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Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik

ANNUAL REPORT
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2016



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 Puvirnituk, 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 the mandate to promote women's interests in Nunavik and advocate for their rights.

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'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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Saturviit's Board of Directors is elected for a 3-year term. The members represent women living in the three main regions of Nunavik (Hudson coast, Hudson Strait, Ungava) and Inuit women living in Montreal. In 2016, the board was composed of:

Annie Arnatuk – President

representing the Hudson Strait

Mary Thomassie – Vice-President

representing the Ungava coast

Annie Alaku – Treasurer

representing the Hudson Strait coast

Nellie Aliqu – Secretary

representing the Hudson Bay

Annie Baron

representing the South

Winifred Nungak

representing the Ungava coast

Jeannie Palliser

representing the Hudson Bay



Board of directors meeting in Montreal, December 2016



Caroline Hervé (second on the left) representing the association at a meeting on sexual health organized by Pauktuutit, Ottawa, November 2016

Between January and December 2016, Saturviit board members met eight times by teleconference and twice face-to-face in Kuujjuaq in August and in Montreal in December.

Saturviit staff and directors also attended 38 meetings, AGMs, conferences, or training programs on various subjects, such as food security, missing and murdered Inuit women and girls, social economy, Inuit urban national strategy, addiction, and sexual health.

Participation in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Saturviit has played a central role in Nunavik in disseminating information about the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Saturviit has been contacted by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to collaborate in the inquiry. We have also helped to disseminate information about the pre-consultation sessions held in late January in Montreal, Quebec City, and Kuujjuaq.

Participation in provincial consultations

Saturviit has been asked by different partners to take part in provincial consultations. Rhoda Cookie and Caroline Hervé represented the interests of Nunavik women during a national consultation on gender equality organized by the Quebec government (Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones and Secrétariat à la condition féminine) in Montreal on September 9, 2016. The aim of the consultation was to learn more about the special needs and priorities of Quebec's indigenous communities on the issue of gender equality, in preparation for upcoming action plans. Saturviit later submitted a memorandum and some recommendations on renewal of the gender equality action plan to the Secrétariat à la condition féminine.

Saturviit was also contacted by Quebec's Department of Families to participate in a consultation and submit a memorandum in preparation for the Government Action Plan to Counter Elder Mistreatment 2017-2022. Saturviit board members went on local and regional radio to learn more about elderly women's special needs, and a memorandum was submitted to Quebec's Department of Families in July 2016.

Saturviit was invited by Quebec's Department of Health and Social Services to sit on the interdepartmental table on addiction and to submit a memorandum on the issue of addiction. Saturviit worked in conjunction with Isuarsivik Treatment Centre to prepare a document, which was submitted to the Department in August 2016.

Representing Inuit women living in the South

During the year, Saturviit was involved in a few initiatives for Inuit women living in the South. Annie Baron participated in meetings aimed at establishing an Inuit association in Montreal. She attended other meetings on social housing for Nunavimmiut in Montreal, and she participated in meetings on Inuit urban strategy.

PROJECT REPORT

Community projects

Saturviit offers limited funding that organizations and local groups can use to organize activities for women and their families. In 2016, seven groups were each given \$3,000 in funding for local activities. The money helped three groups of women living in Montreal, Quaqtaq, and Kangiqsujuaq to organize sewing activities, and was used to support organization of suicide prevention workshops in Aupaluk and Tasiujaq and a young girls' summer camp in Puvirnituq. The same amount was granted to a group of young students at Jaanimmarik School in Kuujuaq for travel to Guatemala as part of a youth exchange, and during the fall for a marriage conference in Kangirsuk where young and older couples received counselling.



Community project in Kangiqsujuaq

Community Kitchen Project - Inukjuak

The year 2016 was the end of a three-year community kitchen project under Saturviit's supervision. With funding from the Community Innovations Program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, channelled through the socio-economic development programs of Makivik and the KRG, Saturviit administered \$118,500 over three years for the Inukjuak Community Kitchen—a pilot project targeting food insecurity at the community level. Inukjuak was one of three Nunavik communities selected for operation of such a community kitchen. Over the span of three years, the project's local advisory group had to face the challenges of finding a suitable kitchen location, staffing the weekly hot meal and bannock programs, enlisting a core of volunteers for kitchen assistance and meal delivery to elders, and getting needy community members involved. Primary



Volunteers preparing meals for the community kitchen project.

services were delivery of weekly hot meals to individuals on social assistance, single parent families, and elders. An additional service, which proved to be necessary, was to maintain a supply of family-size frozen meals for emergency distribution by social workers. The project evolved through partnerships in the community—with the Family House, the workforce training centre, and community health and social workers. During its three years of existence, more than 3,600 meals were provided to individuals and families in need, countless rings of bannock were distributed to elders, and scores of volunteers (mainly from the job readiness program and the young women’s group home) were recruited and became committed to the project. A renovated trailer was donated by the municipality and is now the central location for the project, and a formal evaluation has given the project high marks for the nutritional value and cost-effectiveness of its meal production. The next task is to turn the pilot project into a sustainable community resource.

Missing and murdered Inuit women and girls

Saturviit was asked by Tungasuvvingat Inuit to organize a meeting to discuss the needs and priorities of Inuit women living in Montreal with regard to the upcoming National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The consultation took place on March 19th at St. Andrew and St. Mark Church in Dorval and was organized in partnership with Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). About fifteen Inuit women took part in this pre-inquiry session, including Inuit facilitators and support workers. They underlined the importance of giving Inuit a voice, as a distinct people, and respecting their culture and identity. Among other things, they argued that one cause of violence that the National Inquiry must address is the lack of resources for Inuit in Montreal and in Nunavik communities. Participants at the meeting stressed the importance of also bringing the families of murdered and missing men into the picture. The results of this session helped TI and ITK to submit to the Government of Canada a comprehensive report outlining its position on the scope, design, and composition of the National Inquiry.

Saturviit organized a gathering of family members of missing and murdered Inuit women and men in Inukjuak on April 25-29, 2016 at the Unaaq Men’s Association campsite. Eighteen family members from four different Nunavik communities and from Montreal shared their traumatic experiences and their needs. Ten local and regional representatives, including the KRPF, Makivik, the KRG, Sapumijit, the Health Board, and the Justice Committee were present to



listen to the families speak about their needs. Saturviit has prepared a report based on information collected during the gathering and on interviews conducted during the summer with a few professionals, such as social workers, police officers, shelter workers, and others. The report documents the experiences, concerns, and needs of families with regards to the justice system and proposes several recommendations to improve the situation of family members of missing or murdered Inuit women. The report is written in English, and summaries are available in English, Inuktitut, and French. This project was funded by Justice Canada, Quebec's Department of Health and Social Services, and the NRBHSS, with additional support from Air Inuit.

Leadership training



During the first session, participants created an artwork, Montreal, July 2016

During 2016, Saturviit prepared the content of a leadership training program for women to be delivered in each Nunavik community. This five-day workshop is designed to support women who want to get involved in their community or region by introducing them to special tools for self-confidence, communication, leadership, personal finance, and so on. The program enables women to learn both personally and collectively about goals in their areas of interest and about their community's goals. During the workshop, women are encouraged to draw up individual or

collective projects. Seventy-five women are expected to have access to this leadership training program in Nunavik during 2016-2017. A pilot session was held in Montreal in July 2016. This project is funded by the KRG and the Secrétariat à la condition féminine. It has also received financial support from the Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair at Université Laval.

Research participation

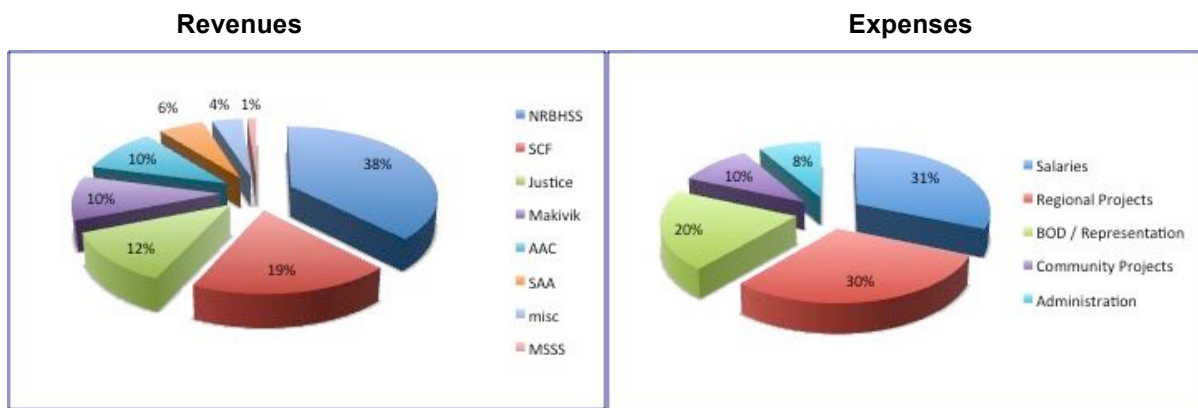
Saturviit is collaborating with Université Laval researchers in a research program called *Habiter le Nord*, which is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The aim is to learn more about how people, and especially women, live in and conceive the transformation of their territory and homes, and to involve them in designing their own homes and territory. Saturviit has taken part by attending general meetings of the project and by sitting on the scientific committee to evaluate projects.

Raising awareness about Nunavik children

Saturviit is supporting Lorraine Loranger’s project “No child should take the long way home.” Her project includes an 8,000 kilometre trek to raise awareness about the realities of the North and to raise funds for a safe house for children in Nunavik so that they can stay in their communities instead of being placed in foster care outside Nunavik. Saturviit’s board members are helping Lorraine Loranger to carry out and complete her project. Through Saturviit, she has received \$500 from the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones to help cover the logistical costs of her project.

FINANCES

Saturviit receives funding from a variety of regional and provincial sources for its mandate. Significant financial support is given by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, under its support program for community organizations. The Kativik Regional Government and the Secrétariat à la condition féminine also provide funding through a special agreement on gender equality. The “Gender 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 2016, we received a significant amount of money from other organizations to develop various projects.



Thirty percent of Saturviit’s expenses in 2016 were dedicated to projects and activities for women, including the leadership training program and activities relating to the issue of missing and murdered Inuit women and girls. Accountants from Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton continue to review Saturviit’s books and records annually, while also preparing the financial statements and tax returns.



Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik
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