

SULIQPITA

Quarterly Newsletter by Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada



Students from Nunavut Sivuniksavut performing at our Annual General Meeting

Message from Our President



Thank you for being interested in Pauktuutit! It has been a busy time, and though I have spent much of the last few months in Ottawa, I enjoyed time with my family at home in Baker Lake, especially over the holidays.

With winter comes the newest edition of our newsletter about our work to support and represent all Inuit women in Canada. Over these past few months our team has grown along with our work. Welcome to our new staff members!

We hope you enjoy the updates below.

Qujannamiik!

Rebecca Kudloo

President and Board Member for Kivalliq Region

What is Suliqpita?

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

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.



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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

Updates from Rebecca

In October I attended the fall sitting of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly and the Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. annual general meeting. While in Iqaluit, Parniga Akeeagok (Board member), Rose Mary Cooper (Political Advisor), and I also met with representatives from the Government of Nunavut, including Premier Joe Savikataaq; Minister of Education, David Joanasie; Elisapee Sheutiapik, Minister of Family Services; and Jeannie Ehloak, Minister of Justice. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss sexual abuse in the workplace following public comments by Iqaluit mayor, Madeleine Redfern, about sexual harassment by Inuit leaders in Nunavut. We discussed safety for women in Nunavut and areas for potential collaboration. I was also able to share resources developed by Pauktuutit for Inuit women on the issue of rights in the workplace.

At the ITK Child Sexual Abuse Forum held on November 21, Susan Aglukark and I were on the agenda together and I gave a presentation centered around my work with Mianiqsijit, a nonprofit community-based counselling program in Baker Lake, Nunavut. This project came into existence in 1989 when Eric Dejaeger, a former Catholic priest, was accused and convicted of sexually assaulting a number of local children. Later that same day, I spoke at the federal Status of Women's (SWC) Gender-Based Analysis Plus Forum on a panel titled, GBA+ and Culturally-Sensitive Decision-Making where I focused on the importance of meaningful engagement and collaboration with Inuit women to develop policies and services that meet our needs. This was the first of three SWC events I attended in November.



Susan Aglukark and President Kudloo at the ITK Child Sexual Abuse Forum

The second one was the Indigenous Women's Advisory Circle, and the last one was to give a presentation to SWC staff on the Inuit experience of colonization. It also included information about Pauktuutit and some of our work.

This busy schedule continued with a reception for the launch of the Inuit Development Corporation Association (IDCA). The Association brings together the many Inuit development corporations across Inuit Nunangat. At the reception I spoke with Clint Davis, Chief Executive Officer of North35 Capital Partners about mutual interests including how the Inuit Women in Business Network may work with IDCA.

The ITK Board of Directors met in November and we approved the Inuit Tuberculosis Elimination Framework and discussed the newly proposed Indigenous child family and services legislation. This was followed by a meeting of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee for discussions on: Inuit priorities on post-secondary education support; Inuit-specific early learning and child care funding; housing; food security; and the Arctic Policy Framework.

An outcome of this meeting was a strong letter of support addressed to the Minister of Indigenous-Crown Relations that states:

"In order to ensure that federal policies and programs are effective for indigenous women and girls, Inuit recognize that the government can and should work with indigenous women's organizations. It is in the spirit of this recognition that the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivik Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami express support for engagement of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada on all matters impacting Inuit women and girls."



President Kudloo giving the closing oral submission to the National Inquiry on MMIWG

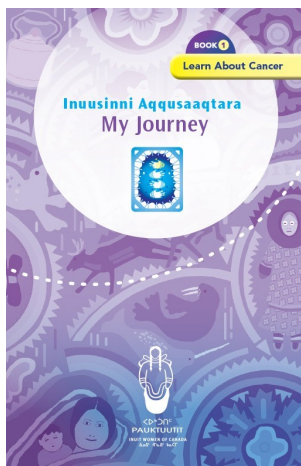
December started with a kick-off event for Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week, where I gave a short speech on the need for Inuit-specific HIV/AIDS awareness and public education.

On December 11, I gave the closing oral submission to the National Inquiry on MMIWG on behalf of Pauktuutit, AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, and Manitoba Inuit Association. The presentation began with a video by Skye Uvliq Cory (available for download from our website). Then, with Elder Sarah Ponniuk, Elder Jeannie Okalik, Jeannie Nayoumealuk, and some of our Board Members, Anita Pokiak, Parniga Akeegok, and Martha Flaherty, we lit the pink candles that have come to symbolize murdered and missing Inuit women and girls. I then gave a speech focused on the messages that emerged from stories that Inuit families shared with the Inquiry, along with our seven recommendations for Inuit-designed and Inuit-delivered services. Please visit our website to read the presentation and report.

This edition of the newsletter comes a little later than planned because we want to update you on our Board meeting and Annual General Meeting that was held January 13 to 17. Please see the end of this report for more details.

Health

Our Health department is continuing its important work on the *Inuusinni Aqqusaaqtara – My Journey* cancer project, funded by Jaguar Land Rover Canada and the Canadian Cancer Society. The health team has engaged ChangeMakers to produce two e-module learning tools to complement our existing cancer resources; one targeted for Inuit cancer patients and their families, and another for health care providers working with Inuit patients. In addition, Wisdom2Action has been hired to develop a communication strategy promoting the cancer project and its resources until the end of the project.



Pauktuutit, in partnership with Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network and the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, also planned and participated in Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week at the beginning of December. As mentioned earlier, President Kudloo was a guest speaker at this event.

As part of the *CheckUp Project*, a face-to-face research team meeting was held in Montreal at the end of January to determine the next steps for the project. This project is aimed at changing social norms around testing to decrease the burden of Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infections (STBBIs) throughout Inuit Nunangat and is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Participants included Pauktuutit's health team and a core research team which includes the University of Saskatchewan, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services. Together we are adapting Nunavik's successful and innovative *CheckUp Project* to ensure relevance and success in other Inuit regions.

On the Horizon

We are excited to announce that our proposal to continue enhancing the National Inuit Sexual Health Network and implementation of *Tavva: The National Inuit Sexual Health Strategy* was approved. This funding is for a five-year period and comes from Indigenous Services Canada through the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. Our health team is currently planning the next face-to-face meeting of the Network and a professional development event.



Violence and Abuse Prevention

The last quarter was a time for planning and designing current projects as well as participating in new opportunities for the Violence and Abuse Prevention department. Our study of gendered violence and shelter needs across Inuit Nunangat has been completed and is being finalized. This research report will serve to inform community members, local organizations and policy makers of the key determinants of violence, and the barriers that prevent more effective action on these specific issues. It will also share prevention and healing initiatives that are currently led by Inuit across Inuit Nunangat.

Our *Access to Justice* project that focuses on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, in partnership with the Law Society of Nunavut is underway. The research design for year one has been outlined and we look forward to planning and collaborating with communities for site visits over the coming months.

In late November, we participated in a three-day international meeting for a discussion of the United Nations Permanent Forum, with over 60 Indigenous women's organizations from South, Central and North America represented. Pauktuutit used this unique opportunity to expand our collaborative network with peer organizations at an international scale.

We also participated in a two-day National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy (NISPS) working group meeting in Inuvik in early December. At the meeting – chaired by ITK and hosted by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation – discussions focused on the outcomes of the *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Forum* held the previous month and outlining next steps for a follow-up meeting. We also learned more about the *Inuit Health Survey* and how we can contribute to it, as well as development of future NISPS funding and implementation strategies for 2019 and beyond. Pauktuutit is now a voting member of the working group and are looking forward to actively engaging with the regions on this initiative.



An offering and a cleansing in the public plaza of Barranco, Lima during the meeting for a discussion of the United Nations Permanent Forum

On the Horizon



The next phase of our *Believe-Ask-Connect* project is being designed and will focus on providing informative resources for Inuit women moving to urban centres, along with helpful strategies to get to know one's new community, stay safe and increase awareness about women's rights.

We are finalizing the last steps before launching our role model campaign – *Pilimmaksarniq - Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls*. Much of the fall was spent on strengthening existing partnerships and identifying strategic leaders in each of the four regions. This campaign will encourage community members to nominate peers who are inspiring because of the respect they show to others and their efforts to create healthy relationships. This project aims to: acknowledge our everyday role models; motivate men, women and youth to speak up about gender-based violence; and promote Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit-informed approaches to living free from violence.

Social and Economic Development

The last quarter has been very busy for the Social and Economic Development department. In November, the Inuit Women in Business Network (IWBN) completed and launched promotional videos featuring urban Inuit businesswomen. The videos highlight the Network, its resources and the many opportunities it provides to members. Also, text and video resources on the entrepreneurial use of Facebook and Etsy (available in both English and Inuktitut) will be published soon. They provide useful instructions and highlight the many marketing advantages of these digital retail platforms in addition to providing useful instructions. All of the resources listed above can be found online at iwbn.ca.

We've also begun work on our Addressing Sexual Harassment and Violence in the Resource Extraction Industry project. This project seeks to

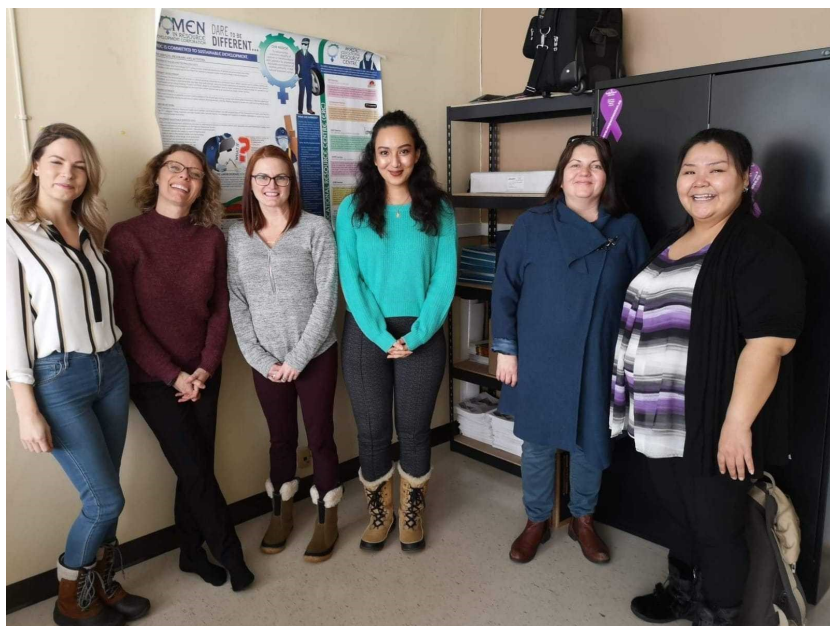
address the socio-economic barriers encountered by Inuit women in the resource extraction industry by identifying the institutional practices that fail to address workplace sexual harassment and violence. We have been strengthening relations with existing regional partners in addition to establishing partnerships with the extraction industry and are formalizing an advisory committee. The next steps include completing a literature review, through a gendered lens, that will assess existing industry policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant human rights codes to gain a more precise understanding of the issue.

In early December, we also participated in a two-day Inuit early childhood development working group meeting in Ottawa that was organized by ITK. Detailed decisions were had on implementing Inuit-specific early learning and child care in Inuit Nunangat and urban areas as well as early childhood development activities in the regions. Also discussed was the allocation of funding by Employment

and Social Development Canada as a result of the National Inuit Early Learning and Child Care framework. This national framework is the result of national consultations with Indigenous women, families and communities and was co-developed with Indigenous peoples and organizations, including Pauktuutit.

On the Horizon

We will be travelling to Iqaluit, Nunavut in April to attend the *Nunavut Mining Symposium and Trade Show* where we will connect with governmental, community and industry leaders about Pauktuutit's previous and current work on Inuit women's participation in the extraction industry.



Left: Our Social and Economic Development team with members of the Women in Resource Development Corporation
Right: Our Social and Economic Development team with Carolyn Michelin of the Labrador Correctional Facility





Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting

During the week of January 13, 2019, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada held meetings attended by members of its Board of Directors, invited delegates and guests, and members of the public. Special guests were The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and Natan Obed, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and informative presentations were given by various individuals and organizations including Inspire Nunavut and Employment and Social Development Canada.

Elections were held for two Board positions. A warm welcome and congratulations are extended to Annie Buchan (Kitikmeot Region) and Gerri Sharpe (Yellowknife) on joining Pauktuutit's Board of Directors. Resolutions from this year's AGM will be made available on our website shortly.

Many talented and community-focused women from across Inuit Nunangat were nominated for Woman of the Year, with the award ultimately being given to Audrey Qamanirq of Arctic Bay, Nunavut. For over 20 years, she has worked to bring back traditional Inuit knowledge like sewing, hunting, and how to use traditional tools. She has done this while balancing work, family responsibilities, and volunteering with community-based committees in addition to being a translator and interpreter. She has helped dozens of Inuit girls and women learn valuable sewing skills including how to make traditional clothing like kamiit, sealskin parkas, and mittens. She has also run programs for young men to hunt and provide char and seal to elders. Congratulations, Audrey!



Though we had many serious discussions, we also took a little time to share country food and play some games. The AGM ended with a celebration of Inuit culture with a fashion show featuring the modern designs of Martha Kyak, owner and designer of InukChic, and a lively and engaging performance by the students of Nunavut Sivuniksavut.



*Right above: President Kudloo and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's President, Natan Obed
Bottom left The Pauktuutit Board of Directors with The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Bottom right: A model wearing an InukChic design*

