



July 2025

Introduction:

The Annual Report of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth for 2023-2024 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on October 24, 2024. The report opened with the Representative's Message providing an overview of highlights in the report and strong words on the issue of child sexual abuse in Nunavut.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held its televised hearing on the 2023-2024 Annual Report of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth from April 28-29, 2025. The hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and televised live across the territory. The hearing was also open to the public and news media and was livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. Transcripts from the hearing are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

On May 28, 2025, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts presented the Report on the Review of the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth.

Several themes were addressed in some detail during the standing committee's review of the Representative for Children and Youth's 2023 – 24 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut including: the crisis of child sexual abuse in Nunavut; the role of the Umingmak Centre; the collection and use of data; efforts to improve collaboration and communication; and difficulties faced by families when there are delays in accessing identification documentation for Nunavut newborns.

This document is the comprehensive response to the report requested by the Chair pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly*.

Child Sexual Abuse in Nunavut

The Standing Committee recommends:

1. That, with no further delay, the Government of Nunavut immediately develop and finalize a government-wide action plan to address child sexual abuse and sexual violence in Nunavut and further, that this action plan be tabled in this Assembly before the end of the term of this Assembly.

GN Response:

Development of the action plan is underway through the Nunavut Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement (CANRA) Committee. The plan requires coordination and commitment across multiple departments and partners. While significant progress has been made, the action plan will not be finalized or tabled before the end of this Assembly's term.

2. That educational resources and materials to help children and youth navigate the trauma in their lives be developed as a component of the government's action plan to address child sexual abuse and sexual violence in Nunavut.

GN Response:

This component will be included in the development of the Sexual Abuse Action Plan. The Department of Family Services (DFS) is working in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and options will be presented to decision makers in the new government.

Umingmak Center

The Standing Committee recommends:

3. That the Department of Family Services work to incorporate the role of the Umingmak Centre into the department's standards and procedures and, further, that additional resources be allocated to the Umingmak Centre to enable the delivery of its services in communities outside of Iqaluit.

GN Response:

The integration of the role of the Umingmak Centre into the DFS standards and procedures is complete and will be reflected in the 202-D Umingmak Referral Guide, Section 2: Reporting and Investigating. DFS is identifying resources that would support Umingmak Centre's expansion plans.

Collection and Use of Data

The Standing Committee recommends:

4. That the Department of Family Services ensure that all future reports on Child and Family Services in Nunavut include comprehensive and up-to-date data on services being provided to Nunavut's children and youth.

GN Response:

With the implementation of Matrix, DFS now has improved capacity for data reporting. Relevant data will be included in the Director's Annual Report and integrated into the revised *Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Action Plan* progress reports.

Collaboration and Coordination

The Standing Committee recommends:

5. That the Government of Nunavut, under the leadership of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, establish a formal system of

interdepartmental coordination that ensures that children and youth in Nunavut receive the care and services to which they are entitled.

GN Response:

DFS will use the CANRA committee as a platform for interdepartmental coordination. The MOU for the Umingmak Centre and interdepartmental collaboration may be central elements of the Sexual Abuse Action Plan and Assistant Deputy Minister committee activities.

Communication

The Standing Committee recommends:

6. That the Representative for Children and Youth seek nominations and appoint Elder Advisors to the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth at the earliest opportunity.

GN Response:

This item falls under the mandate of the Representative for Children and Youth. They will respond directly to the recommendation.

The Standing Committee recommends:

7. That the Department of Family Services provides regular reports to the Legislative Assembly on the operations of its Client Relations office including details on the types of complaints or concerns received and the responses and actions taken to address them.

GN Response:

The Department of Family Services is committed to providing regular reports to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the operations of its client relations office. Data will be summarized in quarterly reports and tabled in the Legislative Assembly, together with details of actions taken to address concerns.