

# Urban Inuit-Specific Perspective on Sexual Exploitation & Human Trafficking

Tungasuvvingat Inuit 2018  
Jennisha Wilson (Presenter)



Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls		
Location/Phase: <u>Parts 2/3 - St. John's</u>		
Witness: <u>Jennisha Wilson</u>		
Submitted by: <u>Violet Ford</u>		
Add'l info: <u>P02-03 P04 P02 01</u>		
Date: <u>OCT 16 2018</u>		
Initials	I/D	Entered
<u>53</u>	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	<u>50</u>



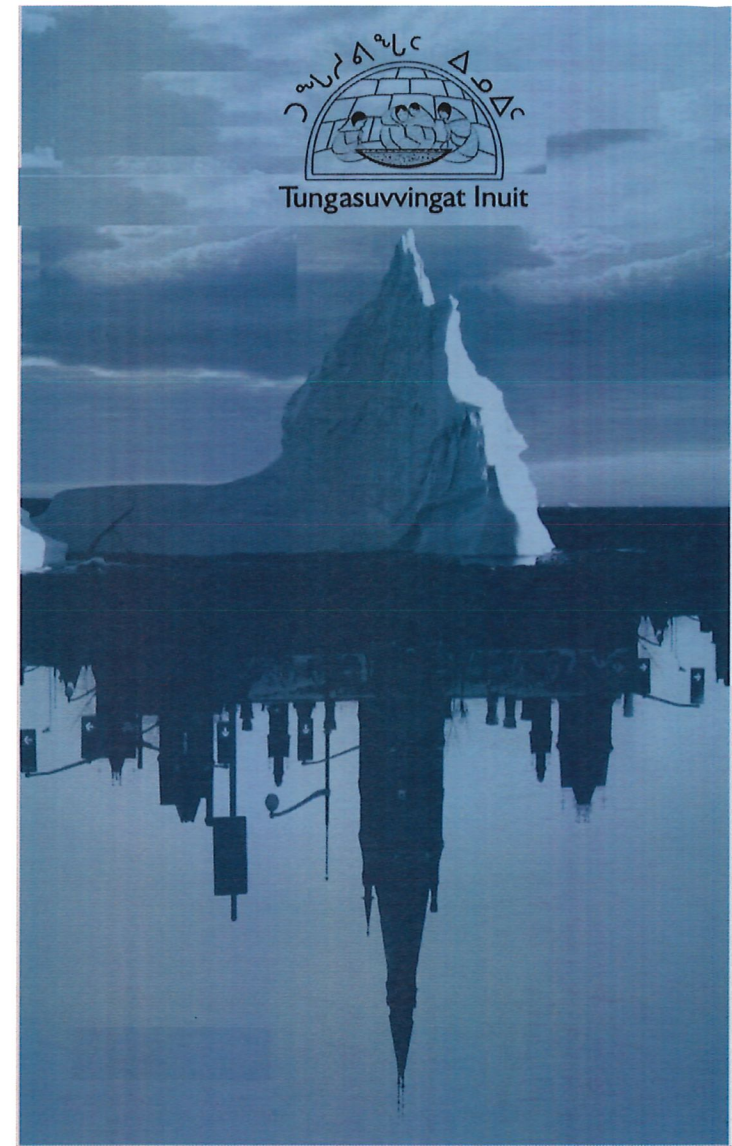
## Disclaimers

- Positioning myself as a racialized-settler and ally working with Inuit in Southern Canada.
- This presentation is a reflection of my work as a representative of Tungasuvvingat Inuit and is meant to be a catalyst that makes you all hungry for more information.
- My hopes is that this presentation adds to the many conversations on human trafficking and sexual exploitation that has been happening on a national, provincial and local level.
- I equally hope that more value and attention is centred on the voices of community members that on a daily basis live, breathe and feel the impacts of sexual exploitation.



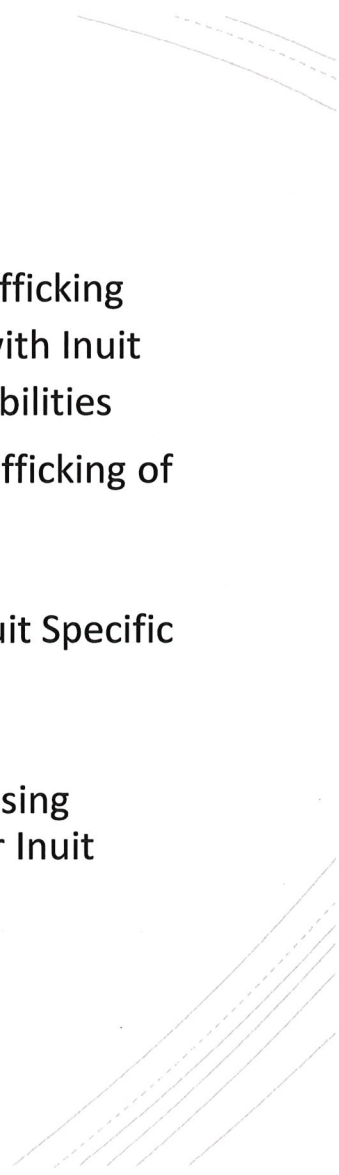
# About Tungasuvvingat Inuit

- **Tungasuvvingat Inuit – “a place where Inuit are welcome”**
- **Mission Statement**
- To broadly provide Inuit-specific programs, advocacy and support that contribute to the health and well being of Inuit and to encourage and support similar programs for Inuit across the Southern Canada.
- **Our Core Values:**
- “Anchored in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, our respect for Inuit culture, language and diversity encourages us to ensure that our programs and services are guided by our traditional principles in strengthening the potential of Inuit individuals, families and communities.”





# Presentation Overview

1. Overview of Urban Inuit Demographics
    - Push and Pull factors
  2. Defining Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking
    - Connection to Canada's colonial history with Inuit
    - The ongoing Systemic Violence & Vulnerabilities
  3. Disrupting Processes of Exploitation and Trafficking of Urban Inuit
    - Advocacy and Education
    - Policy and program development with Inuit Specific Partners
    - Community involvement and guidance
  4. Opportunities & Recommendations: Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Increasing safety for Inuit Women
- 



## Urban Inuit Demographics

**TABLE 1** Self-identifying Inuit Population, by region, 2006 and 2011

Region	Sub-region	Population size (2006)	Population size (2011)
Inuit Nunangat	Inuvialuit	3,115 (6.2%)	3,310 (5.6%)
	Nunavut	24,635 (48.8%)	27,070 (45.5%)
	Nunavik	9,565 (18.9%)	10,750 (18.1%)
	Nunatsiavut	2,160 (4.3%)	2,325 (3.9%)
Outside Nunangat	Rest of Canada	11,010 (21.8%)	16,000 (26.9%)
	Total	50,485 (100%)	59,460 (100%)

Figure 1: (Tungasuvvingat Inuit, 2017 p.16)

# Patterns of Migration



**FIGURE 1** Regions of Inuit Nunangat and common Inuit medical travel patterns, Canada

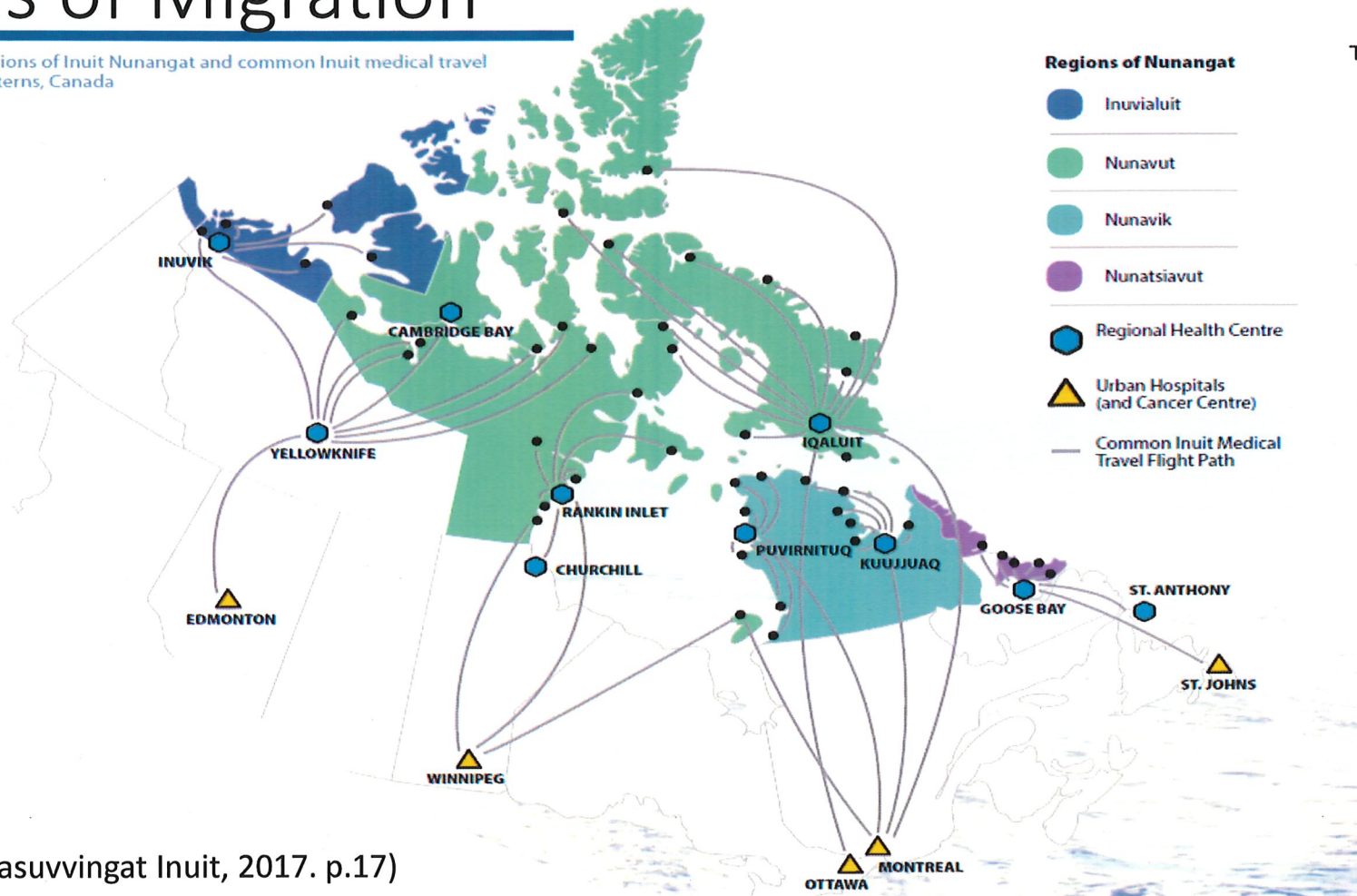


Figure 2: (Tungasuvvingat Inuit, 2017. p.17)



# Push and Pull Factors

- Higher education
- Visiting family in Southern Canada
- Foster care relocation
- Incarceration
- Mental Health and Addiction supports
- Medical Care
- Poverty Reduction
  - Better job prospects
  - Affordable foods
- \*\*Many of these reasons for migration are a result of colonialism and lack of investment in the North by the nation/state.



# Factors that reinforce vulnerability of Inuit

- Racism, discrimination and sexism
- Poverty
- Difficulties navigating white-heteronormative social structures
- Lack of inclusion and opportunities
- Lack of education of who Inuit are by non-Inuit
- Question of Trust - Strangers & Friends
- Challenges of interpretation of non – Inuit social cue's
- Lack of awareness of what grooming for exploitation looks and feels like...
- Lack of knowledge and access to available services & resources
  - Discrimination due to language barriers





---



# Defining Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking



# Definitions

## Human Trafficking is often defined as:

- “Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and / or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person through sex, labour / domestic servitude and / or organ removal / harvest” (OCEHT, 2018).
- Often characterized as a form of “modern slavery” (Public Safety Canada, 2018)

## Sexual Exploitation:

- “Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another” (NWAC, 2014).





**INUIT CONTROL, INDEPENDENCE, AUTONOMY**

**Pre-Qalunaaq**

explorers  
whalers  
traders  
missionaries

**Government Era**

Canadian justice system; Mounties  
High Arctic & other relocations  
residential schools  
tag numbers  
military; DEW line  
disease epidemics; TB & removal to south  
social programs  
dog killings  
permanent settlements  
Fed. government administrators  
project surname

**Devolution**

Inuit Political Movement Begins  
Oil & Gas exploration  
ICC  
Alaska Land Claim  
ITC formed  
Nunavik Land Claim  
Home Rule, Greenland  
Pauktuutit  
Inuvialuit Land Claim  
Constitution  
IBC  
Nunavut Land Claim  
Creation of Nunavut  
Nunatsiavut Land Claim

1600's 1900 1950's Late '60's 1999

© Nunavut Sivuniksavut

Figure: Nunavut Sivniksavut, 2018



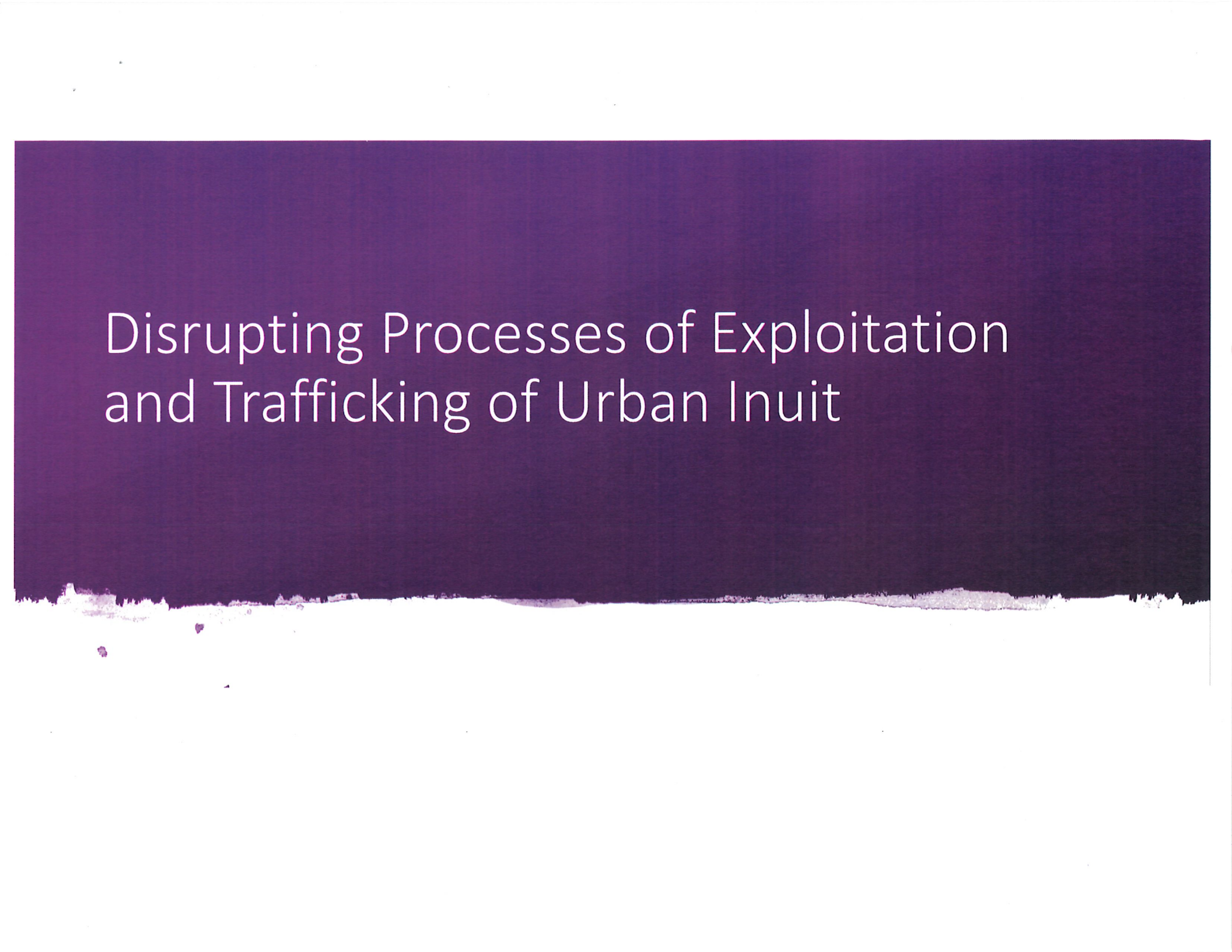
*Trading Women for Supplies* by Napachie Pootoogook, Ink, Inuit, Cape Dorset, 20" x 26" (1997/98). Collection of E. J. Guarino

Figure 4: Alex Palmer (2017)



## Making the connections

- Strong correlation between colonial acts of violence and contemporary acts of trafficking Inuit
- Ongoing impacts of colonialism and structural violence in the forms of
  - Lack of investment in Inuit socio-economic and political development
  - Intergenerational trauma
- Contemporary vulnerabilities
  - Ignorance, racism and discrimination
  - Poverty by postal code-violence can be geographically
  - Urban navigation barriers



# Disrupting Processes of Exploitation and Trafficking of Urban Inuit





## Multi-level Approaches

- Advocacy and Education
  - Bring awareness towards Inuit specific realities
  - Education on increase safety of Inuit women
  - Education for men on how to be allies towards women
  - Harm reduction approach
    - Understanding the difference between sex work (as a form of agency) and sexual exploitation
- Policy and program development with Inuit Specific Partners
  - Importance of representation
  - Culture as a key part of healing and resiliency for Inuit
- Community Involvement and Guidance
  - Community by in
  - Leadership
  - Solutions to on-going issues

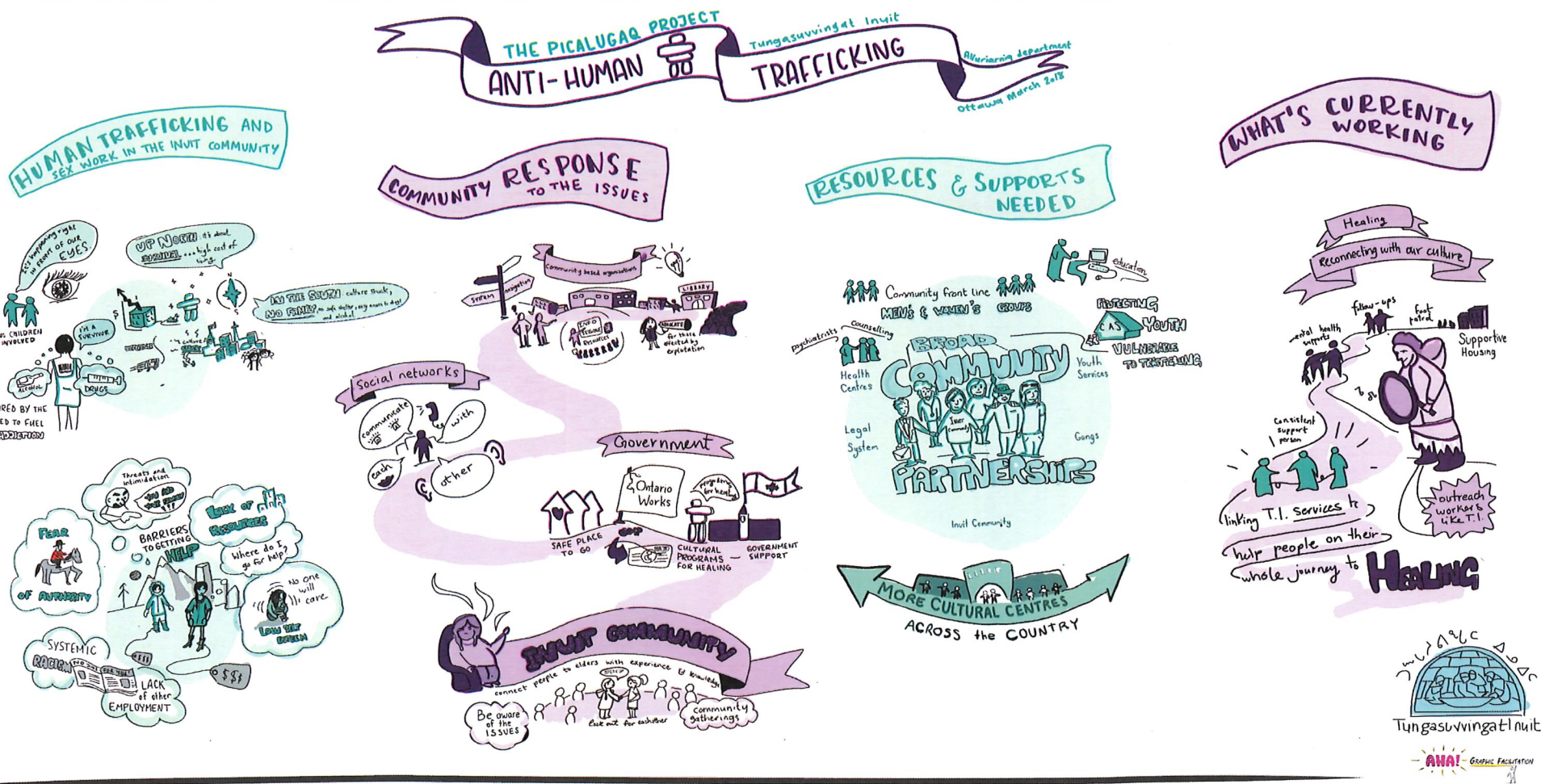
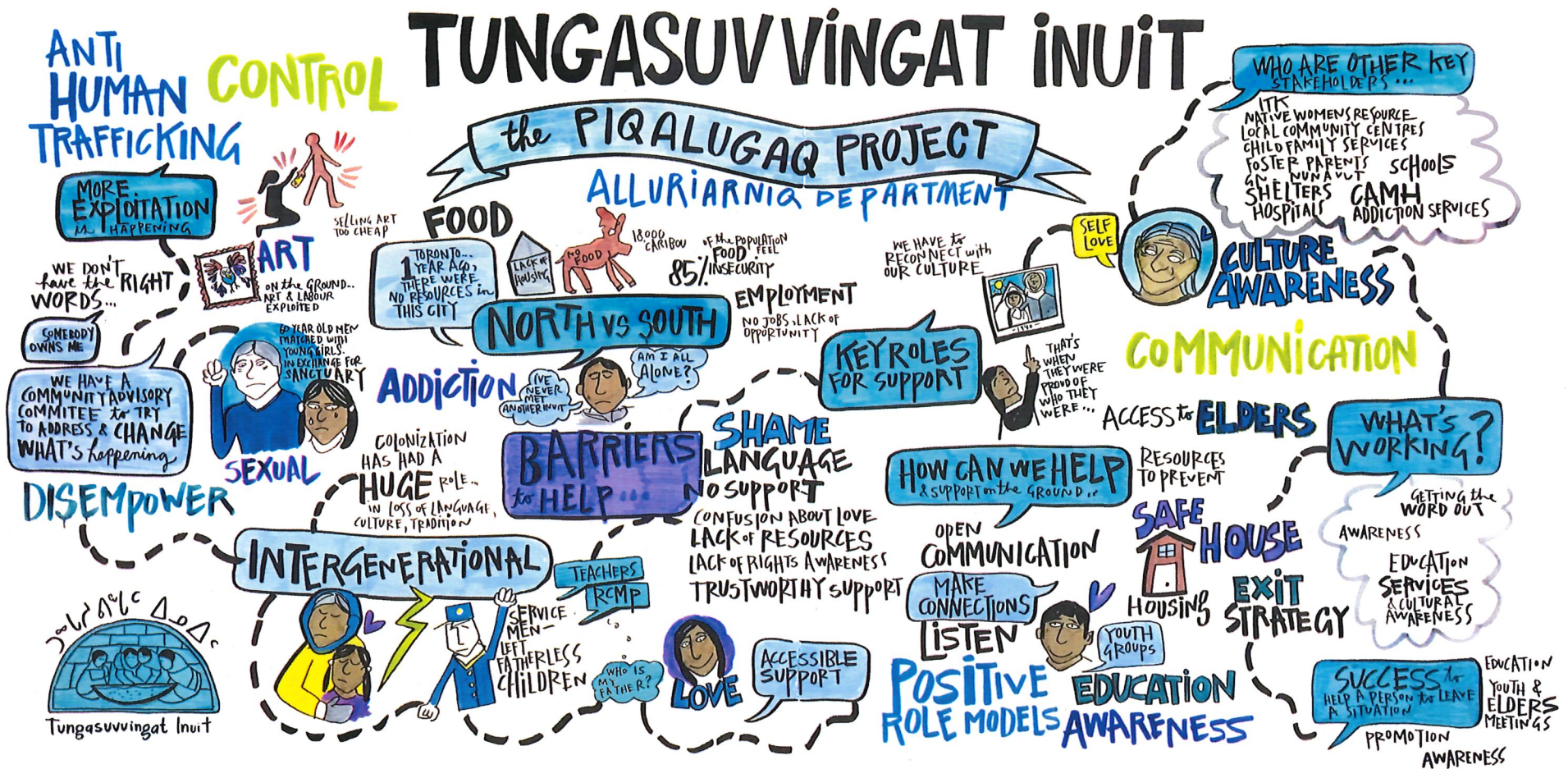


Figure 5: Tungasuvvingat Inuit, 2018





KATHRYN MAXFIELD FOR



Figure 6: Tungasuvvingat Inuit, 2018







# Opportunities & Recommendations: Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Increasing safety for Inuit Women



# What is Working & Recommendations



## Keep on...

- Creating safe spaces for Inuit to gather and share useful information and practice culture...
- Frontline programing that is specific to ending human trafficking and increasing healing, such as Tungasuvvingat Inuit
- Advocacy for Inuit as first Peoples and different from other First Nations and Metis
  - Anti-racism and anti-sexism
- Carving out space for survivors to take on leadership roles
- Working with other Inuit specific partners to sustain projects and change for community
- Education on Human trafficking in ways that make sense to Inuit
- The use of frameworks such as harm reduction and trauma informed when working with victims and/or survivors

## More focus on...

- Core funding towards combating sexual exploitation
- Cultural competency for powers of authority
- Creating greater roles for Inuit Elders to support healing journeys of victims
- Social media & crypto currency
- Airlines, cross boarder transportation
- Programs that help men heal and become better allies to women and the 2LGTBQ community
- More economic and leadership roles for women
- Poverty reduction and increased housing
- Mental health and Addiction
- Processes that break down the normalization of violence
- For victims/survivors
  - Coping with loss and learning forgiveness
  - Harm/trauma reduction ways to share experiences
  - Life after trauma/sexual exploitation



# Nakumek Thank you

- Inuit Community
- Inuit survivors
- Allurarniq Team

## Contact Information:

Jennisha Wilson

Manager of Alluriarniq Department

[Ep-mgr@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca](mailto:Ep-mgr@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca)

613-232-4477



## References

- Tungasuvvingat Inuit (2017). Cancer Risk Factors and Screening: Among Inuit in Ontario and Other Canadian Regions.
- Alex Palmer (2017). Women Defy Exploitation by visualizing Resilience and Love. Smitsonian.com
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit (2018). Anti-Human Trafficking Consultations in Ontario.
- Native Women Association of Canada (2014) Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls
- Public Safety Canada (2018). The way forward to End Human Trafficking National Consultations Discussion Paper
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada (2017). Understanding the Needs of Urban Inuit Women
- Nunavut Sivuniksavut (2018). The Inuit Story diagram