

# **Inuit Well-Being: Gender-Based Violence Projects: What We Are Learning**

**2021**

## **The First Project Evaluation**

This year, it was very important for the GBV project to have its first evaluation. The evaluation's purpose was to collect data about how the wrap-around model is supporting those impacted by GBV to see what is working well and where there are gaps in services.

Six project participants participated in interviews with NVision Insight Group. Centre staff participated in interviews and the partners completed online surveys. Participants, staff and partners all answered questions regarding the wrap-around model and the gender-based violence project. This ensured the project was collecting information from all parties involved with our services. Information from the interviews, surveys and meeting notes were included in a report that was created by the external evaluation team.

This first evaluation report provided pertinent information about the project and the effectiveness of the wrap-around model thus far. Fifteen recommendations for improvements to the project were made in the first of three evaluation reports. Some of these recommendations included making efforts to increase the profile of the GBV project within Inuuqatigiit Centre and amongst staff, creating an evaluation tool to be developed in order to obtain feedback supporting improvements to the cultural safety training program and ensuring more information is provided to those involved with child protection and other external authorities (e.g. police, justice system) on the services Inuuqatigiit Centre offers, to help meet the needs of those involved in external systems or who may be reluctant to engage with non-Indigenous service agencies. The GBV team was able to move forward with these 3 recommendations in 2021 through agency wide departmental meetings, putting together training feedback forms with the help of the external evaluation team and supporting strengthening relationships with CAS and Ottawa Police. Various other recommendations were also worked on throughout 2021.

## **COVID-19 Year 2 – What We Were Able to Accomplish**

We spent 2021 sharing the recommendations with our Advisory Committee and Stakeholders to get their opinions on how best to implement the changes we'd like to make. Covid-19 did cause a few lock downs during the year that made it challenging to work with our Partners, Stakeholders and Advisory Committee at times but ultimately, we ended up overcoming this and having the opportunity to speak with and listen to these supporters of the project.

## **The Year of Relationship Building**

In 2021 the GBV team also transitioned training materials to an online platform and provided their first virtual cultural training to a project partner. Data tracking within the agency and with the partners also became a huge priority for the GBV team as prior to this data tracking was inconsistent. The team saw the value in having accurate information about the programs being delivered at Inuuqatigiit Centre as

well as using the tracking to find ways to see the referrals between Inuuqatigiit Centre and partner agencies.

There was one Advisory Committee meeting in 2021, one meeting with the Inuit stakeholders and one with the community stakeholders. The Advisory Committee meeting happened first, in September, giving the GBV team an opportunity to explain the findings in the interim evaluation report and to ask for feedback from the Advisory Committee members. The GBV team then took the information from the report and feedback of the Advisory Committee members to the Inuit Stakeholders virtually in November to present to them and also get their feedback. The team then did the same with the community stakeholders in December. This allowed the GBV team to reconnect with members of the Advisory Committee and Stakeholder groups as well as meet new people in various rolls to gain many new perspectives, ideas and opinions for how to move forward.

### **Year 3 - What We Learned**

In year 3 we saw organizations like the Ottawa Police Service reaching out to Inuuqatigiit Centre to work collaboratively when in the past this was not the case. In 2021 staff from Children's Aid Society of Ottawa (CAS) also worked with Inuuqatigiit Centre to create a program to collect statistics on Inuit involved in the child welfare system as a result of gender-based violence. This data tracking has helped support the project, grown relationships between Inuuqatigiit Centre and CAS and has also helped CAS staff gain more knowledge in this area. Collectively we are working to decrease the amount of Inuit involved in the child welfare system.

Year 3 of the project taught us just how important it is to stay connected and work collaboratively with our partner organizations. It was evident in the various meetings that took place how everyone had the same goals to support Inuit and to reduce or eliminate GBV in the Inuit community. Everyone had different approaches or ideas but the strength in working together for a common cause was very powerful at each meeting and in the ideas that were shared to improve the wrap-around model going forward.