



## Access to Justice

### Family Violence Prevention

George Hicks – Minister, Nunavut Department of Justice  
Public Awareness Campaign Launch in Iqaluit

Good afternoon everyone,

Today marks an important day, and I am happy to be able to attend this Family Violence Awareness Campaign, on International Women's Day. I wouldn't be here today if not for the hard work and sacrifices the women in my life have made, and I look forward to the contributions my three daughters will bring towards fostering positive growth to our territory.

I would like to thank the Law Society of Nunavut and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada for their invitation to this event and for bringing awareness to the issue of family violence and abuse in our territory. The ongoing collaboration between the Department of Justice and your organizations on addressing family violence has been very beneficial to us and we look forward to continued work going forward to better protect women and girls across the territory.

I'd like to talk briefly about several initiatives that the Department of Justice is currently working on. The first initiative I'd like to highlight is efforts to review the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* which came into force in 2008 and was created to prevent and protect Nunavummiut from family abuse.

Built upon Inuit principles and traditional values, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* is designed to be accessible for anyone facing family abuse. It offers support for victims in the form of counselling, emergency protection orders, protection from stalking and financial compensation.

While the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* has helped families across the territory in times of crisis, we must continue to review its effectiveness in addressing the needs of families the victims of family abuse. For this reason, we encourage

anyone who is interested to provide your comments and feedback on this Act by email to: [faia@gov.nu.ca](mailto:faia@gov.nu.ca).

The Department of Justice also recently passed legislation which amended the Labour Standards Act to provide paid leave to individuals experiencing family violence or to individuals supporting someone who is experiencing family violence. We are currently working on creating regulations to bring these new sections into force.

It is my hope that the success of these initiatives, the work of my colleagues in the departments of Family Services and the Department of Health, and the amazing work by organizations such as the Law Society of Nunavut and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada will positively impact the lives of Nunavummiut and continue to promote a peaceful and safe society.

Thank you once again for your kind invitation to speak and for the work you are doing.