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**PAUKTUUTIT**  
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and  
Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls  
Location/Phase: Parts 2/3 St. John's  
Witness: Jennisha Wilson  
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## Inuit Vulnerabilities to Human Trafficking

August 2013

### Submitted to

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## Preface

Violence and abuse prevention have been among Pauktuutit's main priorities since its incorporation in 1984. Through workshops, annual general meetings and other forums, its members have repeatedly raised Inuit-specific priorities. There is a chronic and widespread lack of basic health and social services in most Inuit communities across the North, and specialized services can only be accessed in southern urban centres, if at all. Recent anecdotal data indicates that more than 70 per cent of Inuit communities do not have safe shelters for Inuit women and children experiencing violence in their homes, which has and will continue to result in the loss of life. There are very few men's groups or culturally and linguistically relevant resources for Inuit men who are concerned about reducing the levels of violence in their own family or community.

This pervasive lack of safe shelters for women and their children can be attributed to randomly under-funded programs and services that are offered without being sustainable, Inuit-specific, or consistent between communities. Basic language barriers exist as well as there are five major dialects of Inuktitut. Many positions in the North for service providers in the fields of health, mental health, and social work are left vacant.

There are many precursors to being victimized by human trafficking (HT), and many situations that put Inuit women and girls in vulnerable positions. Temporary houses and structures used to build permanent settlements 70 years ago have long outlived their practical lifespan and basic infrastructure is lacking in all communities. It is not uncommon for as many as 14 (or more) people to live in a three-bedroom house. The implications of the housing crisis, combined with unemployment and poverty, include lack of quiet spaces for children to study and learn and a lack of privacy that exacerbates family tensions, including family violence and child sexual abuse.

It has only been two generations since Inuit in Canada shifted from a nomadic lifestyle to living in permanent settlements. Added to this has been the imposition of foreign governing institutions, the wage economy and the displacement of traditional knowledge and practices such as midwifery and community justice. Additional traumas experienced by Inuit include forced attendance at Residential Schools, forced relocations of families and communities, and epidemics of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. The lack of community healing services means that many individuals are struggling with multiple layers of unresolved trauma. Inuit men and boys are among those experiencing the most dislocation in their families and communities resulting from the loss of their traditional roles as hunters and providers.

This document includes information about vulnerabilities of Inuit women, girls, and boys to violence, in particular, human trafficking. Statistical information, where available, will be presented both for Nunavut and/or for Inuit as applicable through demographic information.

## **Inuit Representation in Information Gathering**

There are combinations of history, culture, and representation that make First Nations, Inuit, and Métis different. Often times “Aboriginal” is a catch-all term that does not further identify the differences between First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. It is easy to get lost in the numbers – there are more First Nations than Inuit and Métis. Programming or curriculum that the government issues to ‘Aboriginal peoples’ is usually aimed at a First Nations audience. This alienates and ignores people who are of a different culture. In order to recognize our differences, a population-specific (i.e.: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) approach is preferable.

Information and statistics for this report have been derived from Statistics Canada, Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, and annual reports, facts, and figures provided by stakeholders in Iqaluit, NU. Furthermore, an informal survey conducted by high school students in Kugaaruk, NU provides insight from adolescent perspectives. The vulnerabilities of Inuit to human trafficking (HT) are complex due to the cultural and jurisdictional intersections of different issues.

Where Inuit-specific data from Nunavut was not available, Nunavut data was used. Where Nunavut data was not available, Inuit-specific (National) data was used. Where Inuit-specific (National) data was not available, Aboriginal (National) data was used. If the three types of data that could hold a voice for Inuit people were not available, Canadian (National) data was used.

## **About Pauktuutit**

Pauktuutit, incorporated in 1984, is the national representative organization of all Inuit women in Canada. Pauktuutit fosters a greater awareness of the needs and interests of Inuit women in Canada, and encourages their participation in community, regional and national concerns in relation to social, cultural, and economic development. Pauktuutit is active in a wide range of areas including health, gender equality, abuse prevention, protection of cultural and traditional knowledge and economic development. Pauktuutit’s input is also regularly solicited on issues including the environment and climate change, children and youth, and a range of international processes and forums.

Pauktuutit is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors, representing all Inuit regions in Canada, as well as providing the perspective of youth and urban Board members to Pauktuutit’s activities to implement its mandate. Only Inuit women are eligible for Board membership. The Board is supported by a staff in Ottawa of approximately 10-15 individuals with a broad range of subject matter expertise, as well as administrative and financial expertise. Total combined core and project revenues average approximately \$3 million per year.

## **Guiding Principles**

Pauktuutit works on a consultation basis in communities. We work with advisory groups made up of key informants, subject matter experts, elders and affected members of the community. It is important for us as an organization to develop these relationships and ties, not only for accurate information but also build accountability and sustainability in the community.

Our work is grounded in culturally relevant and gendered responses to the issue. This means that the work is Inuit-specific and reflects the needs and usability of the programs and services for women and girls. We believe that the care and protection of women's rights and needs should be approached, not only with what they communicate to us, but with how to proceed with their best interests in mind. Working partnerships must also reflect the spirit of equal and collaborative processes.

Consultation processes and engagements should be made in a timely fashion and should respect the capacities of the fellow organization. We will work to ensure the level of care and consideration to the work is consistent between partners.

Out of respect for all the Inuit women that Pauktuutit represent, we work to ensure that all our information and documents are transmitted in a way that accessible and easily understood. This is to say that we produce work that is in English and in Inuktitut (four major dialects), and in plain language. We explore visual and non-print media as well to make the information more accessible and user-friendly.

## Introduction

### Historical Context

In Canada, there are approximately 55,000 Inuit living in 53 communities in the North and as well as south of 60. "Inuit Nunangat" is the Inuktitut term for 'Inuit homeland,' an expanse comprising more than one-third of Canada's land mass, extending from northern Labrador to the Northwest Territories.

Inuit Nunangat in Canada is covered by four comprehensive land claims agreements (the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Nunavut Final Agreement and the Labrador Inuit Final Agreement). Twenty per cent of Canada's Inuit now live in urban centres – the largest populations are in Montreal and Ottawa. Inuit are not First Nations—their culture, language (various dialects of Inuktitut), governance structures and physical environments are distinct. Inuit women and girls account for 51 per cent of the Inuit population in Canada, with the majority living in the 53 northern and isolated communities.

Inuit traditional knowledge has been brought down from generation to generation over the last 4,000 years. This is called *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ)*. There are six IQ principles, including:

1. *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*

Respecting others, respecting relationships and caring for people.

2. *Tunnganarniq*

Fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive.

3. *Pijitsirniq*

Serving and providing for family and/or community.

4. *Aajiiqatigiinni*

Decision making through discussion and consensus.

5. *Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq*

Developing skills through practice, effort and action.

6. *Piliriqatigiinniq/Ikajuqtigiinniq*

Working together for a common cause.

7. *Qanuqtuurniq*

Being innovative and resourceful.

8. *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*

Respecting and caring for the land, animals and the environment<sup>1</sup>

### Destabilizing Inuit Culture

The ability of a person to address trauma is through their resiliency. For many Inuit, that resiliency is based on Inuit art and culture. The systemic racism that flooded government policy regarding Aboriginal peoples directly and negatively affected Inuit for decades, thus affecting Inuit identity and resiliency.

### Residential Schools

The Residential School system for Aboriginal children has been part of the Canadian history since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when a shift in government policy resulted in what we know today as the process of forced assimilation of Aboriginal children. The Residential School experience for Aboriginal, including some Inuit, in the Northwest Territories became reality in the late 1860's. The first government- regulated school for Inuit opened in 1951 in Chesterfield Inlet. Post 1950, when Inuit became settlement-based rather than the traditional nomadic lifestyle, almost all Inuit children were required to attend Residential Schools or federal hostels in order to receive a formal education. These schools were often far away from the new Inuit settlements which resulted in the separation of children and youth from their parents, kinship networks and traditional ways of life. Residential Schools for Inuit continued to open into the 1960's and by 1963, 3,997 Inuit children were attending these schools. In June 1964, 75 percent of 6 to 15 year old Inuit children and youth were enrolled in the schools<sup>2</sup>.

The Residential School experience has had far reaching and deep impact. It is believed that at least 3,000 Inuit who attended Residential School are still alive today, and that according to the Aboriginal Peoples Survey, almost half (44 %) of 44 to 54 year olds had a close family member attend these schools<sup>3</sup>. Inuit language, culture and spiritual beliefs were eroded as a result of the assimilation process. The effects on family and community have been numerous. Traditional Inuit education was passed on from adults to children and intertwined practical skills with

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<sup>1</sup> Language and Culture Committee of Nunavut Arctic College. *Guidelines for Working with Inuit Elders*. Nunavut Arctic College. 2008

<sup>2</sup> Aboriginal Healing Foundation. *The Federal Government of Canada's Residential School System for Inuit*. 2006

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2001 – *Initial Findings: Well-being of the Non-Reserve Aboriginal Population*. 2003.

cultural values. Traditional Inuit skills included hunting, meat and pelt preparation, sewing, building igloos and navigating the land and water<sup>4</sup>. The rich tradition of oral storytelling, music, dance and craft and a respect for the environment were a rich and integral part of Inuit knowledge, a knowledge and way of life that was eroded as a result of the Residential School experience. Today, through healing and reconciliation, Inuit families and communities are working towards reclaiming traditional values and practices.

### **Relocation and Forced Settlement**

Canada also has a history of relocating Inuit. To establish arctic sovereignty during the cold war, Inuit were brought from Nunavik and relocated to Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. This practice also occurred in other locations across the arctic. They were left with no support and many perished. Inuit were also relocated for Tuberculosis treatment. Large ships arrived and carried away children and adults while many of their relatives were not told or did not understand why they were being taken, where they were going, or if they would return.

Forced settlement was also a common practice. Authorities would require Inuit to be counted and were given Eskimo numbers (E-numbers) to wear. Sled dogs, necessary for a nomadic lifestyle, were slaughtered to force Inuit to remain near Hudson's Bay Company outposts and churches. These are some of the assimilation practices that occurred in the arctic.

Historical trauma of this nature has destabilized Inuit culture and communities. Inuit are re-integrating cultural connections in modern systems of living through government programs, departments, and schools. The historical trauma of colonization, however, is still being repaired and therefore is a vulnerability.

### **Demographic Baseline**

In 2011, **84.8%** of the population of Nunavut identified themselves as Inuit, according to Statistics Canada.<sup>5</sup> This is based on the *National Household Survey* (NHS) and subsequent analysis release in May of 2013.

They further ascertain that over half (58%) of the Nunavut population is under the age of 25.<sup>6</sup>

The population of Nunavut, as of April 1, 2013, was estimated at 34,023.<sup>7</sup>

These are important demographics to consider since young people are the most sought after for trafficking.

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<sup>4</sup> Aboriginal Healing Foundation. *The Federal Government of Canada's Residential School System for Inuit*. 2006

<sup>5</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Nunavut Census Population by Region, Community, and Inuit Identity. Statistics Canada Census 2011.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Nunavut Quick Facts. 2013 <http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/home.aspx>

## Vulnerabilities by Issue

### Child Sexual Abuse

Pauktuutit has long been concerned and has worked on the issue of child sexual abuse. Inuit have specific needs and concerns. Among those are:

- Inuit children, parents, and others may not want to report child sexual abuse for fear that the family will be separated by social services and/or that the abuser, instead of stopping, will be sent to jail thus possibly having a negative financial and emotional impact on the family and community. Foster homes may not be safer than the home of origin. Children may not want to be sent away, far from other family members and friends.
- In small communities, relatives may be working in front line services, making it unclear whom a child or adult can trust.
- Child sexual abuse is a highly emotional and disturbing experience, but many Inuit who are ready to talk about it are forced to do so in their second language because of lack of services in Inuktitut/Inuvialuktun.
- Elders are the traditional source of wisdom, but some elders are themselves currently or formerly abused, and may not be in a position to help. Sometimes the grandparent or a respected figure in the community may be the abuser.
- Southern Canadian healing models may not be appropriate for small Inuit communities as they tend to rely on individualistic approaches, whereas child sexual abuse is a community problem in which all members of the community play a part.<sup>8</sup>

According to a report from the Auditor General of Canada, sexual violations against children aged 18 and under was 44.3 incidents per 100,000 people. It also reported that 4,311 children of the same age group were victims of violence per 100,000 people.<sup>9</sup>

Pauktuutit's work on child sexual abuse is highlighted in the publication *No More Secrets* published in 1991. The report stated that "The average age of the victim in the Pauktuutit study is 9.7 years whereas the average age of the violator is 29 years."<sup>10</sup>

Data collected by the Qanuippitali Inuit Health Survey (Nunavut), released in 2012, indicate that:

- Thirty-one per cent of respondents experienced severe physical abuse as children;
- Fifty-two per cent of women and 46 per cent of men reported having experienced at least one form of physical violence as an adult;
- Participants between the ages of 18-49 were more likely to have experienced physical violence than respondents over the age of 50;

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<sup>8</sup> Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. Addressing the Needs of Inuit Child Sexual Abuse Survivors: Action Plan. 2010. Pg. 4

<sup>9</sup> Auditor General of Canada. Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut: March Report. 2011.

<sup>10</sup> Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. No More Secrets. Ottawa. 1991. Pg. 5

- Fifty-two per cent of women and 22 per cent of men reported having experienced severe sexual abuse during childhood; and
- Twenty seven per cent of women and five per cent of men reported having experienced some form of forced sexual activity as an adult.<sup>11</sup>

Previous trauma is a vulnerability for Inuit. Sixty per cent of women in Europe had reported being physically and/or sexually abused before they were trafficked.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The Canadian International Polar Year (IPY). Inuit Health Survey 2007-2008: Nunavut, Community and Personal Wellness Survey. Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC. 2012.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

## Crime

Crime, justice, and the perception of safety play a significant role in how Inuit can become vulnerable to human trafficking.

There is a great concern about the normalization of violence, and how children are affected by witnessing violence. It is common knowledge in the cycle of violence that the perpetrator might once have been abused themselves.

Traditionally, Inuit dispensed their own justice. With the colonization of the North, authority figures were put in place to usurp the Inuit way, and justice and prison systems removed offenders from the community. Traditionally, there were ways to reintegrate wrong-doers back into the community.

The following excerpt was prepared by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics based on data released by Statistics Canada:

In 2011, the number of police-reported victims of violent crime in Nunavut was 2,729. As is the case with violent crime overall, the territories have consistently recorded the highest rates of police-reported violence against women. The rate of violent crime against women in Nunavut (15,453 per 100,000 females) was nearly 13 times higher than the rate for Canada.<sup>13</sup>

The RCMP, through the Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre (HTNCC) issued statistics in June 2013. Among those findings are:

- HTNCC is aware of 146 cases since 2007
- 137 are domestic HT cases, 9 are international
- The majority of the domestic HT cases are of sexual exploitation
- Of the 146 cases, 81 are currently in court and 45 have been through court and have HT or related crimes convictions
- Of the 81 cases currently before the court, there are 118 victims and 127 accused
- Of those 45 cases that have been through court, there are 141 victims and 69 accused<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. StatsUpdate: Police-Reported Violent Crimes, 2011. 2012  
<http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Social%20crime.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre (HTNCC). Fact Sheet Statistics: Human Trafficking in Canada. 2013

### Number of Criminal Violations by Select Types (Nunavut in 2012)<sup>15</sup>

<b>Total, All Criminal Violations</b>	<b>14,052</b>
Sexual Assault	179
Assault	2,317
Harassment and Threats	749
Breaking and Entering	622
Theft	570
Mischief	4,275
Disturb the Peace	3,198
Administration of Justice	870
Impaired Driving	339
Drug Violations	407
Other Violations	526

Pauktuutit has long heard of incidents of murder, murder-suicide, and missing Inuit women and girls both in the four regions as well as in urban centres. The work on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls has been spearheaded by the *Sisters In Spirit* initiative from the Native Women's Association of Canada. Although their national database has some Inuit cases, it may not accurately reflect the experiences of Inuit women and girls who have gone missing or have been murdered.<sup>16</sup> The following statistics illustrate the homicides and crime severity in Nunavut as compared with the rest of Canada.

### StatsUpdate<sup>17</sup>

Topic: Homicides, 2011

Released by Statistics Canada, December 04, 2012

Background: In 2011, police services reported 7 homicides in Nunavut. The homicide rate in Nunavut tends to be higher than the provinces, although the actual number of homicides is consistently low. The small population of Nunavut along with minor changes to the number of homicides has considerable effect on the homicide rate.

Homicides by Province and Territory				
	2011		2010	
	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Nunavut</b>	7	21.0	6	18.3
<b>Canada</b>	598	1.7	554	1.6

December 04, 2012 Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

Note: 1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population

<sup>15</sup> Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2012

<sup>16</sup> Native Women's Association of Canada. What Their Stories Tell Us: Research Findings from the Sisters In Spirit initiative, 2010

<sup>17</sup> Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. StatsUpdate: Homicides 2011, 2012

<http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Social%20crime.aspx>

**StatsUpdate<sup>18</sup>**

Topic: Police-Reported Crime Statistics, 2012

Released by Statistics Canada – July 25, 2013

Background: In 2012, Nunavut's Crime Severity Index was 325.6 up by 1% from 2011. The crime Rate was 39,229 up by 3% from the previous year. As in previous years, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories continue to report the highest Crime Severity Index values. By comparison, Canada's crime severity index was 75.0 and the crime rate was 5,588 in 2012.

<b>Police-Reported Crime and Severity Index by Province and Territory</b>				
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2011 compared to 2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2011 compared to 2010</b>
	<b>Total Crime Severity Index</b>		<b>Violent Crime Severity Index</b>	
	<b>Index</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>Index</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>Nunavut</b>	326.1	-6	469.3	-8
<b>Canada</b>	77.6	-6	85.3	-4

*July 24, 2012 Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics*

**Note:** The police-reported crime rate and the Crime Severity Index (CSI) are complementary measures of crime. The crime rate measures the volume of crime reported to the police, while the Crime Severity Index measures the seriousness of crime.

The nature of violent crime, its severity and frequency, affects the whole community. Exposure to violence, victimization, and the normalization of violence from witnessing it at a young age means that Inuit may have a vulnerability to human trafficking as part of the spectrum of violence.

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<sup>18</sup> Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. StatsUpdate: Police-Reported Crime and Severity Index. 2012

## Drugs and Alcohol

In the Aboriginal Peoples Survey conducted in 2006, 67 per cent of Nunavummiut said that alcohol abuse was a problem and 68 per cent said drug abuse was a problem in their community (adults aged 15 and over).<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, 17 per cent said that drug and alcohol use was a problem in their child's school (children aged 6-14).

Many traffickers ply their victims with drugs and alcohol. Drugs and alcohol can be a means for controlling victims, and therefore is a factor of vulnerability.<sup>20</sup>

In an informal survey conducted in a Nunavut high school:

- 53% of females and 47% of males said they've drunk alcohol;
- 88% of all students aged 16 and older said they've drunk alcohol;
- 53% of females and 44% of males said they've tried smoking marijuana; and
- 63% of all students aged 16 and older said they've tried smoking marijuana.<sup>21</sup>

The following statistics illustrates the availability of alcohol in Nunavut communities that can be obtained legally.

### StatsUpdate<sup>22</sup>

Topic: Control and Sales of Alcoholic Beverages, Fiscal year ending March 31, 2011

Released by Statistics Canada, March 26, 2012

Background: In Nunavut, sales of alcoholic beverages for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011 totalled \$6,021,000. The territorial liquor authority's net income and revenue from the sales of alcoholic beverages increased by 55.4% between 2010 and 2011.

#### Sales of Alcoholic Beverages at March 31, 2011

	Beer	Wine	Spirits	Total
\$ '000				
Nunavut	3,427	654	1,939	6,021
Canada	9,119,199	6,130,055	5,055,223	20,304,477

Note to Readers: Statistics on sales of alcoholic beverages by volume should not be equated with data on consumption. Sales volumes include only sales by liquor authorities and their agents, and sales by wineries and breweries and outlets that operate under license from the liquor authorities.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages would include all these sales, plus homemade wine and beer, wine and beer manufactured through brew-on-premises operations, sales in duty-free shops and any unrecorded transactions.

Similarly, statistics on sales of alcoholic beverages by dollar value of sales should not be equated with consumer expenditures on alcoholic beverages. The sales data refer to the revenues received by liquor authorities, wineries and breweries and these revenues include sales to licensed establishments such as bars and restaurants.

The sales data, therefore, do not reflect the total amount spent by consumers on alcoholic beverages, since the prices paid in licensed establishments are greater than the price paid by those establishments to the liquor authorities.

Per capita data are based on the population aged 15 and over.

<sup>19</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey. 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit).

<sup>20</sup> World Health Organization. Understanding and Addressing Violence Against Women: Human Trafficking Information Sheet. 2012

<sup>21</sup> Kugaaruk News Club. High School Survey. 2012

<sup>22</sup> Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. StatsUpdate: Control and Sales of Alcoholic Beverages, 2011. 2012 <http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Economic%20other.aspx>

Finally, Inuit seeking drug and alcohol treatment must travel south to urban centres. It is a positive step, however, being separated from social support systems and the sense of community could be perceived as a vulnerability to being trafficked.

## Employment and Economy

The wage economy has changed the Inuit way of life. Many Inuit rely on wage employment as a means for survival rather than traditionally living off the land. As the economy fluctuates the ability for Inuit to meet their needs is impacted. Most of the monthly inflation rates from April 2012 to April 2013 for Iqaluit, Nunavut, are higher than Canada's inflation rates.<sup>23</sup> For example, in May 2013, consumers in Iqaluit paid 1.1 per cent more than in May 2012 for goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index basket. The price index for Canada only increased by 0.7% over the same period.

The lack of employment opportunities also is significant to increasing the vulnerability of the Inuit. According to the *Aboriginal Peoples' Survey* of 2006, 82 per cent of people aged 15 and over agreed that unemployment is a problem in Nunavut.<sup>24</sup> The survey made known that 25 per cent of people aged 15 and over were somewhat dissatisfied with job opportunities in Nunavut, and 29 per cent of people aged 15 and over were very dissatisfied with job opportunities in Nunavut.<sup>25</sup> The survey also revealed that 19 percent of people 15 and older moved to their present community for work or to find a job.<sup>26</sup>

It is significant to mention that from June 2012 to June 2013 the unemployment rate for Inuit in Nunavut decreased by 13.6 per cent.<sup>27</sup> However, other employment related factors must be taken into account. First, the employment rate of Nunavut compared to Canada is much lower. Over a three month average ending in February 2013, there were 11.4 per cent of people unemployed for every job vacancy in Nunavut compared to 6.4 for every job vacancy in Canada.<sup>28</sup> Second, the average weekly earnings for all employees in Nunavut decreased 3.0 per cent for the same period in 2012.<sup>29</sup> Lastly, income support or social assistance for the Nunavut region has steadily increased every year from 2003 to 2011 (except in the year 2008).<sup>30</sup>

In general, Nunavut is subject to higher inflation and a lower job vacancy than the rest of Canada, and a significant number of the Nunavut population have moved to different communities for work or to find work. These factors contribute to the vulnerability of Inuit because they may be more at risk of leaving their communities for job opportunities posed by traffickers.

The following statistics summarizes economic and employment in the Nunavut region.

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<sup>23</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Consumer Price Index May 2013.

<sup>24</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Labour Force Characteristics for Those Aged 15 and Over by Inuit and Non-Inuit Identity, Nunavut 3 Month Moving Averages (3MMA) Ending in June 2012 and 2013. July 5, 2013.

<sup>28</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Job Vacancies. May 22, 2013.

<sup>29</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Payroll Employment, Earnings and Hours. April 2013.

<sup>30</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Nunavut Social Assistance Average Monthly Caseload by Community, Region and Territory, 2000 to 2011, August 15, 2012.

**StatsUpdate<sup>31</sup>**

Topic: Labour Force, 3 month moving average ending in July 2013

Released by Statistics Canada – August 09, 2013

Background: For May 2013 to July 2013, the average number of persons employed in Nunavut was estimated at 14,900, an increase of 500 persons from the same period last year. The increase in employed persons is reflected in the employment rate, which rose to 59.7% - an increase of 2.6 percentage points from one year ago.

Labour Force Characteristics For People Aged 15 and Over						
	June 2013	June 2012	June 2012 to June 2013	June 2013	June 2012	June 2012 to June 2013
	Labour Force			Participation Rate		
	'000	change ('000)		%		change (% points)
Nunavut	14.4	14.2	0.2	66.9	67.3	-0.4
Inuit	10.1	9.8	0.3	60.3	59.8	0.5
Non-Inuit	4.3	4.4	-0.1	90.0	93.5	-3.5
Canada	19,197.8	19,003.7	194.1	67.1	67.2	-0.1
Labour Force Characteristics For People Aged 15 and Over						
	June 2013	June 2012	June 2012 to June 2013	June 2013	June 2012	June 2012 to June 2013
	Employment			Employment Rate		
	'000	change ('000)		%		change (% points)
Nunavut	12.4	12.0	0.4	57.7	56.8	0.9
Inuit	8.2	7.6	0.6	49.1	46.6	2.5
Non-Inuit	4.2	4.3	-0.1	87.8	92.2	-4.4
Canada	17,839.5	17,628.4	211.1	62.3	62.4	-0.1
Labour Force Characteristics For People Aged 15 and Over						
	June 2013	June 2012	June 2012 to June 2013	June 2013	June 2012	June 2012 to June 2013
	Unemployment			Unemployment Rate		
	'000	change ('000)		%		change (% points)
Nunavut	2.0	2.2	-0.2	13.7	15.7	-2.0
Inuit	1.9	2.2	-0.3	18.5	22.0	-3.5
Non-Inuit	X	X	X	X	X	X
Canada	1,358.3	1,375.2	-16.9	7.1	7.2	-0.1

July 5, 2013 Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

**Notes:**

Data in this report have been adjusted to reflect 2006 Census population estimates. All LFS data have been revised back to 1996, except data for Nunavut, which have been revised back to 2004.

Three month moving average ending in June is an average of the months of April, May and June.

Please use the unemployment estimates with caution, as they tend to have a higher variability than employment estimates.

Percentage points (change % points) are the actual numerical difference between two percentages, such as: 10%-8%=2% points.

Cells with the letter X indicate that the estimate was suppressed for confidentiality and/or reliability reasons.

<sup>31</sup> Prepared by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. StatsUpdate: Labour Force, 2013. 2013.  
<http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Labour%20survey.aspx>

## StatsUpdate<sup>32</sup>

Topic: Payroll Employment, Earnings and Hours, April 2013 (*preliminary*)

Released by Statistics Canada, June 27, 2013

Summary: In April 2013, preliminary estimates from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours indicate there were 11,500 employees in Nunavut, a decrease of 100 employees from April 2012. Average weekly earnings for all employees in Nunavut were \$951.62 in April 2013, a decrease of 3.0% from the same period last year.

Number of Employees <sup>1</sup>				
	April 2013 <sup>p</sup>	April 2012	April 2012 to April 2013	
	Number of Employees		Change	% Change
Nunavut	11,500	11,600	-100	-0.9
Canada	15,209,900	15,017,900	192,000	1.3

June 27, 2013 Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

Average Weekly Earnings for All Employees (Including Overtime) <sup>1</sup>				
	April 2013 <sup>p</sup>	April 2012	April 2012 to April 2013	
	\$		Change in \$	% Change
Nunavut	951.62	981.47	-29.85	-3.0
Canada	912.84	890.19	22.65	2.5

June 27, 2013 Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

### Notes:

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, CANSIM table 281-0023 and 281-0026.

1 Unadjusted for seasonal variation. p Preliminary estimates.

### Note to Readers:

Readers should be aware that the percentage change for Nunavut can vary significantly due to the relatively small number of employees. Taken over longer periods of time, the resulting changes would likely be more reflective of the actual changes in either employment or earnings.

<sup>32</sup> Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. StatsUpdate: Payroll Employment, Earnings and Hours, 2013. 2013  
<http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Labour%20and%20employment.aspx>

**StatsUpdate<sup>33</sup>**

Topic: Job Vacancies, 3 month moving average ending in February 2013

Released by Statistics Canada, May 22, 2013

Summary: Nunavut businesses had an average of 200 job vacancies in the three month period ending in February 2013. For all sectors combined, there were 11.3 unemployed people for every job vacancy in Nunavut. By comparison, there were 6.4 unemployed people for every job vacancy in Canada.

<b>Number of Job Vacancies and Job Vacancy Rate</b>		
	<b>Number of Job Vacancies (‘000)</b>	<b>Job Vacancy Rate (%)</b>
<b>Nunavut</b>	0.2	1.6
<b>Canada</b>	209.9	1.5

May 22, 2013 Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

<b>Number of Unemployed, Job Vacancies and Unemployment-to-Job Vacancies Ratio</b>			
	<b>Number of Unemployed (‘000)</b>	<b>Number of Job Vacancies (‘000)</b>	<b>Unemployment-to-Job Vacancies Ratio</b>
<b>Nunavut</b>	1.8	0.2	11.3
<b>Canada</b>	1,339.7	209.9	6.4

May 22, 2013 Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

**Note to Readers:**

1. Data on job vacancies were collected through the monthly Business Payroll Survey (BPS). Starting with the January 2011 reference month, two questions were added to the BPS, which is the survey portion of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.
2. The target population is the same as the BPS and comprises all employers in Canada, except those primarily involved in agriculture; fishing and trapping; private household services; religious organizations; military personnel of defense services; and federal, provincial and territorial public administration.
3. Unemployment data are only for those who last worked within the previous 12 months.
4. Unemployment and vacancy counts are rounded to the nearest 100.
5. F – too unreliable to be published.

**Definitions:**

1. **Job Vacancy / Vacant Position:** "Vacant" positions must meet three conditions: a specific position exists, work could start within 30 days, and the employer is actively seeking employees from outside the organization to fill the position.
2. **Job Vacancy Rate:** Number of vacant positions divided by total labour demand (i.e., vacant positions plus occupied positions).
3. **Unemployment-to-Job Vacancies Ratio:** Ratio of unemployed people who worked within the previous 12 months to job vacancies.
4. **All Unemployed People:** The unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio for all unemployed people is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed people, regardless of their previous work experience, using Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, by the number of vacant positions. This ratio reflects how many unemployed individuals are available for each vacant position and is a measure of the overall labour market tightness.

<sup>33</sup> Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. StatsUpdate: Job Vacancies, 2013. 2013.  
<http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Labour%20and%20employment.aspx>

## Health

As was mentioned before, there are certain push and pull factors in their lives that could make Inuit vulnerable to human trafficking. Health, as well as mental health, are important to either build resiliency, or to make someone vulnerable to the spectrum of violence.

In 2011 alone there were 202,504 visits recorded at health centres.<sup>34</sup> However, not all people visit their local nursing station to receive their treatment. Some must be Medevac'd to Iqaluit for tests, and/or to a major southern city for treatment.

Among some of the major and current health issues for Inuit that are tobacco cessation, cancer, tuberculosis, and diabetes. While physical health status may not be a vulnerability to human trafficking, suicide and food security are problems in northern communities may contribute to being at risk of being trafficked.

## Suicide

In 2006, 66 per cent of Nunavummiut believe that suicide is a problem in their community. Forty-five per cent also said they were 'very satisfied' when asked about their level of satisfaction with life in general (adults aged 15 and over).<sup>35</sup>

In Kugaaruk, 53 per cent of all students aged 16 and over have thought about committing suicide, while 43 per cent of girls and 6 per cent of boys have tried to commit suicide.<sup>36</sup>

## Food Security

Access to food impacts health. According to the *Aboriginal Children's Survey* (2006) 31 per cent of children in Nunavut between the ages of 0-5 have been hungry because the family ran out of food or money to buy food.<sup>37</sup> Of the four Inuit regions, the survey reported that Nunavut had the highest percentage of hungry children while the Inuvialuit region was the lowest at 13 per cent.<sup>38</sup> Not only are children affected by hunger but youth, as well. An informal survey conducted in a Nunavut high school revealed that 81 per cent of males and 67 per cent of females wished their family had more to eat.<sup>39</sup> The *Aboriginal Peoples' Survey* (2006) supports this fact showing that in Nunavut 29 per cent of children aged 6-14 reported their home regularly runs out of money or food by the end of the month.<sup>40</sup>

Another aspect to consider is the quality and type of food that can be accessed. In Nunavut, only 22 per cent of adults aged 15 and over stated they were very satisfied with the freshness of food

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<sup>34</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Community Health Centre Administrative Data, Population health Information. Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut. 2012

<sup>35</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey. 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit)

<sup>36</sup> Kugaaruk News Club. High School Survey. 2012

<sup>37</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Children's Survey. 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit).

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Kugaaruk News Club. High School Survey. 2012.

<sup>40</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey. 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit).

in northern stores.<sup>41</sup> Although store bought food satisfaction was relatively low, access to Inuit traditional foods was quite high. Eighty-one per cent of adults aged 15 and over stated they live in a household where Inuit traditional food is shared.<sup>42</sup> Furthermore, 59 per cent of adults aged 15 and over were very satisfied with availability of Inuit traditional food.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

## Housing

According to the 2011 *Nunavut Housing Needs Survey*, Nunavut has a total of 9,400 dwellings with 850 dwellings unoccupied or occupied by persons who consider their home elsewhere. According the 2006 *Aboriginal Peoples' Survey* 71 per cent of the occupied homes in Nunavut are rented and 79 per cent of the homes are subsidized.<sup>44</sup>

In Nunavut, statistics show that housing is poor and the waiting lists for housing long. With poor housing conditions, traffickers can lure Inuit youth and adults to the south by promoting the south as a place that they can have a higher standard of living.

Several housing issues contribute to the vulnerability of Inuit. Poor living conditions increase their vulnerability and can be a source of family tension as close to half (49%) of the dwellings in the region required major repairs or are overcrowded.<sup>45</sup> In Nunavut, 51 per cent of the crowded dwellings had residents regularly use the living room for sleeping because there was no other place to sleep.<sup>46</sup> Fifteen per cent of Nunavut households do not have a telephone.<sup>47</sup>

Nearly one person out of five aged 15 and over had reported they are on a waiting list for public housing.<sup>48</sup> For those on the waiting list, those aged 15 or over reported being on a public housing waiting list between one to three years.<sup>49</sup> It is important to note that 64 per cent of the sub-standard housing reported is public housing.<sup>50</sup>

Iqaluit Housing Authority currently has 488 units and there are 265 people on the waiting list.

Not only can public housing be at a sub-standard level but shelters as well. Shelters can be overcrowded or are at a sub-standard level. For example, the building for the Initsiaq Inuit Women's Shelter of Salluit was condemned in 1999, but a new shelter has yet to be established.<sup>51</sup>

## Shelters

The most recent releases statistics on shelter use by abused women (chart below) indicates that in Nunavut, shelters are at a 99 per cent occupancy rate, and given that 60 per cent of abused women will neither use the services of a shelter nor report the abuse to police, the rates of family violence are staggering. There is no second-stage housing. Shelters across the North face particular challenges such as very high operating costs including utilities and shipping costs,

<sup>44</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit).

<sup>45</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. *Fact Sheet: Nunavut Housing Needs Survey*. January 26, 2011.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Inuit Women's Shelter Leaders Meeting Minutes, Ottawa, Ontario, March 25- 26, 2006.

human resource capacity issues and lack of access to training and professional supports. The lack of stable funding is a major barrier to ensuring the safety of women and their children through the provision of safe shelter in times of crisis.

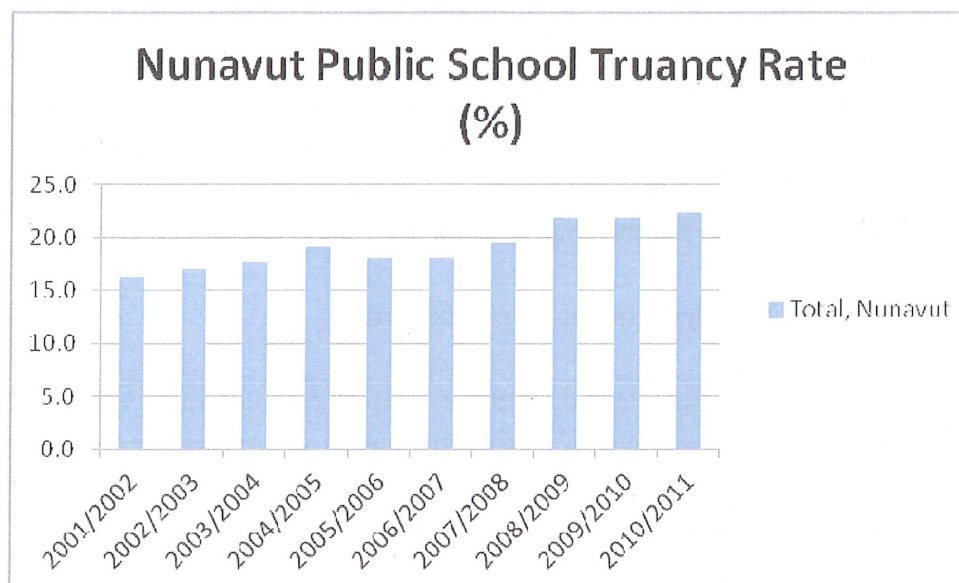
<b>Beds, women and children residents and occupancy rates in women-only shelters, Canada, provinces and territories, April 15, 2010<sup>52</sup></b>				
<b>Province or territory</b>	<b>Women-only facilities</b>	<b>Beds</b>	<b>Women and children residents<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Occupancy rate</b>
	<b>Number</b>			<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nunavut</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>9,961</b>	<b>7,362</b>	<b>74</b>
1. In order to accurately present occupancy rates, the presence of child residents is used in this calculation.				
<b>Source:</b> Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey.				

Overcrowded housing and shelters, the lack of housing options, poverty, lack of employment and/or skills, substance abuse and the lasting effects of colonization, Residential Schools and intergenerational trauma are all key issues that further contribute to Inuit women being vulnerable to ongoing abuse. The extreme housing crisis across the Arctic often means that for women living with violence in the home there may be no other safe housing options, and the cost of air travel to seek safety in another community can be prohibitively expensive.

<sup>52</sup> Statistics Canada. Juristat: Shelters for Abused Women in Canada, 2010. Catalogue no. 85-002-X. June 2011. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2011001/article/11495-eng.pdf>

## Schools

Educational attainment is an important resiliency factor for many social issues that may affect Inuit. It is not only a place to learn, but a place to socialize and connect with others. Many programs and curriculum are administered through the schools in Nunavut; however, it is not effective if youth do not attend school.



Source: Department of Education, Government of Nunavut. Prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (July 27, 2012)<sup>53</sup>

According to the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, there were 239 high school graduates in 2012. Out of the 1,301 youth who were 17 and 18 years old, that results in a 36.7 per cent graduation rate.<sup>54</sup>

After school programs and youth groups are also important pull factors in a community.

Eighteen per cent of Nunavummiut aged 6-14 take part in youth programs or clubs one to three times a week.<sup>55</sup>

Youth, however are also bullied at school. In the volunteer questionnaire run in the Kugaaruk high school, 73 per cent of girls and 63 per cent of boys have been bullied at school. They also report that 83 per cent of girls and 67 per cent of boys have been bullied outside of school.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Nunavut Public School Truancy Rate (%) By District, Region and Territory, 2001/2002 to 2010/2011. 2012. <http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Social%20education.aspx>

<sup>54</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Nunavut Secondary School Graduation Rate by Region, 1999 to 2012. 2013. <http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Social%20education.aspx>

<sup>55</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2006. <http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit>

## Technology

The use of the Internet and social media is on the rise in Nunavut. Facebook and social media sites are also a tool for recruitment and luring of youth.<sup>57</sup> There have also been many cases of bullying portrayed in the media that have been conducted over Facebook or other social media sites.

In 2006, the average child aged 6-14 spent an hour a day on the internet.<sup>58</sup> This may be challenged by the Kugaaruk high school survey that found that 60 per cent of girls and 37 per cent of boys spent more than two hours a day on Facebook.

Internet accessibility in the North is still in its infancy due to the limitations in infrastructure. However, internet use for what is available is increasing. According to NorthwesTel, a main internet service provider in the North, they serve “116,000 people living in 96 communities” in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and northern British Columbia and Alberta.<sup>59</sup>

Not being aware of potential dangers online is a vulnerability.

Youth are on the Internet while parents and guardians may or may not know who they are in contact with online. In a recent human trafficking information session with leading Inuit women from across the arctic, questions about online safety emerged. A remark from a grandmother stated that when she asks her grandchildren who they are talking to online she is told “it is none of your business.”<sup>60</sup>

It was further stressed that online safety should be conducted in schools and for parents and guardians.

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<sup>56</sup> Kugaaruk News Club. High School Survey. 2012

<sup>57</sup> RCMP. Frequently Asked Question on Human Trafficking. <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/q-a-trafficking-traite-eng.htm#q5>

<sup>58</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2006. <http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit>

<sup>59</sup> NorthwesTel. Year in Review – 2011. Annual Report 2011.

[http://www.nwtel.ca/media/documents/annualreports/northwestel\\_year-in-review\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nwtel.ca/media/documents/annualreports/northwestel_year-in-review_2011.pdf)

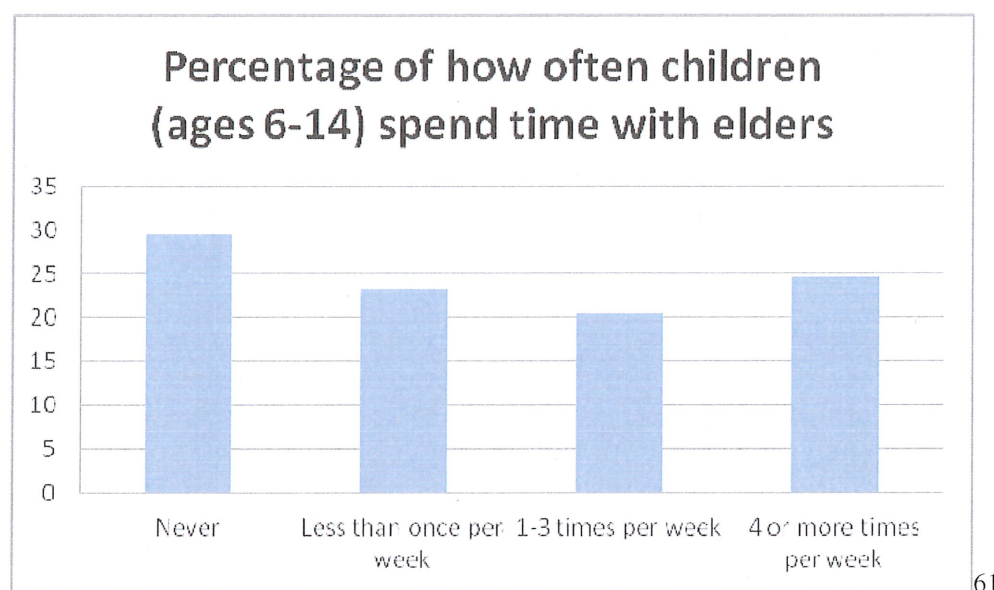
<sup>60</sup> Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. Strategic Actions for the Prevention of Human Trafficking of Inuit Girls and Women in Canada. Ottawa. 2013. Pg. 5

## Support Systems

Inuktitut is more than a language; it's a way of being. Inuit culture and language has been a strong resiliency factor against harm. If someone is lacking a support system, made up of strong ties to family and the community, they may be vulnerable to the cycle of violence.

Unfortunately, the Residential Schools system abolished Inuit customs and removed children from their parents and extended family. Many teachings were lost.

Family bonds and traditional lifestyles have a strong influence on Inuit. In Kugaaruk, 93 per cent of girls and 100 per cent of boys agreed with the statement "I like to go hunting". Eighty-three per cent of girls and 75 per cent of boys also agreed with the statement "I wish my parents spent more time with me".



Family strength, as a resiliency, may be diminished due to tensions over money, food, housing, or abuse. The following table is from the Director of Child and Family Services Annual Report from 2011/12. This table is prefaced in the report with "It is important to note that data from the current system reflects point-in-time information only; an accurate count of the total number of children served in any data category over a one year period is not available."<sup>62</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey. 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit).

<sup>62</sup> Director of Child and Family Services – Annual Report 2011-12.

<b>Table 1. Child Protection Statistics by Status on March 30, 2012 <sup>63</sup></b>	
Temporary Wards	19
Permanent Wards	98
Plan of Care Agreements	40
Voluntary Service Agreements	116
Support Service Agreements	52
Supervision Orders	7
Courtesy Supervision	6
Court Adjourned Cases	39
At Apprehension Stage	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>393</b>

It is unknown the effect that custom adoption may have as a vulnerability to human trafficking.

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<sup>63</sup> Director of Child and Family Services – Annual Report 2011-12.

## Informal Information Gathering

### Kugaaruk High School Survey

In October 2012, 62 students from grades 7 to 12 from Kugaaruk, Illinnarvik participated in a volunteer questionnaire. There were surveyed about the following topics: community, home, family, school, bullying, and health. This section is a summary of those findings.

The students were surveyed about their community. Ninety-seven per cent of females and 91 per cent of males wished there were more things to do in town. Eighty-three per cent of males and 81 per cent of females want to travel outside of Nunavut. Even though the students reported they want more entertainment in town and wish to travel over half of both females (57%) and males (66%) reported they never want to leave Kugaaruk.

Many students felt family and home life was important. A high number of males (94%) and females (83%) wish their families spent more time together. Moreover, 83 per cent of females and 75 per cent of males wished their parents spent more time with them. A significant number (40% females and 53% males) agreed with the statement, "I wish my parents had more rules at home."

The students answered questions regarding their participation and feelings about school and employment. One-hundred per cent of females and 98 per cent of males think graduating high school is important. Ninety-seven per cent of females and males want a job when they finish school. Students were positive about attending school and about their relationship with their teacher. Ninety per cent of females and 97 per cent of males enjoy going to school. Eighty-eight per cent of males and females felt their teacher liked them.

Areas of school that were less positive were issues with curriculum, classmates, peer pressure, and bullying. Fifty per cent of females and 38 per cent of males think school is too hard. Twenty-six per cent of females and 34 per cent of males thought their classmates did not like them. Fifty per cent of females and 56 per cent of males have been peer pressured into doing something they didn't want to do. Seventy-three per cent of females and 63 per cent of males have been bullied at school.

In general, students aged 16 and older appear to have participated in more at-risk behaviours than students under 16 years of age. For instance, 50 per cent of males and females have broken the law before. Compared to 71 per cent of all students aged 16 and older have broken the law before. Eighty per cent of females have tried smoking cigarettes compared to 60 per cent of males. Compared to 88 per cent of all students aged 16 and older have tried smoking cigarettes. One hundred per cent of students aged 16 and older have tried chewing snuff. Forty-three per cent of females and 25 per cent of males have had sex. Compared to 75 per cent of all student aged 16 and older have had sex.

## Conclusions

There are many precursors to being victimized by human trafficking, and many situations that put Inuit in vulnerable positions. The impact of residential schools and the imposition of other assimilative government policies have negatively altered the Inuit traditional way of life and culture. This historical trauma has contributed to social issues that have resulted in increased crime, substance abuse, and the normalization of violence and sexual abuse in northern communities. These issues coupled with the widespread lack of basic health and social services in the North exacerbate the situation. Overcrowded housing and the lack of housing options, poverty, lack of education and employment and/or skills may make Inuit more vulnerable to potential human trafficking. All these issues combined create barriers to healthy living and raise disease and suicide rates. These conditions contribute to the vulnerability of the Inuit population because they are more susceptible to being lured by traffickers to move to the south to escape challenging living conditions and limited options.

Nevertheless, although Inuit in the North face many challenges, there are also strong resiliency factors that can protect them. The quality of life for some in Nunavut may be difficult but a strong sense of community appears to exist. An informal survey of high school students in Kugaaruk reveals that many youth (57% of females and 66% of males) never want to leave Kugaaruk. Inuit are beginning to heal from the effects of colonization and are reclaiming their language and cultural practices. For example, although many Nunavut households reported their families regularly ran out of food or money to buy food, 81 per cent of adults 15 and over indicated they live in a household where Inuit traditional food is shared.<sup>64</sup> There are other resiliency factors not discussed in this document. Although the issues may be overly simplified, there is much vulnerability for Inuit to be trafficked in Nunavut. Measures must be taken to improve living conditions and strengthen resiliency factors to reduce the risk of human trafficking of Inuit.

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<sup>64</sup> Inuit Knowledge Centre. Aboriginal Peoples Survey. 2006. [www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit](http://www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit).