



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut

From: Gloria Song, Law Society of Nunavut Representative, Access to Justice File

Re: Report for the 2020 – 2021 Annual General Meeting on the Law Society of Nunavut’s
Access to Justice activities

Date: May 12, 2021

I am once again pleased to provide a general update on the Law Society of Nunavut's activities on access to justice, along with our plans for the future.

1. Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut: Research Project & Awareness Campaign

We are very proud to have just wrapped up this two-year project in partnership with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada (Pauktuutit) with funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario and Justice Canada. Our work was guided by our project [Advisory Committee](#), which included cross-sector representatives from Qulliq Nunavut Status of Women, YWCA Agvvik Society, Legal Services Board of Nunavut, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut (GN) Department of Family Services, GN Department of Justice and GN Department of Health.

Our research involved holding interviews with 38 Inuit women with lived experiences of family violence and 7 focus groups with service providers in Iqaluit, Kinngait (Cape Dorset), Pangnirtung, Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat, Nunavut. A research license was obtained from the Nunavut Research Institute under the *Scientists Act*. We learned a lot from this research phase. The [preliminary findings](#) were shared with stakeholders through workshops and meetings to [validate the preliminary](#) findings and to also share the recommendations arising from the analysis. From that, we were able to design and successfully [launch](#) the break the silence awareness campaign to raise awareness about family violence in Nunavut, and what one can do about it. We developed various different [public legal education and information \(PLEI\)](#) resources in print, video, audio, and electronic forms, and also held awareness-raising events for the project in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Clyde River, and Pangnirtung.

This has been an important step in better understanding empirically what access to justice issues exist in the territory and learning about how to best address them. This project has been valuable

in allowing for multiple cross-sectoral stakeholders to connect, discuss, and begin collaborating on the issues that each of us are working on from different angles. We are grateful for the commitment and contributions made by a number of individuals and organizations and proud of what has been accomplished through this project.

More information about the project can be found [here](#).

Next steps:

- Although this project is now closed, we are excited about future work to be done on this issue. We will participate in a working group of stakeholders across the territory to continue working on these issues.
- We will finalize a few more PLEI resources and develop a plan to strategically distribute them across the territory.
- We are also in discussion with the Government of Nunavut's Departments of Finance and Health to explore potential opportunities for alcohol & drug addiction prevention through a legal and harm reduction/wellness lens, a significant factor identified in our research connected to family violence.
- Work has already begun with GN's Justice Department to explore the development of training tools and materials on the Family Abuse Intervention Act and build on the good work and resources already developed by the Department. We are pleased that Pauktuutit will also continue to participate in this working group.

2. Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Harassment in the Workplace

Progress continues on this Justice Canada-funded access to justice project to promote public legal education about addressing sexual harassment and other forms of harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace. We organized [two training sessions](#) for our membership on the legal framework for workplace harassment and violence, and on providing services through an Inuit-specific trauma-informed approach. We also successfully executed public legal education and information workshops on workplace harassment and violence and pro bono legal clinics in Clyde River, Pangnirtung, and Qikiqtarjuaq. We are also developing PLEI resources in print, audio, video, and electronic form to support this work, in partnership with ilinniapaa Skills Development Centre. Current available resources can be found [here](#).

Next steps:

- Continue producing PLEI resources and develop a plan for distribution
- Plan community visits to the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot region

3. Liaising at the national level with other access-to-justice players

This year, I continued to represent the Law Society of Nunavut at national level meetings on access to justice, including with the [Federation of Law Societies of Canada's Access to Justice](#) Exchange group, and at the virtual Annual Summit of the [National Action Committee](#) (NAC) on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters to learn about similar work being conducted in other jurisdictions.

Next Steps:

- I am very pleased to have Victoria Perrie join me as the Law Society of Nunavut co-representative for the Access to Justice file and look forward to working with her.