Community Justice Division
Department of Justice
Government of Nunavut

Family Abuse Intervention Act

Annual Report

2024-2025

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Family Abuse Intervention Act (*FAIA*)

In November 2006, after extensive consultations with Nunavut communities, the Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* (*FAIA*). *FAIA* came into force on March 1, 2008. The legislation's purpose is to provide Nunavummiut with tools to holistically intervene in, de-escalate, and prevent family abuse. The Act focuses on early intervention tools such as family counselling and healthy conflict-resolution strategies, but also engages mechanisms to address a victim's immediate safety needs, all with simple and efficient processes that are consistent with Inuit values.

FAIA offers four remedies against family abuse: Emergency Protection Orders (EPOs), Community Intervention Orders (CIOs), Assistance Orders, and Compensation Orders. Additionally, *FAIA* also provides protection against stalking by allowing victims to apply for an EPO or Assistance Order in those circumstances.

The Department of Justice's Community Justice Division is responsible for implementing *FAIA.* Division staff – primarily Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs) and Community Justice Specialists – ensure access to EPOs and CIOs in each community across Nunavut and help victims apply for these Orders and support them while an Order is in effect.

Once an application is filed with the court, Justices of the Peace (JPs) who have been specifically tasked with administering *FAIA* (*FAIA* JPs) oversee EPO and CIO proceedings. These *FAIA* JPs review EPO and CIO applications, hold the initial hearings, and decide whether the requested Order will be granted. Where it is, the *FAIA* JP also determines which provisions are included in the Order. There is always a Community Justice Specialist and *FAIA* JP on call to assist with EPOs after hours.

Assistance Orders and Compensation Orders relate to situations where family abuse has occurred, but it is not an emergency and danger is less imminent than with EPOs or CIOs. Applications for Assistance or Compensation Orders must be heard before a judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice (NCJ), and the application processes are more formal and take longer than with EPOs or CIOs. Given the nature of the processes for Assistance and Compensation Orders, Community Justice staff are not typically involved in those processes.

Terms and Definitions

Emergency Protection Order (EPO): An Order granted under subsection 7 of *FAIA* that is meant to provide applicants with immediate protection from family abuse in situations where the need is urgent and the risks are imminent.

Community Intervention Order (CIO): An Order granted under subsection 17 of *FAIA* that is meant to intervene in and address situations of abuse that are not emergent and where the applicant wishes to remain in the relationship. These Orders may include provisions to address safety concerns (e.g., a mandatory cooling off period), but primarily focus on connecting the parties with counselling resources to address the underlying causes of abuse. The options for counselling can include sessions with an Inuit Counsellor, Elder, professional counsellor, or member of the local Community Justice Committee.

Traditional Counsellor: An Elder or a specified respected member of the community.

Varying an EPO: If there has been a material change in circumstances for the applicant and/or the respondent, either party may submit an application to vary (change) the EPO to the *FAIA* JP who granted the Order (where possible). The variation of one or more provisions of an Order does not affect its other provisions.

Revoking an EPO: If there has been a material change in circumstances for the applicant and/or the respondent, either party may submit an application to revoke (cancel) the EPO to the *FAIA* JP who granted the Order (where possible).

Challenging an EPO: A respondent against whom an EPO is granted may, within 21 days after being given notice of the Order, apply to a judge of the NCJ to have the EPO revoked. CJOWs and Community Justice Specialists are available to assist respondents with this process.

FAIA Program Personnel

The *FAIA* Program refers to the way the Community Justice Division implements those sections of the Act related to EPOs and CIOs. The Program is organized into five (5) Regions, each headed by a Community Justice Specialist and comprised of several communities:

- Region 1: Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Qikiqtarjuaq and Igloolik;
- Region 2: Coral Harbour, Baker Lake, Sanirajak, Sanikiluaq, and Arctic Bay;
- Region 3: Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, Kinngait and Rankin Inlet;
- Region 4: Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Clyde River;
- Region 5: Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak, Kugluktuk and Kugaaruk

The following sections summarize the Community Justice Division staff and other personnel that administer the *FAIA* Program across the territory.

Community Justice Manager

The Community Justice Manager coordinates and supports the implementation of *FAIA* across Nunavut, primarily by supervising and training Community Justice Specialists and assisting them execute their roles. The Community Justice Manager also participates on various working groups on issues closely related to family abuse, such as crime prevention, violence against women, mental health, addictions, poverty reduction, sexual abuse, and suicide prevention. In addition, the Community Justice Manager contributes to the legislative review of *FAIA* by providing insight on identifying and rectifying gaps in the Act, regulations, and policies.

In 2024-25, the Community Justice Division received confirmation from Justice Canada regarding continuation of additional funding to add a second Community Justice Manager to Community Justice's organizational chart. The Division continued to work with the Department of Human Resources to create the position for an increase in managerial support allowed for Community Justice Specialists and CJOWs to receive consistent training and individualized support for their roles assisting clients. The job evaluation process and the required approvals from the Financial Management Board extended the timeline for establishing a second Community Justice Manager position within the 2024–25 fiscal year. The position remains a priority and is on track for implementation in 2025–26.

Community Justice Specialists

Community Justice Specialists are responsible for administering the *FAIA* Program within their Region by ensuring Community Justice and *FAIA* mandates are met and supervising and training the CJOWs working within their Region's communities.

Community Justice Specialists are the link between CJOWs, the RCMP, JPs, NCJ programs, and various community resources. They are responsible for providing presentations and outreach to community groups and service providers regarding *FAIA*. Community Justice Specialists review all EPO and CIO applications, including applications to vary, revoke, or challenge an EPO. The Community Justice Specialists operate a 24/7 on-call number to assist with after-hours EPO applications across the territory.

Community Justice Outreach Workers

CJOWs carry out *FAIA*-related programs, activities, and services in their respective communities. CJOWs assist with EPO and CIO applications and hearings, and support applicants with safety planning, after-care, and referrals to other services such as health centers, Family Services, and Victim Services. CJOWs also assist applicants with applications to vary, revoke, and assist respondents to challenge EPOs and connect interested respondents with referrals for counselling and other services.

Justices of the Peace

During 2024-2025, there were two full-time *FAIA* JPs based at the NCJ in Iqaluit and two on-call *FAIA* JPs – located in Iqaluit and Grise Fiord – responsible for conducting after-hours EPO hearings. In addition to overseeing the court processes for EPO and CIO applications, *FAIA* JPs contributed to the *FAIA* Program by participating in *FAIA* working groups and regularly meeting with Community Justice personnel to identify challenges with implementing the Act and suggesting remedies for improving service delivery.

2024-2025 *FAIA* Training & Partnerships

During 2024-2025, Community Justice Specialists gave *FAIA* training to CJOWs in the following communities: Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq and Taloyoak. Community Justice Specialists provided regular training to CJOWs in Iqaluit, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Kinngait, and Cambridge Bay and met with RCMP and other stakeholders to provide continued *FAIA* support.

During community visits throughout the year, Community Justice Specialists gave CJOWs specialized training on assisting clients with the EPO and CIO application processes, including on:

- interview/assessment skills;
- drafting applications/affidavits;
- varying, revoking, and challenging EPOs;
- submitting application packages;
- communicating with JPs;
- conducting hearings;
- follow-up processes;
- respondent support; and
- properly documenting files for statistical purposes.

CJOWs were also trained in confidentiality and the importance of the Duty to Report under the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Furthermore, Community Justice Specialists also used community visits to meet with RCMP officers, Family Services, nurses, Government Liaison Officers, local housing associations' representatives, other front-line service providers, and Senior Administrative Officers and other local municipal corporation personnel to give presentations on remedies available under *FAIA*, provide information pamphlets, establish relationships, and provide related resources.

In March 2024, prior to the territorial CJOW conference, all Community Justice Specialists met in Iqaluit with the Community Justice Director and Manager for a strategic planning meeting. The meeting focused on building capacity, relationships, and collaborations with other Justice divisions as well as GN departments to enhance human resource, financial and infrastructure resources for the CJOWs and the communities. Community Justice Specialists attended the Victim Services Conference focused on Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence. The conference covered a range of topics, including Canadian law and age of consent, traumatic brain injury in the context of intimate partner violence, and presentations delivered by the RCMP, Victim Services, and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC).

Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs) also attended the same conference, held in Iqaluit in October 2024.

Participation in these conferences strengthened the delivery of the Family Abuse Intervention Program by broadening staff knowledge of the complex issues affecting potential applicants and enhancing their understanding of available resources and inter-agency supports

The Department of Justice received funding from Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada via the Department of Family Services for initiatives to address gender-based violence in the territory. Starting 2023-24, the Department works closely with Law Society of Nunavut (LSN), for a project titled “Family Abuse Intervention Toolkit”. LSN and Community Justice worked together closely throughout 2024-2025 to plan two conferences and the development of training materials and website content for early in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Community Justice will partner with the Law Society of Nunavut for access to justice initiatives. Community Justice will provide funding to the Law Society for the development of Family Abuse Intervention Toolkit Project. The Toolkit is intended for frontline service providers and community members as resources for *Family Abuse Intervention Act* processes and in plain language, step by step demonstration of “how-to” apply for various orders.

The Project Advisory Committee included LSN, FAIA Justice of the Peace, Community Justice Specialists, RCMP, Department of Family Services and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. The purpose of this Committee is to review existing public legal education and information regarding the Family Abuse Intervention Act as well as create additional resources such as operational guidebook with step-by-step instructions to increase access to the FAIA program.

2024-2025 Statistical Information

As detailed more fully in the Appendix below, in the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Community Justice Division assisted with 69 EPO applications and zero CIO applications. Community Justice personnel did not assist with any Assistance

or Compensation Orders. Community Justice personnel continue to improve the quality and consistency of service delivery and to strive to remove barriers to access to justice for Nunavummiut experiencing family abuse.

The number of processed EPO applications decreased from 105 in 2023-24 to 69 in 2024-25. The Community Justice division will assess the potential factors related to the decline and increase outreach and engagement with clients and partners to raise awareness and support continued access to services. Results from the assessment will inform any recommended adjustments or service enhancements.

Although the original intent for *FAIA* was that CIOs would be the remedy accessed the most often, in 2024-2025, EPOs continued to be the most frequently used Order under the Act. Recognizing this, Community Justice Specialists and CJOWs continued to promote and encourage the use of CIOs.

There are several factors contributing to the low numbers of CIO applications. First, CJOWs often do not receive referrals for families experiencing family abuse until it has become a crisis and emergency intervention is required. Second, the counselling processes under CIOs are voluntary, so both the applicant and respondent must choose to participate, but many respondents are unwilling to do so. Third, when an applicant and respondent are both willing to attend counselling, they may proactively develop a plan and arrange sessions on their own or with a CJOW's assistance, thereby negating the need for a CIO or formal process.

To increase awareness of CIOs, the Community Justice Division continued to collaborate and provide training to RCMP, Family Services, and health center staff to identify families who may benefit from a CIO. CJOWs continued to attend meetings with other community service providers to enhance their ability to identify at-risk families. As EPOs neared their expiry dates, CJOWs also spoke with EPO applicants about transitioning to a CIO, in order to better support families that wished to maintain their relationships moving forward. Furthermore, Community Justice Specialists facilitated presentations and information sessions during community visits to ensure that service providers were aware of CIOs, to encourage appropriate referrals.

FAIA Legislative Review

In 2024-2025, the Department of Justice continued to review *FAIA* with the goal of developing potential amendments to address identified areas of concern and enhance the regime to better fulfil the statute's mandate. Activities included ongoing engagement with Community Justice personnel and stakeholders and research of developments in other jurisdictions.

Appendix: 2024-2025 *FAIA* Statistics

Application for Orders Under the Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA) Qikiqtaaluk Region								
Community	**EPO Applications**	**EPOs Granted**	**EPOs Challenged**	**EPOs Varied/ Revoked**	**CIO Applications**	**CIO's Granted**	**# of Orders with Counselling Recommended**	**Recommendations:**
Sanikiluaq	1	1(100%)	0	0	0	0	1	1. Mental Health
Kinngait	8	7 (88%)	0	1	0	0	2	1. Anger Management 2. Mental Health Counselling
Clyde River	2	2 (100%)	1	0	0	0	1	1. Mental Health Counselling
Iqaluit	5	4 (80%)	1	0	0	0	0	
Kimmirut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Qikiqtarjuaq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pangnirtung	1	1(100%)	0	0	0	0	0	
Arctic Bay	3	3 (100%)	1	1	0	0	0	
Pond Inlet	2	2 (100%)	0	1	0	0	2	1. Mental Health 2. Anger Management
Igloolik	2	2 (100%)	0	0	0	0	0	
Sanirajak	2	2 (100%)	0	0	0	0	2	1. Counselling with an Elder 2. Counselling with an Elder
Grise Fiord	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Resolute Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	**26**	**24 (92%)**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**8**	

Application for Orders Under the Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA) Kivalliq Region								
Community	**EPO Applications**	**EPOs Granted**	**EPOs Challenged**	**EPOs Varied/ Revoked**	**CIO Applications**	**CIO's Granted**	**Counselling Recommended**	**Recommendations**
Rankin Inlet	5	5(100%)	0	0	0	0	3	1. Addictions Counselling with Publaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre. 2. Anger Management Counselling with Mental Health Nurse 3. Anger Management and Substance Abuse Counselling with Mental Health Nurse
Arviat	2	2 (100%)	0	0	0	0	0	
Whale Cove	2	2 (100%)	0	0	0	0	0	

Coral Harbour	7	7 (100%)	0	0	0	0	5	1. Anger management counselling. 2. Counselling with a mental health nurse 3. counselling with a mental health nurse 4. Applicant/Respondent seek mental health counselling 5. Counselling with a mental health nurse
Baker Lake	4	4 (100%)	0	0	0	0	1	1. Counselling for mental health and anger management
Chesterfield Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Naujaat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	**20**	**20 (100%)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**9**	
Application for Orders Under the Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA) Kitikmeot Region								
Community	**EPO Applications**	**EPOs Granted**	**EPOs Challenged**	**EPOs Varied/ Revoked**	**CIO Applications**	**CIO's Granted**	**Counselling Recommended**	**Recommendations**
Gjoa Haven	7	7 (100%)	0	0	0	0	4	1. Mental Health Counselling 2. Mental Health Counselling 3. Mental Health Counselling 4. Mental Health Counselling
Kugluktuk	9	9 (100%)	1	0	0	0	3	1. Anger Management. 2. Counselling. 3. Mental Health Counselling
Cambridge Bay	5	4(80%)	1	0	0	0	2	1. Mental health 2. Mental Health
Taloyoak	1	0(0%)	0	0	0	0	0	
Kugaaruk	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	**23**	**21 (91%)**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**9**	
Nunavut Total	**69**	**65 (94%)**	**5**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**26**	