ᐸᐅᒃᑑᑎᑦ
ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐊᕐᓇᐃᑦ ᑲᓇᑕᒥ
PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

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

KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT – INUIT WOMEN'S ACTION PLAN

(See www.pauktuutit.ca for full document)

Summary of Priority Issues of PAUKTUUTIT INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

Pauktuutit identifies four priority areas that require immediate attention. The most effective priority choices are strategic, financially realistic and also practical and results based. These are:

1. EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT – Strengthening of the independent voice of aboriginal women. Gender equity is a fundamental human right and is expected to guide all federal policies and legislation. Gender based analysis must inform all Inuit-related programming, ranging from health and well-being, to economic and social development, to Arctic-related global issues.

2. HEALTH AND SAFETY – The establishment of infrastructure and services to address the inadequacies and disparities in health care services available to Inuit. The broader related issues of violence and abuse and poverty must be addressed so that support services, programs and infrastructure can be put in place. More attention must be given to the complex health conditions that exist in Inuit communities and contribute to — but are not limited to — unacceptable levels of smoking, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), alcoholism, and such mental health concerns as the legacy of residential schools and suicide.

3. STRENGTHENING INUIT FAMILIES - Consistent and adequate policy and program support in the areas that impact Inuit families, children, youth and elders: maternal and child health, midwifery and childbirth, childcare, FASD, teen pregnancies, early childhood development, and child sexual abuse. These concerns extend from birth to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

4. INUIT WOMEN'S INDEPENDENT VOICE IN GLOBAL ISSUES. Global issues influence national policies and strategies. Meaningful, well-resourced participation of Inuit women related to Canada's position at international events is critical, as well as Inuit women implementing at the national level, the international commitments made by the government. These include declarations and conventions that address human rights, Indigenous rights, women's rights, intellectual property rights, and environmental protection. Our participation in relevant discussions benefits all Inuit as well as Indigenous peoples around the world.