

Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and
Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Location/Phase: Part 4 Closing oral

Witness: n la

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Initials

I/D

Entered

57

20

Summary Document: Nunatsiavut Government Recommendations

Inuit have a holistic and collective understanding of wellbeing. Thus, the Nunatsiavut Government works for wellbeing across all levels: individual, family, community, and society. Healthy individuals exist in a context of healthy families; healthy families exist in a context of healthy communities; healthy communities/regions arise when the broader Canadian society acknowledges, respects, and supports Inuit leadership, knowledge, and culture. To reduce incidence of violence and violent death amongst Inuit, the Nunatsiavut Government feels that there must be measureable actions in addressing the poor social determinants of health faced by Inuit and Labrador Inuit communities; sustained funding and support for Inuit to self-govern and deliver services to their communities and peoples; and active engagement of Inuit leaders in all stages of the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs, services, as well as practice approaches which impact Indigenous communities and peoples.

Social Determinants of Health and Social Inequities

- Equitable access to educational opportunities and outcomes. Inuit children require access to high quality education ranging from early childhood to post-secondary. Educational achievements – starting in early childhood – promote individual and family wellbeing across the lifespan.
- Inclusion of Inuit culture and language in programs and services must be a priority. All programming and services for Inuit must consider and incorporate Inuit culture and language. Inuit participation and ‘success’ in all programs and services – education, health, mental health, justice, etc – is mediated by the cultural and linguistic congruence of the program or service. Further culture and language vitality promote community well-being and healing overall.
- Availability of livelihood and equity within the income distribution. Poverty (both absolute and relative) reduces individual, family, and community wellbeing. Employment opportunities must be available for Inuit which provide a sustainable and equitable livelihood and for those requiring social assistance support, this must be sufficient to cover the basic costs of living within the Nunatsiavut. Income and social assistance for Inuit in Nunatsiavut must match the costs of living in Nunatsiavut.

- Protection and justice services within Nunatsiavut – including child welfare, policing, courts, correctional centers, and offender re-integration – must be adapted to the unique Nunatsiavut context.
- Inuit must have access to housing and food security. Both housing and food insecurity are major contributing factors to ill-health within Nunatsiavut. Food and shelter are basic human needs and when these are inaccessible, there is no foundation on which to address other tasks of living. Barriers to housing and food security must be urgently addressed collaboratively between governments.
- Health and mental wellness services must be accessible to Inuit. Accessibility considers not only geographic and financial barriers, but also sociocultural barriers. Practitioners must understand and be able to mitigate potential barriers of language and communication differences, cultural and contextual differences, impacts of colonization and intergenerational trauma, and the challenges posed by poverty, overcrowding, and food insecurity.
 - Healing from the ongoing impacts of intergenerational trauma, systemic harms, and social inequity requires significant on-going attention and commitment.

Sustained Funding and Support

- Wellbeing in Nunatsiavut requires sustained funding and support for the delivery of effective programs and services. Funding models for Inuit services must be changed to provide sustained support to the delivery of effective services. With sustained funding and support, self-government and Inuit-led service delivery will continue to grow and prosper within Nunatsiavut.

Inuit Leadership Throughout

- To meet the needs of Inuit (including urban Inuit), all policies, programs, and practices which impact Inuit must incorporate Inuit perspectives throughout the development, implementation, and evaluation phases. The Nunatsiavut Government wants to continue to build relationships with both the provincial and federal governments to ensure that Inuit strengths and needs are taken into account in the development of all policies, programs, and practices.