

Updates from Rebecca

After an array of spring travel, summer was a slower period of time. One of the biggest events was the ITK Board meeting and Annual General Meeting. Due to family matters, I couldn't attend, but sent my president's report to the Board of Directors, and our Political Advisor to the Executive, Rose Mary Cooper, was in attendance. Various important topics were discussed, including suicide prevention, the new Inuit health survey, and the implementation of the National Inquiry's Calls to Justice.

October saw a Pauktuutit Board of Directors meeting that I could not attend due to family matters. However, our vice-president, Anne Curley, chaired the two-day meeting in my place. We discussed many of Pauktuutit's priority areas, including:

- implementing our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Canada in four priority areas: health and well-being, violence and abuse prevention, poverty reduction, and an Inuit-specific gender-based analysis;
- our MOU with ITK intended to strengthen our partnership and better coordinate efforts to advance the well-being of all Inuit, including in the creation of the MMIWG National Action Plan and participation on working groups;
- fulfilling our work on the National Inquiry's Calls to Justice, including work as part of the MMIWG Commemoration Fund and research on police response to violence against Inuit women;
- the awarding of recent funding as part of the Conversations on Gender Equality with Young Canadians Initiative to work with young Indigenous people across Canada and engage them on gender equality; and
- updates on the Pauktuutit history project.

I would also like to congratulate Prime Minister Justin and the Liberal Party of Canada upon their re-election. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with the Prime Minister and his new Cabinet. I would also like to congratulate Mumilaaq Qaqqaq from my community of Baker Lake on her election to MP of Nunavut. She is an inspirational young woman and we are excited to see her represent Nunavut in Parliament.

RAGLES

Rebecca Kudloo, President



Right: President Kudloo with Nunavut MP Mumilaaq Qaqqaq in Baker Lake

Health

The health team has been travelling a lot! We presented on our project *Inuusinni Aqqusaaqtara – My Journey*, the Inuit Cancer Project at the World Indigenous Cancer Conference in Calgary, the International Psycho-Social Oncology Symposium in Banff, and the Inuit Studies Conference in Montreal. This project is generously funded and supported by the Canadian Cancer Society. Two new e-learning modules will soon complement the existing suite of Inuit-specific cancer resources available for patients and their families, and health care providers. The health team is also collecting stories from folks across Inuit Nunangat that have used our resources or have a cancer story they want to share. Please email dlabrash@pauktuutit.ca for more information.

We held a meeting of the National Inuit Sexual Health Network alongside the HIV/STI World Congress in Vancouver in July. Pauktuutit is excited to continue enhancing the Network with funding from Indigenous Services Canada and to continue implementing *Tavva: The National Inuit Sexual Health Strategy*. The

Network is currently working on developing indicators for Inuit sexual health.

Additionally, the four-year research project, *Adapting the Community Readiness Model (CRM) for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Education and Screening with Inuit Communities Developing Strategies for HIV Prevention with Community Input & Collaboration* launched the *Adapted Community Readiness Model (CRM) Questions for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Education and Screening with Inuit Communities* on October 10. It can be viewed on Pauktuutit's website.

Pauktuutit is also working closely with Indigenous Services Canada in response to calls for progress on a distinct, Inuit-specific needs assessment to understand informed consent and the impact of coerced sterilization on Inuit communities in the context of Indigenous women's reproductive health rights. Pauktuutit is hosting information sessions in communities across Inuit Nunangat and has so far visited Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and Inuvik, with upcoming visits to Kuujuaq, Nain and Cambridge Bay. If you want to talk about this topic or its impact in your community, please contact Rebecca Jones at rjones@pauktuutit.ca



Left: the members of the National Inuit Sexual Health Network at the HIV/STI World Congress in Vancouver

On the Horizon

We have received funding through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program for a project entitled, *Cannabis in Our Communities: A Focus on Inuit Youth and Maternal Health and Well-Being*. This three-year project seeks to assess knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in Inuit communities around cannabis and raise awareness

of the effects and potential impacts of cannabis.

We are also continuing work on the *CheckUp Project*. In partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Pauktuutit is scaling up and enhancing Nunavik's campaign launched by the Nunavik

Regional Board of Health and Social Services, that uses social marketing and social media to influence the social norms around screening and the normalization of testing for STBIs. Follow the Facebook page for posts, memes and to see our youth retreats!

Violence and Abuse Prevention

As part of our *Pilimmaksarniq – Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls* project, we are currently collaborating with the community role models nominated this past spring to learn about their own journey and approaches to creating healthy relationships with others and themselves. Through these exchanges we will develop a campaign to foster awareness about healthy relationships and leading a life free of violence.

Our Access to Justice project, in partnership with the Law Society of Nunavut, focuses on understanding the experience of Nunavummiut with the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* (FAIA). The project has three parts: (1) collaboration with Nunavummiut and hearing of their experiences, (2) validating and understanding all the information, and (3) developing an awareness campaign. This fall we are beginning to travel to communities across Nunavut to learn from communities, women survivors of intimate partner violence and service providers.

We are happy to share that we will be launching our *Believe-Ask-Connect* project titled *Sivummuatsiarniq: An Urban Resource Guide for Inuit Women*. This project includes three resources designed to support Inuit women when moving to Canadian urban centres. One offers information about services available in six Canadian cities and includes helpful strategies to navigate a new city, stay safe, and helpful reminders about individual rights. This resource is being sent to all communities across Inuit Nunangat with the help of First Air, Calm Air, Canadian North and Air Borealis. The second resource is designed for *qallunaat* (non-Inuit) service providers to increase their cultural competency when working with Inuit; all services listed in the women's resources will be receiving copies, including additional services, such as hospitals. The final resource is an online interactive map that includes all the listed services from the resource guide. It is now available on our website, along with the two other resources as printable PDFs.

Our Sivummuatsiarniq resource for Inuit women is available in English and two dialects of Inuktitut. We also have information for service providers in French and English. Check out our website to view all of the resources!

On the Horizon

Pilimmaksarniq– Engaging Men and Boys in Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls has been a three-year project. This year is the third and final year and we have begun planning a face-to-face engagement session that will take place at the end of the year to share and identify key lessons and pathways forward.



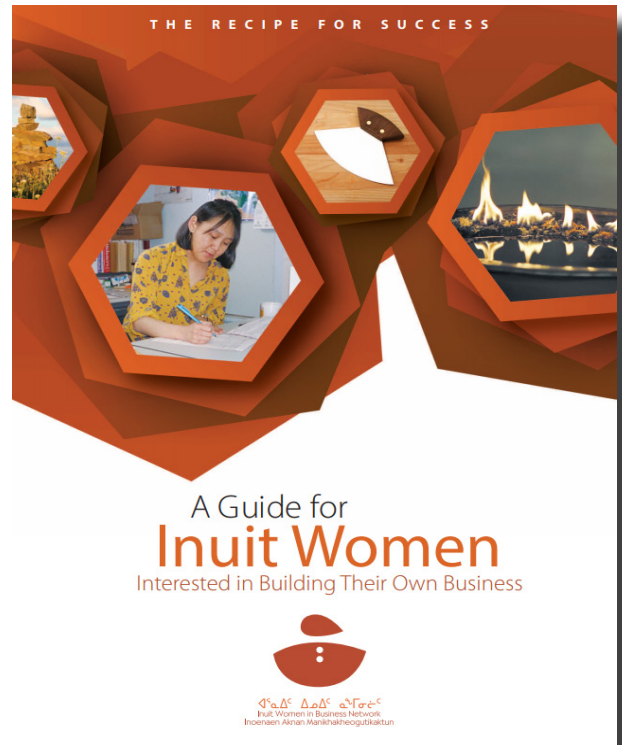
Social and Economic Development

This summer, our focus has been on the delivery of surveys which will document Inuit women's experiences in the resource extraction industry, with a particular focus on workplace safety and rights. With input from relevant technical experts and our Advisory Committee, the department finalized the surveys in June. In July and August, our team travelled to Arviat and Salluit to speak to Inuit women who have and/or are currently working in the resource extraction industry.

The department is also busy planning its future survey delivery trips to Inuvik and Nain. The feedback we receive from Inuit women through the surveys will help us analyze the issue of safety and rights in the resource extraction industry.

The department also completed its comprehensive literature review, through a gendered lens, which assesses the effectiveness of existing industry policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant human rights codes to get a better understanding of the issue.

The department has also been busy launching another exciting project! We have received funding for a project titled, *Enhancing the Economic Security of Inuit Women*. Over the next five years, the project will focus on enhancing and formalizing Pauktuutit's current socio-economic development activities, including: relevant data collection and analysis; strengthening international linkages between Inuit businesswomen and other Indigenous businesswomen; enhancing the current resources and business supports of the Inuit Women in Business Network; and establishing a national Inuit Women's Business Council.



Our Inuit Women in Business Network website has plenty of resources available, including a guide for Inuit women interested in building their own business. Check out this resource and others at pauktuutit.ca/iwbn

On the Horizon

We are looking forward to hosting our first Inuit Women's Business Council meeting in late November. The meeting will bring together relevant experts from across Inuit Nunangat and Canada to help guide Pauktuutit's social and economic development activities and priorities.