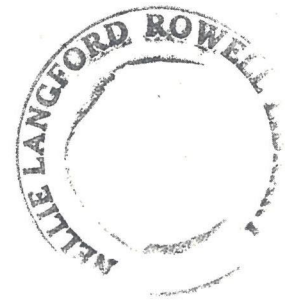
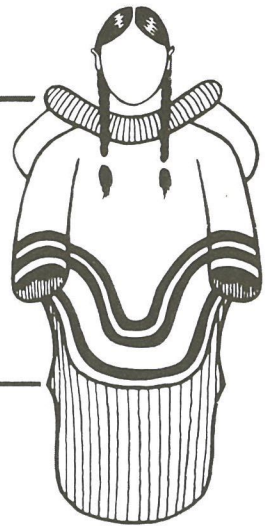


Suvaguuq

Inuit Women's Association Newsletter

October/November, 1985 Volume 1, Number 2



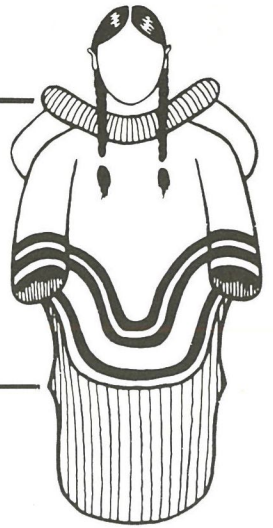
**IWA busy during
summer months**

**Labrador
women's groups:
An inside look**

**"Inuit Women are
not alone in their
struggle for
self-sufficiency"**

**-Jeela Moss-Davies
President, IWA**

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

First of all, in this issue of *Suvaguuq*, I send my greetings to you all.

I feel that one of the primary reasons for having this newsletter is to increase the awareness Inuit women have of one another in each community across the North. In this particular issue we focus on Inuit women in Labrador.

Due to limited funding, we could only afford to send our editor to one region in the North. Hopefully, in the future, we will be in a position to travel to every region and focus on its Inuit women and their local groups.

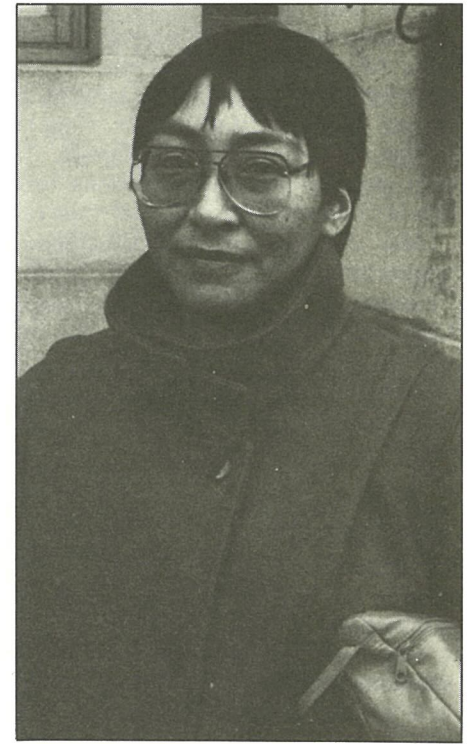
One of the developments resulting from the IWA's annual general meeting held in Igloolik has been the establishment of newly-formed women's groups in the various regions. Regardless of the reasons why these groups have been formed—whether to take care of one particular need or many needs—Inuit women's groups have to have a sense of purpose to their community, group, family and to themselves. It is important to remember that individual ideas come from each and every one of you and that your

community is there to help implement them. You also have the support of the Inuit Women's Association of Canada.

In July, I attended "Forum 85," a non-governmental, international women's conference in Kenya, Africa. The 10-day conference, which was sponsored by the United Nations, marked the anniversary of a "Decade For Women", established during the conference's first meeting in Mexico City in 1975. At the conference, I learned that Inuit women are not alone in their struggle for self-sufficiency. This was reflected in what these women, who came from different parts of the world, had to say. It was most exciting to meet these women, as well as listen to their different viewpoints.

In closing, I would like to say that the future development of Inuit women is really up to each woman, individually. If our people and culture are to endure, the focus has to be on community activities and long-term benefits—not only for women—but for everyone.

Takvauvuusi,
Jeela Alilkatuktuk Moss-Davies.



Jeela Moss-Davies.


Kelly Curruin/Nortext

Suvaguuq wishes to apologize for incorrectly identifying the women in the following two photo credits found in issue #1.

P2. Photo correction: Middle row: From left to right, Inooya Inuk, Jeela Moss-Davies, Annie Okalik, Okpik Pitseolak.

P3. Top photo correction: Theresa Taqtaq.

P8. Middle photo correction: Inooya Inuk (left), Annie Okalik (right).



Suvaguuq is published four times a year by the Inuit Women's Association. We welcome your letters and comments. Please write to us at:

176 Gloucester Street,
4th Floor, Ottawa,
Ontario K2P 0A6,
or telephone:
(613) 238-3977

Editor's Note

Read....Don't Light the Fire Yet

I was pleased to receive such a positive response from readers of our last newsletter. There was, however, one complaint—I failed to tell my readers just exactly who I am.

I am Labrador Inuk and a graduate of ITC's one-year journalism training course offered in Ottawa last year. I am happy to be able to convey useful information about Inuit women to you, as well as have the opportunity to see problems which have been avoided for a long time being confronted.

One of the first lessons learned in journalism is to be objective. I feel the way I convey information reflects part of my personal character. However, when one is working towards something that one believes in as strongly as I do, the need for a deeper, more human understanding often replaces classroom objectivity. IWA is a growing organization con-

cerned about very real issues of vital importance to very real people. I am glad to be a part of that. With your help, I will be able to better inform Inuit women from all of Canada's regions about your concerns. I have had some problems contacting Inuit women's groups in some regions. If you know of a women's group in your area, please contact the IWA office in Ottawa. We would like, in later issues, to report on women's groups, so that you may compare and share interests common to all Inuit women and their organizations. I welcome any letters you may care to send.

Mail to: Nora Jarrett
176 Gloucester Street
4th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0A6



Ottawa Pauktuutit Busy During Summer Months

The Inuit Women's Association was quite busy during the summer months. In July, IWA President Jeela Moss-Davies attended Forum '85, a 10-day, non-governmental, international women's conference in Nairobi, Kenya. While in Nairobi, she later attended the United Nations 1985 World Conference as an official observer.

Mali Curley, IWA's translator/liason worker attended the 8th Annual Inuktitut Terminology Conference at the Inuit Cultural Institute in Tuktoyaktuk for four days in August.

Bernadette Immaroitok, who works as a freelance interpreter-translator, worked on IWA's first annual report with Nancy Hall, who has a great deal of experience working with native organizations. In June, IWA board members flew to Ottawa for a board meeting. Some topics of discussion at that meeting included the publication of this second newsletter, a report on the development of constitutional matters, health issues, administration and regional reports. The next IWA board meeting will be in Ottawa October 21-23, 1985.

IWA is establishing itself as a new organization and had its first financial audit this year.



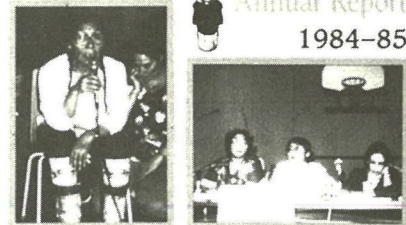
Nora Jarrett

Sybella Bennett (left) and Tabea Murphy look through an issue of Suvaguuq.



Annual Report

1984-85



Pauktuutit
Inuit Women's Association

The IWA produced its first annual report this year. Copies are available from Pauktuutit's Ottawa office.

IWA Fall Schedule of Meetings

Fall Events:

September 9-12:

IWA regional board member Helen Tologanak attended the Native Women's Association of Canada Annual General Meeting in Slave Lake, Alberta.

September 17-18:

Helen Tologanak, IWA regional board member, attended a meeting of the Society for Circumpolar Health in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

September 19-20:

IWA president Jeela Moss-Davies attended the ICC Arctic Policy Conference in Montreal, Québec.

September 24-28:

Jeela Moss-Davies attended the Nunavut Constitutional Forum in Coppermine.

October 7-11:

Jeela Moss-Davies to attend Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Board Meeting, to be held in Ottawa, Ontario.

October 21-23:

IWA will host a board meeting in Ottawa, Ontario.



Labrador Women Help Preserve Culture

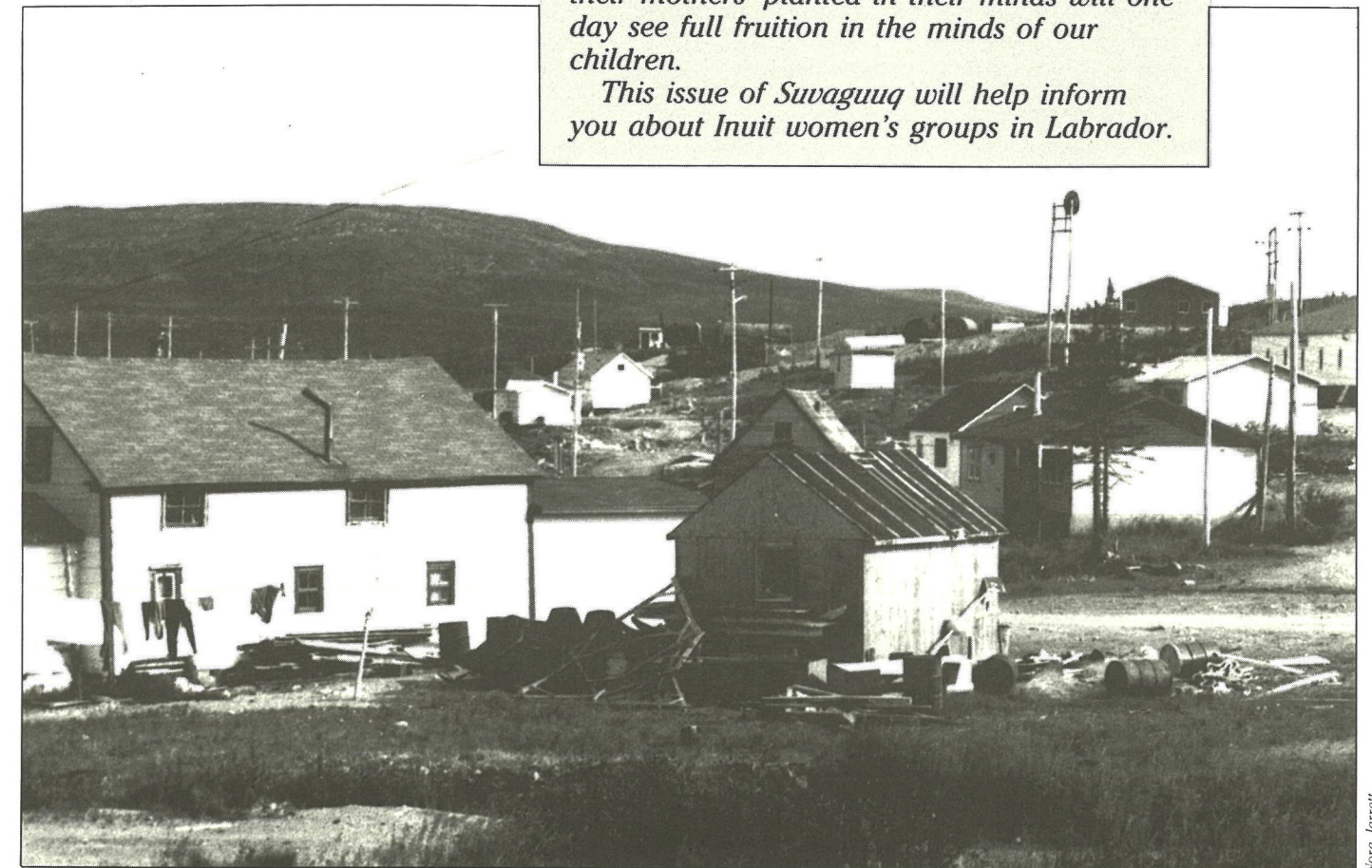
Throughout the years, intermarriage between settlers and native people in Labrador has produced a special kind of culture there.

And Inuit women have played a large part in the preservation of that culture and heritage. Labrador's native people have been influenced by the whiteman's ways ever since the early 1700s. However, they have managed to keep much of their own heritage while adapting to these new ways. The preservation of the Inuit language and traditional ways has been these women's main concern. As a new generation of Inuit women begin to take on these responsibilities, they too are faced with problems similar to their grandparents.

Through determination and the work of organized groups, Inuit women in Labrador hope that one day the rich cultural seed their mothers' planted in their minds will one day see full fruition in the minds of our children.

This issue of Suvaguuq will help inform you about Inuit women's groups in Labrador.

Makkovik, Labrador.



Nora Jarrett



Nain Women's Group

President: Rosina Kalleo
 Vice President: Regina Lyall
 Secretary Treasurer: Theresa Baikie
 Project Co-ordinator: Randy Sweetnam

The Nain Women's Group is both the most northerly and the oldest of the women's groups in Labrador. It was formed in 1975 by then president Nancy Pamack, along with Mary Dickers, Joanna Anderson, Miriam Fox and Wendy Mishkin. The group began by holding meetings in the community's old mission house until they received a loan to build a daycare centre, which is fully operating today. There are now 7 to 10 regular members and they hold meetings twice a month. Three women are paid by social services to work at the daycare centre. The daycare is \$10 daily and includes a hot meal and two snacks for the children. The daycare centre is equipped with all the necessities for the tots. Women on fixed incomes who are unable to pay for daycare may receive assistance from social services.

The group received \$15,000 funding in from the Native Peoples Agreement for a full-time project co-ordinator. Unfortunately, no women applied for the position. However, a well-qualified man, Randy Sweetnam, who has much experience working with Inuit organizations, has taken on the position. An additional



Members of the Nain Women's Group. Left to right: Tabea Murphy, Miriam Fox, Sybella Bennett, Randy Sweetnam, Rose Jedorre, Regina Lyall, Rosina Kalleo, Nancy Pamack and Theresa Baikie (kneeling).

\$1,500 has been provided by the Secretary of State to help the group's operating costs.

The women hold bake sales regularly and run a thrift shop in the daycare centre's basement where they sell used clothing.

The group is now looking into laws governing bingos and lotteries and it

hopes to raise more funds for the group! Future plans also include submitting a proposal to the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) to evaluate the social effects of unemployment, as well as assess possibilities for job creation within the community. The group is also discussing the possibility of setting up a country food store and a craft centre in the community.

The group's objectives are:

- To work for the advancement, benefit and improvement of the women and children of Nain;
- To provide help and assistance to all people in need;
- To promote and advance the social, economic, health, recreational, political and legal conditions, interests, rights and aspirations of the women of Nain;
- To promote and advance the role of women in education;
- To network with other organizations whose interests are similar to the group's.

The hard work done by the Nain Women's Group speaks for itself. These women are not only benefitting themselves but the entire community. Congratulations on a job well done.



Founding president of the Nain Women's Group Nancy Pamack.



Makkovik Women's Group

President: Ruth Flowers
 Vice-President: Kate Mitchell
 Secretary-Treasurer: Violet Voisey
 Project Co-ordinator: Blanche Winters

The Makkovik Women's Group was formed in the summer of 1983 by Harriet Noggasak and Celeste Anderson. The group now has ten regular members and meets once a month. The women hold meetings and run a thrift shop in a building given them by the community council. Here they sell used clothing on consignment. For example, for every dollar worth of clothing they sell, an additional 10¢ is added which goes to support the women's group. In this way



Ruth Flowers, president of the Makkovik Women's Group.

the women not only help the group, but the community as well. The thrift shop is open for two hours each day Monday through Friday.

The group also holds bake sales to raise money for activities year-round. With money raised from past bake sales, the group was able to supply free hot dogs and juice for the children in the community on Canada Day. At Christmas last year, they gave a party for the children and elderly with money that was raised through the year. This year they were even able to raise enough funds to make a donation to the Paddon Memorial Home to help buy eyeglasses for the elderly.

The group has its own broomball team and has also raised money for the local soccer team. Although the group is pretty active in the community, it would still like

to start its own dart league and to have regular recreation nights for its members. The group has plans for a daycare centre in the future, but their main concerns right now are housing and the local economy.

- The groups goals are:
- To unite the women of the community;
 - To preserve as much culture as possible; and

- To work for the betterment of the community.

Though the group is relatively new, it has established good working relations with other Inuit organizations in the community. The Makkovik Women's Group is well established and the fruits of the women's labour are visible in the community.



Members of the Makkovik Women's Group pose for a photograph in front of their office.

Hopedale Women's Group

President: Kitura Able
 Vice-President: Amalia Freida
 Secretary: Augusta Kaujasiak
 Treasurer: Julianna Winters
 Co-ordinator: Jeannie Hunter

The Hopedale Women's Group was formed in March 1984. There are five

regular members and the group is trying to encourage the participation of many other women in the community. Because of the lack of participation, the group only meets when it feels there is an issue which needs to be discussed.

bake sales and through the thrift shop which it has set up at the Moravian



Nora Jarrett

Suvaguuq editor Nora Jarrett (left) and Benigna Harris.

Mission House. They have bingo games on Monday nights and card games on Tuesday nights. Each game costs \$2. The winner takes half of the proceeds while the other half goes to the group.

On Canada Day this year the women baked a large birthday cake for the children in the community and also provided free chips, coke and a full-course meal. At Easter all the children are given Easter eggs and there are races, games and contests for the children with prizes going to the winners. To help the women's group fund the events the Secretary of State provided a \$250 grant.

The groups' goal is to work toward the betterment of the community by

preserving the Inuit culture and providing as much social activity as possible. Current plans include a tele-conference on job creation with the Royal Commission on Unemployment, the Labrador Inuit Association and the community council.

The group also helps people in times of need, for example, when they are not able to afford food and/or clothing.

The five members of this group have done well in their community. We would like to wish them luck in encouraging more women in their community to get involved in a worthwhile cause. ○

Inuatsuk Women's Group Of Happy Valley

President: Andrea Webb
 Vice-President: Sarah Ponniuk
 Secretary-Treasurer: Margaret Kohlmeister
 Project Co-ordinator: Patsy Sampson

The Inuatsuk Women's Group in Happy Valley is the most southernly of the women's groups in Labrador. It has been in existence since April 1981 and recently moved into its new office in the lower section of Happy Valley. A bookshelf, desk and filing cabinet were donated by the owner of the building, Lee Parsons. The local Friendship Centre in Happy Valley has provided space for the women to run a thrift shop to help raise money for the group. Proceeds from the thrift shop and money raised from bake sales enables them to pay their rent as well as buy some office supplies. The group is experiencing growing pains caused by a lack of funding, but receives \$1,500 funding every six months to pay for a co-ordinator.

The group provides translation services for the Melville Hospital and future plans include establishing a daycare centre as well as a shelter for battered women. The women also assist the elderly in the community by performing various tasks which the elderly are unable to do themselves.

Presently, the main concerns of the group are housing and job training for Inuit people.

- The groups objectives are:
- To assist Inuit women to act as a unified voice by providing a forum for discussion to speak on their behalf;



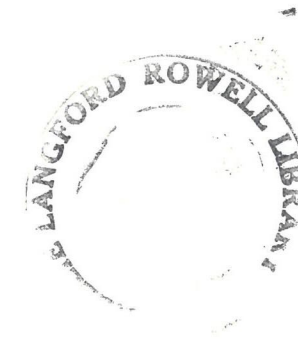
Nora Jarrett

Left to right: Inuatsuk president Andrea Webb, Sara Asauak, Liza Collins and Sarah Ponniuk. Standing: Patsy Sampson.

- To assist Inuit women in the areas of housing, public transportation and daycare by approaching sources of aid in these areas;
- To promote Inuit language within the schools;
- To promote traditional Inuit ways of family and community;
- To promote education and training in job and job-related skills to allow

Inuit women to take advantage of job opportunities.

Group president Andrea Webb is pleased to see that other groups and organizations in the community are noticing the Inuatsuk Women's Group as a group with a voice. She says they have established a good reputation as a group that is beneficial to the Inuit community. ○



We Need You!



IWA is in the process of promoting its membership drive. In order to best represent all Inuit women, we need you as members. For a nominal fee (\$10 for adults, \$5 for youth and elders), you could become an IWA member.

Membership entitles you to voting rights within the association; IWA's newsletter; provides a forum for annual general meetings and much more.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please fill out the following and forward to our office as soon as possible. We are anxious to hear from you!

Yes, I am interested in becoming an IWA member.

Name _____

Adress _____

Phone # _____ Age _____

What are some of the issues you feel IWA should address?

Mail to: Inuit Women's Association, 4-176 Gloucester St., Ottawa, Ontario. K2P 0A6

