CONCEPT NOTE

Access to justice for family violence in Nunavut:
A Research Project and Awareness Campaign

The Law Society of Nunavut and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada are pleased to partner on a project on the experiences of Inuit women dealing with family violence in Nunavut. Funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario, this project involves a research study and an awareness campaign on the Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA). FAIA was put into place to prevent family abuse in Nunavut, by providing Nunavummiut with the opportunity to get different types of orders to deal with family abuse, including emergency protection orders against the abuser, and community intervention orders.

Understanding the legal barriers and needs of Inuit women dealing with family violence in Nunavut

The **research study** component of this project will build more evidence on what is known on how the implementation of the Family Abuse Intervention Act is or is not meeting the needs of Inuit women experiencing intimate partner violence.

Guided by an advisory committee and with the support of community-based partner organizations, this research will be carried out using personal interviews with frontline providers and survivors with lived experiences, community focus groups, and surveys. Communities in each region of the territory of Nunavut will be targeted to explore what elements of FAIA are working well, as well as what kind of legal barriers may exist and what legal needs may be unmet with respect to family violence.

Breaking the silence on family violence in Nunavut

Through validation at community workshops, the results of the research study will be used to develop key messages about family violence in Nunavut for the second component of the project, **the public awareness campaign**. Guided by Inuit societal values, the public awareness campaign will aim to empower Nunavummiut to recognize abusive situations and to increase public understanding about the Family Abuse Intervention Act and other available legal options. The campaign will have a broad reach, targeting survivors, service provides and other community members. Multiple innovative components will be used to share the information, including information events, videos, posters, podcasts, plain language resources, radio interviews, and social media.

By establishing baseline information on unmet legal needs, this project will make a significant contribution to understanding access to justice in Nunavut. The awareness campaign will also play a crucial role in promoting access to justice, building on the past work of the Law Society of Nunavut through its Access to Justice committee and public legal education initiatives. Most importantly, in continuing Pauktuutit's work on family violence, this project aims to improve the lives of Nunavummiut in their efforts to eliminate violence in the home.