Inuit Women and Racism in Labrador

The women and girls of NunatuKavut and NunatuKavut Community Council’s rights and recognition journey

June 12, 2018
My Story
My home community of
Black Tickle
My Grandmothers
The story of the Southern Inuit
NunatuKavut means Our Ancient Land and is the territory of the Inuit of NunatuKavut – the Southern Inuit – who reside primarily in southern and central Labrador.
Our **traditional territory** covers the entirety of south central Labrador, the adjacent marine areas and also extends westward to the now Labrador/Quebec border.
The NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) is the representative government of approximately 6,000 people who belong to this territory.
We are a people whose identity is shaped by the land, sea and ice.
NCC is a modern land claimant organization.

Our Land Claim includes the Indigenous rights, titles and Treaty rights of the Southern Inuit.
Before Canadian/provincial jurisdiction, Southern Inuit were self-governing.
Why is “our” story integral to confronting and overcoming racism?
Colonial systems of governance were imposed on our people and communities.
Our women and girls have especially been **vulnerable** to various forms of violence.
We have had inadequate health services.
Poor community infrastructure.
Lack of culturally-relevant education and community supports.
Enforcement of policies and laws restrict our connection to the land and water and reduce our ability to provide for ourselves.
But we are resilient.
And rich in culture.
Let’s consider Indigenous feminism.

“For Indigenous women, colonization has involved their removal from positions of power, the replacement of traditional gender roles with western patriarchal practices, the exertion of colonial control over Indigenous communities through the management of women’s bodies, and sexual violence.”

(Huhndorf and Suzack, 2010)
What have we learned?

- Southern Inuit women are an integral part of the social and political fabric of NunatuKavut communities.
- Our health and well-being is wholistic.
- Our communities are most healthy when we govern ourselves.
Nakummek.