



Access to Justice Family Violence Prevention

Joanna Awa – Host

Public Awareness Campaign Launch in Iqaluit

Good day and on behalf of the Law Society of Nunavut and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, welcome to the official launch of the Access to Justice for Family Violence Prevention Public Awareness Campaign.

For those of you who don't know me my name is Joanna Awa.

Before we begin, a few minor housekeeping items. Please be aware of the exits in the theatre in the event of an emergency. Also ensure any garbage is deposited in the bins outside the doors on your way out. Thank you.

In the spring of 2019, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and the Law Society of Nunavut joined forces to undertake a project that would break the silence on family violence in Nunavut. The goal was to better understand the needs of Inuit women dealing with family violence and the legal barriers they face.

Though extensive research and engagement, much information was gathered from both women with lived experience and the service providers who support them. These findings and insights have informed both the Preliminary Report, including a number of recommendations which will be made public, and this Public Awareness Campaign.

Today we acknowledge the true collaborative spirit and the foundation of this project. From the federal and territorial governments, private, not for profit, and the many community members, we stand together to break the silence on family violence in Nunavut.

I would like to welcome Rhoda Ungalaaq to light the qulliq and say a prayer to remember those who have been victims of abuse and family violence, and especially to those who have lost their lives. Let us take a moment to remember.

(Rhoda Ungalaaq lighting the Qulliq)

Thank you Rhoda.

Many individuals and organizations have come together to make today possible. Over the next hour, we have a number of very special guests who have been invited to say a few words regarding their contribution to this public awareness campaign, and their ongoing commitment to supporting access to justice for family violence prevention in Nunavut.

I would like to present the first of our two funders, Linda Rothstein, Board Chair of the Law Foundation of Ontario. Ms. Rothstein has served as a Foundation Trustee since 2014 and as Board Chair since 2016.

(pre-recorded video of Linda Rothstein)

Thank you to the Law Foundation of Ontario and to Ms. Rothstein for your message.

I would now like to present our second funder, the Department of Justice Canada, and the Honorable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. Minister Lametti has served as a parliamentary secretary from 2015 until 2019, when he was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

(pre-recorded video of David Lametti)

Thank you to the Department of Justice and Minister Lametti for your message.

On behalf of the Law Society of Nunavut and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, I would like to say a special thank you to both funders, for which, all of this would not be possible without their generous contribution and support.

Much of the work dealing with family violence and abuse in Nunavut occurs at the community level, through the critical services, programs and support from the Government of Nunavut.

I would like to welcome the Honorable George Hicks, Minister of Justice. Minister Hicks represents the constituency of Iqaluit-Tasiluk.

(Minister Hicks is welcomed to the stage)

Thank you Minister Hicks.

Next, representing the Department of Family Services, I would like to welcome the Honourable Elisapee Sheutiapik. Minister Sheutiapik represents the constituency of Iqaluit-Sinaa. She also serves as the Government House Leader, Minister responsible for Homelessness, Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, and Minister responsible for Status of Women.

(Minister Sheutiapik is welcomed to the stage)

Thank you Minister Sheutiapik.

Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, our next speaker was unable to attend. Representing the Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Health, I would like to invite the Department of Health's Assistant Deputy Minister, Stephen Jackson.

(Assistant Deputy Minister Jackson is welcomed to the stage)

Thank you Mr. Jackson.

Addressing the issue of abuse and family violence involves many organizations throughout Nunavut. One of the critical, front line organizations outside the Government of Nunavut is the RCMP.

I would like to welcome Chief Superintendent Amanda Jones, the Commanding Officer for the RCMP in Nunavut. She is the first female Commanding Officer for V Division; however, she will not be the last.

(Chief Superintendent Jones is welcomed to the stage)

Thank you Chief Superintendent Jones.

I now have the honour of reading a statement from Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada's President, Rebecca Kudloo. Ms. Kudloo has served as President since 2014. Previously, she has also served on the Pauktuutit Board as Vice President.

Like many of us during this pandemic, President Kudloo has been working from her home in Baker Lake. Unfortunately, she was not able to join us today.

(statement by President Kudloo is read by Joanna Awa)

Next, I would like to welcome John MacLean, President of the Law Society of Nunavut, and Director of the Nunavut Lawyers Assistance Program. Mr. Maclean also is Legal Counsel in the Legal and Constitutional Law Division of the Nunavut Department of Justice.

(John MacLean is welcomed to the stage)

Thank you Mr. Maclean.

I now turn over the stage to Ms. Nalini Vaddapalli. Ms. Vaddapalli is the Access to Justice for Family Violence Prevention Project Co-Lead, representing the Law Society of Nunavut, where she has served as the CEO over the last 10 years.

(Nalini Vaddapalli is welcomed to the stage)

Thank you Ms. Vaddapalli.

On behalf of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and the Law Society of Nunavut, I would like to express a sincere thank you to everyone for taking the time today to be with us to launch the Access to Justice for Family Violence Prevention in Nunavut Public Awareness Campaign.

Standing together, we can break the silence on family violence in Nunavut.

In closing, I would like to welcome Olivia Chislett and Kristen Kownak for a traditional throat singing demonstration.

(throat singing performance by Olivia Chislett and Kristen Kownak)

Thank you and good day everyone.