delegation in Ilulissat, Greenland

In June, the Pauktuutit Board of Directors met in person in Ottawa for the first time since the election. This was a great opportunity to understand from incoming and existing board members what their vision for Pauktuutit is going forward. The board welcomed the Hon. Marc Miller, then Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, along with Hon. Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal to discuss our shared priorities with the government of Canada. RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme joined us to review our ongoing commitments and accomplishments achieved through our Pinasuqatigiinni Agreement MOA.

In July, I was pleased to attend the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) meeting held in person in Ilulissat, Greenland. Asserting Inuit rights at the international level as a unified circumpolar people was a central theme of the meeting. I had the opportunity to share the voices of Inuit women and address challenges during workshops on Marine Governance, Infrastructure Deficit, Hunting and Food Security, and the Decade of Indigenous Languages.



Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada's Board members met in Ottawa for their quarterly Board meeting June 6-8.

L-R: Pauktuutit Board members Kourtney Wolkie, Lillian Lundrigan, Minister Vandal, Josephine Tucktoo, Vice-president Nancy Etok, Minister Miller, Secretary-Treasurer Charlotte Wolfrey, Martha Flaherty, President Gerri Sharpe, Catherine Mitsuk, Paige Kimiksana-Kreps, Sarah Idlout, and Looee Mike.



That same week, I represented Inuit women at the 50th-anniversary gathering of Arctic peoples. During this gathering, I engaged with other Inuit Leaders to discuss shared priorities issued in the 'Statement of the Arctic Peoples' Conference 2023' and expressed commitment to the work of the Arctic Council and reiterated the importance of continued people-to-people and cross-border cooperation: [Statement of the Arctic Peoples' Conference 2023](#)

In addition to the events, I have taken the opportunity to speak on critical topics through media interviews, like Forced and Coerced Sterilization, advocating for Inuit Midwifery Services, Sexual Health and Wellness, and shelter and transitional housing.

// I firmly believe that every effort matters, and with the unwavering support of my dedicated team, we will continue to advocate and work tirelessly to enrich the lives of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals. //

– President Gerri Sharpe

Mona Fortier MP announces funding

Thank you to MP Mona Fortier for visiting our office in June to announce funding to support our work. These funds will enable us to scale up our organizational capacity as our team grows to meet the needs of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse people. I joined virtually, and board member Martha Flaherty met the Treasury Board President in Ottawa.



Inuit -Crown Partnership Committee Meeting in Nain, Nunatsiavut

In May I had the honor of participating in the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) Meeting in Nain, Nunatsiavut, with Inuit Leaders, Prime Minister Trudeau, and Federal Ministers to discuss the first five years of ICPC implementation.

Key Highlights:

- ICPC Evaluation Report: The Committee endorsed its evaluation report, recommending options to make ICPC a permanent mechanism and enhance its capacity.
- Priority Areas: Discussions focused on health, economic development, Inuktitut language revitalization, sovereignty, defense, security, and added homelessness as a new priority.
- Shared Goal: The meeting emphasized the commitment to Inuit self-determination and creating a more prosperous Inuit Nunangat through continued collaboration, based on rights, respect, and partnership.

This ongoing partnership plays a vital role in improving the well-being of Inuit communities.



President Sharpe at the Inuit -Crown Partnership Committee Meeting in Nain, Nunatsiavut, with Inuit Leaders, Prime Minister Trudeau, and Federal Ministers



Message from the Executive Director

Rosemary Cooper

Pauktuutit's First Inuk Executive Director

In February 2022, I was officially promoted to Executive Director of Pauktuutit, following a 2-year term as Interim Executive Director. Since joining Pauktuutit in 2016, I've been proudly drawing on my experience to inspire and lead Pauktuutit's policy, programs, and communications teams as we advance the Board's resolutions and priorities.

Over the years, Pauktuutit has steadily grown from 14 employees to over 50 and growing. Our budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 was \$4.8 million. In 2022-2023, it has increased to over \$11 million.

With the exceptional growth of the organization, our operational systems are expanding. This requires renewed policies and procedures to encompass the evolving realities of remote and hybrid work structures and revised operating systems that will maintain stability and provide the flexibility to continue our work.

Currently, my focus is on directorship teams. We're working to align our policy and programs divisions, streamline the overall processes, and create complimentary portfolio areas including research, legislation, and advocacy work.

During this transitional phase, my attention is shifting to the political arena and contributing to and influencing broader policy discussions. This will be central to Pauktuutit's strategic planning for the next two to three years. Looking ahead, government relations will be at the core of our strategic initiatives. This move aligns with our commitment to cultivating strong relationships with all levels of government and partner organizations.

This vision and planning cycle will ensure the success of our organization on a larger scale as we continue to meet the needs of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals.

To address the need for focused attention on sustainable expansion, I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Sarah Kastner, PhD, as our organization's first Chief Operating Officer (COO). Since joining us in April, Sarah has been leading the development of our operational capabilities and playing a crucial role in fortifying our operational foundations.

We encourage you to keep an eye on the members of Pauktuutit's Board. Over the past few years, we have seen plenty of changes. Exciting changes and the additions of new members will provide renewed energy to ensure Pauktuutit's vision is met.



President Gerri Sharpe and Executive Director Rosemary Cooper joined the 22nd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at UN Headquarters, New York in April 2023



Looking ahead, government relations will be at the core of our strategic initiatives. This move aligns with our commitment to cultivating strong relationships with all levels of government and partner organizations. //

Rosemary Cooper, Executive Director



Message from the Chief Operating Officer

Sarah Kastner

In April, I was honoured to be appointed as Pauktuutit's first Chief Operating Officer (COO). In this senior management role, my focus has been on supporting Pauktuutit's progress toward maximizing organizational goals and objectives, driving operational effectiveness across various fronts, including overseeing the Strategic Plan, Board Governance, IT, Planning, and Operations.

Information Technology (IT)

Under my leadership, Pauktuutit has embarked on strategic improvements to our Information Technology (IT) environment. To address current challenges and future priorities, we initiated the migration from an on-premises, server-based setup to an M365 cloud-based IT environment this quarter. In collaboration with the directorship team, we're ensuring the success of this transition by establishing effective technology use and providing information management systems for seamless collaboration and accessibility.

Human Resources

The focus on Human Resources during this quarter has been on recruiting strong candidates for key vacancies and enhancing policies and operating procedures across the organization. Collaborating closely with the Executive Director, we've engaged in proactive resource planning to align with our growth trajectory and future plans.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, my collaboration with the Executive Director remains pivotal. Aligning the dynamic organizational initiatives currently in progress is a shared priority. With our team evolving into a hybrid model, we're revising and scaling work processes. Together, we're driving work plans to ensure the team delivers strong results that showcase our impact and value, especially in the face of an uncertain political future.

This will enable Rosemary to fully delve into the political arena and maximize her leadership role while being fully supported by the foundations being laid by the supporting role of the COO.



Chief Operating Officer Sarah Kastner (far left) represented Pauktuutit's President Sharpe at the Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Housing with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives in Ottawa.



Upcoming Events

AGM & 40th Anniversary Celebrations:

Pauktuutit staff are preparing for the upcoming Annual General Meeting, scheduled for February 14 and 15 in Ottawa. This event marks the 40th anniversary of Pauktuutit, signifying four decades of dedicated work for the betterment of Inuit women, children, and gender-diverse Inuit in Canada. To celebrate this milestone, we will be inviting our past presidents to be board delegates for our AGM. In addition, we'll be hosting a Community Feast on 14 February, and an Anniversary Gala on the evening of 15 February, at the Ottawa Art Gallery. Follow us on social media to learn more.

Board Vacancies:

As part of our AGM, we will be electing Board member vacancies. We will be seeking motivated Inuit women who are interested in advocating to improve the lives of Inuit families in our communities.

Qikiqtani North, Kitikmeot, Iqaluit, and Kivalliq regions will have openings along with a Youth Representative for Inuit Nunangat.

Inuk Women of the Year award nominations:

Are you inspired by a remarkable Inuk woman, or two?

Each year we recognize the leadership and success of a young Inuk woman, aged 18-35, along with an inspiring Inuk woman, aged 35 and over. Through these awards, we celebrate the leadership of vibrant Inuit women and showcase our achievements. Be sure to take some time and nominate the women who have inspired you. The awards are shared as part of our AGM.

We're Moving!

Did you know Pauktuutit's Ottawa headquarters will be moving to 350 Sparks Street in the new year? The new space will embrace our emerging workplace realities by accommodating in-office work as well as remote and hybrid employees.



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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting & 40th Anniversary Celebrations

February 14-15 (day)
Annual General Meeting
Cartier Place

February 14 (evening)
Community Feast
Assumption Parish

February 15 (evening)
40th Anniversary Gala
Ottawa Art Gallery

www.pauktuutit.ca



Policy and Advocacy in Action

Pauktuutit is committed to contributing to the strength and vibrance of Inuit women. Below we delve into the broader landscape of policy and advocacy efforts, showcasing the strides made in empowering and advancing the rights and well-being of Inuit women and children.

GBA+ Framework

As the national voice of Inuit women in Canada, Pauktuutit advocates for equality and social change for Inuit women and gender-diverse Inuit.

Part of that advocacy focuses on the need for new and existing policies, programs and services to reflect the unique needs, voice, and social experiences of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

To facilitate this work, we have introduced our Inuit-specific Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) Framework. With regard for the distinctive qualities of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit beliefs and principles, Pauktuutit's framework will ensure that new and existing policies, programs and services reflect the unique needs and social experiences of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

It is a strengths-based tool ensuring that an Inuit-specific GBA+ lens is applied consistently and in consultation with Pauktuutit. It is based on the understanding that Inuit women, gender-diverse people and their communities have existing strengths, experience, and capabilities that make them adaptable and vibrant.

The Inuit-specific GBA+ Framework is a living document that is intended to evolve as we use it, assess it, and validate it.

Pauktuutit's Inuit-Specific GBA+ Framework



Foundation of our Framework

Inuit Cultural Values and an Inuit Worldview

Our Framework has its own Inuit Cultural Values Assessment



This innovative approach ensures the unique needs and priorities of Inuit women are considered in policy and program development within this important government department //



Red Amautiit Project

To commemorate Canada's National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People on May 5, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada launched the Red Amautiit installation. This project aimed to honour the lives and legacies of Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse people while raising awareness of the ongoing violence faced by our people.

The Red Amautiit Project features five handmade Amautiit, including four regionally distinct pieces and one statement piece that pays tribute to Elders and the sharing of traditional knowledge through sewing. Each Amauti was designed by an Inuk seamstress from the region they represent: Eunice Tunraluk, Arctic Bay, Nunavut; Heather Angnatok, Nain, Nunatsiavut; Shirley Elias, Inuvik, Inuvialuit; Sarah Samisack, Inukjuak, Nunavik; and our Elder, Nancy Pukinaq Aupaluktuq, Baker Lake, Nunavut. Our goal is to have the Red Amautiit collection on display in cultural centers across Inuit Nunangat and Inuit Nanangit.



Board member Looee Mike joined Nunavut Premier PJ Ageeagok and Minister Margaret Nakashuk for the unveiling of The Red Amautiit Project at the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

On May 5, we had the honour of previewing the installation at the Iqaluit Centennial Library as part of the Commemorative Gathering. Subsequently, the entire collection graced the Nunavut Legislative Assembly in Iqaluit during the Spring Sitting, which began on May 24, 2023.

Pauktuutit remains committed to advocating for meaningful actions to address systemic issues affecting Inuit women. Tangible progress is the best way to honour lives lost to gendered violence. Healing work must be led by Inuit women and use an Inuit-specific, gender-based lens to be culturally appropriate and

meaningful. Greater investments in violence and abuse prevention, new Inuit shelters and second-stage housing for women fleeing violence, and increased support for gendered and culturally appropriate healthcare are among Pauktuutit's top priorities.





National Inuit Midwifery Forum

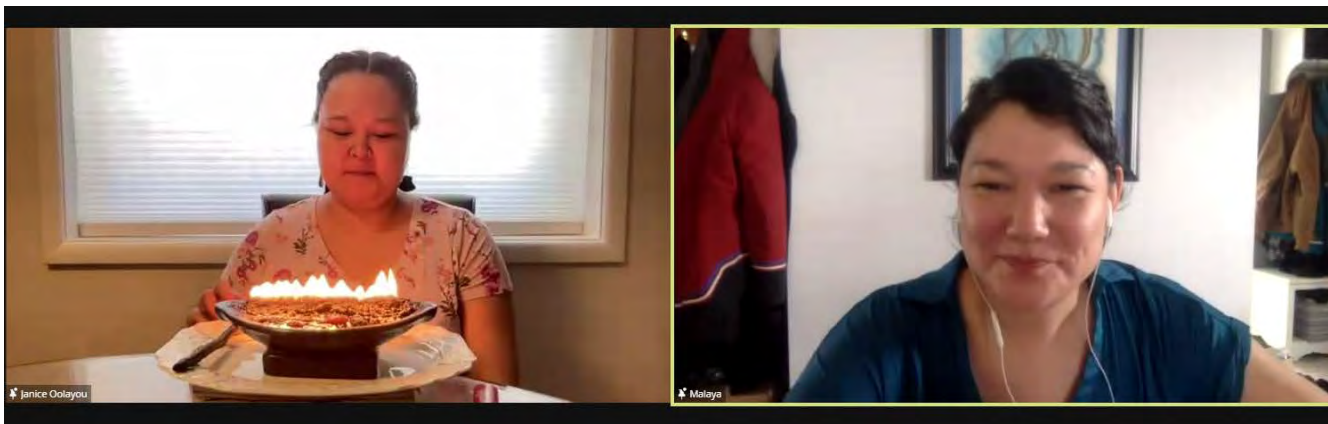
Pauktuutit hosted the first-ever National Inuit Midwifery Forum virtually from March 28-30, 2023. The forum amplified the need for Inuit midwifery services, education, and training across Inuit Nunangat so that Inuit may birth their children closer to home.

The three-day forum, facilitated in partnership with the National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM), covered topics such as current gaps and challenges in Inuit maternal and child health,

the roles of Inuit midwives in community well-being, the importance of culturally informed midwifery services, and the urgent need for a rights-based framework to facilitate the return of Inuit midwifery services in Inuit Nunangat. Approximately 150 participants attended over three days.

Pauktuutit is embarking on the following initiatives toward the development of a National Inuit Midwifery Framework:

- Completion of a "What we Heard" final report and data analysis.
- Regional stakeholder engagements
- Supporting Inuit regions to achieve regulatory exemptions to integrate the full scope of Inuit-led midwifery practice across Inuit Nunangat.
- Review of midwifery education and training opportunities within Inuit Nunangat: To ensure the sustainability of Inuit midwifery within our communities, we must first start with a locally driven approach to Inuit-led training and education.





Inuit-specific Shelters and Transitional Housing

Our Inuit-specific Shelters and Transitional Housing initiative, nurtured by nearly 40 years of dedicated advocacy by Pauktuutit, marks a substantial achievement in our ongoing efforts to provide safer environments for Inuit women and children.

We have made headway with the funding approval for three important projects. These include a shelter in Sanikiluaq, Nunavut, another in Puvirnituk, Nunavik, and a transitional housing project also in Puvirnituk.

Nunavut Regional Office in Iqaluit

The opening of our satellite office in Iqaluit marked a significant step for Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. This is our first office in Inuit Nunangat and part of a pilot project that is set to pave the way for regional offices across the country.

The official opening of the office took place at the Aqsarniit Hotel and Conference Centre in Iqaluit on February 20. Current Pauktuutit President Gerri Sharpe, along with former President Rebecca Kudloo, conducted a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion.



President Gerri Sharpe, along with former President Rebecca Kudloo at the ribbon cutting ceremony in Iqaluit on February 20

This office serves as a model for future regional offices. Its direct connection to our head office in Ottawa will help us establish vital relationships across Inuit Nunangat and Inuit Nunangit (urban centers).

These regional offices will also provide a platform for Inuit women to come together and communicate their distinct and shared priorities, contributing to the development of an Inuit Women's Advocacy Network and Strategy. We are excited about the positive changes and greater support this office will bring to Inuit women and their communities.



As we evolve and grow, we want to continue building closer connections to the regions, to promote positive change for Inuit women and gender-diverse Inuit. Our vision is intended to solidify partnerships and expand the capacity of the Inuit women's sector in Canada. //

-President Gerri Sharpe



Initiatives Underway Within Pauktuutit

Health

Enhancing the well-being of Inuit women and their families has remained a key focus since Pauktuutit's establishment in 1984. Presently, the Board and staff are actively addressing matters related to many aspects of health and well-being.

Inuit Sexual Health

The health programs team is currently conducting regional engagement sessions to inform the development of Inuit Sexual Health resources, building on previous work.

The purpose of the regional engagement sessions is to hear from youth and service providers about the resources they require, as well as conduct resource mapping on the sexual health services that are currently available for Inuit in the four regions and nationally.

So far, the health programs team has conducted engagement sessions in Iqaluit and the Western Arctic, including Yellowknife, Inuvik, and Whitehorse.

This fall, regional engagement sessions will be conducted in Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. In May,

Pauktuutit representatives attended the Gender Equality Summit in Whitehorse, leading a curated conversation on reproductive health rights with conference attendees.

Pauktuutit was also invited to attend a Symposium on HPV elimination led by the Urban Public Health Network (UPHN) and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC).

Cannabis in our Communities

Following the launch of the Cannabis Harm Reduction Toolkit: Let's Talk about Ujarak <https://pauktuutit.ca/health/lets-talk-about-ujarak/>, engagement sessions have been held virtually and in person.

Insights from engagements are currently being compiled into a final report to be shared in the coming months. ·

Pauktuutit representatives participated in an Inuit-specific meeting with Health Canada's Expert Panel review for Cannabis Legislation in April, as well as the first-ever Ungammuataq Conference on Substance Use and Addictions at the Isuarsivik Recovery Centre in Kuujuaq, Nunavik in June.



Inuit youth participate in a youth sexual health session in Yellowknife.



President Gerri Sharpe, along with other National Indigenous Leadership Representatives (NILRs) and senior officials at the Federal Provincial Territorial Status of Women mid-year meeting

Violence, Abuse Prevention & Justice

The Violence and Abuse Prevention team is dedicated to addressing a wide spectrum of issues affecting the safety and well-being of women and children. This includes tackling problems such as family violence, child sexual abuse, human trafficking and advocating for the rights of victims.

Federal Provincial Territorial Status of Women (FPT SOW)

On July 30, 2023, Pauktuutit participated in person at the mid-year meeting of National Indigenous Leadership Representatives (NILRs) and discussed key issues.

Pauktuutit has taken the lead in co-developing principles of engagement that will support us in our leadership roles and responsibilities and deepen our relationship towards reconciliation. The implementation of these principles will ensure that we honour each of our distinct cultural and gendered identities in our work together.

During this meeting, the engagement principles were presented to the Ministers responsible for the Status of Women to review, and they are currently in the

approval process for implementation.

Pauktuutit also participated in and led discussions on Pillar 4 of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and presented ways forward for implementation. We also discussed actions and initiatives responding to the Inuit MMIWG+ Calls to Action and Justice, as well as ways to support the recruitment and retention of Indigenous women leaders and their identified needs regarding participation in the economy.

Tri-Lateral Working Group to End Violence Against Indigenous Women (Canada, Mexico, United States)

Pauktuutit attended an engagement session on April 19, 2023, in New York. Indigenous women leaders from each respective country met to discuss and provide their recommendations for the format and topics to be covered at the Fifth Convening of the Tri-Lateral Working Group. Pauktuutit worked to help identify priorities across the following key themes of human trafficking, leadership development, data sovereignty, access to justice, and root causes of gender-based violence, which included language and cultural practices.



Pauktuutit participated in the Fifth Convening of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women held on September 6 and 7 in Ottawa.

In September, the members met in Ottawa for a panel discussion on 'Access to Justice' for Inuit women and gender-diverse Inuit in Canada, alongside representatives from Mexico and the United States. Panelists shared unique gender-specific promising practices, outcomes, and recommendations to address the systemic issues in each country. Pauktuutit also presented our key initiatives, projects underway to implement change and showcased the Heritage Red Amauti, paying tribute to the lives and legacies of the Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.

National Conversation on Gender Equality with Young Canadians

Engaged in a year-long awareness campaign, this initiative promotes and encourages a general understanding of gender-related challenges in the Inuit community, for instance, violence against women and the gender pay gap.

Pauktuutit highlighted key issues like showing how values and norms influence our reality, reinforce stereotypes, and support the structures that produce inequalities. We also stressed the importance of overcoming existing barriers to gender equality by demonstrating the benefits for all.

The campaign actively reached out to many Inuit organizations, grassroots initiatives, and community champions. By supporting activities around the themes undertaken by governments, and non-profit organizations, efforts made by women's associations, gender equality civil society groups, and various gender-diverse advocates we strengthened our partnerships and reinforced our messaging.

To highlight the key issues, we promoted gender equality through local media and press, for example, radio programs, and the distribution of calendars.

United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) Action Plan

Consultation, Cooperation and Engagement

Working closely with Justice Canada, Pauktuutit completed the draft feedback submission of the Action Plan with the support and guidance of our UNDRIP Steering Committee.

Pauktuutit was highly instrumental in contributing to the federal government's "What We Heard to Date Report". We completed our final submission on the Draft Action Plan. Working in partnership with other National Indigenous Women's Organizations, Pauktuutit met with the Minister of Justice and voiced our concerns around the engagement process and draft outcomes of UNDA.

Read the reports:

- [What we learned to date report on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan 2023-2028](#)

Engaging Young Men and Boys in Challenging Gender Norms in Addressing Gender-based Violence

The project is developing a Parenting Life Skills toolkit that will convey and reinforce the benefits of working with young Inuit men and boys and provide practical strategies for doing so in ways that address underlying gender norms.

The toolkit will provide helpful information on engaging young Inuit men and boys in promoting gender equality, healthy relationships, and providing care and support to prevent gender-based violence.



Social and Economic Development (SED)

Pauktuutit's Social and Economic Development team has a broad mandate that covers a range of social and economic issues, including political equality, women's leadership, education, housing, early learning and childcare, traditional knowledge preservation, and national and international engagement.

Poverty Reduction

So far, in 2023, Pauktuutit has made significant strides in advocating and supporting efforts to fight against poverty among Inuit women, their children and families in Canada. Our work within poverty reduction, focuses on the unique socio-economic challenges Inuit women face. Working in collaboration with partners, we are advancing targeted measures to alleviate poverty and foster economic self-sufficiency.

Our engagement with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)-led Inuit Nunangat Poverty Reduction Strategy has been particularly noteworthy. By actively participating in every stage of the strategy's development, we've ensured a gendered perspective has been respected, highlighting the distinct circumstances Inuit women and children encounter. Our role in the ITK Ad-Hoc Poverty Reduction Working Group further solidifies our influence, allowing us to voice our concerns and inform discussions with first-hand insights from Inuit women.

Our efforts at this table have been met with tangible success. The incorporation of "Respect for Gender Diversity" as a key priority in the Inuit Nunangat Poverty Reduction Strategy is a testament to the effectiveness of our advocacy. We will continue to actively engage our partners in these initiatives, incorporating the perspectives of Inuit women and providing insights that foster gender equality for Inuit women in all poverty reduction efforts.

In our quest to influence broader policies, we have maintained an ongoing dialogue with various federal government departments. By contributing to consultations, such as with Statistics Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency, we have been able to guide their understanding of the economic realities of

Inuit women, pushing for more accurate and inclusive data representation.

Early Childhood Development and Education

In the area of early childhood development and education our primary focus is on the enrichment of Inuit children, women, and families. Our team's diligent efforts have been centered on policy review, strategic collaboration and representation, successfully engaging with partners to uplift the quality of resources and programming available for early childhood development and education for Inuit children.

As active participants in the Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group (IECDWG) and the National Inuit Committee on Education (NICE), we've ensured that the distinct perspectives and needs of Inuit women and children are recognized and respected. We are particularly excited about our re-established role within NICE, as it has allowed us to significantly influence the National Strategy on Inuit Education. In parallel, our presence in the IECDWG has facilitated our involvement in strategic discussions around Inuit-centric early childhood development policies, funding recommendations, and practices.

We've also been making considerable strides within the technical briefings on the Canada Early Learning and Child Care Act. This newly introduced bill aims to foster Indigenous governance and partnerships, bolstering the development of culturally appropriate Early Learning and Child Care within Canada. We have been vigilant in ensuring that Inuit women's and children's representation is at the forefront of these policy discussions, shaping recommendations and initiatives that reflect our unique needs and strengths.

Our continuous involvement with the Inuit Early Childhood Development initiative has strengthened our relationship with key partners, such as ITK, carving out valuable opportunities to express the interests and priorities of Inuit women and their families. Our work with ITK addresses salient topics, ranging from policy review to the comprehensive examination of a universal Inuit Early Learning Child Care System.



Enhancing Inuit Women's Economic Development

Pauktuutit's Inuit Women in Business network continues to deliver community-specific programming, both virtually and in person. A successful in-person workshop in Pangnirtung, Nunavut, in February 2023 focused on the basics of starting and expanding a business. Future workshops are planned for Fall 2023, potentially Cambridge Bay, Nunavut and Salluit, Nunavik.

Watch for the release of new resources on budgeting, operations and marketing, grants writing and hiring practices; and a research initiative exploring procurement opportunities available to Inuit businesswomen.

Reaching Home Research

Our research into Urban Inuit Homelessness and Housing needs wrapped up in April 2023. Focusing on the needs of Inuit women and families in urban areas, the research provides a critical overview of current services, both governmental and community-specific. The work shines a light on infrastructural and funding gaps which limit the scope of the services.

Equal Futures: Gender Equality Forum

The Social and Economic Development department was invited to participate in Equal Future's annual Gender Equality Forum, which was hosted in Whitehorse, Yukon in May 2023. The department co-facilitated a curated conversation on housing, climate change, gender-based violence as well as political equality.



Rosemary Cooper provided Pauktuutit's insights at the Nunavut 3000 housing Forum.

Nunavut 3000 Housing Forum

Pauktuutit was also invited to participate in the inaugural Nunavut 3000 Housing Forum, held in Iqaluit in June 2023. The forum provided an overview of the plans, coordination and potential funding comprising the Nunavut 3000 housing initiative. This offered important opportunities for Pauktuutit to further collaborate with territorial, regional and community partners in achieving the Nunavut 3000 objective.



Pauktuutit participated in the Equal Future's annual Gender Equality Forum, in Whitehorse, Yukon in May 2023.





Board Members Update

During our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February 2023, members were elected to fill vacancies. Then, on March 9, the newly formed Board of Directors met virtually to elect the Executive Committee.

Gerri Sharpe from Yellowknife, NWT, was re-elected and continues as President. Nancy Etok from Nunavik-Ungava remained in her role as Vice-President. Charlotte Wolfrey, a returning executive member from Nunatsiavut, was chosen as the Secretary-Treasurer, a position she has previously held.

The following Board members continue in their positions;

- Martha Flaherty as the Urban, South-East representative
- Paige Kimiksana-Kreps as the Urban, Youth representative
- Esther Aglukark-Powell representing Kivalliq

We were also excited to welcome the following new board members:

- Catherine Mitsuk representing Happy Valley-Goose Bay
- Sara Idlout representing Nunavik, Hudson
- Lois (Looe) Mike representing Qikiqtani South
- Josephine Tucktoo representing Kitikmeot
- Kourtney Wolkie representing Inuvialuit
- Lillian Lundrigan as the Urban, South-West representative

Two Board Members appointed in August

During a special board meeting held in August, the Pauktuutit Board of Directors appointed new members to fill two vacant positions. Both Elisapee Sheutiapik representing Iqaluit and Iselena Natsiapik, Youth Representative for Inuit Nunangat will serve until the next AGM.



Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada's Board members: L-R: Kourtney Wolkie, Martha Flaherty, Josephine Tucktoo, Nancy Etok, Sarah Idlout, Gerri Sharpe, Catherine Mitsuk, Charlotte Wolfrey, Lillian Lundrigan, Loe Mike and Paige Kimiksana-Kreps. Esther Aglukark-Powell unavailable for photo.



Inuit Women of the Year Awards Celebrate Achievements

Each year, Pauktuutit selects outstanding women to receive Inuk Woman of the Year and Young Inuk Woman of the Year. These awards recognize the important contributions recipients are making within their communities and the inspiration they provide to other Inuit women. We'll be calling for your submissions soon. Plan to nominate someone you know who is making their mark as a strong Inuk woman leader.



2023
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*Award
Recipients*



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Malaya Bishop



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Nikki Komaksiutiksak

Malaya Bishop is this year's Young Inuk Woman of the Year. Originally from Iqaluit, NU, she currently works near Gjoa Haven, NU, as an Underwater Research Technician for Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Team.

In her role with Park's Canada, she proudly works and advocates for locals. She researches Inuit observations, historical data, works and advocates for locals to ensure their voices are included in decisions that impact their communities.

She advocates for diving to be recognized and acknowledged as a valid and legitimate career in Nunavut waters. She enjoys connecting with Inuit community members and schools to present on underwater archaeology and commercial diving careers. She has a passion for listening to stories and searching underwater for potential archaeological sites.

Nikki Komaksiutiksak from Chesterfield Inlet, NU, is this year's Inuk Woman of the Year. The Executive Director of Tunngasugit, Western Canada's first Inuit Resource Centre located in Winnipeg, MB, Nikki is an active member of the Inuit community there and uses her understanding of the South to assist other Inuit moving to the big city.

Nikki demonstrates a passion for her cultural identity. She is an experienced throat singer, teaches Inuit history and culture and is a heartfelt musical performer. Nikki has participated in several international events, including representing Manitoba and Inuit at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Summer Games and more currently, the 2015 Indigenous Music Awards in Winnipeg.





Join our Team!

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

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

We offer

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

and more



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

Who We Are

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

What Is *Suliqpita*?

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

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