

# SULIQPITA

Quarterly Newsletter by Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada



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**PAUKTUUTIT**  
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA



## Message from Our President



Fall will be here soon! And it is my pleasure to present this new edition of Pauktuutit's newsletter, Suliqpita. This newsletter has updates from me as well as our three departments.

We have been leading and participating in a number of important files over the past few months as our departments continue previous projects and begin new ones. Our Policy and Research Department has been very busy, too!

I have spent much of the last few months preparing for fall and winter by preparing caribou and char, and I am grateful for my family who harvest our country foods while I am also travelling across Canada for various meetings.

I hope you enjoy these updates.

Qujanamiik!

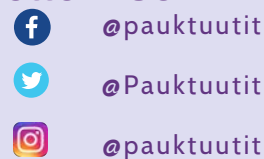
## What is Suliqpita?

Suliqpita means "what are we doing." Suliqpita is Pauktuutit's 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.

## Follow Us



## Contact Us

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## Updates from Rebecca

In June I was in Inuvik for a meeting of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee. This meeting was an opportunity for Inuit leaders and federal Ministers to review shared progress to date that has been made on the seven priority areas defined in the first year of the Committee. Additionally, another priority was made this year – environment and climate change.

I went to Inuvik again in August to participate in ITK's Annual General Meeting where I presented a report on Pauktuutit and our work.

I also travelled to Utqiagvik, Alaska in June to participate in the Inuit Circumpolar Council's 13th Annual General Assembly. At the meeting I opened one of the sessions by lighting the qulliq, while also teaching an Alaskan Inuk woman, with representatives from Alaska, Greenland and Russia around me. There were many topics discussed, including language revitalization, health and wellness, housing, violence and abuse, and the Arctic Policy Framework, among others.

In September, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls continued with a public hearing in Iqaluit where knowledge keepers, experts and institutional representatives provided testimony on the socio-economic, health and wellness impacts of colonial violence. Pauktuutit was represented by our lawyer, Beth Symes, and our Board Member, Parniga Akeeagok. Our Policy and Research team at Pauktuutit has also been heavily involved in supporting our legal counsel for MMIWG hearings taking place across the country. They are actively conducting research to analyze and compile relevant data and statistics on Inuit women and their families to submit as evidence to the Inquiry. I am pleased that Board Members Anne Curley, Charlotte Wolfrey, Anita Pokiak, and Parniga Akeeagok have been hands-on in observing and participating at various hearings in support of our families and legal counsel.



Board Member Parniga Akeeagok (left) with Pauktuutit's lawyer, Beth Symes (right) at the MMIWG public hearing in Iqaluit

## Updates from Rebecca

On September 17, I had the pleasure of meeting face-to-face with my fellow Board Members. At this meeting, the Board approved two new projects: an Inuit-specific gender-based analysis (GBA+) on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. Pauktuutit then held a two-day engagement session from September 18-19 in Ottawa on the federal child and family services legislative reform process. We were asked by the Government of Canada to host this engagement session to ensure that Inuit women are meaningfully consulted in the development and implementation of this new legislation. The session brought together key Inuit representatives, both from Inuit Nunangat and urban centres, who are involved in various sectors associated with the legislation.

Right: Pauktuutit Board Members in attendance at the engagement session on federal child and family services legislative reform  
Below: Participants and Pauktuutit staff at the engagement session







## Updates from Rebecca

I end this update after my return from Mexico City in the first week of October for the Third Session of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls (Canada/US/Mexico). I raised issues related to access to justice for Inuit women and girls, as well as economic rights and empowerment. Laura Churchill, a youth representative from Nunavut, spoke on the empowerment of Indigenous girls and youth. She also shared her views on the challenges facing Inuit youth today in finishing high school and going on to further education, in addition to the importance of support and mental health services for parents to be able to provide a safe and enabling environment for their children. Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister, Status of Women Canada, spoke on the contributing factors to violence against Indigenous women and girls, as well as the federal government's commitment to implementing a gender-based framework in all its policies, programs and initiatives.

Above: President Kudloo had the opportunity to meet Michelle Demmert, Tlingit, Eagle, K̓aax'ooos.hittaan clan and a current delegate and Chief Justice for the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. At the last meeting of the Working Group in New York, President Kudloo lobbied for an Alaskan representative, and she is pleased to see that Alaska was included in this Working Group meeting

Below: President Rebecca Kudloo with Inuit youth representative, Laura Churchill, and Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior





## Health Department Project Updates

This past quarter has been full of travel! We went to Amsterdam, Netherlands to attend the 2018 International AIDS Conference, which included our participation in the International Indigenous Pre-Conference on HIV & AIDS. We also participated in a discussion on health issues affecting Indigenous women and girls with Canada's Minister of Health, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, and other national Indigenous organizations. In August we travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark for the 17th International Congress on Circumpolar Health where we presented on our Naturally Curious sexual health project and our My Journey cancer project. Dr. Veronique Morin, who sits on our National Inuit Health Network, also travelled to the conference and presented on Ikajurniq – An Inuit Cascade of Care Framework for Sexually Transmitted & Blood Borne Infections. In September we attended the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network's Skills Building Sessions and Annual General Meeting in Toronto.

We have also continued our work on the My Journey cancer project, funded by Jaguar Land Rover Canada and the Canadian Cancer Society. Under the guidance of our Cancer Project Advisory Committee, we made updates to the My Journey booklet. Additionally, we put out two calls for proposals for this project – one for a communications plan and another for e-modules. We are currently in the process of awarding the calls for proposals. With the assistance of our summer student, Amy Hull, we have begun developing an Inuit-specific sharing circle module for the My Journey project. This module will be created with Inuit patients and their families and front-line health workers in mind.



Representatives from national Indigenous organizations with Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor at the 2018 International AIDS Conference



## On the Horizon

We have a busy few months ahead! We are planning a face-to-face meeting in Montreal in October with our research team as part of the CheckUp Project – funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. We are adapting Nunavik's CheckUp Project to ensure its relevance and success in other Inuit regions with the goal of changing social norms around testing to decrease the burden of STBBIs throughout Inuit Nunangat. Additionally, we have partnered with Dalhousie University for the adaptation of the Community Readiness Model, which is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. As part of this partnership, we are planning a Workshop Planning Meeting in Ottawa for 2019 with our partners from Dalhousie and the communities of Clyde River, Kugluktuk and Arviat. We will also be attending the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology Conference in October in Charlottetown, PEI, where we will be presenting the My Journey Cancer Project. Pauktuutit, in partnership with Tungasuvvingat Inuit, the Ottawa Hospital Cancer Program and the University of Ottawa, is planning a craft day with Inuit cancer patients and families in October, which will be taking place at Tungasuvvingat Inuit.

Did you know that we have a Facebook page dedicated to our "Naturally Curious" project? Find it @NaturallyCuriousProject

**Naturally  
Curious**



A picture from our trip to  
Clyde River as part of our  
research on shelters

## Violence and Abuse Prevention Department Project Updates

This past quarter, we have been working on completing our study of gendered violence and shelter needs across Inuit Nunangat. The comprehensive research study carried out a needs assessment of shelter services for women and a mapping of the related hard costs of violence. It will identify the key determinants of violence, such as a lack of access to safe, affordable housing, and the barriers that prevent more effective action, in order to understand what is actually needed to prevent violence against Inuit women and girls. The study offers insight on what change can look like and highlights key prevention and healing initiatives created and led by Inuit across Inuit Nunangat. The team completed our final travels for this project by visiting Cape Dorset, Iqaluit and Clyde River. We also travelled to Toronto for a full-day event hosted by Status of Women Canada. This meeting served as an opportunity to provide feedback to Status of Women Canada on their proposed framework for a nationwide consultation on developing a national strategy to engage men and boys in gender equality.





## On the Horizon

Our team has spent the summer preparing for the key initiative of the second year of the Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls project – a role model campaign. This campaign will seek to encourage men, women and youth to speak out about gender-based violence and promote Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit informed approaches to actively foster pathways to live free from violence.

We have also received funding for a fifth year of the Believe-Ask-Connect project, funded by Indigenous Services Canada. This year, the project will aim to support women who are moving to an urban centre by creating resources with accessible information regarding their rights and local resources that are available. Our videos from past years of Believe-Ask-Connect are also available in both Inuktitut and English on our YouTube channel.

Our team has also been working hard to push forward for research that will help shed light on the needs and realities of Inuit women's access to justice. We have established a relationship with the Law Society of Nunavut to conduct research regarding the barriers Inuit women face in accessing justice, and specifically, if the Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA) is meeting the needs of survivors of intimate partner violence. Pauktuutit and the Law Society of Nunavut have successfully received funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario to complete this research and create a comprehensive public awareness campaign guided by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Principles, aiming to break the silence around abuse. This new project will be launched in the next quarter and will be carried out over the next two years.



### Pilimmaksarniq

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS IN REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

We are excited to soon begin our role model campaign as part of the Pilimmaksarniq project!



## Social and Economic Development Department Project Updates

In the last quarter, we have been busy planning for future projects and getting ready for the fall! In May, we completed our Mentorship for Inuit Women Project, in addition to finalizing its final project resources. This three-year project, funded by Status of Women Canada, connected women in earlier stages of business development with women with significant business experience. Matches between mentors and mentees were made according to shared business interests, objectives and expertise. The final project resources included a training program to guide Inuit women through their mentoring relationship. Included in this training program are also PowerPoints that give an overview of how to start a mentorship group, how to conduct meetings and setting goals, along with resources that will be helpful when starting or expanding a business.

We also participated in a two-day Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group meeting in Ottawa. During this meeting - organized by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami - the Working Group shared and discussed early childhood development activities in the regions. At this meeting, initial decisions were made on a path forward for implementing Inuit-specific early learning and child care in Inuit Nunangat, with funding to be provided by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The group also discussed Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) priorities around education and child welfare. On September 17, it was announced that the Government of Canada is committing \$1.7 billion over 10 years to strengthen and support early learning and child care programs and services for Indigenous children and families starting in 2018-19. This is part of the commitment of \$7.5 billion over 11 years the government has made to support and create more high-quality, affordable child care across the country. The national framework was co-developed alongside Indigenous peoples and organizations, including Pauktuutit, through national consultations with Indigenous women, families and communities.



The Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group at their meeting in Ottawa



## On the Horizon

We have exciting news! We have received funding from Status of Women Canada through their Women's Program for a new three-year 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 effectively address the issue of workplace sexual harassment and violence. Working in the resource extraction industry is an important opportunity for socio-economic and community development for Inuit women, yet this is negatively impacted by the violence experienced by Inuit women.

By working directly working with partners, such as the resource extraction industry and regional governments, this project is intended to address and reduce the institutional barriers that have contributed to this sexual harassment and violence by developing more effective policies and practices in the workplace. It will also identify the violence encountered by Inuit women working in the resource extraction industry and address it by cultivating safe and secure workplace environments.

### **The Impact of Resource Extraction on Inuit Women and Families in Qamani'tuaq, Nunavut Territory**



A Report for the Canadian Women's Foundation  
January, 2016  
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada  
School of Social Work, University of British Columbia

**A  
quantitative  
assessment**

Pauktuutit has done work on the resource extraction industry in the past. Check out this report on our website for more info!