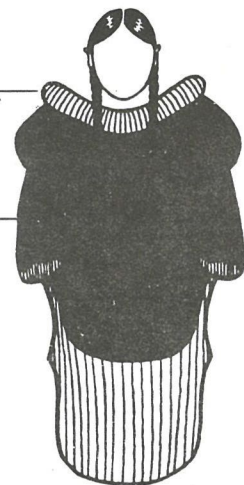


1992
Volume VII Number 1

SUVAGUUQ

National Newsletter on Inuit Social and Cultural Issues

PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



1992 Elections Results



Newly Elected PAUKTUUTIT President Martha Flaherty with Silpa Edmunds, Edith Haogak and Mary Matto.

The delegates at the 1992 annual general meeting of Pauktuutit in Kuujjuaq, Quebec, elected in a new president and a new Board of Directors.

Martha Flaherty was elected President for a one year term, filling the vacancy left by Mary Sillett when she resigned to become one of the Commissioners of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.



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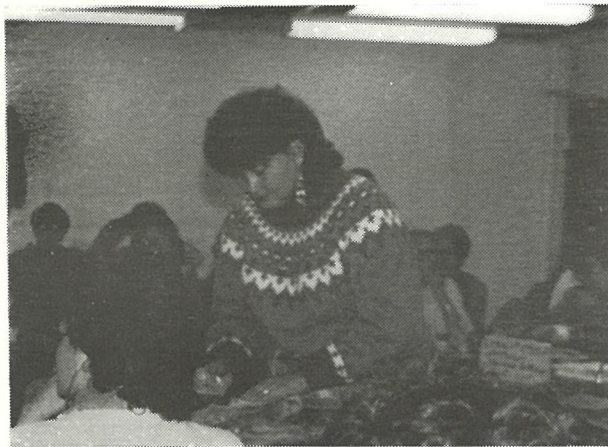
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Martha Greig, who was Pauktuutit's Health Coordinator, was acclaimed Vice President, while Andrea Webb of Labrador is now the Secretary-Treasurer.

The new regional members of the Board of Directors are as follows:

- Edith Haogak - Western Arctic
- Salomie Qitsualik - Kitikmeot
- Hattie Alaralak - Keewatin
- Enooya Enook - S/Baffin
- Leah Panniluk - N/Baffin
- Kitty Pearson - Ungava, Quebec
- Lizzie Palliser-Hudson, Quebec
- Sharon Edmunds - Labrador



Nipisa Lyall was honored by the delegates of Pauktuutit's AGM for her unselfish deeds within her community.

1992 AGM RESOLUTIONS

Women Under-Represented

WHEREAS: Inuit women are not currently *represented to the same extent as men* on northern boards, committees, and organizations; and

WHEREAS: these boards, committees and organizations, as well as the Inuit public, would benefit from the participation of more women and the skills and ideas which Inuit women can offer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly encourages all northern boards, committees, and organizations to actively pursue the involvement and participation of Inuit women in their decision-making bodies, and that the goal should be an *equal balance of women and men* on these bodies. 92-11

INUIT URGED TO CLEAN-UP THEIR ACT

WHEREAS Inuit leaders are looked to by the community to provide leadership and role models for the communities and Inuit society; and

WHEREAS these positions of authority call for the highest standards of behavior, ethics and integrity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT all Inuit organizations develop and implement *codes of conduct*:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Inuit women be provided the opportunity to participate in *the development of these codes* of conduct. 92-12

Pauktuutit Board to Develop Code of Conduct

As a follow-up to Pauktuutit's AGM resolution 92-12, Pauktuutit has written to all Inuit organizations asking them to contribute to the kind of behaviour the code of conduct should address. Pauktuutit's Board of Directors will begin developing a Code of Conduct for Inuit leaders at their upcoming Board Meeting scheduled for Ottawa this September.

What do you think a Code of Conduct should contain? Call or write us with your ideas:

Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association
804-200 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5
(613) 238-3977 Fax (613)238-1787

MEN ASKED TO CO-OPERATE

WHEREAS: Inuit women are taking a leading role in addressing family violence and violence against women and children in Inuit society;

AND WHEREAS: the responsibility for developing solutions to these serious social problems must involve women and men from every segment of society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly encourages *men to work with women* in addressing family violence, child sexual abuse, and violence against women and children and in *developing and implementing solutions* to these serious social problems.



IMMEDIATE INCARCERATION AND IMMEDIATE CHARGES - PLEASE!

WHEREAS Inuit women are concerned with the *delays by police in laying* charges and *arresting* individuals immediately following the reports of sexual assault by victims;

AND WHEREAS, after a sexual assault charge is laid, further delays occur before the trial of the individual charged with sexual assault;

AND WHEREAS these delays create problems for the community and, in particular, the families involved;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urge the police and justice system to *respond promptly to sexual assault offences*.

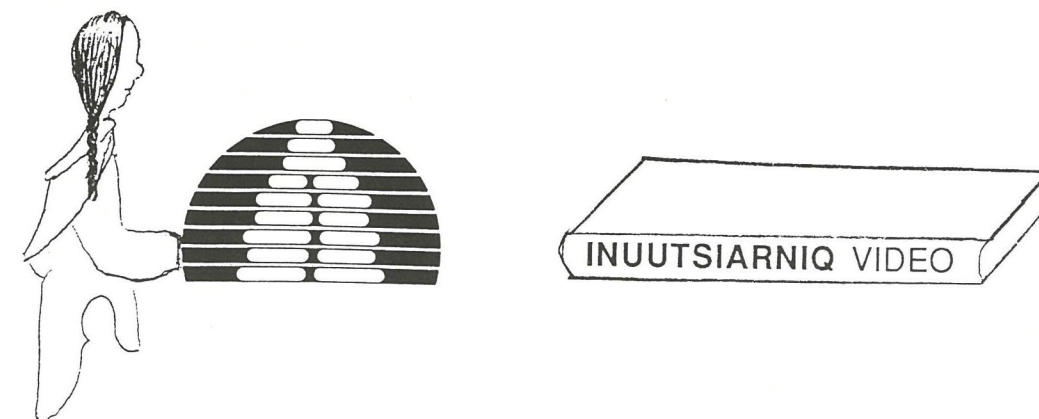
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT when making a decision to detain an individual charged with sexual assault, prior to the trial, the police and courts should give *equal weight to the safety and concerns* expressed by the victim and the community

SUICIDE PREVENTION

WHEREAS every Inuk woman, man, and child has suffered the loss of family, friends or community members through suicide;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT suicide prevention continue to be a high priority issue for Pauktuutit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit support all community and regional suicide prevention initiatives including efforts in the Keewatin region to create an agency or board to deal specifically with the problem of suicide.



Pauktuutit and IBC are co-producing "Inuutsiarniq", a video on suicide prevention for community caregivers. A "caregiver" is anyone in the community who wants to assist in preventing suicide: an elder, a friend, a priest, a community counsellor, a relative, a teacher, or just someone passing-by.

There are no clear cut reasons why a person chooses to end their life -- there are certainly no easy answers on how to stop suicides.

Nine communities in the NWT, Nunavik, and Labrador are being invited to participate in suicide prevention workshops. Participants will discuss causes, signs and symptoms, preventative measures, and script ideas for the video. IBC will videotape in three of the nine communities.

**HEALTH CARE:
RESPECT FOR PATIENTS
URGED**

WHEREAS concerns have been raised regarding the care of Inuit patients in hospitals throughout both northern and southern Canada;

AND WHEREAS every patient who requires the services of an interpreter should have access to these services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit urge all hospitals and **medical personnel** who deal with Inuit patients to ensure that the **highest quality** of patient care is instituted, including access to medical interpreters and a sensitivity and **respect for Inuit Culture** and values;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these principles apply equally to southern centres which serve Inuit patients, including Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Churchill, Edmonton, Goose Bay, St. John's, St. Anthony and Yellowknife.



**WOMEN'S TRAINING
CENTRE**

WHEREAS, the Inuit women present at the 1992 Annual General Meeting of Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association have discussed the loss of cultural values, traditions and skills of Inuit women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT resources, materials, and facilities be made available to Inuit women in all communities which will allow elders to pass on their knowledge and skills to younger women;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT an Inuit Women's Studies Training Centre be established in a central northern location to be available to Inuit women wishing to participate in learning about traditional Inuit women's skills, activities, values and traditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Inuit Women's Studies Training Centre **shall be under the direction of Pauktuutit's Inuit womens' membership**, administered and courses delivered by Inuit women.

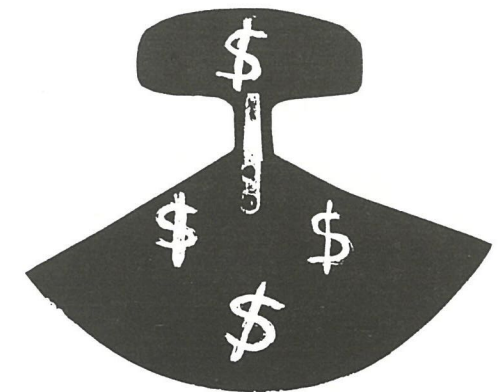
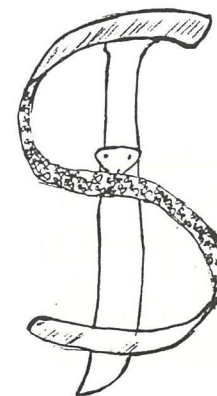
AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the use of Inuit Women Elders will be the central resource for all Inuit women studies.

**DEVELOPMENT GEARED
TOWARDS INUIT WOMEN**

WHEREAS economic development initiatives at the community, regional and national levels have *generally failed to meet the needs of Inuit women*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit urges all those involved in economic development to work with Inuit women at the community, regional and national level to determine and **meet the specific economic** development needs of Inuit women, including such issues as **child care** and infrastructure development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit encourage the development of **community based credit unions** and other financial institutions designed to be responsive to the unique needs of Inuit women.



**Economic
Development Project**

Mary Jamieson of Native Management Services in Ohsweken, Ontario, is coordinating Pauktuutit's research into the economic needs of Inuit women. Mary was at the AGM to speak with women about the project. She asked delegates to fill in a short questionnaire for an upcoming report.

As a follow-up to the AGM resolution, Ms. Jamieson attended a Sinaaq Board meeting on behalf of Pauktuutit. (Sinaaq is the economic development arm of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada).

In addition, Ms. Jamieson is presently discussing the development of a training program for Inuit women with the Bank of Montreal. Mary is meeting with Bank officials again in June.

The program would train Inuit women in the North in management and service level skills. The Bank would hire 20% of the graduates while the rest would have the skills to work at other banking institutions.

CANCEROUS SUN

RAYS

WHEREAS THE DEPLETION OF THE **OZONE** layer over the **Arctic** is an extremely serious threat to the world's environment;

AND WHEREAS the ozone layer is **deteriorating** at a much **faster** rate than scientists originally predicted;

AND WHEREAS recently there have been warnings to keep **children in doors between 10 AM and 2 PM** to avoid harmful rays that could **cause skin cancer** and affect the body's immune system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit express its deep and serious concern to the appropriate environmental offices and authorities;

AND FURTHER THAT Pauktuutit offers its full support to organizations such as the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada which are lobbying for the creation of **environmental legislation** designed to **protect the Arctic** environment.

WARNING: Protect children from Sun's rays:

Some Southern broadcasters have been warning everyone to keep children away from the sun's rays between 10 am and 2 pm. For the rest of the day, children are to wear sun hats and clothing for protection against UVA rays.

Earlier in the Winter, American scientists confirmed that the Ozone layer is, in fact, deteriorating much faster than predicted.

Exposure to unprotected sun rays in the Spring and Summer can lead to skin disorders and possibly skin cancer, according to those same scientists.

Because Inuit live on top of the world, it means that they are exposed longer and possibly more intensely to these dangerous sun rays. Pauktuutit is warning Inuit to do what they can to protect themselves and their children from the hazardous rays.

Warn everyone that you are related to and your friends for their good health.



CUSTOMARY ADOPTION IN INUIT HANDS

WHEREAS Inuit customary adoption is an issue of great importance throughout the North;

WHEREAS several studies about customary adoption are being undertaken in different regions of the North;

AND WHEREAS Inuit customary adoption is **not officially recognized** in the laws in Labrador, Quebec and the Northwest Territories;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly directs Pauktuutit to make **customary adoption** a priority issue of the organization;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit work closely with the women in the regions who are doing studies on adoption;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit seek funding to hold a **conference** dealing with customary adoption. 92-04

Sarah Tautuajuk, a recent graduate of the TFN Training Program, has been hired to do research into customary adoption and to begin organizing a conference on this issue.

ABUSING SUBSTANCES?

WHEREAS the abuse of alcohol, drugs and solvents continues to be a **serious problem in Inuit** communities; and

WHEREAS substance abuse is physically, emotionally and mentally **damaging many** Inuit men, women and children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit provide **assistance and support** to communities in their efforts to address substance abuse.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROJECT

Pauktuutit's Substance Abuse Coordinator **Reepa Kilabuk** is back at work following her maternity leave. She has just finished putting together a listing of committees and organizations from Arviat, NWT in order to work with that community on a pilot project.

Reepa's plans for the next six months include:

*Attend a Family Violence Caregiver Training seminar; May 23 - 25/92

*Inform and explain Pauktuutit's goals and objectives to institutions involved in Substance Abuse projects. Reepa will suggest ways and means whereby Pauktuutit can join forces with communities to combat substance abuse.

'TO A SAFER PLACE' IN INUKTITUT

Community screenings of the English film "To a Safer Place" were held in Povungnituk, Salluit and Kuujuaq and the women there requested an Inuktitut version. Now, Studio "D", the women's unit of the National Film Board (NFB), in collaboration with members of the Kativik School Board has produced an Inuktitut version of the video .

"To A Safer Place" is a 58 minute video, released in English in 1989. It tells how one woman came to terms with her life as a *survivor of incest*. The video follows *her return to the people* and places of her childhood, her mother, brothers and sister, *all of* whom were also *caught up in the cycle of violence*. The story encourages viewers to *break the silence* as a first step towards *healing*.

To order, write or call Studio "D" of the NFB and refer to ID number **112C0587067**.
PRICE: \$23.06 GST included.
(Some free copies are available)
or call Pauktuutit at (613) 238-3977.

Studio D
National Film Board
P.O. Box 6100
Montreal, Que.
H3C 3H5

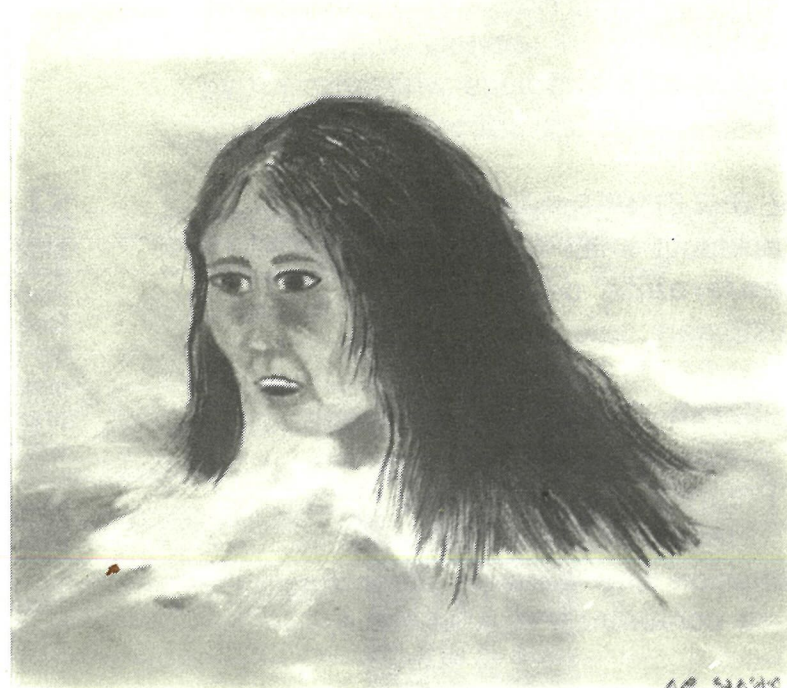
Tel: (514) 283-9533
Fax: (514) 283-5487

FAMILY VIOLENCE RESEARCH in LABRADOR

WHEREAS family violence is a serious problem in the Inuit communities of Labrador; and

WHEREAS there is a *desperate need for safe*, independent shelters for the *victims* of family violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit support the Labrador Inuit Health Commission's research program on family violence and the *development of* community-based *services* for the *victims of violence*.



Artist Eva Koperqualuk Lapage presented this painting to Pauktuutit during the AGM . She said that it depicts Inuit women's life in today's lifestyle.

AIDS PREVENTION and EDUCATION

WHEREAS this Assembly has discussed the concern about the epidemic of AIDS and the continuing need for public education about AIDS;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Pauktuutit strongly supports the need for on-going public education about AIDS in every community in the NWT, Northern Quebec, and Labrador.

LETTERS AND OPINIONS

Your opinions concerning Inuit women and what Pauktuutit is doing are important to us. Please write, fax, record or tell us what you think. Below is one letter from an Inuk man:

Dear Pauktuutit:

I'd just like to congratulate you on your book (*Naalatsiarlutit*), I think it is illustrated very well.

The reason why I am writing this letter is because I am a young father and also a husband, I am very PROUD of my daughter, and so I'd like to say a few words on family violence.

First I'd just like to say that I don't agree with the terminology; "children who grow up in violent homes are more likely to be violent to their children." The way I grew up, which I will not go in to details, was like any other violent home. I used to cry

myself to sleep and couldn't wait until there was light shining through the window. What I was about to say was that I don't want my daughter to go through what I went throughNever. Think about it like this because your parents drank too much, and so your father started to fight your mother, and you're watching all of this... maybe.

As a young Inuk, I just like to say that anything is possible, and one of the possibilities are to change that terminology: "Because you grew up in a violent home you 're likely to be violent". You as a person don't have to let your children go through the living nightmare that you went through. You can change...you can change the mistakes that you saw as a child, it is possible.

An Inuk man

Funding for this issue of Suvaguuq was provided by the Department of the Secretary of State, NWT Region.

Production and Editing: R. Arngna'naaq, L. Archibald
Translation: M. Qitsualik

Midwifery Research

Pauktuutit will receive \$200,000 to conduct interviews with Inuit elders on traditional approaches to pregnancy and childbirth in Inuit society. The project is funded under the **Special Research Initiative on Community Health North of 60**, a joint initiative of Health and Welfare Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Yukon, and the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories.

Martha Greig, Pauktuutit Vice-President and former Health Coordinator, will conduct the interviews. During the next six months, Martha will travel to Sachs Harbour, Aklavik, Coppermine, Spence Bay, Baker Lake, Whale Cove, Hall Beach, and Pond Inlet as well as to Kangiqsualujjuaq, Quebec and Nain, Labrador. She will also speak with Inuit women from Alaska, Greenland, Siberia and Canada attending the General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Inuvik this July. Martha said, "*Speaking with Inuit women from different regions of the Arctic will let us know if there are practices and beliefs common throughout Inuit society. Research of this nature has never been done before.*"

Pauktuutit President **Martha Flaherty** stated that the main purpose of the research is "*to document traditional practices related to pregnancy and childbirth thereby reclaiming an important piece of Inuit social history for the benefit of future generations. We also hope to contribute to a collective sense of pride in traditional Inuit health care practices.*"

The results of the research will be published in Inuktitut and English and distributed throughout the north. Although funding for the publication has not yet been secured, Pauktuutit is committed to the principle of making the research available to people at the community level.

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NAALATSIARLUTIT



A presentation of artwork by northern artists on spousal abuse.



Pauktuutit's latest booklet is a beautiful collection of artwork dealing with the issue of spousal assault in Inuit society.

Naalatsiarlutit (Listen Well) is about the reality of spousal abuse and its terrible impact on women and their families. The artwork was chosen from close to one hundred submissions we received from across the north. In March, copies of the booklet were mailed to women's groups, individuals, and organizations in Inuit communities throughout the Arctic. Additional copies of **Naalatsiarlutit** are available through Pauktuutit's Ottawa office.

