



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

Issue Paper Theme: Strength, Balance and Honour

Topic: Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis

ISSUE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INUIT

RISKS

Culturally Relevant GBA is an important tool to assess the relevancy of programs from an Inuit perspective. For example: In the area of Inuit Health Data:

“Identifying new and emerging health issues for Inuit is often complicated by a lack of ‘hard’ data and by a reluctance to use innovative anecdotal indicators in research methodology. Inuit-specific health data is spotty at best and often extrapolated from larger pools of Aboriginal data collected mainly in southern Canada. For Inuit to adequately plan and prioritize health issues, for them to identify changing trends in disease, data must be collected about Inuit and for Inuit. One prime example is HIV/AIDS surveillance data. Inuit statistics are extrapolations of data collected in two provinces, Alberta and British Columbia, primarily large urban centres. This has resulted in an overwhelming focus on and disproportionate distribution of funding on prevention programs for ‘Aboriginal’ intravenous drug users, which have little, if any, relevance to Arctic Inuit.”¹

(Pauktuutit Inuit Women’s Association of Canada, Presentation to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, May 30, 2001)

What is Pauktuutit doing about it?

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada is working on an *Inuit Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis* Project. This project is in two parts - the first part is the design of a Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis Framework and the second part is Culturally Relevant Health Indicators for Inuit Women. The framework is a guide to the indicators document. We are in Phase two of this very important project. This phase will test the assumptions of the framework and the health indicators and will add regional cultural differences into the framework/indicators documents.

This project is still in the consultation stage. We have submitted a proposal for Phase II. We hope that these documents will help to better serve Inuit by providing a way to assess programming for relevancy.

Opportunities

Recommendations

The Status of Women Standing committee of the House of Commons produced a report in 1998 called *Gender Based Analysis Building Blocks for Success*.

This report recommended that all government departments and their programs and must be viewed through a gender lens. We have taken this a step further by developing tools for a Culturally Relevant GBA/Health Indicators for Inuit Women. Pauktuutit would like to work with Provincial/Territorial governments to ensure GBA and the cultural relevancy of government programs and services.

ⁱ Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association of Canada, Presentation to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, Ottawa, May 30, 2001, p. 8.