

NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT ABUSE IN INUIT COMMUNITIES



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
June 16-17, 2008

Building Knowledge and Networks in the Fight Against
Abuse of Older Persons: Pathways to Human Rights



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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

About Pauktuutit

MISSION

Pauktuutit is the national non-profit association representing all Inuit women in Canada.

Its mandate is to foster a greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women, and to encourage their participation in community, regional and national concerns in relation to social, cultural and economic development.



Pauktuutit Current Activities

SEXUAL HEALTH

- ✓ HIV/AIDS; Hep. C.; STIs
- ✓ Teen Pregnancy
- ✓ Sexually Healthy Living

COMMUNITY & HEALTHY LIVING

- ✓ Economic Development
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Housing Crisis
- ✓ Injury Prevention
- ✓ Home and Community Caregivers
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Tobacco Reduction

GENDER EQUITY IN DECISION MAKING

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND THE UNITED NATIONS

VIOLENCE & ABUSE PREVENTION

- ✓ Family Violence
- ✓ Residential School Legacy
- ✓ Justice and Corrections

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

- ✓ Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
- ✓ Midwifery
- ✓ Early Childhood Development



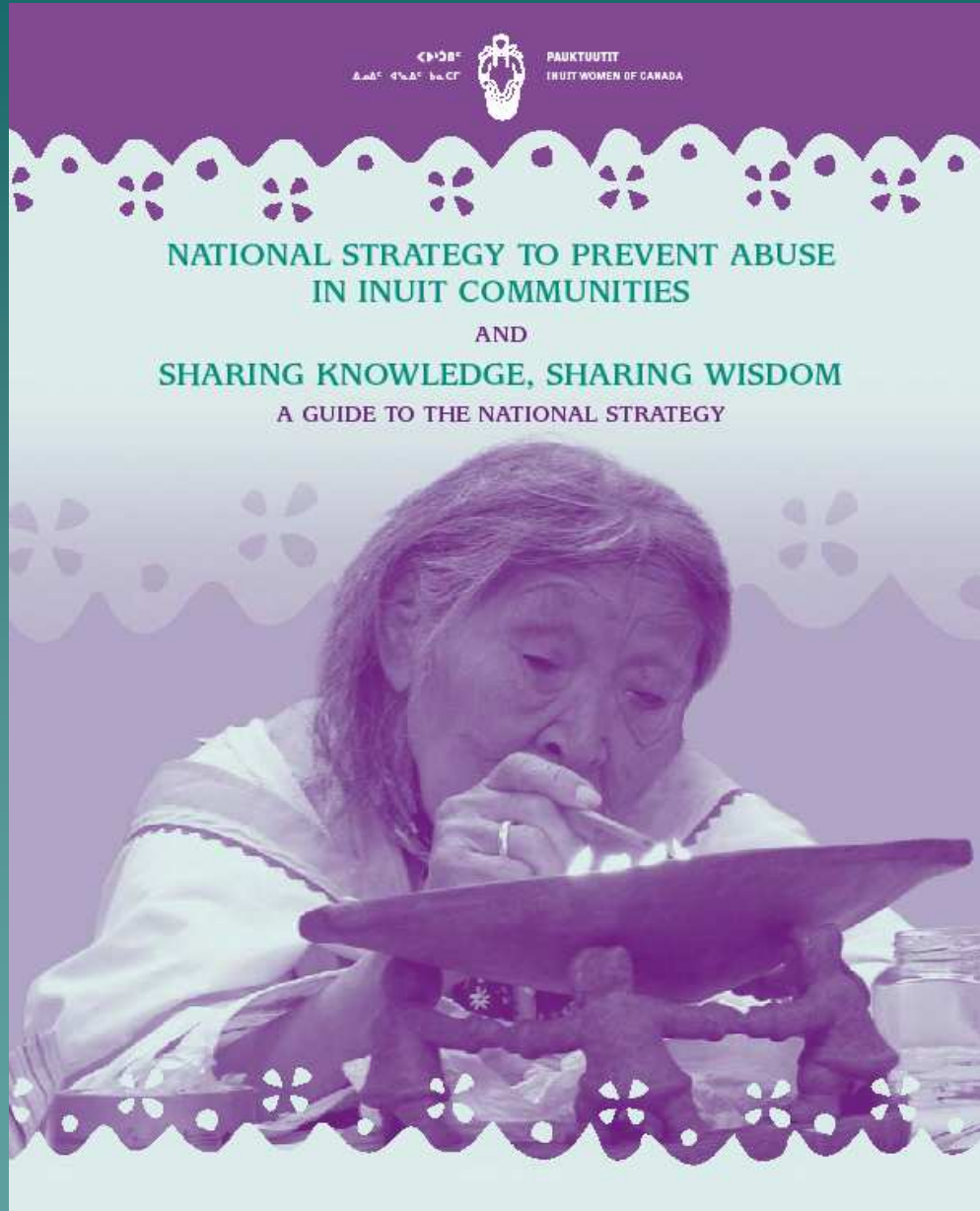
ABUSE ISSUES CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- “Supporting Four Wellness Initiatives”
- “Development of a National Mobile Training Module for Shelter Workers in Inuit Communities”
- “Family Violence – Shelter Initiative”
- “Mentorship for a Strong Foundation” to assist National Inuit Women’s Safe Shelter Association”
- “National Inuit Residential Schools Healing Strategy”
- “Family Abuse Intervention Act Multi-disciplinary Training”



ABUSE ISSUES CURRENT ACTIVITIES

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ABUSE ISSUES CURRENT ACTIVITIES

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“Out of great pain there are lessons for all of us. Out of suffering comes compassion for each other; out of our frustration and isolation comes the desire to acknowledge and confront, rather than avoid and continue to suffer; out of a deeply held Inuit belief in survival and always moving forward, comes a genuine wish to rise up; out of pain comes sensitivity to others who have suffered.”


Sivumuapallianiq

NATIONAL INUIT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS HEALING STRATEGY

Journey Forward



National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities: Elder Abuse Project

- ◆ Existing knowledge
 - ◆ Identify knowledge gaps
 - ◆ Research priorities
 - ◆ Implementation plan
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Implementation Plan: *Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness in Northern Communities*

1. Identify the scope, nature and extent of the incidence and tolerance of Elder abuse in nine Inuit communities;
2. Create public awareness of Elder abuse in northern communities;
3. Design and implement an effective culturally appropriate workshop to empower Elders to recognize and address abuse in nine communities;
4. Design and implement a culturally relevant toolkit that will assist frontline workers in identifying Elder abuse in northern communities.

Elders are vital to our wellness and culture: best practice

Elders, as healers, play a significant role in the life of a northern community and this contribution to Inuit life should be acknowledged and respected more by all members, but particularly by the youth. Young people must be encouraged to regard the elders as valid sources of information about their cultural past, and as logical choices when seeking help or advice. Continuous interaction, the normalization of story telling, and the daily teaching of traditional practices, such as sewing, singing, carving , hunting and so on, are invaluable ways to impart cultural pride, a strong self-image and positive inter-relationships among young people, thereby founding future families and communities which will be healthy and happy.

Conclusion – expected impacts

- ◆ Safe and healthy environments for elders that are free of abuse.
- ◆ The effective delivery of an Elder abuse awareness campaign for Elders, Inuit community wellness workers and to the population in general.
- ◆ Encourage and support programs which will contribute to healthy Elderly care, as facilitators will teach the community wellness workers what their healing approaches are when dealing with abused Elders/older adults. It is anticipated that the community wellness worker will become more effective when counselling an Elder/older adults.

Elder Abuse Project update



Information of the Elder Abuse Project will be made available. Please contact the Abuse Team for more information at 613-238-3977 or visit Pauktuutit's website www.pauktuutit.ca.