



ᑕᑕᑎᑕᑎᑕ ᑕᑕᑎᑕᑎᑕ  
Building *Nunavut* Together  
*Nunavut* luqatigiingniq  
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

# Ilagiitsiarniq GN Family Violence Prevention Framework for Action



## Table of Contents

Message from the the Government of Nunavut.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Family Violence in Nunavut.....	2
Definition.....	3
Purpose of the Framework for Action.....	3
Developing the Framework for Action.....	3
Guiding Principles.....	4
Overarching Goals.....	5
Areas for Action.....	5
Raise Public Awareness.....	5
Collaboration.....	5
Services.....	5
Policies and Legislation.....	6
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	6
Links to Government of Nunavut Initiatives.....	6
Family Violence Prevention Framework For Action.....	8
End Notes.....	9

DRAFT

DRAFT

## Message from the Government of Nunavut

Nunavummiut have the right to be and feel safe, particularly in the family home. Family violence has an effect on all of us because it causes damage to more than just individuals. It affects children, families, and entire communities. The Government of Nunavut is pleased to present its Family Violence Prevention Framework for Action. This document will guide the actions of the Government of Nunavut and inform the public of the important work that is being done to tackle this pervasive issue.

The Government of Nunavut is grateful for the input of Inuit organizations, territorial organizations mandated to address family violence, community groups and stakeholders, front-line workers and experts in the field. Interdepartmental collaboration played a key role in the development of this Framework for Action.

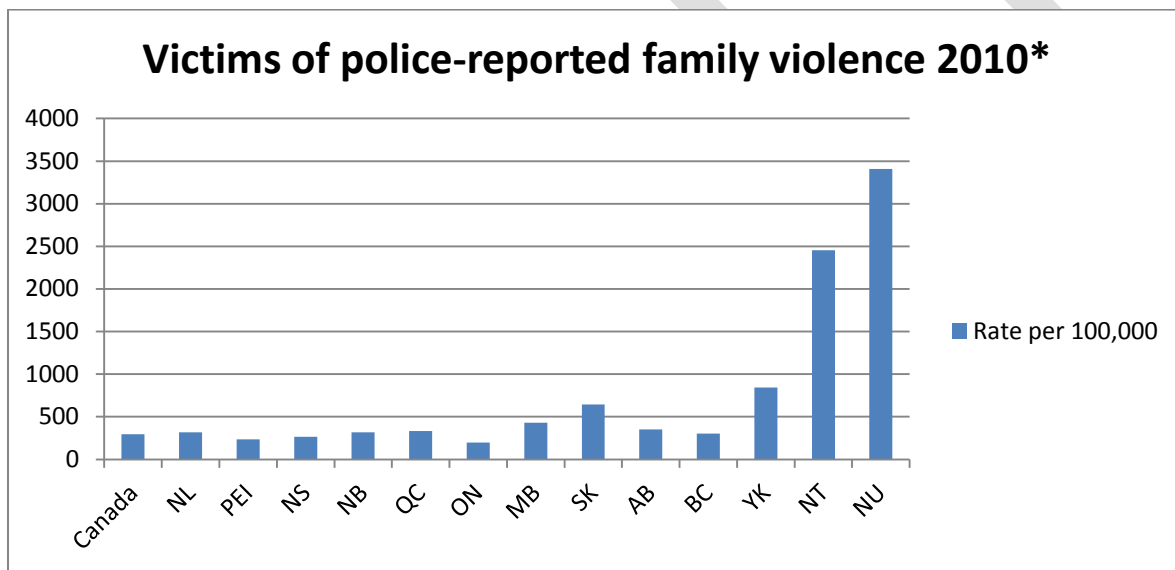
Addressing family violence upholds the *Tamapta* priorities of helping those at risk in our communities, addressing social concerns at their roots and improving health through prevention. *Ilagiitsiarniq* – healthy and well families – requires that we end the silence surrounding family violence. The Ilagiitsiarniq GN Family Violence Prevention Framework for Action provides the blue print for a coordinated effort to respond to and prevent family violence in our communities. Ensuring that Nunavummiut are aware of available resources will start a dialogue that can drive a fundamental change within our homes and communities. Effective collaboration between all stakeholders is imperative to accomplishing our goal of addressing family violence in Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut strives to ensure that we work together to deliver consistent and effective responses for families experiencing, or at risk of, family violence.

## Introduction

### Family Violence in Nunavut

Family violence can take many forms and anyone, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or economic status, can be a victim. It is a complex issue that is linked to many other social issues, such as inter-generational transmission of historical trauma, the normalization of violence within our communities, substance and alcohol abuse, poverty and high rates of overcrowding.

Rates of family violence in Nunavut are among the highest in Canada. People in our territory experience physical, psychological and sexual violence at rates far above the national averages. Inuit women experience violence at rates fourteen times the national average<sup>i</sup>. In 2011 the Auditor General of Canada reported that children in Nunavut under the age of 18 are ten times more likely to experience sexual violations than their Canadian peers<sup>ii</sup>. Nunavummiut experience abuse of a more severe nature, are more likely to suffer injury as a result, and victims of family violence in our territory are more likely to fear for their lives than victims in the rest of the country.



\*Note that Statistics Canada reports using the rate per 100,000 people. The population of Nunavut was approximately 32,800 in 2010. The total number of police-reported victims of family violence in Nunavut in 2010 was 1,132. It should also be noted that a person who made multiple reports in 2010 is counted in the total once for every report made.<sup>iii</sup>

In 2006, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada released its *National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities and Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Wisdom: A Guide to the National Strategy*<sup>iv</sup> which describes the following root causes of abuse:

- Fear, mistrust, anger and denial
- Past abuse and mental trauma
- The loss of culture and continuity
- Loss of control over the present

In 2005 the *Nuluaq Project: National Inuit Strategy for Abuse Prevention* released its final *Research Report* which outlines important abuse prevention services. These services are areas where the Government of Nunavut will focus its efforts to address family violence in our communities, through advocacy, crisis/emergency intervention, corrections/justice, health, educational/therapeutic programs, shelters, support groups, and counselling/healing.<sup>v</sup>

## **Definition**

Family violence can be either a single violent attack or prolonged abuse that takes place within a family, or within a relationship of trust or dependency, that endangers the survival, safety or well-being of another person. It may include but is not limited to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse and assault, elder abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, parent abuse, and witnessing the abuse of others in the family.

The Government of Nunavut recognizes that: women and men can experience family violence, violence occurs within nuclear and extended families, and that children, elders and people who are in the care of others can be abused. In Nunavut, as in other jurisdictions, family violence affects entire families, it is often multi-generational, includes non-kinship relationships, and is all too often directed towards and/or witnessed by children.

## **Purpose of the Framework for Action**

The Framework for Action is a guiding document that is meant to coordinate how we as a government, as communities and as individuals respond to family violence. Further, the Framework for Action will attempt to reduce the prevalence of family violence in Nunavut. Family violence prevention and intervention is a key component to ensuring the health and well-being of Nunavummiut, and is consistent with the *Tamapta* priorities to help those at risk in our communities, to address social concerns at their roots, and to improve health through prevention. Preventing family violence may help reduce the social and economic burden that it places on our territory. By raising public awareness, coordinating our resources, responses and services, strengthening our policies and utilizing our legislation to its full extent, we can reduce the rates of family violence over time.

## **Developing the Framework for Action**

Invaluable input was received from Inuit organizations, territorial organizations mandated to address family violence, community groups and stakeholders, front-line workers and experts in the field.

In conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services, the following Government of Nunavut (GN) departments and agencies provided strategic input and advice through working group participation:

- Justice (Community Justice)
- Education (including Income Support)
- Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (Social Advocacy Office)
- Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (since renamed Culture and Heritage)
- Community and Government Services
- Economic Development and Transportation (Anti-Poverty Secretariat)
- Nunavut Arctic College
- Nunavut Housing Corporation

An external advisory committee was created to ensure compliance with Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, as well as to receive input from non-governmental stakeholders including:

- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (in consultation with the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Inuit Organizations)
- Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- YWCA Agvvik Society
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

A literature review and best practices research complemented the consultation process and a survey inviting feedback from service providers was developed and distributed. Key informant interviews and focus groups and subject matter expert meetings were conducted.

It is with gratitude that the department acknowledges the participation of all who have provided their invaluable input towards the creation of the Framework for Action.

## **Guiding Principles**

The following guiding principles will inform ongoing efforts to address family violence in the territory:

- Inuit societal values will inform all efforts to prevent and address family violence.
- There are no acceptable forms of violence.
- Nunavummiut have the right to be safe and secure, to be protected from violence and injury.
- Accessible, appropriate and consistent information and services must be available to everyone.
- All Nunavummiut have a part to play in addressing family violence.



## **Overarching Goals**

1. Prevention – to influence Nunavummiut to not tolerate family violence. To encourage Nunavummiut to seek supports and to avoid resorting to violence.
2. Intervention and Protection – to educate Nunavummiut about the legislation, policies and supports that are in place to protect and assist Nunavummiut.
3. Rehabilitation – to encourage and help Nunavummiut who have experienced or perpetrated family violence to heal and lead violence-free lives.

## **Areas for Action**

### **Raise Public Awareness**

In order to heal and move forward, Nunavummiut need to be able to openly discuss family violence and its impact on families and communities. A public education campaign will open a dialogue on the issue and encourage Nunavummiut to express their intolerance for family violence. Joint initiatives with the Sexual Health Framework and the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy working group will address overlapping themes and concerns. A review and update of the Child Abuse Protocol will ensure that the protocol captures any legislative changes and provide opportunities for public awareness campaigns and training or retraining of service providers who work with minors.

### **Collaboration**

Strong partnerships among government agencies, the non-government sector and other community stakeholders are required to carry out the implementation of the action items. Collaboration and communication between these groups is important to make sure that resources are used effectively, that family violence is given priority, and efforts to address family violence achieve their intended outcomes. Responding to family violence must be a whole-of-government and a whole-of-community responsibility. A Family Violence Prevention Coordinator will be hired in order to initiate and facilitate collaboration.

### **Services**

Ending the silence on family violence and helping Nunavummiut to heal and move forward requires the provision of supports, protection and rehabilitation services. Through the Social Services Transformation Plan, efforts are being made to develop a range of local services and supports from prevention through to residential treatment. The Department of Justice employs Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOW) who work with the Community Justice Committees to raise public awareness and access to the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, victim services, crime prevention and family mediation. CJOWs also raise the confidence of community members in the Community Justice Program, and inspire community involvement in Community Justice and processes. Services that may help those experiencing family violence, or help those perpetrating violence to alter their behaviour currently offered by the Government of Nunavut include:

- Family violence shelters
- Shelter programming
- Safe homes
- Kamatsiaqtut Baffin Help Line
- Community Social Services Workers
- Community Justice Outreach Workers
- Mental Health Workers
- Access to addictions treatment programs

## **Policies and Legislation**

The *Child and Family Services Act* will be strengthened by extending the circumstances under which a child is in need of protection to include a child who is being exposed to family violence. Under the Social Services Transformation Plan more services and supports will be made available to families in their home communities. Families and communities will also become more involved in decision-making processes.

The *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, supported by Community Justice Workers, provides ways to protect victims, even in instances when the abuse is mental or emotional rather than purely physical violence. The Act focuses on the immediate need for safety. Community Justice Outreach Workers facilitate communication between the Department of Justice, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Crown and other community organizations.

Family violence shelters in the territory are governed by the *Saillivik* Policy. The policy is currently under review.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Gathering Nunavut-specific data related to family violence will provide a starting point from which to evaluate the effectiveness of available services and supports. Gathering baseline data in order to determine the root causes of family violence will provide an opportunity to identify which services may address the root cause of the issue. Several information collection systems located in various departments will be essential sources of baseline data. Once baseline data has been established, these same databases will provide the necessary updates to monitor trends and to analyze the effectiveness of GN initiatives. An evaluation plan for the Framework for Action will guide future decisions on where resources can best be utilized to prevent and intervene in family violence in Nunavut.

## **Links to Government of Nunavut Initiatives**

In order to address an issue as complex and pervasive as family violence, collaboration and coordination across government departments, non-governmental organizations, Inuit organizations

and communities must be pursued and maintained. The Family Violence Prevention Framework for Action is one piece in a holistic approach to addressing social concerns at their roots and recognizes links to the following initiatives:

- Tamapta – the Family Violence Prevention Framework for Action is intended to aid the GN in its efforts to accomplish the following commitments: to help those at risk in our communities, address social concerns at their roots and improve health through prevention
- The Social Services Transformation Plan – many of the proposed changes in the Transformation Plan will support Nunavummiut who are coping with family violence, the two documents share common goals, namely: identify and support families that are at risk, as an alternative to child protection intervention, develop a range of local services and supports for children, youth and families from prevention through to residential treatment, develop the capacity of communities to provide services and supports for their own people, and enhance the knowledge, skill and capacity of the social services workforce
- The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction – the Family Violence Prevention Framework for Action aligns with the Makimaniq Plan in several areas: collaboration and community participation, and increased support for community action
- Mental Health and Addictions Framework for Action – many perpetrators of violence require mental health and addictions supports in order to alter their behavior. Both documents contain components to address family violence.
- Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan – overlapping areas between the two strategies include: better equip youth with skills to cope with adverse life events and negative emotions, invest in the next generation by fostering opportunities for healthy development in early childhood, provide support for communities to engage in community-development activities
- Public Health Strategy – family violence prevention falls directly under goal 4 of the Public Health Strategy: to decrease the number of people experiencing mental, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, particularly children
- Maternal and Newborn Health Care Strategy – increasing the health and wellbeing of mothers and newborns requires a healthy pregnancy and safe home environment
- Early Childhood Education plans – incorporating awareness of family violence and details on how to seek help if it is needed into early childhood education plans will promote the de-normalization of violence.
- Sexual Health Framework – the educational component of this framework will reinforce the message that violence is not part of a healthy relationship.

## Family Violence Prevention Framework For Action

Areas for Action	Priority Actions	Target Audiences	Key Measurable Outcomes
<b>Raise Public Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and implement a mass media campaign to raise awareness of family violence prevention.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Department of Education on curriculum materials for different age groups.</li> <li>• Support youth programs and initiatives that include family violence awareness components.</li> <li>• Update the Child Abuse Protocol and circulate widely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Nunavummiut, with particular emphasis on children and service providers working with children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness of what constitutes family violence and of available services and supports.</li> <li>• Curriculum for children and youth that teaches violence prevention, including healthy relationships, and available supports for those experiencing family violence.</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of the duty to report.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an inter-sectoral working group to coordinate family violence prevention efforts.</li> <li>• Hire a Family Violence Prevention Coordinator to serve as a point-person for the working group, oversee the public awareness campaign, identify potential interdepartmental and inter-sectoral synergies and coordinate efforts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GN departments, NTL, Regional Inuit Organizations, RCMP, NGOs, community stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved collaboration and coordination on family violence initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and support the development of services and supports for prevention, intervention and healing.</li> <li>• Encourage communities to use their Healthy Children, Families and Communities funding to provide educational and prevention programming as well as support programming for Nunavummiut who have experienced family violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Workers, Mental Health Workers, Community Justice Workers</li> <li>• Community Wellness Committees</li> <li>• Hamlet Councils</li> <li>• Shelter staff</li> <li>• RCMP</li> <li>• Elders</li> <li>• Nunavummiut who have experienced family violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based service development activities.</li> <li>• Increased number of safe homes in the territory.</li> <li>• Increased community involvement in family violence prevention and intervention programming efforts.</li> <li>• Maximize use of existing funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Policies and Legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include exposure to family violence in the list of circumstances under which a child is deemed to be in need of protection.</li> <li>• Review the <i>Saillivik</i> / Family Violence Shelters Policy.</li> <li>• Enforce the <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA)</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislators</li> <li>• Social Workers, Community Justice Workers, Health Care Professionals, Teachers</li> <li>• All Nunavummiut</li> <li>• RCMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased reports to social services regarding children exposed to family violence.</li> <li>• Increased use of FAIA to protect victims from perpetrators of family violence.</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an evaluation plan to collect data about the identified outcomes.</li> <li>• Continue to pursue funding for an electronic information system to help collect and analyze baseline data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front-line workers</li> <li>• Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on utilization of supports and services.</li> <li>• Baseline data on incidences and circumstances relating to family violence.</li> </ul>

## End Notes

---

<sup>i</sup> Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (2012). Citation of Statistics Canada Report: *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006*. Retrieved December 2012 from Pauktuutit: [http://pauktuutit.ca/abuse-prevention/family-violence/#\\_ftn1](http://pauktuutit.ca/abuse-prevention/family-violence/#_ftn1).

<sup>ii</sup> Office of the Auditor General of Canada. (2011). *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut-2011 Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut*. Retrieved December 2012 from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: [http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/nun\\_201103\\_e\\_35006.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/nun_201103_e_35006.html), p. 6.

<sup>iii</sup> Statistics Canada. (2012). *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2010*. Retrieved from Statistics Canada, December 2012 from Statistics Canada: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11643-eng.pdf>, p.22.

<sup>iv</sup> Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (2006). *National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities and Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Wisdom: A Guide to the National Strategy*. Retrieved from Pauktuutit December 2012: [http://pauktuutit.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/assets/InuitStrategy\\_e.pdf](http://pauktuutit.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/assets/InuitStrategy_e.pdf), pp. 3-4.

<sup>v</sup> Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (2005). *Research Report: Applying Inuit Cultural Approaches in the Prevention of Family Violence and Abuse*. Retrieved from Pauktuutit December 2012: [http://pauktuutit.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/assets/InuitAbusePrevention\\_e.pdf](http://pauktuutit.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/assets/InuitAbusePrevention_e.pdf) pp. 13-16