



Access to Justice Family Violence Prevention

David Lametti – Minister, Department of Justice Canada
Public Awareness Campaign Launch in Iqaluit

Ullaakkut [oo-lah-kuut]. Good morning. Bonjour.

Greetings from my office, which sits on the traditional territory of the Algonquin People.

My best wishes to everyone taking part in the launch of the next phase of the Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut project.

I want to thank the Law Society of Nunavut (LSN) and the Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada for your tremendous work—even in the shadow of a pandemic. Your leadership has united so many strong partners, including the federal and territorial governments, non-profit organizations and community members.

This spirit of collaboration is more critical than ever, as we cope with the current public health, social, economic and human rights crisis.

La pandémie exacerbe les injustices, les inégalités et la discrimination systémique qui existent déjà dans notre société. De plus, le confinement et l'isolement ont accentué le sentiment de peur et la violence familiale que vivent des femmes et des enfants en situation de vulnérabilité.

En cette Journée internationale des femmes, le moment est donc bien choisi pour lancer le prochain volet du projet, dont le but est de soutenir les femmes et les enfants inuits qui subissent de la violence.

The Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut project is seeing the light of day at a critical moment.

The stories of cyclical family violence and abuse in the North are devastating. So too is the lack of resources and support available for those who experienced violence, as well as for offenders, families and the greater community.

We know that gendered and racialized violence are rooted in colonial and racist practices that aimed to destroy the fabric of Nunavut culture and families. We also know that this intergenerational trauma continues today.

The Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut project will play a key role in helping women in Nunavut cope with family violence and provide them with access to the legal information they need.

The project's strengths are obvious. It emphasizes the strength of survivors and focuses on awareness, empowerment, recovery, culture and community.

For these and many more reasons, I am pleased to tell you today that our government has approved increased funding for this project.

This means an additional \$61,000 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and a new total contribution of over \$249,000.

I applaud the work of Pauktuutit and the LSN for your determination to overcome the obstacles of the last year, and find innovative ways to carry out your vital research.

I especially want to thank the remarkable women who came forward and shared their lived experiences. We are grateful for their courage, resilience and strength.

Their voices resonate in recommendations about how to move forward with a holistic approach grounded in Inuit Societal Values that supports and protects the victims, and the offenders

The awareness campaign being launched today is a critical next step—reaching out to all Nunavummiut to help individuals better recognize abusive situations and know how to access legal resources.

While this project may have an Inuit focus, it can inspire change on a much larger scale.

This is reconciliation in action. It acknowledges the trauma caused by generations of colonial harm, and helps propel us toward a better, stronger future that is grounded in Indigenous systems of community, justice and healing.

Our government is more determined than ever to move forward in our work to advance reconciliation. This includes our work on Bill C-15, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

C'est un projet de loi qui transformera profondément la relation entre la Couronne et les peuples autochtones. Il énonce que la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration doit comprendre la prise de mesures concrètes pour lutter contre les injustices, les préjudices, la violence et la discrimination auxquels font face tous les Autochtones : les aînés, les jeunes, les enfants, les femmes, les hommes, les personnes ayant un handicap, ainsi que les personnes bispirituelles ou de diverses identités de genre.

It puts us on a path, together, to rebuild our relationships and create a better, stronger future for all.

Thank you again to everyone taking part in this tremendous project. It speaks to the strong collaboration among all actors, and the true value of working together. Your contributions are helping create a brighter future for all Nunavummiut.

Nakurmiik. Thank you. Merci.