



Greetings,



During 2003-2004, great strides were made in building and strengthening the Ajungniq Centre's partnerships with other Inuit organizations at the regional and national level. We are continuing to reach out to Inuit communities and we were presented with many opportunities to do so in 2003-2004. The passion and vigour of the Ajungniq Centre staff and Governing

Committee members can be seen in the momentum the Centre is building in addressing the health and wellness needs of Inuit nationally.

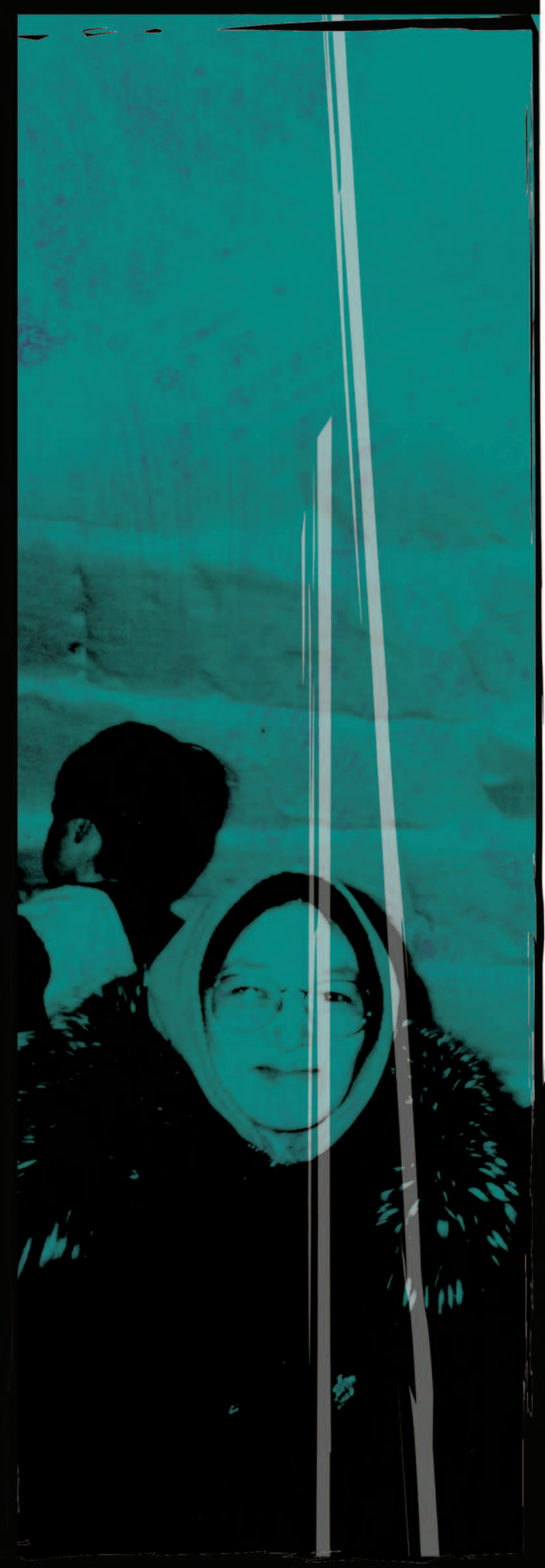
In early 2003, the Ajungniq Centre developed a two-year work plan, based on the results of the Inuit Health Policy Forum held in 2000, the 2002 Ajungniq Centre regional health workshops, and NAHO's five objects.

The next year promises to be an exciting and busy one. The health status of Inuit lags behind that of other Canadians. It is for this reason that effective partnerships with other organizations are so important. We will continue to work on identified Inuit health priorities with our partners. There is much work to be done, but with the momentum the Centre and its partners have, I am confident that we will make a difference.

Our key focus for 2004-2005 will be developing a number of evidence-based discussion and issues papers, as well as presentations to highlight Inuit-specific health and wellness needs.

Ajungniq Centre Staff

Mary Alainga	Project Co-ordinator (until June 2003)
Moses Aupaluktuq	Administrative Assistant (until August 2003)
Mark Buell	Communications and Liaison Officer/Policy Analyst
Sipporah Enuaraq	Executive Assistant
Karin Kettler	Junior Policy Analyst
Marja Korhonen	Policy Analyst
Tracy O'Hearn	Director
Robert Watt	Director (until September 2003)



Achievements

The Ajungginic Centre continued to be on the leading edge of evidence-based work in Inuit health. Key successes for the Ajungginic Centre in 2003-2004 focused on building strategic partnerships and raising awareness of the Centre.

- In May 2003, the Ajungginic Centre took the lead in co-ordinating the Arctic Forum, held in Yellowknife, N.W.T. The theme of the conference was Aboriginal Health – Gaining Knowledge. It attracted more than 150 delegates. This made it one of the largest events of its kind ever held north of 60. A detailed report on the event was also released in 2003.
- In February 2004, the Ajungginic Centre co-ordinated a meeting of the four national organizations with responsibilities for Inuit health (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, National Inuit Youth Council, Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association, and the Ajungginic Centre). The purpose of this meeting was to carry out the recommendations from the first Meeting of the Minds held in December 2002. The recommendations are meant to build stronger working relationships between organizations to better serve the needs of Inuit.
- In 2004, the Ajungginic Centre released a report on the Ajungginic Centre Regional Health Workshops. This report brings together information staff gathered at regional workshops in Inuit communities in 2002.

Réalisations

Le Centre Ajunnginiq reste à la pointe des recherches basées sur les observations sur la santé des Inuits. Les principaux succès du Centre Ajunnginiq en 2003-2004 ont porté sur la création de partenariats stratégiques et sur la sensibilisation envers le Centre.

- En mai 2003, le Centre Ajunnginiq a assumé la coordination du Forum arctique à Yellowknife (T.N.O.). Le thème de la conférence était « La santé autochtone : acquérir des connaissances ». Elle a réuni plus de 150 délégués, ce qui en a fait un des plus grands événements en son genre au nord du 60e parallèle. Un rapport détaillé sur cet événement a aussi été publié en 2003.
- En février 2004, le Centre Ajunnginiq a coordonné une réunion de quatre organisations nationales ayant des responsabilités en matière de santé des Inuits (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, le National Inuit Youth Council, la Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association et le Centre Ajunnginiq). Cette réunion avait pour but d'appliquer les recommandations de la première réunion *Meeting of Minds* (Rencontre des esprits) de décembre 2002. Les recommandations visent à renforcer les relations de travail entre les organisations afin de mieux satisfaire les besoins des Inuits.
- En 2004, le Centre Ajunnginiq a publié un rapport sur les Ateliers de santé régionaux du Centre Ajunnginiq. Ce rapport rassemble les informations recueillies par le personnel lors des ateliers régionaux dans les communautés inuites en 2002.

Améliorer et promouvoir la santé par des activités fondées sur la connaissance

Le Centre Ajunnginiq a su tirer parti des priorités en matière de santé et de bien-être identifiées par les Inuits à l'occasion d'activités basées sur les connaissances.

- Une version préliminaire du document de travail « Les problèmes d'alcool et leurs approches : Théories, données et pratique dans le Nord » a été rédigée. L'article est presque terminé.
- Une présentation conjointe a été faite avec Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami et l'Université Laval à la conférence organisée par le CUSO et intitulée « Les communautés et les effets du changement climatique » à Winnipeg (MA) en mars 2004.
- Le personnel a assisté à la Sixième Réunion de recherche sur les Autochtones de Service Correctionnel Canada en octobre 2003 à Iqaluit (Nunavut).

Partenariats stratégiques

Les partenariats stratégiques ont été développés avec des organisations nationales et provinciales. Les principaux succès du Centre Ajunnginiq en 2003-2004 ont porté sur la création de partenariats stratégiques et sur la sensibilisation envers le Centre.

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Improving and promoting health through knowledge-based activities

The Ajunnginiq Centre was able to build on health and wellness priorities identified by Inuit through knowledge-based activities.

- A draft of the discussion paper Alcohol Problems and Approaches: Theories, Evidence, and Practice in the North was completed. The paper was in its final stages of development.
- A joint presentation was made with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Université Laval at the CUSO-organized conference called Communities and the Impacts of Climate Change in Winnipeg, Man., in March 2004.
- Staff attended the Correctional Service Canada Sixth Aboriginal Research Meeting in October 2003 in Iqaluit, Nunavut.
- Staff attended a variety of conferences and events on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), including the FASD Northwest Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba in November 2003 and a national conference on FASD in Toronto in February 2004.
- Staff participated in the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions conference in Toronto in October 2003.

Promoting an understanding of health issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples

Inuit have unique health challenges and opportunities. The work accomplished in 2003-2004 highlights this uniqueness.

- The Ajunnginiq Centre took part in planning the 2nd Canadian Conference on Hepatitis C to ensure the unique needs of Inuit and all Aboriginal Peoples in Canada were addressed at the conference. This included the opportunity to further develop our working relationship with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organization of Australia.
- The Ajunnginiq Centre co-ordinated the Arctic Forum held in Yellowknife, N.W. T.
- Staff presented Helping Inuit Clients: Cultural Relevance and Effective Counselling at the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention annual national conference in Iqaluit, Nunavut, in March 2003.
- Staff presented Helping Inuit Clients: Cultural Relevance and Effective Counselling at the 12th International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Nuuk, Greenland, in September 2003.



Facilitating and promoting research and developing research partnerships

A key focus of the Ajungginic Centre in 2003-2004 was building partnerships in the research community and advancing the needs of Inuit in research.

- The Ajungginic Centre continued participation on the Nasivvik Centre Advisory Board. The Nasivvik Centre is an Inuit-specific Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environments (ACADRE) at Université Laval in Quebec.
- The Ajungginic Centre began providing secretariat support to the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health (CSCH) in September 2003. The CSCH is a national organization dedicated to promoting research, exchanging knowledge, and fostering greater awareness and responsiveness to the health issues of circumpolar people.
- Staff took part in the Dialogue on Northern Research in Whitehorse, Y.T.

Fostering participation of Aboriginal Peoples in the delivery of health care

Capacity and education issues continue to be a priority for Inuit. The Ajungginic Centre hired a full-time junior policy analyst in 2003 to address health-related education issues.

- Staff is gathering information and developing a database of opportunities in health career training available to Inuit. The database is being made available to the public in early 2004.
- Staff is preparing an accompanying discussion paper on the opportunities and gaps facing Inuit entering health-related education programs for release.

Affirming and protecting Aboriginal traditional healing practices

Traditional healing practices are important to Inuit. Working closely with other NAHO Centres and external partners, the Ajungginic Centre has been asked to take a lead within NAHO on protecting intellectual property for Aboriginal traditional healing practices.

- The Ajungginic Centre facilitated the participation of students from Nunavut Sivuniksavut at the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-



ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Que., in December 2003.

- The Ajungniq Centre represented the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada) at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 2004.
- Staff attended the sixth meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore in March 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Priorities for 2004-2005

The Ajungniq Centre is planning the following key projects to meet NAHO objects:

- developing a new visual identity for the Ajungniq Centre;
- producing a series of radio soap operas in Inuktitut—episodes will focus on health and wellness issues relevant to Inuit communities;
- Σ publishing a discussion paper on the education needs of Inuit to enter health careers;
- developing an online and CD-ROM database of health career training opportunities available to Inuit;
- producing a resource book for Inuit patients who have to travel to the south to receive treatment;
- developing a joint Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami/Université Laval/Ajungniq Centre project to compile community-based climate change research



into a synthesis report. This information will be made available to researchers, leaders, and community members. It will highlight the health-related impacts of climate change in Inuit communities as well as possible adaptation strategies communities can use to lessen the impacts of climate change;

- developing a discussion paper on the social and health impacts of rapid economic development on Inuit communities;
- developing a culturally relevant counselling manual;
- working with regional and national organizations responsible for Inuit health to present training workshops at NAHO's second national conference;
- developing an information booklet to explain mental illness, symptoms, and treatment;
- developing a discussion paper on the connections between literacy and health;
- developing a discussion paper on disabilities, including perceptions and access issues;
- holding a maternal care focus group, in collaboration with the First Nations Centre, that will bring together Inuit women from the four land claims regions who have had babies in the past three years. The purpose of the focus group was to learn of their experiences in the prenatal, delivery, and postnatal stages, as well as their perspectives on whether care was sufficient, supportive, meaningful, and culturally relevant. The findings will be presented to Health Canada and other interested stakeholders;
- developing a project on suicide and efforts for preventing suicide in Inuit communities;
- facilitating a national Inuit-specific dialogue on issues of traditional knowledge, in collaboration with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

