

BACKGROUND

In Nunavut, there are four operating domestic violence shelters located in the communities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Kugaaruk and Kugluktuk.

NTI worked with the Government of Nunavut Department of Family Services to determine the locations:

- Baker Lake - the community is looking to open a domestic violence shelter and is working on identifying a building to renovate and repurpose.
- Gjoa Haven – the community is in the planning phase of development of a shelter.
- Pangnirtung – the community has been planning for a Domestic Violence Shelter for a number of years now and is the most advanced in terms of project development.
- Pond Inlet – the community is looking to open a domestic violence shelter and has identified a building to renovate and repurpose.

The need for family shelters in Nunavut is staggering. The rate of domestic violence in Nunavut is ten (10) times higher than the rest of Canada. In 2019-20, 683 women and children accessed the services of a domestic violence shelter.

In 2019 Pauktuutit released its Study of Gender-based Violence and Shelter Service Needs across Inuit Nunangat. Statistics captured in this document are discouraging:

- Inuit women experience violence, particularly intimate partner violence, at a rate that is higher than that experienced by any other group of women in Canada.
- In Nunavut, the most populous of the Inuit regions, the crime rate increased by two per cent over the period of 2016-17, while the rate of violent crime remained the highest in the country at more than seven times the national rate (Statistics Canada, 2018). This means that women and girls are far more likely to be killed in Nunavut than in any other jurisdiction in Canada (Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2018:7).
- In Nunavut, women and girls represented nearly two-thirds of police-reported crime victims and 95% of sexual offence victims in 2016.
- For Inuit women and girls, these statistics represent the painful lived reality of those experiencing violence and abuse in their homes and communities.
- In 2014, Nunavut recorded the highest rates of violent victimization among the territories. In that same year, the GN spent \$110,296,000 on justice and \$317,335,000 on health (Nunavut Department of Finance, 2016).