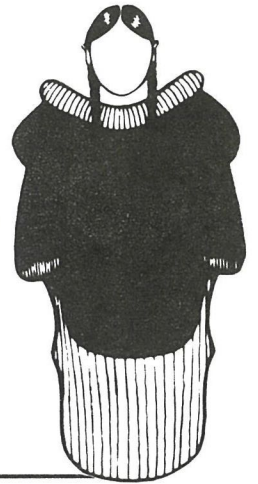


# Suvaguuq



**PAUKTUUTIT  
INUIT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

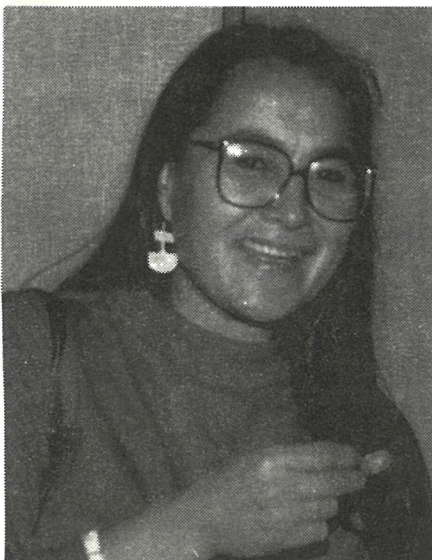
*National Newsletter on Inuit Social and Cultural Issues*

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## President's Report

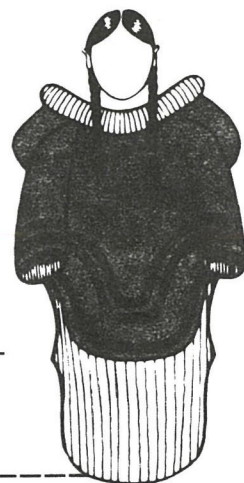
*by Martha Flaherty*



Anyone who has tried to get in touch with me over the past few months will realize that I have been on the road a great deal. In this report, I outline some of the activities I have been involved in throughout the spring season. As usual, Pauktuutit's staff and Board of Directors, particularly Vice President Martha Greig, have been busy at the office and representing Pauktuutit at meetings and conferences in both northern and southern Canada. Inuit women are well represented by the Pauktuutit team and I am proud to be a part of it.

*... continued on page 2*

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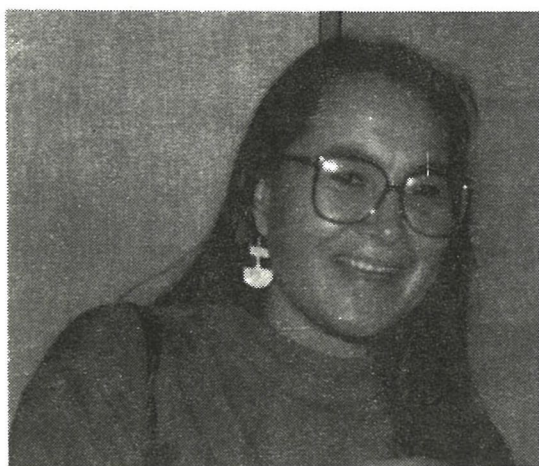
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## President's Report

### Annual General Meeting

Pauktuutit's Annual General Meeting was held in Goose Bay in February and it was followed immediately by an Inuit Roundtable on Justice, Housing, Health and Social Issues. Both meetings were successful, productive and enlightening. Everyone had an opportunity to participate and bring their community and regional concerns to the table. Youth participation was strong, and I believe they were instrumental in opening up some very sensitive issues.

At the AGM, we held a Healing Workshop which proved to be very important to participants who were discussing sensitive and emotional issues like spousal assault and suicide. The women showed a lot of courage, and I am proud to be a part of an organization like Pauktuutit which provides support and encouragement to people who speak openly and honestly about difficult issues in their lives.



### Baffin Community Justice Workshop

Mary Crnkovich and I attended a meeting on Justice issues in Iqaluit, March 4-8, 1993. Although the discussions were very similar to those which went on at our annual meeting, it was interesting to hear Inuit elders talk about traditional disciplinary practices. However, some of the comments made were disappointing. Sometimes, people get defensive when we

talk about violence against women because they say that men get abused too. We know that anyone can be a victim of violence, but the fact is that most domestic violence is directed at women by men. Also, some people still believe it is the woman's fault if she is beaten. It worries me that violence is being blamed on the women, especially since there is a lot of talk about using community justice committees to advise on sentencing and creating "diversion" programs (using alternatives to jail as a means of dealing with crimes committed in the north.) This makes me wonder if women and children will be adequately protected. Will women be consulted in discussions about developing alternatives to the existing system? Who should be represented on Community Justice Committees and who should choose the committee members? In diversion programs, what is the role of the victim and how will she be protected?

We cannot blindly accept new approaches just because the existing system is so bad - we need to involve a wide group of people in discussions of alternatives and in planning and implementing whatever is decided. I think we also have to balance Qallunat and Inuit views of justice and come up with a system that draws from the best of both worlds.

### Women and Poverty

Winnipeg, March 12-13, 1993: This meeting was held to prepare for a conference in Beijing, China in 1995.

### Mental Health Conference, Iqaluit

March 29-31, 1993: This very emotional yet productive workshop included representatives from each region in the north plus youth and elders. We also had several very articulate speakers with expert knowledge of mental health. Participants used their personal experiences as a basis for discussion and then went on to explore actions which communities can take to improve the overall mental and physical health of individuals and families. More details on the Mental Health Workshop are included on page ... of this newsletter.

### Inuit Tapirisat of Canada Board of Directors Meeting

Ottawa, April 2-4, 1993. As a member of the ITC Board and Executive, I represent Pauktuutit at all ITC meetings.

### The Exiles: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

#### Special Hearings on Relocation

April 5-10, Ottawa: Inuit from Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Inukjuaq, Sanikiluaq and Pond Inlet attended this meeting organized by ITC and the Royal Commission. The proceedings were nationally televised (in French) and the media gave the hearing a lot of attention. The Canadian public was exposed to the trials of families relocated to the High Arctic by the Canadian government and this exposure led to a surge of public support.

A second set of hearings is scheduled for June 28-30, again in Ottawa. This time, the Royal Commission will hear testimony from researchers and government officials and from non-Inuit individuals who were involved in the relocation or were working in the High

Arctic at the time. Over the summer, the Royal Commission will prepare a Special Report, including recommendations, for public release.

### First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Health in the Americas

Winnipeg, April 12-18: I made a presentation on behalf of Inuit to this meeting of Aboriginal peoples from North and South America. In it, I explained who Inuit are because people from South America probably do not know the difference between Inuit and Indians (a lot of Canadians don't either). I also spoke of the social problems facing our communities as well as of our strengths, our rich culture and history, and our dream of building a better future for our children. We discussed traditional medicines, traditional midwifery and healing practices used by Aboriginal people and tried to develop some recommendations to pass on to the Pan American Health Organization.

### Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women

April 21-23, 1993, Ottawa. The Advisory Council has members representing each province and territory. There are two Indian members but no Inuit. In a presentation to the members, I outlined what Pauktuutit does and gave an overview of some of the issues we deal with. I showed the video "Ikajurti: Midwifery in the Canadian Arctic" and then answered many, many questions. At Pauktuutit, we get many requests for information about Inuit women and Inuit society, and sometimes it seems like too much time is taken up educating southern Canadians and their institutions. However, it is time well spent in the sense that people who understand the work we are doing tend to be very supportive.

*Excerpt from a Presentation to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women:*

*As an organization, Pauktuutit sees strong links between political self-determination and our ability to solve community level problems. As women, we know that real social and political change cannot occur without us. The health of our people is intrinsically tied to the social, political and economic development of our communities and Pauktuutit is actively involved in supporting this development.*

## President's Report

### **Inuit Roundtable on Education, Language and Culture**

Tuktoyaktuk, May 5-8, 1993. People from every region of the north came together to search for solutions to problems in the education field and to discuss ways of enhancing Inuit culture and language. The meeting was organized by the Inuvialuit Regional Council, and the Inuit Tapirisat is preparing a report on all of the Roundtables for presentation to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

### **Presentation to Graduating Medical Doctors**

Ottawa, May 12, 1993. I was asked to speak to a group of graduating doctors about Inuit culture, social and health issues, and the north in general. Some of these doctors expressed an interest in working in Aboriginal communities. In the discussion following the presentation, I stressed the need for doctors to learn about, understand and respect the culture and traditions of people they work with.

### **Economic Development for Canadian Aboriginal Women (EDCAW)**

On April 22, Martha Greig and I accompanied members of the Native Women's Association to meet with Mary Collins, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. We discussed family violence issues as well as issues related to EDCAW, the organization set up to encourage Aboriginal women's involvement in economic development. A follow-up meeting involving Native Women, the Status of Women office, Pauktuutit and EDCAW was held on May 13th. A full review of EDCAW's role, mandate and accomplishments will take place in early June. Meanwhile, Pauktuutit has appointed **Simona Arnatsiaq-Barnes** to represent us on the EDCAW Board. Simona's experience setting up Atii training programs, her work at Arctic Cooperatives Limited and her knowledge of economic development issues makes her an excellent representative for Inuit women.

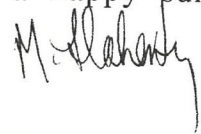
### **Navajo Trip**

Arizona, May 15-22, 1993. I was invited by the NWT Department of Justice to accompany them on a trip to Arizona to look at the justice system administered by the Navajo Indians. We met several people including the U.S. Attorney for Arizona, the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation, and people involved in the Peacemaker Court. We also toured the Legislative Branch, Child Welfare Office Training Centre and Navajo Community College. Although it was wonderful to see Navajo Indians in control of their own justice system, it was sad to see women and children not being properly protected by this system.

Indian men are very much in control - there are 85 members of their legislature, but only 5 women. I was disappointed with what I learned from some of the women's groups. It appears they face many problems similar to those we have in the north, but they have no voice in public. Women certainly have a lot less voice than Canadian Aboriginal women, especially when it comes to domestic violence and child sexual abuse. Even their Peacemakers, who are supposed to help solve disputes and deal with people who break the law, have trouble confronting or embarrassing their leaders.

I was very impressed with the Navajo College where a whole range of traditional skills and knowledge can be learned from Indian teachers, professors and elders. It is set up something like a museum but with practical materials to teach with. The school drop-out rate has decreased dramatically since the college opened because students are being taught in traditional Navajo ways using Navajo philosophy, history and language. Pauktuutit would love to see an Inuit studies centre in the north like this one in Arizona.

Best wishes for a happy summer.



## Report on Pauktuutit's 9th Annual General Meeting, Goose Bay, Labrador

February 23-25, 1993

Pauktuutit's 1993 Annual General Meeting covered a wide variety of topics but, as usual, the focus of discussion was on dealing with the serious social problems facing Inuit women, their families and their communities. In the regional workshops, delegates addressed the following issues: the need for funding for mental health and social programs; the acculturation of youth into white society; the need for more information on AIDS; the need for day care; high cancer rates in the north; the need for an Inuktitut curriculum in Labrador schools; ongoing problems of sexual abuse, too many suicides, and abuse of elders; concerns about gambling; and housing shortages. Following is a brief account of some of the AGM highlights.

### **Healing Workshop**

Julia Ogina from Holman Island organized and facilitated the Healing Workshop with the help of regional facilitators Hattie Alagalak, Reepa Kilabuk, Sally Webster, Roda Grey, Joanassie Salamonie and Sarah Panniuk. This workshop provided people with an opportunity to speak about difficult or painful experiences in a supportive atmosphere.

### **Elders and Youth**

Delegates began to tackle the difficult subject of differences in the perceptions and values of elders and youth. Young people expressed concerns about elders not understanding and supporting them and particularly, not supporting young women who have been sexually abused or assaulted. Elders, on the other hand, believe they have a lot to offer, especially in keeping people aware of their culture and history, and they are hurt when young people do not show respect for their knowledge or approach them for guidance and advice. Pauktuutit passed a resolution committing the organization to increasing the involvement of both

elders and youth so that these important discussions can continue at future meetings.

### **Justice Workshop**

Mary Crnkovich led a workshop discussion on the Justice system and then delegates broke into their regional groups to discuss how they would deal with particular situations if they were the decision-makers. Discussions of women's experiences with the Justice system will continue when Mary Crnkovich travels to meet with women in the regions. Anyone wanting to be involved in this project can contact Mary at (613) 238-3977.

### **Women & Self-Government**

Charlotte Wolfrey gave a report from the Labrador Inuit Association which noted that LIA is developing a model for self-government and it has recognized the important role of women in self-government during the development of this model.

Louis Pilakapsi, President of the Keewatin Inuit Association and a member of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut Board of Directors spoke about the role women will play in the new "Tungavik". The Board has agreed that women should have

representation on the Tungavik but details have not yet been worked out. He also suggested that Pauktuutit should take responsibility for social issues under the Nunavut government, that all Inuit organizations who have settled their land claim should help fund Pauktuutit, and they should have appropriate representation for women on their boards.

#### **Economic Development**

Scott MacAuley from Kakivak (Baffin Community Economic Development) discussed the need for organizations to work together to address women's economic development. For example, Kakivak, Pauktuutit, and the women's group in Arctic Bay have been working on a proposal to develop a combination day care centre and sewing centre in Arctic Bay.

#### **Resolutions**

Seven resolutions were passed by delegates to this year's AGM. Resolution 93-01 affirms Pauktuutit's commitment to work towards the alleviation of all forms of violence and abuse in Inuit communities and calls on everyone involved in the justice system to treat violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse as serious crimes. It also calls for the use of Victim Impact Statements and urges governments to allocate more resources to victim services. Resolution 93-02 calls for formal, legal recognition of Inuit customary adoption practices under Inuit, not government control. Resolution 93-03 deals with women's involvement

in self-government and calls for ongoing, active involvement in negotiating and implementing self-government in Nunavut, Nunavik and Labrador. Resolution 93-04 calls for more public information to be available on the harmful effects of television violence and pornography on children and supports the development of regulations controlling violence on television and in videos. Resolution 93-05 calls for a study examining high cancer rates among Inuit and points out the need for earlier diagnosis and treatment. Resolution 93-06 supports the development of a voluntary outpost program for youth and 93-07 commits Pauktuutit to increasing the involvement of elders and youth in all of its activities.

#### **Elections**

Martha Flaherty was re-elected to a three-year term as President of Pauktuutit. Next year, elections will take place for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Board Members.



Board Members Enooya Enook, Leah Paniluk and Hattie Alagalak at the AGM in Goose Bay.

## **Report on Mental Health Workshop Iqaluit, NWT, March 29-31, 1993**

*"All human beings have the capacity to value and appreciate themselves - to feel whole, creative, competent, healthy, beautiful and loving."*  
from "Making Meaning of Mental Health Challenges in First Nations" by W.J. Mussel, W.M. Nicholls, and M.T. Adler, published by Sal'i'shan Institute Society, 1993

Approximately forty people, including CHRs, mental health workers, counsellors and resource people took part in a special Mental Health Workshop in Iqaluit. Participants discussed definitions of mental health, male roles in relationships, healing the family, and suicide prevention. They also exchanged ideas on developing long-term strategies and solution-oriented approaches to mental health.

Bill Mussell of the Sal's'shan Institute in British Columbia helped facilitate the meeting along with Martha Flaherty, Martha Greig and Roda Grey. Central to all the discussions was the concept of *empowerment*. Empowerment implies relying on ourselves, our families and our communities rather than on outside experts. Experts can make very valuable contributions to people's lives, but we also have to take responsibility for our own health. Participants discussed ways in which mental health workers can empower the people they work with.

*"There is a variety of social, economic and political problems that will not change unless the families within the community take responsibility to make changes. Unless these families own the problems together, they will not make the efforts necessary to plan and implement the strategies required to achieve their goal of a better quality of life."*

from "Making Meaning of Mental Health Challenges in First Nations"

A report on the Mental Health Workshop is being prepared. If you would like a copy, please contact Roda Grey at Pauktuutit.

### Project Update: Inuutsiarniq

The *Inuutsiarniq* Project is a long-term joint effort on the part of Pauktuutit and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation to produce a suicide prevention video for use by community "caregivers". A caregiver can be anyone - a friend, family member, teacher, elder, counsellor - who cares enough to help a troubled person in need of support and understanding. Community workshops held in Sachs Harbour, Iqaluit, Coppermine, Baker Lake, Povungnirtuk, Hopedale and Nain provided ideas for the script and filming took place in Nain, Povungnirtuk and Iqaluit. The video should be available within the next few months.

### Project Update: Counselling Guide

Last year, Pauktuutit received funding from the Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs in Yellowknife to produce a bilingual, culturally relevant peer counselling handbook for use by informal "caregivers" and counsellors in Inuit communities. Jennifer Rigby prepared a first draft of the handbook, and Ruby Arngna'naaq began working with the draft handbook in late January. She reviewed the material, prepared a second draft, consulted with Inuit women, and she is in the process of preparing a third draft. During the consultations, an opportunity arose to involve Inuit women artists and the Banff Centre for the Arts in the project. The women agreed to contribute relevant art work to the publication and the Banff Centre is contributing money to cover the increased costs of reproducing the art work and printing additional copies of the handbook. Once a final draft of the handbook is agreed to, translation into Inuktitut syllabics and Roman orthography will begin and then the booklet will be published and distributed to communities throughout the north.

Funding for this issue of *Suvaguuq* was provided by the Department of the Secretary of State, NWT Region.  
Production: Linda Archibald  
Translation: Simona Arnatsiaq-Barnes

### Project Update: Midwifery Research

Between October 1992 and January 1993, **Martha Greig** travelled to ten communities to interview Inuit elders about traditional approaches to pregnancy and childbirth. These interviews will form the basis of a book on traditional Inuit approaches to pregnancy and childbirth. Pauktuutit would like to thank the following elders for agreeing to participate in the research project.

#### Nain, Labrador

Naimi Maggo  
Dasi Obed  
Zack Obed  
Nancy Pamak  
Miriam Fox  
Clara Fox  
Silpa Tugluvina  
Katie Dicker  
Miriam Brown

#### Sachs Harbour, NWT

Lena Wolkie  
Winnie Carpenter  
Sarah Kuptana  
Edith Haogak  
Samath Lucus  
Martha Kudlak  
Alexandria Elias

#### Baker Lake, NWT

Martha Talerook  
Mary Mariq  
Lucy Kownak  
Julie Tuluqtuk  
Lucy Tunguaq  
Betty Peryouar  
Elizabeth Purnaag  
Mona Keyouayuk  
Hannah Nanauq  
Myrah Arngna'naaq  
Winnie Putumegatuk  
Rhoda Parker  
Winnie Attungala  
Bessie Scottie  
Mary Tagoona  
Vera Akomalik  
Hattie Mannik

#### Whale Cove, NWT

Monica Adjuk  
Annie Napayok  
Mary Nangmalik  
Agnes Tiknak  
Maggie Akviolik

#### Aklavik, NWT

Winnie Elanik  
Lucy Inglangasuk  
Ida Inglangasuk  
Rosie Archie  
Kathleen Hansen  
Sarah Miyook  
Sheba Selamie

#### Coppermine, NWT

Elva Pigalak  
Helen Kungitok  
Nellie Hikok

#### Spence Bay, NWT

Debbie Mannilaq  
Annie Saltuk  
Mabel Kootook  
Lena Kingmiaqtua  
Peeteekootee Tucktoo  
Ootookie Asheva  
Mosi Jayko  
Nellie Hikok  
Elva Pigalak  
Helen Kungitok  
Nipisha Lyall

#### Pond Inlet, NWT

Isapie Kanguk  
Elizabeth Ootoova  
Apphia Awa  
Martha Koonoo  
Rebecca Qitsualik  
Norman Simionie  
Leetia Kayak  
Tatinaq Akpaliapik

#### Hall Beach/ Igloodik

Abigaile Kaernerik  
Clara Quassaq  
Zippora Uluappak  
Rhoda KipanEEK  
Rebecca Arnaqyorak  
Theresa Ijjangiaq  
Madeline Ivalu

#### Kangiqsualujuaq, Quebec

Lizzie Annanack  
Willie Emudluk  
Sarah Baron  
Penina Assevak  
Clara Etok

## **Project Update: Child Health Goals & Healthy Babies**

Pauktuutit recently received funding from Health and Welfare Canada to coordinate a National Joint Working Group to determine Inuit priorities for community-based programs aimed at improving the health of children.

The Working Group includes the following members:

Roda Grey (Pauktuutit) Shirley Dupuis (Kuujuuaq)  
Iris Allen (Labrador) Pauline Tan-MacNeill (Rankin Inlet)  
Helen Gruben (Tuktoyaktuk) Charlene Mellors (Cambridge Bay)  
Flora Wamboldt (Iqaluit) Duong Tinh (Kuujuaraapik)  
Oro Bobcock (Health and Welfare, Edmonton)  
Dr. Gary Pekeles (McGill-Baffin Hospital, Montreal)  
Margaret Moyston Cumming (Health and Welfare)  
Claudia Brann has been hired by Pauktuutit to coordinate the Working Group process.

The first meeting of the Working Group took place in Ottawa, May 12-13, 1993. The group developed an initial set of broad goals. These include improving the physical, mental, spiritual, social and emotional well-being of Inuit children and youth, improving communication skills of families, and promoting healthy families, healthy communities, a healthy environment, and healthy lifestyles. Roda Grey noted that the success of any program aimed at improving the health of children will depend on the involvement of families and communities.

The Working Group also identified and discussed a wide variety of issues that affect child health. These include child development, parenting skills, nutrition, prenatal care, culturally appropriate health education and prevention programs, family violence, suicide, and housing issues. There is also a need to encourage training of Inuit health professionals.

The next meeting will take place in Ottawa on July 28th & 29th.

### **CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Pauktuutit staff member Sally Webster will accompany three Inuit youths on a trip to China. Bernice Lyall (Cambridge Bay), Billy Akavak (Iqaluit) and Rose Machmer (Iqaluit) will travel to Tokyo, Japan and then to Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing in China. The trip, organized by the St. Regis Drug and Alcohol program, takes place from July 1 - 18, 1993.

## **Do men have a role in solving the problem of family violence?**

### **What do you think?**

Over the years, we have heard from a lot of Inuit, including men, who occasionally ask for our help in dealing with personal, family and social problems. We have heard from men and women from all walks of Inuit life who want to make our communities safe, healthy places to live and raise our children in. We have also heard from many men who want to be involved in finding solutions to family violence.

Last year, the **Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women** held hearings in 132 communities across Canada. Their work clearly shows that we are experiencing an epidemic of violence everywhere in Canada, including the north. We also know that children who have been beaten, or sexually abused, or who have watched helplessly as their mothers or relatives are beaten or abused, carry the painful memories with them forever. These children often have serious problems dealing with daily life.

At Pauktuutit, we believe that each one of us must do what we can to end violence and abuse in our families, our communities and our society.

### ***We would like to hear what you think:***

#### **How can men help end family violence?**

**Write to Pauktuutit and we will publish the letters  
in the next issue of *Suvaguuq*.**

**We would especially like to hear from men:** If you are concerned about the problem of violence against women and children, it is important to speak out even if you are not sure what you can do about it. Men speaking out against violence and abuse send an important and encouraging message to our people.

### **Write to Pauktuutit at the following address:**

Suvaguuq Newsletter  
c/o Pauktuutit  
804-200 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1L5  
Fax (613) 238-1787















