National Aboriginal Women's Summit – *Strong Women, Strong Communities*
June 20 – 22, 2007 Corner Brook, NL

Issue Paper Theme: Health Safety and Wellness

Topic: Protecting the Environment

ISSUE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INUIT

The Environment and Climate Change are huge issues for Inuit. Environmental issues have always been important to Inuit because of our direct reliance on the land.

Climate Change

The Arctic has been described as the world's barometer for climate change. Inuit are experiencing first hand the effects of climate change. This global issue is impacting all areas of northern life from harvesting activities, dangerous ice conditions, unpredictable weather patterns, access to raw materials for arts and crafts, infrastructure breakdowns and erosion of shorelines.

Environment

Pauktuutit has been advocating on behalf of Inuit women on issues related to the environment, we have conducted workshops and information sessions. Pauktuutit is very concerned about the impacts of contaminants and garbage in the Arctic ecosystem.

What is Pauktuutit doing about it?

Climate Change

Pauktuutit has a proposal under consideration with Environment Canada to conduct workshops on the socio-economic impacts of climate change from the perspective of Inuit women in the arts and crafts industry.

Environment

Pauktuutit is working on two issues related to the environment and contaminants. We have submitted a proposal to start an awareness campaign in the Arctic to highlight the effects of garbage and campsite waste on our already fragile ecosystem.

Recommendation

Pauktuutit recommends that provincial and territorial governments, when addressing the critical negative impacts of climate change and contaminants in the arctic, work with Pauktuutit, the national voice of Inuit women and other stakeholders to develop solutions to mitigate negative impacts of climate change and contaminants on our communities.