

# ANNUAL REPORT



2015

**Saturviit**  
**Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik**  
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## ORIGIN

During the summer of 2005, Inuit women came from each of Nunavik's 14 communities and from the south to meet at Qilalugaq Camp near Puvirnituaq, where they discussed issues they felt were important to their communities: parenting, child abuse, suicide, education, language, healing, and violence. They recommended the creation of a women's association to strengthen the voice of Nunavik women. Saturviit, Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik was created in 2006 with a mandate to promote the interests of women in Nunavik.

Saturviit is a non-profit organization open to all women 16 years old and over who are JBNQA beneficiaries. Associate Membership is available to non-beneficiaries, businesses, and organizations. Membership is free. Saturviit is run by a Board of Directors that represents all Nunavik communities: two directors each from the Hudson Bay coast, the Hudson Strait coast, and the Ungava Bay coast, and one director from urban communities in the south.

Saturviit's mandate is to:

- Support community projects that benefit women (traditional sewing workshops, on-the-land activities, youth and elder meetings...);
- Develop activities to eliminate violence against women and children and improve their well-being;
- Provide tools to help women fulfill themselves politically, economically, and socially;
- Advocate for women and children in Nunavik;
- Represent Inuit women of Nunavik at national, provincial, and regional meetings.



Sixty women from Nunavik and the South gathered in Akulivik on March 2015 for Arnaliat Nipingit Women's conference.

## MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD

### Membership

In 2015, Saturviit's membership increased to 239. Members originally come from each of Nunavik's 14 communities and from urban areas in the South. Most are women who are 16 years old and older and who are JBNQA beneficiaries.

### Board of directors

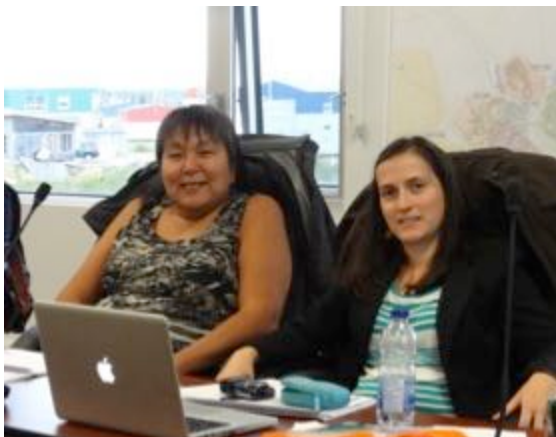
Saturviit's Board of Directors is elected for a 3-year term. They are representing women living in the three main regions of Nunavik (Hudson Coast, Hudson Strait, Ungava) and Inuit women living in Montreal. Since April 2015, the board is composed of:

President	Annie Arnatuk (Quaqtaq)
VP	Mary Thomassie (Kangirsuk)
Treasurer	Annie Alaku (Kangirsujuaq)
Secretary	Niali Aliqu (Akulivik)
Director	Winifred Nungak (Kangirsuk)
Director	Jeannie Palliser (Inukjuak)
Director	Annie Baron (Quebec city)



From left to right: Annie Alaku, Winifred Nungak, Nellie Aliqu, Annie Arnatuk, Jeannie Palliser, Mary Thomassie.

Board members met twice face-to-face in 2015: in August in Kuujjuaq and in November in Dorval, Montreal. The rest of the year, 10 meetings took place by teleconference. The Board is not concerned solely with association policy and priorities. In fact, it is very hands-on and has a wide range of duties: planning regional projects; reviewing funding requests; and attending conferences and meetings to represent the interests of Nunavik women.



Annie Baron (Board member) and Pascale Laneuville (assistant executive director) during a training in Kuujjuaq in September 2015.

With the support of the NRBHSS, six out seven Saturviit's board members received a training on governance of non-for-profit organizations in September 2015. The objective was to help board members understand the importance and benefits of good governance, know best practices of similar organizations and better identify members' expectations. In November 2015, Saturviit's board members and staff received a training on strategic planning from COCo (Center for Community Organizations). During this training, board members and staff reflected together on Saturviit's mission, general objectives, and strategic goals. They came up with priorities and an action plan for 2016-2020.

## Staff

In 2015, Saturviit had four regular employees and one on contract. Pascale Laneuville was hired on contract as project coordinator for the women's conference and then as assistant executive director. In 2015, the staff was composed of:

Executive director	Caroline Hervé
Assistant executive director	Pascale Laneuville
Wellness coordinator	Jeannie Sappa
Project officer	Peggy Large
Project officer	Lucy Nowra



Saturviit board members and wellness coordinator working on finding new strategic goals, in Montreal, November 27-29 2015.

## Communication

The association's communication strategy has been strengthened by regularly posting new material on its website and its Facebook page and by communicating with local and national media. In 2015, the website has been viewed by more than 4800 internet users. Saturviit board members have also broadcast some news items on the regional and the local radio stations and Saturviit staff went 3 times on CBC and RDI to communicate about the publication of the study report on the life and concerns of Nunavik women. Three articles were also published in the *Nunatsiaq News* concerning the women's conference, the study report and the DVD on family violence.

## WOMEN'S VOICE

### Representation

Between January and December 2015, Saturviit staff and directors attended 23 meetings, AGMs, conferences or training on various subjects such as family violence, sexual abuse, missing and murdered indigenous women, and gender equality.

Dianova, a non-profit organization active in developing initiatives and programs with the objective of promoting personal self-reliance and social progress, invited Saturviit to present five solutions at a panel on gender equality and empowerment of women during the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, In New York City, on March 17, 2015.



Jeannie Sappa, wellness coordinator (second from left) and Pascale Laneuville, assistant executive director (right) at the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, in New York City, in March 2015.

Saturviit was mandated by the Kativik Regional Government to represent Nunavik to the Parliamentary committee on the relationship with the citizens at Quebec National Assembly on November 17. Annie Baron, Caroline Hervé and Pascale Laneuville talked to the ministers about living conditions and women's needs in Nunavik.

### Research on living conditions of Inuit women



Saturviit has conducted a research project to gather data on the conditions of life of Nunavik women and thus describe their concerns, needs, and prospects. A Université Laval graduate student interviewed over a hundred women during 2013 on a variety of subjects such as family relationships, parenting, employment, health care, housing, government services, and so on. Two versions of the report have been published. A short version with the main results was published in Inuktitut, English and French in August 2015. 100 copies were distributed to all the main regional and national organizations. A longer version, in English, was published online and available on Saturviit's website. Saturviit is using the report as a guide to better represent women in the region and to plan activities.

### Regional consultation on women in mining

On the request of the Kautaapiklut Strategy Table and KRG Sustainable Employment Department, Saturviit organized a regional consultation on women in mining. The objective of this consultation was to better understand women's concerns related to their working conditions in the mining sector, to discuss barriers they encounter and to pinpoint their needs

in order to help increasing their presence and improve their working conditions in the mining sector. Days of consultation were organized in 13 Nunavik communities in January and February 2015. For that purpose, Saturviit hired a meeting organizer in each Nunavik community. The second step of the project was to discuss with the women a draft report about the first results of this consultation during a one-day session of Arnaliat Nipingit 2015 Women's Conference. Results of the consultation were presented during a meeting of the Kativik Regional Employment and Training Committee on January 19-20 2016.

### **Feast with Inuit living in Montreal**



To develop links with Inuit women living in Montreal, Saturviit has organized a feast for them on November 28 2015. More than 100 people came to the feast and enjoyed the country food provided by Nunavimmiut and other meals prepared the same day at the Church of the Epiphany with the help of 20 volunteers. Games have been organized and prizes distributed. It was a good occasion for Saturviit to explain its origin and mandate and to better know the situation and needs of Inuit living in Montreal.



### **Jeannie Sappa's life story**

Jeannie Sappa, Saturviit wellness coordinator, decided to write a personal letter concerning her life story to raise awareness on family violence. She sent the letter to ministers, officials and media. She gave this letter to Saturviit authorizing the association to use it as an awareness tool to advocate for Nunavik women. The English version of this letter has been translated into Inuktitut and French. These versions were sent to other media, national and international officials.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### **Annaliat nipingit 2015 / Women's conference (Akulivik)**

Saturviit held its second women's conference, Annaliat Nipingit, on March 2 to 6 2015, in Akulivik. Sixty participants from Nunavik's different villages and from the South participated. Women discussed subjects related to employment, education, leadership, parenting, addiction, sexual abuse, and missing and murdered women. This conference was a forum to express the challenges they face in their daily life and the support they need to overcome these difficulties. The conference was also followed by a 2-day workshop organised by the program Good Touch/Bad Touch of the NRBHSS. Parts of the conference were rebroadcasted on TNI regional radio the week after, so that other Nunavik women were able to benefit from this forum. The conference was also a place where women could focus on positive aspects of their lives and show their talents as mothers, entrepreneurs, artists and seamstresses.



A fashion show was organised during the conference. A 5' video was then produced that serve as a communication tool for future conferences. To pay for the costs of organizing the conference, Saturviit received the support of several partners: the Kativik Local Development Centre and the Sustainable Employment Department of KRG; Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; Makivik; Air Inuit; Secrétariat au plan Nord; Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones.

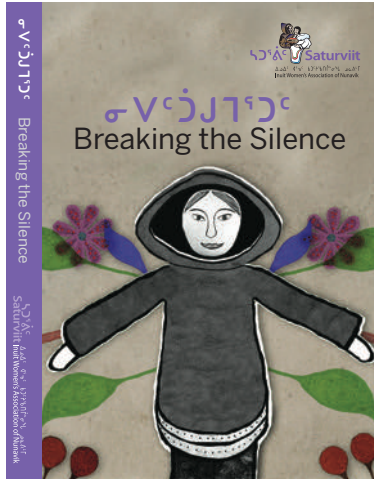
### **Community projects**

Saturviit offers small financial contributions that organizations and local groups can use to organize activities for women and their families. In 2015, two groups were given \$3,000 in funding for organization of local activities. The funds helped a group of women living in Montreal to rent a space for their sewing activities. In Umiujaq, the community wellness worker and the secretary-treasurer organized an activity called "Raising Healthy Babies" for young mothers throughout 2015 with the aim to give information about breastfeeding, babies nutrition and babies and mothers wellbeing. Saturviit donated \$1,000 to Inukjuak maternity to help cover expenses related to travel and accommodation for midwives' participation to the Canadian Association of Midwives Conference and the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives



on November 4-8 2015 in Montreal. Inukjuak midwives were able to meet colleagues from Canada and share about their experience.

### **DVD “Breaking the Silence”**



Saturviit developed a prevention tool on Family Violence in Nunavik by collecting testimonies from women who suffered from or were able to break the family violence circle. Four Nunavik women shared their testimonies, which were video-recorded during the women conference. Testimonies were edited by Productions Triangle. The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services collaborated on production of a booklet inserted into the DVD’s jacket giving information on the different forms of violence, resources available for victims, etc. Assessment of the use of the DVD will be done by keeping contact with users. Two screenings were organized in 2015: during the Puttautiit conference in Puvirnituuq in early October and during Dialogue for life in Montreal mid-November. For this project, Saturviit received funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

### **Engaging men and boys to reduce violence against women and girls**

From 2013 until the project completed in early 2015, Saturviit sat on the advisory committee for “Engaging men and boys in reducing violence against women and girls” (project coordinated by Pauktuutit, the association of Inuit women of Canada). The project undertook a gender-based study on social behaviours relating to violence against Inuit women and girls, and a survey of attitudes about violence, abuse and programs to address the issue. A toolkit was developed and distributed for use at the community level to involve men and boys in reducing violence against women and girls.

### **Elder Abuse Awareness**

Saturviit partnered with the NRBHSS for World Elder Awareness Day on June 15. Saturviit bought Inuktitut kinship terminology charts, which were distributed to the 14 Nunavik communities to encourage developing activities and discussions about generational links for World Elder Awareness Day.

### **“Habiter le Nord”**

Saturviit was asked by researchers from Laval University to collaborate to a research program called “Habiter le Nord” and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The aim of the project is to understand better how people, and especially women, live in and conceive the transformation of their territory and homes, and to involve them in designing their own homes and territory. Saturviit will collaborate in facilitating meetings where women can express their needs and share they view on the subject.

## ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

### Community Kitchen Project (Inukjuak)



Lucy Nowra, cook of the community kitchen project in 2015, preparing meals to be distributed in Inukjuak.

With financial support from Makivik and the Kativik Local development Centre, Saturviit oversees the Inukjuak Community Kitchen – a 3-year pilot project which aims to address issues of food insecurity, to promote best practices for managing food resources, and to help reduce the prevalence of hunger and other food-related problems. During 2015, the 2nd year of the project, a partnership was created with Inukjuak’s community health and social services, with Sungirtuivik Family House, and with Ivirtivik workforce training centre. This new partnership offers a consistent volunteer corps, a convenient

temporary kitchen and distribution centre, plus direct link to community members who need the most food assistance. Over the year, a total of 1,044 meals were provided to individuals in need, families on social assistance and elders; and 160 rings of bannock were distributed to elders. Heading into the final phase of the pilot project, workers are preparing to move into a renovated trailer donated by the municipality; to evaluate how effective the project has been to date; and to recommend how best to turn the pilot project into a sustaining community resource.

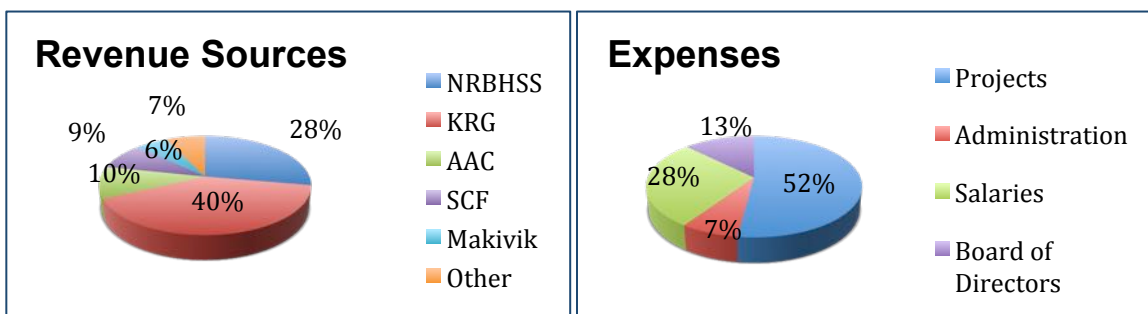
### Role model

A project for recognition of female role models was developed in 2013 and Saturviit now wishes to use it to recognize the involvement of many Nunavik women, with attention being focused on positive projects. The Saturviit executive office has decided to kick off the program by honouring one woman in particular. Eva Deer, Saturviit’s guest of honour for the women’s conference, was given tribute for her exhaustive work as a leader in Nunavik. During the conference, 60 copies of her biography, newly published, were distributed to the audience and Eva offered an encouraging speech about her life and her work in Nunavik.



## FINANCES

Saturviit receives funding from a variety of regional and provincial sources for its mandate. Saturviit receives significant financial support from the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, under its support program for community organizations. The year 2015 also marks the fourth year of Saturviit’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Specific Agreement with the Kativik Regional Government and the Secrétariat à la condition féminine to work toward equality for women and men in Nunavik. The “Equality” agreement is designed to focus regional interest on issues that matter to Nunavik women, and also serves to strengthen Saturviit as a regional organization. During 2015, Saturviit received a significant amount of money from KRG to organise the women’s conference and the regional consultation on women in mining.



More than half of Saturviit’s expenses in 2015 were dedicated to projects and activities for women, including mainly the women’s conference in March 2015, the regional consultation on women in mining and the community kitchen project in Inukjuak. Meanwhile salaries and administration costs didn’t increase.

Accountants from Raymond, Chabot, Grant, Thornton continue to review Saturviit’s books and records annually, while also preparing the financial statements and tax returns.

