



Women's Association of Nunavik

Report of Activities – November 1, 2008 – February 4, 2009

Funding

Although there is funding available from KRG at this time, agreements cannot be signed until the By-Laws of the Association are passed and the first members of the Permanent Board are elected by the membership. The By-laws have been drafted and will be finalized and presented to the full Board for adoption by conference call within the next 30 days. The election for the first 3 members originally scheduled for August 2009 will be held immediately following the membership drive.

Particular Agreement between Kativik Regional Government and the Ministre de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition feminine

There were two teleconferences with the members of the committee overseeing the above-mentioned agreement, November 24, 2008 and February 4, 2009. The next one is scheduled for mid November. Discussions have centered on the membership drive, human resources, and a website for the Association.

Board of Directors

There has been one teleconference with the Board of Directors since the face to face Board Meeting October 30, 31, 2008. Several topics related to the development of the Association were discussed:

Membership Drive

There have been a number of delays with the activities related to the membership drive. A poster inviting women to participate is being prepared by Pigiursavik Adult Education Centre in Inukjuak, and a consultant has been hired to prepare an information brochure on the history behind the Association and the Manifesto made by the women of the region which will be forwarded with the membership form to every post office box in Nunavik. As soon as all the materials are in place the membership drive will be started.

Website

There have been preliminary discussions concerning the construction of a website for the Association which will be followed up on by the President and Vice President over the next months.

Workshop on Governance for the Women of Nunavik

Lisa Koperqualuk initiated discussions with the Ecole Nationale de l'administration Publique in November 2008, and Elaine Emond of the Women's Development Centre on Governance made a presentation to the Board of Directors during a conference call on December 18, 2008. Lisa has been invited to attend a workshop that is being given by this group at Lac Brome in early February as an observer. Following this, Lisa with Ms Emond to develop a workshop on governance which could be offered to the women of Nunavik. This design and plan of this workshop would be then presented to the Board of Saturviit.

Letter to the Chief Negotiators for Nunavik Self-Government

A letter has been written to the Chief Negotiators on behalf of the women of Nunavik requesting that the issues of women's participation and gender parity be included in their processes.

Human Resource Considerations

There was no job description for the Project Officer position that was supposed to be advertised, which resulted in a delay in the posting. As well, it has been suggested that the Association administer this position directly, which will require some discussion with Board Members. The Project coordinator at KRG was absent due to family emergency early in her employ, and an efficient working relationship is only now starting to take shape.

Challenges

The President of the Association has been on medical leave since December, and has yet to be able to return to work. She has not been able to take on the responsibilities of this volunteer commitment as fully as she would have liked over this period as she has also had to relocate herself and her dependent children.



Women's Association of Nunavik

Report of Activities – February 5 – April 30, 2009

Particular Agreement between Kativik Regional Government and the Ministre de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition feminine

A conference call with this committee was scheduled for March 25, but conflicting schedules and the absence of the President made it impossible to hold a conference call during this period.

Board of Directors

There were no meetings of the Board during this period.

Membership Drive

The poster inviting women to participate in the Association was developed at {Pigiursavik Adult Education Centre in Inukjuak. A brochure, which includes information on the history of the Association and the original Manifesto issued by the women of the region was forwarded with the membership form to every post office box in Nunavik. Not all communities had received the brochures and membership forms at the end of this period. Once the materials have been delivered to each community the communication strategy on local and regional radio will be initiated and the membership drive will be officially launched.

International Women's Day – March 8, 2009

Saturviit Women's Association promoted the celebration of National Women's Day throughout the communities in Nunavik. The theme this year was "Women and Men Work Together in our Communities, to unite women and men to end violence against women and girls".

Committee on the Cost of Living in Nunavik

Saturviit was invited to speak with the representatives of the above-mentioned Committee, and Aputik Angatuk attended the meeting held April 20, 2009 in

Kuujuaq on the Association's behalf. The members had not had the opportunity to work on a position for the Association prior to the meeting, so Aputik spoke of her personal experience as a woman and a mother in Nunavik in her comments to the Committee.

The programs introduced to reduce the cost of gas, the purchase of new furniture, as well as the cost of the ingredients to make bannock have already made a positive impact in the community, but Aputik feels more can be done.

There has been increased emphasis on nutritional foods in the recent past, with public awareness activities that are being implemented throughout the region. It would be a good time to introduce programs to reduce the cost of the more "nutritious" foods. One example she gave was the cost of olive oil, which is promoted as a more nutritious alternative to the traditional fats used in making bannock. Having bannock available in the home is a priority in Nunavik homes, and as one elder pointed out, as long as there are the ingredients to make bannock, "you will not starve".

Ms. Angnatuk also noted how some of the tension caused by the severe overcrowding issues in some homes makes the planning and purchase of nutritious foods in a multi-family home more difficult.

Single income families are the hardest hit by the high cost of living, which Aputik herself experienced when her husband lost his job. Access to country food for these people is one way they can provide nutritious food for the family. The hunter support program is very important for these families, because harvest activities are very expensive nowadays, and many people are not in a position to go out to get country food.

On the subject of Country Food, there is another important point to be made. There is a difference between a "craving" for country food, and hunger. It is important to make sure that the country food provided by the Hunter Support Program is distributed to the needy in the community first, before being distributed to the rest of the community.

Website

There have been preliminary discussions concerning the construction of a website for the Association. The President's absence has made progress in this area very slow. The Vice President is planning to follow up on these discussions when she is in Kuujuaq in May.

Workshop on Governance for the Women of Nunavik

Lisa Koperqualuk is still working with this project and is planning a workshop session with the other members of the Board to determine some of the crucial elements required before moving forward with design of the workshop.

Letter to the Chief Negotiators for Nunavik Self-Government

No answer was received to the letter sent to the Chief Negotiators on behalf of the women of Nunavik during this period.

The letter requested that the issues of women's participation and gender parity be included in the discussions and processes for the net government.

Human Resource Considerations

The job description for the Project Officer position was finalized on March 6th, 2009 and posted on April 24th. The deadline for applications is May 29, 2009.

Challenges

The President of the Association continued to be on medical leave throughout this period. This resulted in some delays in the implementation of projects and activities. She expects to return to work in May and is looking forward to also being in a position once more to devote time and energy to her volunteer commitment to the Association.



Report of Activities – May 1, 2009 – July 30, 2009

Specific Agreement between Kativik Regional Government and the Ministre de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition feminine

A meeting was held with this Committee in Quebec City on July 15, 2009. There are difficulties with maintaining contact with all members of the committee, so it was decided that the full committee will only meet twice (2 times) a year in person or by conference call, while a sub-committee with the representatives of the Ministre de la Culture, des Communication et de la Condition Feminine, the KRG Co-ordinator and the Saturviit Project Officer will have conference calls on a regular basis to follow up on the activities related to the Action Plan.

Board of Directors

There was one Board Conference Call held during this period, on May 14, 2009.

Membership Drive

A press release was prepared by Lisa Koperqualuk and circulated by the KRG Coordinator, Martha Annanack. Lizzie Tukai launched the drive officially with an interview on CBC North July 9, 2009.

The initial response to the regional mailing was very low. Additional strategies to stimulate membership applications will be explored with the Project Officer.

Website

The progress in this file has been very slow, but the newly hired Project Officer, Peggy Large, has experience in this area. Development of the website will be a priority on her work plan. The website will also offer a secure “Board Member and Committee Member – Only” area where information of use to members will be posted. The items discussed for posting include: a calendar outlining travel and availability of members; the Work Plan of the Project Officer; minutes of the meetings of the Committee overseeing the Specific Agreement; current documents, minutes of meetings, important correspondence, agendas for meetings, etc.

Jessy Baron of the Ministre de la Culture, des Communication et de la Condition Feminine has also provided a referral for a company that did some work for them who might be able to offer assistance.

Workshop on Governance for the Women of Nunavik

The upcoming Municipal Elections in the province have resulted in a lot of requests for workshops by the Women's Development Centre on Governance of L'Ecole Nationale de l'Administration Publique. Lisa Koperqualuk will continue to work with this group on a workshop on Women and Governance for the women of Nunavik, but no activity is expected in this area until after the elections.

Women and Governance in Nunavik

The Association will develop a poster to encourage the Women of Nunavik to participate actively in the upcoming elections, as candidates, and as voters. The poster will be circulated widely to all communities.

Letter to the Chief Negotiators for Nunavik Self-Government

An answer was received from the Federal Negotiators in early May, and Minnie Grey also responded on behalf of the negotiating "Team". Ms. Grey advised the Association that the discussions and processes for the new government were not yet at a level where issues of gender parity and participation of women are to be discussed. No mention was made of including Saturviit in the list of organizations having "consultant" status with the process (e.g. Avataq, Saputiit Youth Association). A reply will be drafted to Ms. Grey to clarify this situation.

Human Resource Considerations

One application for the position of Project Officer was retained for an interview, and Ms. Peggy Large of Inukjuak was interviewed by the President and the Vice President in June.

Ms. Large was offered and accepted the position. She started her work in July 2009.



Report of Activities – August 1 to October 31, 2009

Specific Agreement between Kativik Regional Government and the Ministre de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine

No meetings of the full Follow-up Committee took place during this period. The last one took place on July 15, 2009 in Quebec City. The next meeting is scheduled as a conference call on November 12, 2009.

One meeting of the Sub-committee took place during this period by conference call on October 2. This was the first opportunity for Saturviit's new Project Officer, Peggy Large, to meet the representative of the Ministre de la Culture, des Communication et de la Condition Feminine, Jessy Baron. Progress on several items in Saturviit's multi-year Action Plan were discussed, essentially those mentioned in this report.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met by conference call on September 30, 2009 and in person in Quebec City on October 27-29, 2009. The Quebec City meetings, held over three days included KRG's Coordinator for Elders and Women's Programs and Saturviit's Project Officer by phone. On October 27, 2009 Saturviit's Board of Directors reviewed and approved founding By-Laws for the Association, subject to re-wording of four sections for clarification, improving the translation on several sections, and changing the financial year end from March 31 to December 31. The Board schedule an Annual General Meeting for March 2010, in conjunction with the Governance Training; and a nominating committee was asked to prepare for the first election. Two new members from Hudson Strait communities were invited to sit as Directors until the election.

Representation

Saturviit Board members represented the Association at a number meetings:

- Sept. 14 – 16: Lizzie Tukai attended a Family Violence and Sexual Abuse Awareness session organized by NRBHSS in Kuujjuaq;
- Sept. 17: as a result of a presentation made by Lisa Koperqualuk last April to the Annual Conference of Laval University's Centre for Inter-University Research on Aboriginal People, Saturviit was invited to partner in a multi-agency, multi-year research and training project focussing on Inuit governance and leadership
- mid-October: Lizzie attended KLDC Annual General Meeting in Kuujjuaq

Membership Drive

During August and September Lisa Koperqualuk travelled and met face-to-face with many women in Nunavik. She promoted membership in the Association. As a result of this effort and a number of local radio announcements, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik currently has 71 members representing 11 communities and 2 members currently living outside of Nunavik.

Priorities were set to continue the membership campaign by asking Makivik Magazine to publish an article about the Association and to include the membership application; and to write and distribute a newsletter which will keep interest and momentum for the membership.

Website

A concept design for Saturviit's website was developed by the Project Officer, based on needs previously outlined by Board members and the KRG Co-ordinator. This is being used to get price quotes for developing the website. One design company in the south has provided a quote. Others will be sought.

The website will be attractive and professional-looking. Public pages will be used to describe the Association, its activities and projects, to access publications, and to link with other sites. There will be a questions and comments section for easy communication with public users; and on-line membership application will be possible. Private pages will enable Board Members to communicate easily, to share documents, to see and post calendar entries.

Governance Training for Women

Lisa Koperqualuk and the Project Officer developed a detailed proposal for Governance Training scheduled for early 2010 in Puvirnituk. Discussions with Éline Hémond, Director of Centre de développement femmes et gouvernance (CDFG), about CDFG facilitating the training, were interrupted when Ms. Hémond left her post. Mme. Gaëtane Corriveau has recently taken over to represent CDFG in partnership with Saturviit. Éline Hémond will continue to work on the Governance Training project under contract to CDFG. Steps are underway to finalize dates for the training and to sign a partnership agreement between Saturviit and CDFG.

In September, Saturviit presented the Governance Training Project to Status of Women Canada (SWC) in response to SWC's call for proposals through its Women's Community Fund 2009. Results of the application will be determined in January 2010.

Letter to the Chief Negotiators for Nunavik Self-Government

A letter was sent to the Negotiators thanking them for their response and re-stating Saturviit's concerns for parity in the negotiation process. Since the Negotiating Team had expressed interest, more information about Saturviit's plans for the upcoming governance training was provided.

Nov. 25 – Nunavik Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

Both Saturviit's Project Officer and the KRG Co-ordinator for Women's Affairs have been working on the **Regional Organizing Committee** for Nov. 25 - Day for **Elimination of Violence Against Women**. The ROC-EVAW committee is chaired by NRBHSS's Sylvie Ricard, Family Violence and Sexual Abuse Agent. Events to promote awareness and involvement are being organized for schools and at the region level. Local projects are being encouraged through municipal offices. A white ribbon campaign, regional poster contest, school poster and essay contests, public service announcements and regional radio presentation and phone-in are planned. Saturviit's president, Lizzie Tukai, has been asked to be part of the regional radio program.

Election Poster

Saturviit produced a poster encouraging women to participate in the November election. It was distributed by email immediately prior to closing of nominations.



Women's Association of Nunavik

Report of Activities – November 1, 2009 to January 15, 2010

Board of Directors

Two new members, appointed to fill vacancies, were welcomed to Saturviit's Board of Directors: Quara Irnikayak of Ivujivik, and Minnie Editloie of Kangirsujuaq,

Directors met as a group by conference call November 19, January 12 and January 19. In addition to routine business of the Association, current projects and potential new projects were discussed. Outside of Board meetings, Directors also worked on specific projects during the period: women's participation in the municipal elections; Nov. 25, the Nunavik Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; and planning the Women in Governance Training scheduled for May 2010. Potential new projects concern the Block Parent Program and Child Advocacy centres.

Representation

Saturviit Inuit Women's Association was represented at a number of regional and local meetings:

- November: Aputik Angnatuk worked on the Regional Organizing Committee for Nov. 25 – Nunavik Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women (ROC-EVAW); Board members and many Saturviit members were actively involved in local events on Nov. 25.
- November: Lizzie Tukai participated in local organization of events for National Addiction Awareness Week in Inukjuak
- December: Lizzie Tukai and Annie Hubloo Etok were representatives to the gathering of Elders and Leaders in Montreal

Specific Agreement between Saturviit Inuit Women's Association, the Ministry of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women and KRG

No meetings of the Follow-up Committee for this Specific Agreement took place during this period. The last meeting was July 15, 2009. The next is scheduled for January 22, 2010.

Membership Drive

A newsletter to Saturviit members was designed. The first edition, introducing current Board members, project activities, and promoting membership enrolment, is scheduled for distribution in January.

Makivik Magazine was asked to publish a brief article about Saturviit and to include a membership application form.

Website

Quotes were received from 4 sources to develop Saturviit's web site. The contract was awarded to Pirnoma Technologies Inc. represented by Thomassie Mangiok. Pirnoma will work with Saturviit over the next 3 – 4 months to develop the web site.

Election Results

Prior to the November municipal elections, Saturviit distributed a poster encouraging women to run as candidates. Election results were monitored and immediately following the results, Saturviit released a media statement congratulating not only those women who were elected, but all women who participated.

Nov. 25 – Nunavik Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

Saturviit's Project Officer and several Directors were involved in regional and local organizing committees for Nov. 25 – the Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women. Community events included distribution of white ribbons, marches, feasts, speeches, school poster and essay-writing contests, and local radio shows. Regional events included a CBC taped and TNI live call-in shows and a regional poster contest. Media coverage was promoted before and on the Day through CBC and radio Canada, in Makivik Magazine and Nunatsiaq News.

Governance Training for Women

In December in Puvirnituk, Lizzie Tukai, Lisa Koperqualuk and Peggy Large met with Éline Hémond and Gaétane Corriveau of the Centre de développement femmes et gouvernance (CDFG) to agree on dates and responsibilities for the Governance Training Project for Women. The group met with and introduced the project to Mayor Aisara Kenuajuak. Dates for the Governance Training were confirmed as May 17 to 21, 2010 in Puvirnituk.

Letter to the Chief Negotiators for Nunavik Self-Government

Saturviit maintained correspondance with the three Chief Negotiators, keeping issues of women's involvement and parity in governance in the foreground during final phases of negotiations. The Negotiating Team acknowledged Saturviit's concern and suggested "a letter be sent to ... elected leaders of our organizations to bring about an open debate on these issues." The Negotiating Team invited Saturviit representatives to participate in the All Organizations' Review of the Final Agreement Draft to be held in early February. Minnie Grey also offered a representative from the Negotiating Team to make a presentation and be available for discussion at the upcoming Women in Governance Training in Puvirnituk.