



REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Ensuring the Government of Nunavut provides ethical, equitable, and consistent services that meet the needs and support the rights of young Nunavummiut, and the families, who rely on them.



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NUTAQQANUT INULRAMIRNULLU
UQAQTIKHAANIK

REPRÉSENTANT DE
L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE

REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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REPRÉSENTANT DE
L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE

REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

September 28, 2021

The Honourable Allan Rumbolt
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
P.O. Box 1200
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Speaker:

It is my pleasure to present the Representative for Children and Youth
2020-2021 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

This report covers the period of April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, and has been
prepared in accordance with section 35(1) of the *Representative for Children and
Youth Act*.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Bates
Representative for Children and Youth

This report is dedicated to the
children, youth, and families of Nunavut.

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MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

It is my pleasure to present the Representative for Children and Youth's 2020-2021 Annual Report.

This year was unique, as we all learned and are continuing to learn how to navigate through the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presents. While conducting our work remotely, at times, seemed different, the quality of our services and the accountability we took for our decisions never wavered.

As the role of an independent office is to hold government departments and designated authorities¹ (departments) accountable for their decisions, as mentioned last year, we first looked inward to assess and revise our own standards in order to mirror the behaviour we expect from departments. In fact, this year, my office established service standards and quality assurance measures, based on Inuit Societal Values and National Advocacy Standards, in order to report publicly on our accountability in providing ethical, equitable, and consistent advocacy services to young Nunavummiut and their families.

Throughout my second year as the Representative for Children and Youth, I have confirmed several distinct patterns of concern within departments when it comes to reviewing the complaints brought to our attention. These patterns aren't the exception; they have become the norm.

After we released the 2019-2020 annual report and it received exposure from the media and the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, we received mixed feedback from departments regarding the format and content, primarily related to the Status of Young Nunavummiut section. Some departments wanted to work with us to ensure the information provided was as accurate and complete as possible and some did not, often citing privacy as a concern.

Based on the increased amount of data provided in this report's Status of Young Nunavummiut section, there appears to have been improvements in the collection and reporting of this information to my office. But, our appearance at Standing Committee on Oversight of



Government Operations and Public Accounts (Standing Committee) in June 2021, highlighted that there has been no meaningful change from some departments in understanding the importance and value of tracking this basic information.

For some departments, the motivating factor for collecting this information may be to appease our office. If this is the case, what they are failing to understand is that this data is essential to provide ethical, equitable, and consistent services that meet the needs and support the rights of young Nunavummiut and their families. For example, while the Department of Health is tracking information, the data that is accessible is years behind. As indicated in this year's Status of Young Nunavummiut section according to the Department of Health, the most current and complete data available is from the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Again, I ask how is this government making decisions? How are decisions about programming being informed? How is funding being allocated? How are the needs of young Nunavummiut being met if we don't know how

¹ Designated authorities are listed under Schedule A of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

many people are accessing which services, today? And the most important question, who is accountable for these decisions? This pattern of decision-making based upon inadequate information must end.

Another pattern of concern my office often encounters relates to obtaining information from some departments. When we ask questions of departments, the answers are often unclear or buried within extraneous information. Additionally, when we make documentation requests, departments often fail to provide what we need to complete our job. This leads my office to request even more documentation. In both cases, it takes my staff many hours to go through the information provided to figure out and clarify what actions were, or were not, taken by the department and the rationale for those actions.

At Standing Committee, the Deputy Minister of Family Services, mentioned the amount of work our information requests puts on their staff, saying, "The quality assurance team is really the team that we rely on to respond to all the RCYO [Representative for Children and Youth's Office] requests on a regular basis. It's almost daily there are informational requests on frontline files and then there are the systemic requests as well."² The Deputy Minister of Family Services also admitted that the department does not have a consistent way of storing information, saying, "There is client information on paper, in files, in emails, in various offices, on data sticks and other electronic, small storage devices."³

Documentation and information we request should already be complete and it should simply be a matter of the department forwarding it to us. If departments cannot fulfill our requests because documentation was not completed, or it cannot be found, they need to tell us that. Our requests should never result in service providers scrambling to complete documents based on memory.

I have deep concerns about both the lack of completed documentation detailing significant events and decisions about young people's lives and the difficulty in retrieving it. Departments must take immediate action to ensure service providers follow policies to create, maintain, and store documents appropriately.

Another area where we see consistent patterns with some departments is in the lack of action and follow through to effect change. The steps required to resolve a problem are: to acknowledge it, to understand its scope and magnitude, to determine a plan of action, to commit to the plan, and to execute it until completion. Through our work, we see that departments make many commitments without a full understanding of the issue and, as a result, do not fulfill the commitments they made. For example, in 2013, the Department of Education established the Safe School Anti-Violence Committee. This committee's purpose was to formalize a standard reporting process to improve the consistency in tracking and reporting of violent incidents in schools. Eight years later, the department is still unable to provide accurate data about these incidents.

Departments must take timely action to eliminate the patterns of concern, identified through our advocacy work, that have a negative impact on their programs and services. Departments must hold themselves and each other fully accountable for their decisions, recognizing that the only way to address the problems and issues, is to acknowledge they exist and work collaboratively to implement meaningful changes. Only then will they truly support the rights and best interests of young Nunavummiut and their families.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Bates
Representative for Children and Youth

² Niego, Y. (2021, June 21). Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. "Transcript of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Hearing on the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth (draft)", p.67. 5th Assembly, 2nd session. Retrieved from <https://assembly.nu.ca/sites/default/files/OGOPA-20210621-draft.pdf>

³ Niego, Y. (2021, June 21). Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. "Transcript of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Hearing on the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth (draft)", p.32-33. 5th Assembly, 2nd session. Retrieved from <https://assembly.nu.ca/sites/default/files/OGOPA-20210621-draft.pdf>

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- ⁴ For sources containing numerous years of data, the most recent year's data is used, unless otherwise stated.
- ⁵ Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2020). *Population Estimates July 1, 2020*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/population_estimates_report_july_1_2020.pdf
- ⁶ Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2016). *Population Estimates July 1, 2016*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/population_estimates_report_july_1_2016.pdf
- ⁷ Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2018) *Nunavut Median Total Income of Taxfilers with Income by Region and Community, 1999 to 2017*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/nunavut_median_total_income_of_taxfilers_with_income_by_region_and_community_1999_to_2017.xlsx
- ⁸ Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2021). *Labour Force Characteristics for Those Aged 15 and Over by Inuit and Non-Inuit Identity, Nunavut, 2019 and 2020 (Annual Averages)*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/annual_labour_force_tables_for_nunavut_2019_and_2020_4_tables_dissemination_file.xlsx
- ⁹ Refers to young people under 18 years of age. Provided by the Department of Family Services for the 2020 calendar year.
- ¹⁰ Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2017). *Population and Dwelling Counts*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/statsupdate_population_and_dwelling_counts_2016_census_2.pdf
- ¹¹ Overcrowded means there are not enough bedrooms for people living in the home.
- ¹² Nunavut Housing Corporation. (2020). *Angiraqattaaqtiqitsiniq: Helping find a good place to call home*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Housing Corporation. Retrieved from [https://assembly.nu.ca/sites/default/files/TD-293-5\(2\)-EN-GN-Status-of-Housing-Report-2020.pdf](https://assembly.nu.ca/sites/default/files/TD-293-5(2)-EN-GN-Status-of-Housing-Report-2020.pdf)
- ¹³ Household food insecurity exists when there is a compromise in the quality or quantity of food consumed (moderate food insecurity) or there is reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns (severe food insecurity).
- ¹⁴ Statistics Canada. (2020). *Household Food Insecurity in Canada, 2017/2018*. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020007-eng.htm>
- ¹⁵ Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2020). *Nunavut Live Births by Month, 2002 to 2019*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/nunavut_live_births_2002_to_2019_7_tables.xlsx
- ¹⁶ Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2020). *Nunavut Deaths by Sex, 2003 to 2019*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/_thumbs/nunavut_deaths_by_sex_age_group_marital_status_and_by_month_2003_to_2019_4_tables.xlsx
- ¹⁷ 2019 data used. Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. (2021). *Nunavut Suicides by Region, Sex, Age Group and Ethnicity, 2000 to 2020*. Iqaluit, NU: Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/nunavut_suicides_by_region_sex_age_group_and_ethnicity_2000_to_2020.xlsx

STATUS OF YOUNG NUNAVUMMIUT

General Nunavut Statistics⁴

From Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, unless otherwise indicated

POPULATION

Population of Nunavut⁵

39,353

Inuit⁶
84.2%

Non-Inuit⁶
15.8%

By age (in years)⁵

0-4: 4,196
5-14: 8,263
15-24: 6,456
25-44: 11,556
45-64: 7,311
65+: 1,571

Population,⁵

0-24 years of age

48%

Median income⁷

\$33,410

Unemployment rate⁸

14%

Living in homes receiving income assistance⁹

5,757

HOUSING¹⁰

Dwellings

11,433

Occupied dwellings

9,819

Overcrowded¹¹ dwellings¹²

35%

FOOD SECURITY^{13 14}

Moderate or severe food insecurity in Nunavut

49.4%

National average of moderate or severe food insecurity

8.8%

Moderate or severe food insecurity across Canada was highest in Nunavut.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Births¹⁵

840

In-territory: 379

Out-of-territory: 461

To mothers 14 years of age and younger: 5

To mothers 15-19 years of age: 154

Infant mortality,¹⁶
under 1 year of age

14

Deaths,¹⁶
0-19 years of age

35

Percentage of suicides,¹⁷
0-19 years of age

36.8%

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Education for the 2020-2021 school year

LEGEND

- # Data reported by the department
- # Data reported but confirmed by the department to be inaccurate
- ? Data not provided by the department

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	QIKIQTAALUK
CHILD CARE FACILITIES¹⁸				
Child care facilities	60	9	14	37
Spots, both filled and not filled	1,283	217	274	792
Infant	228	31	53	144
Preschool	888	186	221	481
School-age	167	0	0	167
SCHOOLS				
Attendance rates¹⁹	59.6%	55.8%	58.9%	55.8%
2019-2020 Attendance rates²⁰	76.5%	68.6%	80.2%	77.2%
Graduation numbers	276	38	99	139
Student-Educator Ratio (SER)²¹				
	SER	SER+²²	SER	SER+²²
Territorial standard	13.39	11.44		
KITIKMEOT			QIKIQTAALUK	
Kugaaruk	13.69	12.11	Igloolik	13.74
Kugluktuk	13.63	11.60	Iqaluit	13.73
Taloyoak	13.60	12.53	Sanirajak	13.70
Cambridge Bay	13.58	11.67	Arctic Bay	13.67
Gjoa Haven	13.52	11.77	Kinngait	13.65
			Clyde River	13.60
			Pond Inlet	13.56
			Pangnirtung	13.52
KIVALLIQ			Sanikiluaq	13.47
Rankin Inlet	13.68	12.67	Kimmitut	12.58
Arviat	13.66	12.56	Qikiqtarjuaq	12.28
Baker Lake	13.64	12.14	Apex	9.13
Nauyasat	13.59	11.55	Iqaluit - French	8.40
Coral Harbour	13.47	12.89	Resolute Bay	7.20
Chesterfield Inlet	12.50	10.00	Grise Fiord	5.38
Whale Cove	12.74	10.85		

¹⁸ The Department of Education licenses daycares; it does not operate them. Information could not be obtained from four daycares.

¹⁹ Data collection was impacted by COVID-19 and does not accurately reflect attendance for this school year. Data is accurate as of January 2021.

²⁰ Numbers are not accurate due to ransomware effective November 1, 2019. Schools were closed on March 17, 2020, for the remainder of the school year due to COVID-19. Note: In the 2019-2020 school year, schools began tracking attendance by period rather than by AM or PM. On June 1, 2021, the Minister of Education stated that in 2019-2020 "all students were counted as present during the school closures." Joanasie, D. (2021, June 1.). "Monitoring School Attendance During the Pandemic". Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Nunavut Hansard Unedited Transcript, p.33. 5th Assembly, 2nd session. Retrieved from <https://assembly.nu.ca/sites/default/files/20210601-Blues-English.pdf>

²¹ SER implementation includes school principals, vice principals, teachers, student support teachers, guidance counselors, and librarians. Government of Nunavut. (2019). *Backgrounder: Student Educator Ratio in Nunavut Schools*. Iqaluit, NU: Government of Nunavut. Retrieved from https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/backgrounder_ser_2019-2020.pdf

²² SER+ includes language specialists and learning coaches in addition to the positions noted in ²¹.

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Education for the 2020-2021 school year continued...

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	QIKIQTAAALUK
CRISIS RESPONSES²³				
Crisis responses required	15	4	6	5
Student death by accident	3	2	0	1
Student death by suicide	7	0	4	3
Suicide death in community	1	0	1	0
Suicide death of student plus additional community deaths	2	1	1	0
Homicide in community	1	1	0	0
Multiple student suicide attempts	1	0	0	1
VIOLENT INCIDENTS²⁴				
Violent or physical assault ²⁵ incidents	165	32	20	113
Suspensions	142	20	?	122
Incidents reported to police/RCMP	30	6	9	15
Harassment incidents	23	0	4	19
Sexual incidents	8	0	1	7
Expulsions	4	0	3	1
2019-2020 VIOLENT INCIDENTS²⁶				
Violent or physical assault ²⁵ incidents	1,093	253	241	599
Suspensions	417	38	69	310
Harassment incidents	104	68	11	25
Incidents reported to police/RCMP	29	3	8	18
Sexual incidents	10	2	2	6
Expulsions	3	0	1	2

²³ Crisis responses were remote through sustained follow-ups and regular check-ins due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

²⁴ Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk data is from July 2020-February 2021. Kivalliq data is from August 2020-March 2021. The Department of Education does not have a formal tracking system for violent incidents.

²⁵ Violent and physical assaults are hands-on incidents (e.g. fighting, restraints, punching, etc.).

²⁶ Violent or physical assault incidents data is from August 15, 2019 to March 16, 2020. All other data under this category is from August 15, 2019 to January 8, 2020. The Department of Education does not have a formal tracking system for violent incidents.

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Health for the 2017-2018 fiscal year²⁷

LEGEND

Data reported by the department

? Data not provided by the department

-- Data not reported because it is not one of the top reasons for that location or age group

TOTAL KITIKMEOT KIVALLIQ QIKIQTALUK

MOST COMMON REASONS for accessing community health centres, Iqaluit Public Health, and Iqaluit Mental Health (Visits/Patients)

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	QIKIQTALUK
Other specified medical care not elsewhere classified	13,998/1,276	--/--	4,115/351	9,175/734
Laboratory examination	9,723/5,016	1,813/1,017	2,869/1,689	5,041/2,310
Acute upper respiratory infection, unspecified	7,195/3,402	1,761/809	2,432/1,141	3,002/1,452
Unspecified place of occurrence ²⁸	6,794/3,956	1,374/848	2,233/1,336	3,187/1,772
Otitis media (middle ear), unspecified	5,354/2,588	1,631/722	1,926/915	1,797/951
Exposure to unspecified factor causing other and unspecified injury ²⁸	4,695/3,113	919/652	1,605/1,072	2,171/1,389
Acute pharyngitis (respiratory), unspecified	3,985/2,566	870/586	1,649/1,006	1,465/973
Routine child health examination	3,663/1,939	754/418	1,119/618	1,790/903
Need for immunization against other single bacterial diseases	3,566/2,145	714/446	1,159/681	1,693/1,018
Persons encountering health services in other specified circumstances	2,785/1,930	--/--	--/--	1,825/1,183
Special screening examination for respiratory tuberculosis	2,785/1,663	--/--	--/--	1,698/972
Need for immunization against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis with poliomyelitis	2,713/1,932	--/--	913/643	--/--
Other specified medical care not elsewhere classified	--/--	708/191	--/--	--/--
Fever, unspecified	--/--	586/368	--/--	--/--

PEDIATRICIAN

Service days	914.5	38	76.5	800
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MOST COMMON REASONS for accessing the Qikiqtani General Hospital, Inpatient and Day Surgery (Visits/Patients)

Singleton, born in hospital, delivered vaginally	378/307
Dental caries, unspecified	293/292
Acute bronchiolitis, unspecified	69/60
Single live birth (noted on mother's record)	68/68
Unspecified place of occurrence ²⁸	57/48
Pneumonia, unspecified	47/45
Other symptoms and signs involving emotional state	36/31
Other preterm infants	31/29
Bronchopneumonia, unspecified (excludes: bronchiolitis)	27/25
Single live birth, delivered by caesarean	26/25

²⁷ The 2017-2018 fiscal year is the most current, complete data available. The presented data favours generic ICD-10 codes. Patients with a confirmed diagnoses would likely not be captured in this report.

²⁸ Refers to an accidental injury

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Health for the 2017-2018 fiscal year²⁷ continued...

	0-4 YEARS	5-9 YEARS	10-14 YEARS	15-19 YEARS
MOST COMMON REASONS for accessing Iqaluit Public Health, and Iqaluit Mental Health (Visits/Patients)				
Acute upper respiratory infection, unspecified	5,592/2,207	1,039/747	--/--	--/--
Otitis media (middle ear), unspecified	4,229/1,752	718/517	--/--	--/--
Other specified medical care not elsewhere classified	3,988/408	2,335/230	3,875/236	3,800/402
Laboratory examination	3,578/1,950	1,836/129	1,475/882	2,824/1,054
Routine child health examination	3,371/1,667	--/--	--/--	--/--
Need for immunization against other single bacterial diseases	3,316/1,899	--/--	--/--	--/--
Need for immunization against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis with poliomyelitis	2,556/1,778	--/--	--/--	--/--
Unspecified place of occurrence ²	1,887/1,182	1,493/964	1,797/971	1,606/837
Acute bronchiolitis (respiratory), unspecified	1,812/539	--/--	--/--	--/--
Fever, unspecified	1,598/1,015	--/--	--/--	--/--
Acute pharyngitis (throat), unspecified	--/--	1,258/799	750/503	--/--
Exposure to unspecified factor causing other and unspecified injury ²	--/--	1,088/776	1,272/790	1,067/649
Special screening examination for respiratory tuberculosis	--/--	578/337	871/521	558/327
Persons encountering health services in other specified circumstances	--/--	530/383	462/337	701/429
Streptococcal pharyngitis (strep throat)	--/--	326/273	--/--	--/--
Need for immunization against other specified single infectious diseases	--/--	--/--	578/506	--/--
Counselling, unspecified	--/--	--/--	434/189	1,009/327
Radiological examination, not elsewhere classified	--/--	--/--	416/332	--/--
Supervision of normal pregnancy, unspecified	--/--	--/--	--/--	1,404/233
General counselling and advice on contraception	--/--	--/--	--/--	612/339
Need for immunization against cholera with typhoid-paratyphoid	--/--	--/--	--/--	610/170
Special screening examination for infections with a predominantly sexual mode of transmission	--/--	--/--	--/--	558/363

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	QIKIQTAAALUK
MEDICAL TRAVEL				
Out of territory procedures/treatment	931			

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Births	920	?	?	?
In-territory	438	?	?	?
To mothers 19 years of age and younger	56	?	?	?
Out-of-territory	482	?	?	?
Deaths	16	?	?	?
Fetal deaths	3	?	?	?
Suicides	5	?	?	?

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Justice for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

LEGEND

Data reported by the department

? Data not provided by the department

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	QIKIQTALUK
IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM²⁹				
Incarcerated	6	0	2	4
Incarcerated more than once	2	0	1	1
Segregation	0	0	0	0
Charges	2	0	1	1
ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED ARRESTS				
Number of young people arrested³⁰	33	8	11	14
Arrests, by age	85	27	28	30
15 years of age	6	0	1	5
16 years of age	10	7	1	2
17 years of age	30	4	14	12
18 years of age	39	16	12	11
CRIMES AGAINST YOUNG PEOPLE				
Charges laid with an offense against a young person	11	2	3	6
Child pornography, possession	2	1	1	0
Child pornography, possession for the purpose of publication	1	0	1	0
Exposure of genital organs to a person under 16 years of age	3	1	0	2
Made sexually explicit materials available to child	2	0	1	1
Sexual exploitation of young person	3	0	0	3
Convictions in relation to crimes against a young person	20	2	6	12
Sexual interference ³¹	20	2	6	12
In-territory registered sexual offenders³²	437³³	?	?	?
With offence(s) against a young person	329 ³³	?	?	?

²⁹ Young people 12-18 years of age under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*

³⁰ Young people arrested and held in cells until sober, as they were not able to care for themselves due to their level of intoxication or there was no safe place for the young person to stay where an adult could care for them.

³¹ Direct or indirect touching of a person under 16 years of age

³² Under the Criminal Code certain sex offences: [sexual interference; invitation to sexual touching; sexual exploitation; incest; bestiality (compelling the commission of, and in presence of or by a child); child pornography (making, possession, distribution); parent or guardian procuring sexual activity; exposure, sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm; aggravated sexual assault; attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the above] require mandatory registration on Canada's National Sex Offender Registry, which was created by the Sex Offender Information Registration Act (SOIRA) of 2004. As of 2011, judges no longer have discretion when it comes to requiring a convicted offender to register as a sex offender for these offences. If the individual is convicted of an offence covered by SOIRA, they must register as a sex offender. For other sexual offences, a Crown Prosecutor may apply to the Court for an order for registration. The Prosecutor will make this application when they believe an offender, who has not committed a SOIRA mandatory offence, poses an adequate risk to the public. It would then be up to the judge to decide if registration is warranted.

³³ Current as of February 2021

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Justice for the 2020-2021 fiscal year continued...

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	QIKIQTAAALUK
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE				
Charges	2,190	313	597	1,280
Convictions	346	40	89	217
CHILD PROTECTION				
Matters before the court	95	15	21	59
REASONS FOR ACCESSING VICTIM SERVICES				
Number of young people accessing Victim Services	309	52	98	159
Witness to assault, domestic violence	87	23	19	45
Sexual assault	76	10	27	39
Homicide	31	8	6	17
Historical sexual assault	17	0	3	14
Bullying	16	0	12	4
Aggravated assault	11	0	3	8
Common assault	10	4	3	3
Witness to suicide	9	0	1	8
Victim of domestic violence	8	3	2	3
Witness to assault causing bodily harm	7	0	5	2
Witness to attempted assault, domestic violence	6	0	6	0
Arson	3	3	0	0
Motor vehicle accident	3	0	0	3
Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program	3	0	2	1
Suicidal ideations	3	0	0	3
Witness to sexual assault	3	0	3	0
Attempted homicide	2	0	2	0
Family Information Liaison Unit client	2	0	0	2
Sudden death	2	0	0	2
Suicide in the home	2	0	0	2
Uttering threats	2	0	0	2
Witness to attempted homicide	2	0	2	0
Accused of assault	1	0	0	1
Assault causing bodily harm	1	0	1	0
Confinement	1	1	0	0
Driving under the influence causing bodily harm	1	0	1	0
Child luring	0	0	0	0
PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP				
In the care of a parent under Public Guardianship	4	0	0	4

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Family Services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

LEGEND

- # Data reported by the department
- # Data reported but confirmed by the department to be inaccurate
- ? Data not provided by the department
- X Category not reported. Regions are not using standardized reporting categories.

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	NORTH BAFFIN	SOUTH BAFFIN ³⁴
REFERRALS³⁵					
Referrals	2,611	877	380	1,200	154
Support services/other (child behaviours, community resources, etc.)	?	327	X	X	X
Alcohol/drug related	?	190	X	X	X
Exposure to family violence/shelter services	?	186	X	X	X
School referrals ³⁶	?	90	X	X	X
Mental health	?	48	?	X	X
Voluntary services	?	36	X	X	X
Family violence	?	X	?	X	X
Child protection	?	X	?	X	X
Parent/child conflict	?	X	?	X	X
Suicidal ideation	?	X	?	X	X
Addictions	?	X	?	X	X
Homelessness	?	X	?	X	X
Housing issues	?	X	?	X	X
Food security	?	X	?	?	?
Child protection concerns due to intoxication and domestic violence	?	X	X	?	X
Struggling with anger issues, alcohol, suicidal ideation	?	X	X	?	X
Neglect due to domestic abuse, alcohol, violence	?	X	X	?	X
Suspected sexual abuse	?	X	X	?	?
Custom adoption	?	X	X	?	?
Domestic violence	?	X	X	?	?
Neglect of children	?	X	X	?	?
Child protection concerns due to intoxication and lack of appropriate caregiver	?	X	X	X	?
Youth struggling with anger issues, alcohol, suicidal ideation	?	X	X	X	?

³⁴ Data was collected in Kinngait for August and September 2020. No data for Iqaluit or Kimmirut was provided.

³⁵ Categories are reported as provided by the Department of Family Services.

³⁶ Referral source reported; reason for referral not provided.

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Family Services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year continued...

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	NORTH BAFFIN	SOUTH BAFFIN
RECEIVING SERVICES FROM THE DIRECTOR³⁷					
Total number of young people	388	117	19	53	199
IN THE CARE OF THE DIRECTOR^{37 38}					
In the care of the Director	151	20	9	31	91
Permanent Ward	102	11	5	23	63
Temporary Ward	42	9	4	8	21
Adjourned	6	?	?	?	6
Interim Order	1	?	?	?	1
Age					
0-5 years of age	?	?	?	9	27
6-10 years of age	?	?	?	11	21
11-15 years of age	?	?	?	6	29
16-19 years of age	?	?	?	5	14
Aged out of the care of the Director³⁹	12	3	3	1	5
Location					
In-territory	121	14	7	22	78
Out-of-territory	30	6	2	9	13
RECEIVING SERVICES but not in the care of the Director³⁷					
Type of service agreement	237	97	10	22	108
Plan of care	171	61	8	13	89
Voluntary service agreement	44	28	2	7	7
Service support agreement	13	8	0	1	4
Supervision order	6	0	0	0	6
Inter-provincial courtesy supervision	2	0	0	0	2
Unknown	1	0	0	1	0
Age					
0-5 years of age	?	?	?	14	46
6-10 years of age	?	?	?	2	30
11-15 years of age	?	?	?	3	28
16-19 years of age	?	?	?	3	4
Location					
In-territory	213	92	8	11	102
In family home	?	89	8	?	?
Out-of-territory	24	5	2	11	6

³⁷ This is point in time data.

³⁸ Director of Child and Family Services has legal guardianship of these young people as a result of a court order.

³⁹ Young people who turned 16 years of age while in the care of the Director.

Status of Young Nunavummiut

According to the Department of Family Services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year continued...

LEGEND

- # Data reported by the department
- # Data reported but confirmed by the department to be inaccurate
- ? Data not provided by the department
- X Category not reported. Regions are not using standardized reporting categories.

	TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	NORTH BAFFIN	SOUTH BAFFIN
ADOPTIONS					
Adoptions	127	?	?	?	?
Departmental	7	0	3	?	4
Private	14	0	0	11	?
Registered Custom	109	?	?	?	?
FOSTER HOMES³⁷					
Foster homes	157	39	18	22	78
Inuit	?	32	12	?	46
Non-Inuit	?	7	6	?	32
		TOTAL	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	QIKIQTAALUK
FAMILY VIOLENCE SHELTERS⁴⁰					
Young people who stayed in a shelter		241	84	47	110
Nights spent in shelters, by age		3,402	356	413	2,633
0-2 years of age		976	113	110	753
3-5 years of age		716	77	99	540
6-18 years of age		1,710	166	204	1,340
CRITICAL INJURIES AND DEATHS⁴¹					
Critical injuries	83	58	0	4	21
Deaths	4	0	0	3	1

⁴⁰ The Department of Family Services provides funding to shelters; it does not operate them.

⁴¹ For more information, see Reviews of Critical Injuries and Deaths section, page 65.

ABOUT OUR OFFICE

The Representative for Children and Youth (Representative) is an independent officer who reports to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut (Legislative Assembly) and the public.

It is the mandate of the Representative for Children and Youth's Office (RCYO) to make sure legislation, policies, procedures, programs, and services put in place by Government of Nunavut (GN) departments and designated authorities⁴² (departments) provide ethical, equitable, and consistent outcomes that meet the needs and support the rights of young Nunavummiut, and the families, who rely on them.

If anyone has a complaint about a department's service, or is unable to receive a service for a young person and/or their family, they can bring it to the attention of our office for review.

All information reported to our office is confidential and can be reported anonymously.

OUR MISSION

Establish our office as the conscience of child- and youth-serving Government of Nunavut departments.

OUR VISION

A territory in which children and youth are healthy and safe, their interests and opinions are heard, acted upon, and supported through the delivery of ethical, equitable, and consistent government services.

OUR MANDATE

Our mandate allows us to work on behalf of children and youth when all of the following apply:

- * The young person involved is under 19 years of age. There are a few exceptions that allow us to work with young people over 19 years of age. For example, if they were part of a department's system prior to turning 19 years of age;
- * A department(s) is involved; and
- * The rights of the child, as described in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, are not being met.

Our mandate does not allow us to:

- * Work on problems with personal relationships, such as when a young person is not listening to their parents;
- * Conduct investigations of child abuse or neglect; or
- * Work on complaints involving businesses or private organizations. For example, if a young person does not receive proper payment from their employer.

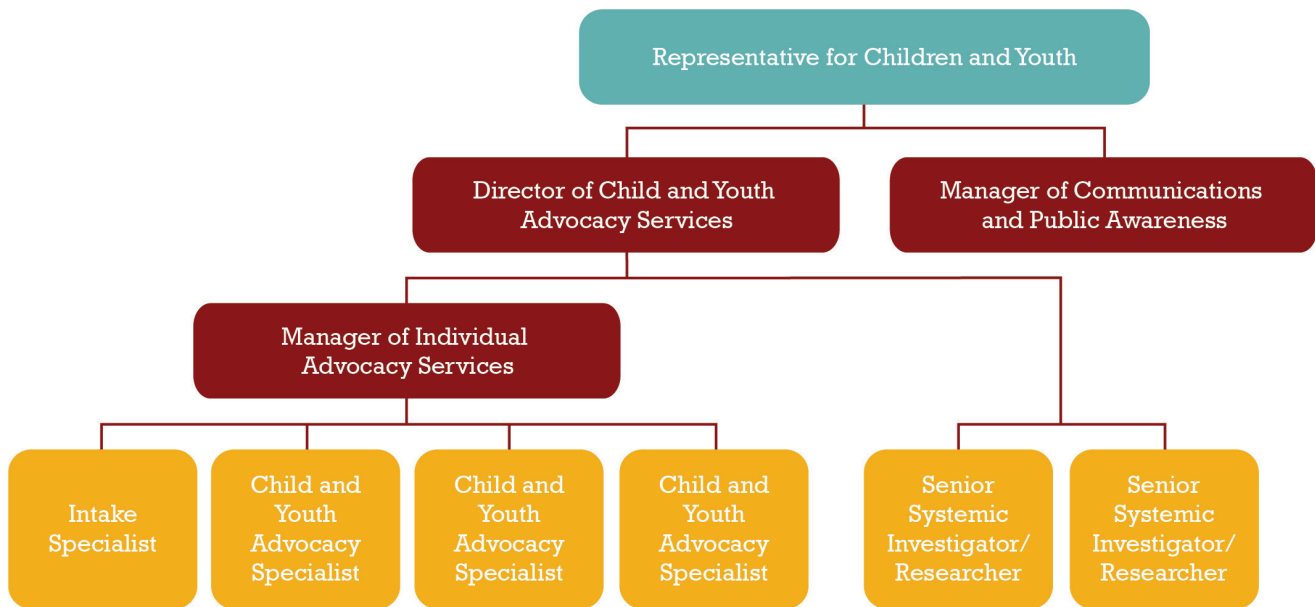
⁴² Designated authorities are listed under Schedule A of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

OUR STAFF

The RCYO has nine positions, not including the Representative. As of March 31, 2021, eight positions are fully staffed, with an Inuit employment rate of 37.5%. Our ninth employee is on a six-month internal transfer assignment.

RCYO staff provide advocacy services in Inuktitut, English, and French. Services in Inuinnaqtun are available with translation support.

FIGURE 1: Organizational Chart



WHAT GUIDES OUR WORK

Our work is guided by the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* (RCYA), the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Inuit societal values (ISV), the voice of the child, and National Advocacy Standards established by the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA).

REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT

Our mandate includes the following specific duties as outlined in the RCYA:

- ✳ Ensure the rights and interests of children and youth, individually and collectively, are protected and advanced;
- ✳ Ensure departments hear and consider the opinions of children and youth on matters that affect them;
- ✳ Ensure children and youth can access departments' services and that the departments consider their concerns and opinions about those services;
- ✳ Help children, youth, and their families communicate with department service providers to improve understanding between them;
- ✳ Inform the public about the rights and interests of children and youth, and the roles and responsibilities of the RCYO; and
- ✳ Provide advice and recommendations to departments on how to make laws, policies, programs, and services better for children and youth in Nunavut.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* is an international human rights agreement, which describes all of the rights young people have, as well as the obligations governments have in connection to these rights.

Child rights are things all young people should have, like access to safe drinking water and nutritious food, or things they should be able to do, like go to school and receive instruction in their own language. Access to these things helps children, youth, and their families make good choices for their lives, helping them grow and develop into capable and responsible citizens who support themselves, their family, and their community.

All young people have these rights regardless of who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, what their gender or gender identity is, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, or whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason, according to Article 2 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

No single right is more important than another and often when one right is not met several others are not met as well.

When Canada signed the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* more than 30 years ago, Canada promised to make sure that all young people and their families across the country, including Nunavummiut, have access to all of the rights explained in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

All humans have rights. The rights of one person do not take priority over the rights of another person. Children and youth are a vulnerable group and rely on adults to help them. It can be difficult for some adults to respect the rights of young people when they feel their own rights have not been respected.⁴³ As adults, helping our young people have the best life possible is our responsibility, and we can do that by supporting their rights.

⁴³ UNICEF and Save the Children. (2011). *Every Child's Right to be Heard*. London, UK: Save the Children UK, Save the Children, and UNICEF. Retrieved from <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/5259/pdf/5259.pdf>

FIGURE 2: United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Article 1
Everyone under 18 has these rights.



Article 2
All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, or whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.



Article 3
All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.



Article 4
The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.



Article 5
Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

Article 6
You have the right to be alive.

Article 7
You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognized by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

Article 8
You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.



Article 9
You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.

Article 10
If you live in a different country than your parents, you have the right to be together in the same place.

Article 11
You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.

Article 12
You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.



Article 13
You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 14
You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

Article 15
You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.



Article 16
You have the right to privacy.



Article 17
You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Article 18
You have the right to be raised by your parent(s) if possible.

Article 19
You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 21
You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.



Article 22
You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 23
You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.



Article 24
You have the right to the best healthcare possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 25
If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

Article 26
You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27
You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

Article 28
You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.



Article 29
Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30
You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31
You have the right to play and rest.

Article 32
You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.



Article 33
You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

Article 34
You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

Article 35
No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

Article 36
You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Article 37
No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

Article 38
You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

Article 39
You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

Article 40
You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.



Article 41
If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

Article 42
You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.



Article 43-54
These articles explain how governments and international organizations like UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected with their rights.



unicef.ca/schools

This text is not an official version of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Access the official text at unicef.org/crc.

INUIT SOCIETAL VALUES

It is a legislative requirement that the work of the Representative be guided by the same eight ISV that guide the departments. These principles are based on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and aim to incorporate traditional Inuit knowledge into modern, everyday practices. Table 1 explains complementary principles in ISV and the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, based on input from our Elder Advisors.

Our Elder Advisors

Elders provide invaluable wisdom and perspective based on lived experiences. To incorporate this knowledge into our advocacy work, we work with Elder Advisors from across the territory. This year we continued to work with Meeka Arnakaq in Pangnirtung, Helen Iguptak in Rankin Inlet, and Lucy Makkigak in Rankin Inlet, and through our public nomination process held in 2019-2020, we were excited to welcome Miriam Nilaulaaq Aglukkaq in Gjoa Haven, Moosa Akavak in Iqaluit, and Pitsiulaaq Akavak in Iqaluit. Read about our Elder Advisors in Figure 3, page 20.

TABLE 1: Complementary Principles in ISV and the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

ISV	United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>
<p>Aajiqatigiinniq encourages decision making through discussion and consensus.</p>	<p>Article 12: Young people have the right to give their opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously.</p>
<p>Pijitsirniq is about serving and providing for family and community. It is about leading through doing for other people. It is about serving others for the greater good.</p>	<p>Article 3: All adults should do what is best for young people. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect young people.</p> <p>Article 4: The government has a responsibility to make sure the rights of young people are protected. They must help families protect the rights of young people and create an environment where young people can grow and reach their potential.</p> <p>Article 26: Young people have the right to help from the government if they are poor or in need.</p>
<p>Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq is about learning and mastering new skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort.</p>	<p>Article 12: Young people have the right to give their opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously.</p> <p>Article 29: A young person’s education should help them use and develop their talents and abilities. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment, and respect other people.</p> <p>Article 30: Young people have the right to practice their own culture, language, and religion. Minority and Indigenous groups need special protection of this right.</p>
<p>Tunnganarniq emphasizes the role that being open, welcoming, and inclusive plays in fostering positive relationships.</p>	<p>Article 2: All young people have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, what their gender or gender identity is, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, or whether they are rich or poor. No young person should be treated unfairly on any basis.</p>

FIGURE 3: Our Elder Advisors

Meeka Arnakaq

Pangnirtung

Meeka is from Pangnirtung on Baffin Island. She is a community leader who has been recognized for her work in developing healing programs for Inuit. She has been involved with her local church, and taught life skills and Inuktitut at Nunavut Arctic College for more than 30 years. Outside her home community, she has worked with such Inuit organizations as Tungasuvvingat Inuit and the Mamisarvik Healing Centre in Ottawa. With Mamisarvik Healing Centre, her work focused on healing trauma and addiction through Inuit traditions and culture. She also writes her own music.

Meeka received a Wise Woman award in 1994 and she received an honorary degree from the Board of Governors of the Nunavut Arctic College in 2009. Meeka has also served on the Elders Advisory Council for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA).

Meeka has five children, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She is looking forward to time on the land this camping season.



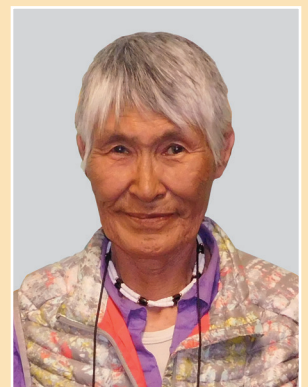
Helen Iguptak

Rankin Inlet

Helen grew up traveling with her family between Cambridge Bay and Garry Lake. Her family eventually moved to Baker Lake and then to Rankin Inlet, after the community's nickel mine was built. When she was seven years old, she was sent to the residential school in Chesterfield Inlet.

Helen worked in schools teaching children from kindergarten to grade nine for more than 40 years. She is now retired but says that working with young children has built her desire to help them. She feels it's important for children to have an adult who will listen to them and help support their voice throughout their childhood.

Today, Helen is a mother to three daughters, as well as a son who has passed away. She has 16 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys doll making, knitting, and sewing traditional clothing. People often ask her to make hand-crafted items for them.



Lucy Makkigak

Rankin Inlet

Lucy was born and raised in Rankin Inlet. She loves life in the Kivalliq region and is very proud of her hometown. She works as a public school counsellor and enjoys helping children when they need support. Lucy is rich in Inuit knowledge and she cherishes the opportunity to teach children and youth what she knows.

Lucy loves to spend time outside. In the fall, she enjoys hunting caribou because their skins are best to harvest then. In the spring, she enjoys camping; drying fish and meats; and collecting seal skins with her husband, son, and three son-in-laws. All year long, Lucy works to preserve her harvest for her family for the winter season.

In addition to her son, Lucy also has three daughters, and 15 grandchildren.



Miriam Nilaulaaq Aglukkaq

Gjoa Haven

Miriam is an active teacher and advocate for Inuktut as it is spoken in the Nattilik region of the Kitikmeot. She was the first chairperson for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit, serving two terms, 2003-2006 and 2006-2009. She also serves on the ISV committee, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Curriculum Committee, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and the Nunavut Elders Justice Committee.

Miriam started a dictionary in the Nattilingmiut dialect over concerns that there are not enough language resources for her dialect.



Moosa Akavak

Iqaluit

Moosa has worked in different capacities throughout his life. He is a retired Special Constable with the RCMP, with over 30 years experience in Community Corrections and Justice services, as well as Search and Rescue. As an avid hunter/gatherer, he has an advanced level of skill and experience in traditional Inuit ways and culture, including land and survival. He loves to share his knowledge, recently having taught a group of young Inuit how to build a traditional qayaq (kayak), which was showcased to the royal couple who visited Iqaluit in 2017.

When not teaching and facilitating various programs and workshops, you will find him working with his hands outdoors or at his campgrounds in Aqukkaluit, on the outskirts of Iqaluit, where he is currently building his retirement home/cabin.

Moosa is a loving husband to Pitsiulaaq and a wonderful father of five children. He was born in Kimmirut, Nunavut.



Pitsiulaaq Akavak

Iqaluit

Pitsiulaaq was born in an outpost camp near Kimmirut, Nunavut.

She is a trained counselor and an active member in the community of Iqaluit, where she now lives. She has been involved in many initiatives including: social work; School Community Counselor; and has worked alongside her husband facilitating various programs and workshops, including running an outpost camp for the Department of Justice's Corrections. Most recently, she has been working with Ilisaqsivik, a community-based organization of Inuit, that is dedicated to promoting community-wellness and self well-being.

Pitsiulaaq is married to her life-long partner, Moosa, and they have five children: Jonah, Joshua, Lena, Jamie, and Inuusiq. She is a loving grandmother to 23 grandchildren. Pitsiulaaq enjoys sewing traditional and hunting clothing for her family. She loves the outdoors and spends countless hours fishing.

Pitsiulaaq is supportive of using ISV in daily life and helping the RCYO to further incorporate it into their work.



THE VOICE OF THE CHILD

The voice of the child is the young person's opinion. All young people have the right to express their opinion when decisions are being made about them. Adults, especially government decision makers, should at least hear and consider the young person's opinion when making a decision on their behalf.

Incorporating the voice of the child into our work is not about excluding the opinion and involvement of the young person's parents or caregivers, it is about including the young person and their opinion in the decision being made about them. This does not mean that the young person gets to make the decision, but it does support that the decision being made is in the best interests of the young person involved. Including the young person in decisions about them also aims to teach responsible decision making and holds the young person accountable for their actions and responsibilities as a rights holders.

The RCYO prioritizes incorporating the voice of the child into our work when possible. Circumstances when the young person is unable or unwilling to express their opinion, wants, or needs regarding the problem include:

- ✳ The young person is pre-verbal;
- ✳ The complexity of the problem(s) being addressed exceeds the young person's cognitive skills and abilities;
- ✳ The nature of the advocacy case (e.g. an assault or abuse);
- ✳ The young person declines to provide input.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY STANDARDS

National Advocacy Standards, established by the CCCYA, provide a framework which ensures consistency in child advocacy services across Canada. They also provide a basis for accountability, a direction for staff training, and a means to evaluate our services.

REPORTING ON OUR ACTIVITIES

The RCYO currently works in three different program areas including Individual Advocacy, Systemic Advocacy, and Communications and Public Awareness. Our fourth program area, Reviews of Critical Injuries and Deaths, is not operational as that section of the RCYA is not yet in force.

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY

When someone has a complaint about a department's service or is unable to receive a service for a young person and/or their family, they can bring it to the attention of our office for review. These complaints are known as our individual advocacy cases.

Every individual advocacy case is unique and our Child Advocacy Specialists (Child Advocates) tailor each response to fit each circumstance. Individual advocacy cases require varying levels of support from our staff, which result in varying lengths of time for different problems to be resolved. We categorize our individual advocacy cases as either basic or comprehensive.

The individual advocacy process involves three phases: intake and assignment, investigation and problem solving, and resolution and follow-up, as detailed in Figure 4.

LEGEND for Figure 4, page 24.



Young person and/or their family



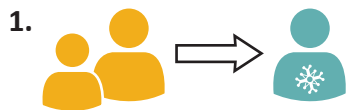
RCYO staff



Service provider(s)

FIGURE 4: The Individual Advocacy Process

Intake and Assignment



Someone contacts our office with a complaint about a department's service or is unable to receive a service. Our Intake Specialist records the information and determines if the complaint falls within our mandate, see page 15.

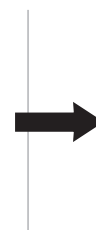


If it falls within our mandate, an individual advocacy case is opened, assigned to one of our three Child Advocates, and investigation and problem solving begins.

3. If it does not fall within our mandate, the individual is directed to someone outside of our office who can help them.

If the person is looking for information about our work, child rights, or department services and programs for young people, the Intake Specialist provides the relevant information or connects the person with someone who can help them.

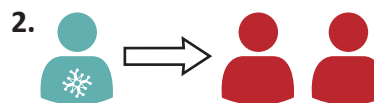
If someone is referred outside of our office, the Intake Specialist follows up to make sure help/answers were received. These are our information files.



Investigation and Problem Solving



When possible, the Child Advocate talks with the young person and/or their family to confirm the details of the situation and to determine which child rights are not being supported by the department(s).



The Child Advocate then talks with the service provider(s) involved and reviews relevant documents to confirm the facts.



The Child Advocate then works to resolve the problem in one of two ways:

3a. Basic advocacy support

The Child Advocate may assist with initial phone calls to service providers, make required referrals, and/or provide self-advocacy coaching to the young person and/or their family.

3b. Comprehensive advocacy support

When basic advocacy support isn't sufficient to resolve a complaint, comprehensive advocacy support is initiated. These cases may require meetings with the young person and/or their family, meetings with the service provider(s), attending/arranging case conferences, in-depth self-advocacy coaching, consultations with one of our Elder Advisors, escalating matters within the department(s), and/or finding other innovative and resourceful ways to resolve the problem.

Resolution and Follow Up



The Child Advocate follows up with the young person and/or their family and the service provider(s) to make sure the agreed upon solution is being implemented and the outcome is adequate.



If applicable, the Child Advocate notifies our Systemic Advocacy team that there is a potential systemic issue. See Systemic Advocacy section, page 30.

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2021

The RCYO's request for a new position was successful and the Manager of Individual Advocacy Services started in May 2020.

Based on the findings of our 2019-2020 closed individual advocacy case review, updates were made to the program this year. This includes the establishment of quality assurance measures, which align with the RCYO's service standards, to better hold ourselves accountable to our stakeholders.

The measures established ensure we track and report on:

- ✳ Ensuring that our review of an individual advocacy problem begins within two business days of it being brought to our attention;
- ✳ The young person's involvement in the advocacy work, from ensuring their opinion is heard and considered throughout the individual advocacy process to their ability and desire to self-advocate; and
- ✳ Escalations required to resolve a problem.

For more information, see Compliance with Services Standards section, page 67.

Another change made was the implementation of formal recommendations to address individual advocacy problems. In the past, informal recommendations made by our office to address these problems did not always result in the desired outcome. Our hope is that our new, more formalized process of making recommendations and monitoring those recommendations will result in more accountability and action from departments to address individual problems, especially when our office foresees the potential for the problem to occur again.

The Individual Advocacy chapter of the RCYO Policy & Procedure Manual and the case management system were updated to support the implementation of quality assurance measures and the revised policies and procedures.

In addition to providing advocacy services for our clients, this year we responded to 55 information files, which are typically questions or requests for information about our work, child rights, or department services and programs for young people.

This year, the three most common child rights that we advocated for in our individual advocacy cases were:

- ✳ **Article 3 - protection of the best interests of the child,**
- ✳ **Article 19 - protection from abuse and neglect,** and
- ✳ **Article 24 - access to health and health services.**

There is a direct connection between these rights and the number of individual advocacy cases involving the departments responsible for upholding these rights. For a complete list of child rights, see page 18.

TABLE 2: Breakdown of Individual Advocacy Cases Worked On and Closed this Fiscal Year

Total individual advocacy cases worked on	111
Ongoing cases from previous years	51
New individual advocacy cases	60
Basic advocacy support cases	21
Comprehensive advocacy support cases	39
Total individual advocacy cases closed	78
Reason for closure	
Resolved	69
All advocacy avenues exhausted	7
Unable to contact client	2
Declined advocacy services	0

TABLE 3: New Individual Advocacy Cases Opened, by Region

New individual advocacy cases	60
Iqaluit	19
Qikiqtaaluk	15
Kitikmeot	14
Kivalliq	10
Out-of-territory	2

TABLE 4: New Individual Advocacy Cases, by Department(s) Involved*

	Number of cases	Percentage of all new cases
Department of Family Services	40	66%
Department of Health	16	27%
Department of Education	11	18%
Department of Justice	5	8%
Nunavut Housing Corporation	2	3%
District Education Authorities	1	2%
Licensed Daycares	1	2%

* Total cases exceed 60 and percentages exceed 100% due to 18 cases involving more than one department.

TABLE 5: Person Who Raised New Individual Advocacy Case to Our Attention

Service provider	47%
Parent/family member	35%
Other (eg. RCYO initiative, community member)	8%
Foster parent	5%
Young person	5%

TABLE 6: New Individual Advocacy Cases, by Language of Service

English	55
Inuktitut	3
French	2
Inuinnaqtun	0

MONITORING OF INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS

TABLE 7: Informal Recommendations Made Regarding New Individual Advocacy Cases*

	Department of Family Services	Department of Health	Department of Education	Department of Justice
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES*	40	16	11	5
Follow departmental policy, regulation, and/or legislation	32	3	4	2
Improve service coordination, within department(s) and between departments	22	12	3	4
Provide adequate planning and support for young people	22	10	5	2
Investigate allegations of a young person in need of protection	16			
Implement in-school supports			4	

* Total cases exceed 60 due to 18 cases involving more than one department. Many cases required more than one recommendation.

New this year, the Representative made formal recommendations on some individual advocacy cases to resolve the problem. This year, three formal recommendations were made.

Recommendations to the Department of Family Services Regarding Training and Corrective Action

The Representative made two recommendations to the Department of Family Services on May 4, 2020, because our work on an individual advocacy case appeared to be systemic in nature.

TABLE 8: Recommendations Regarding Training and Corrective Action

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status ⁴⁴
Based upon the November 20, 2020, proactive meeting between RCYO and the Department of Family Services.		
1. Training for all front-line staff, supervisors, and their managers in the Family Wellness Division that educates all staff on their legislative responsibility and the accompanying policies and procedures. The training must include clear expectations of what and how services are to be delivered.	Agree	Limited progress
Rationale: The Department of Family Services confirmed they have done some training and they are hoping to go back to face-to-face training as soon as the situation allows it. Family Services also committed to provide a copy of the training calendar.		
2. Corrective action, as per Section 801 of the Human Resources Manual, must be taken when it is identified that staff have not adhered to policies, procedures, and legislation, from front-line service providers to the senior and executive management employees.	Agree	Limited progress
Rationale: The Department of Family Services confirmed that corrective action has been implemented on one matter that was raised to their attention by the RCYO.		

Language: This correspondence was in English.

⁴⁴ For explanation of status, see legend on page 34.

Recommendation to the Department of Family Services Regarding Adoption Subsidies

The Representative made a recommendation to the Department of Family Services on May 19, 2020, which arose from the RCYO’s work on an individual advocacy case where it was determined that the Department of Family Services incorrectly applied an adoption subsidy, and may have made the same error in all the adoption subsidies it reviewed at that time.

TABLE 9: Recommendation Regarding Adoption Subsidies

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status ⁴⁴
	Based upon correspondence from the Department of Family Services dated July 21, 2020, and the November 20, 2020, proactive meeting between the RCYO and the Department of Family Services.	
1. Review all open adoption subsidies, previously reviewed by the Director of Family Services dating back to March 2016, ensuring Department of Family Services’ processes, policies, and legislation are followed and Adoption Regulations have been applied ethically.	Agree Rationale: The Department of Family Services committed to reviewing all open adoption subsidies, but did not provide confirmation of completion by the end of the fiscal year.	No progress

Language: This correspondence was in English.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

If many young people and/or their families have the same problem when accessing a department's service, or are unable to receive a service, we consider what factors within the department may be causing the issue. If the problem has the potential to occur again and impact other young Nunavummiut if it is not addressed, we identify the problem as a systemic issue.

For each systemic issue, a lead department is identified as responsible for addressing the issue. However, some of the issues require multiple departments to work collaboratively to address the issue.

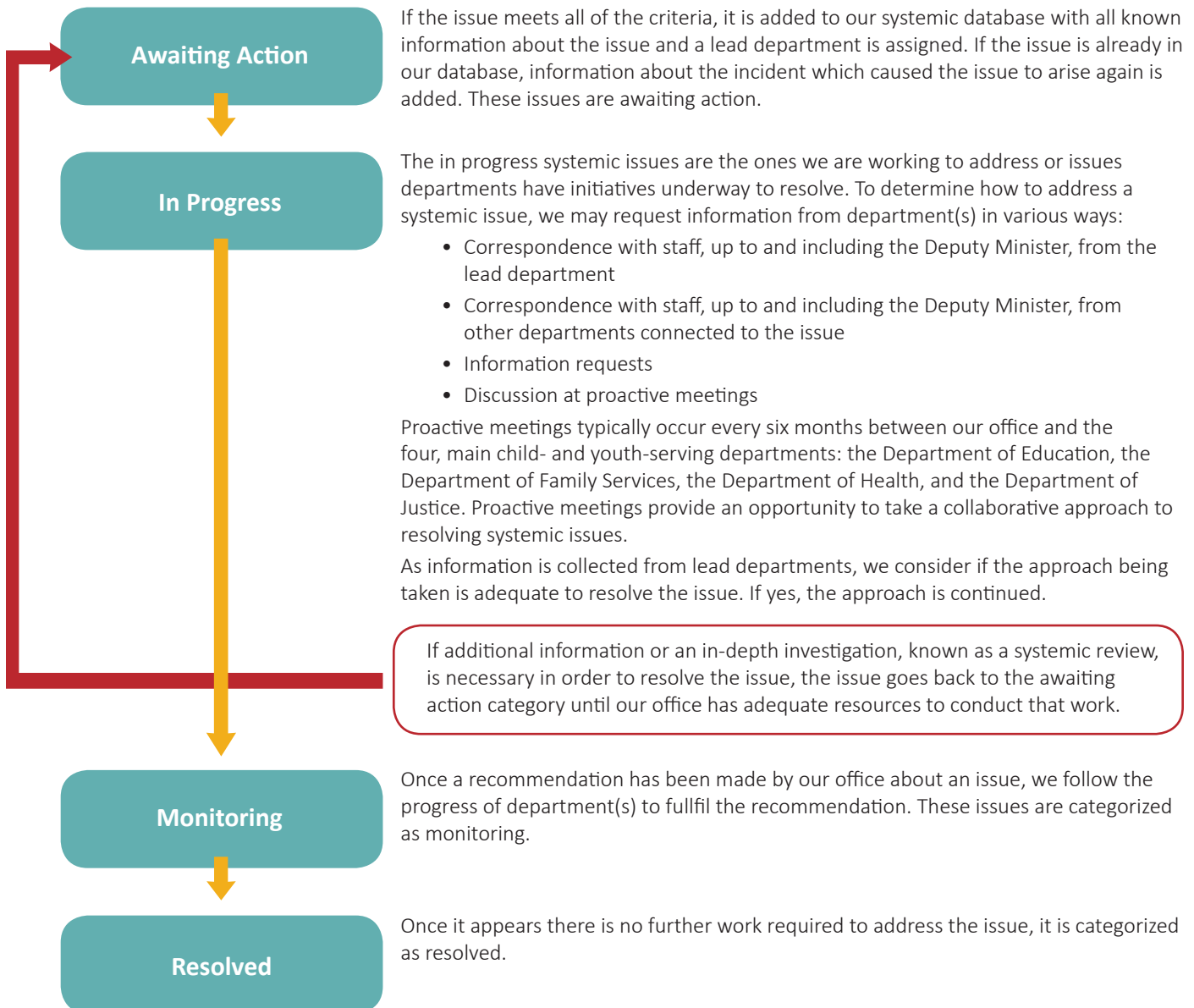
Systemic issues require Systemic Advocacy, which makes recommendations to responsible department(s) suggesting improvements to legislation, policies, procedures, programs, and services to address underlying factors. Multiple recommendations may be made to address a single systemic issue. Our systemic database is a year over year accumulation of all systemic issues identified by or brought to the RCYO's attention. The database also tracks recommendations and related information from departments.

Systemic issues are primarily brought to our attention through the young people and families we work with in our individual advocacy cases. However, we may also learn about systemic issues from community members, from Members of the Legislative Assembly, Youth Parliamentarians, departments, and through stories shared in the media.

FIGURE 5: Process for Addressing Systemic Issues

When a possible systemic issue is brought to our attention, it is reviewed by the systemic advocacy team to determine if it meets all of the following criteria:

- Is a department(s) involved?
- Does the issue have the potential to occur again and impact other young Nunavummiut if it is not addressed?
- Would addressing the issue better meet the needs and support the rights of young people?



At any time throughout the process of resolving a systemic issue, the Representative may choose to report publicly on the issue, the department(s)' progress to fulfill our recommendation(s), or the resolution itself.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2021

This year we revised the Systemic Advocacy chapter of the RCYO Policy & Procedure Manual. The changes made reflect the way the office currently manages and categorizes systemic issues, communicates with departments about systemic issues and RCYO recommendations, and how we gather information to inform our analysis of the status of an issue or recommendation.

Our annual database review resulted in the removal of 10 systemic issues, three that we deemed to be outside of the RCYO's scope and four that did not meet the systemic issue criteria. We also combined three existing issues with other similar issues.

TABLE 10: Status of Systemic Issues by Lead Department

	Resolved	Monitoring	In Progress	Awaiting Action	TOTAL
TOTAL NUMBER OF ISSUES	4	11	30	11	56
Department of Health	4	8	5		17
Department of Education		2	11	1	14
Department of Family Services			6	8	14
Department of Justice			5		5
Multiple departments involved		1	2		3
Department of Community and Government Services				1	1
Legal Services Board			1		1
Nunavut Housing Corporation				1	1

RESOLVED SYSTEMIC ISSUES

TABLE 11: Resolved Systemic Issues

	Change to policy	Change to practice	Improved communication
Department of Health			
Awareness of cannabis' harmful effects			●
Compassionate travel when family member is sent out-of-territory	●	●	
Lack of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) for frontline health workers		●	
Switching of a child's medical travel escort	●		

MONITORING OF SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2020-2021, the RCYO issued 23 systemic recommendations. To date, 60 systemic recommendations are being monitored.

The RCYO has transitioned to waiting until at least one year after a recommendation was issued before requesting implementation updates from the responsible department(s). This provides adequate time for departments to develop a plan, take action, and provide a substantive update on progress. The RCYO may shorten this timeline based on the urgency of the recommendation or the level of action required.

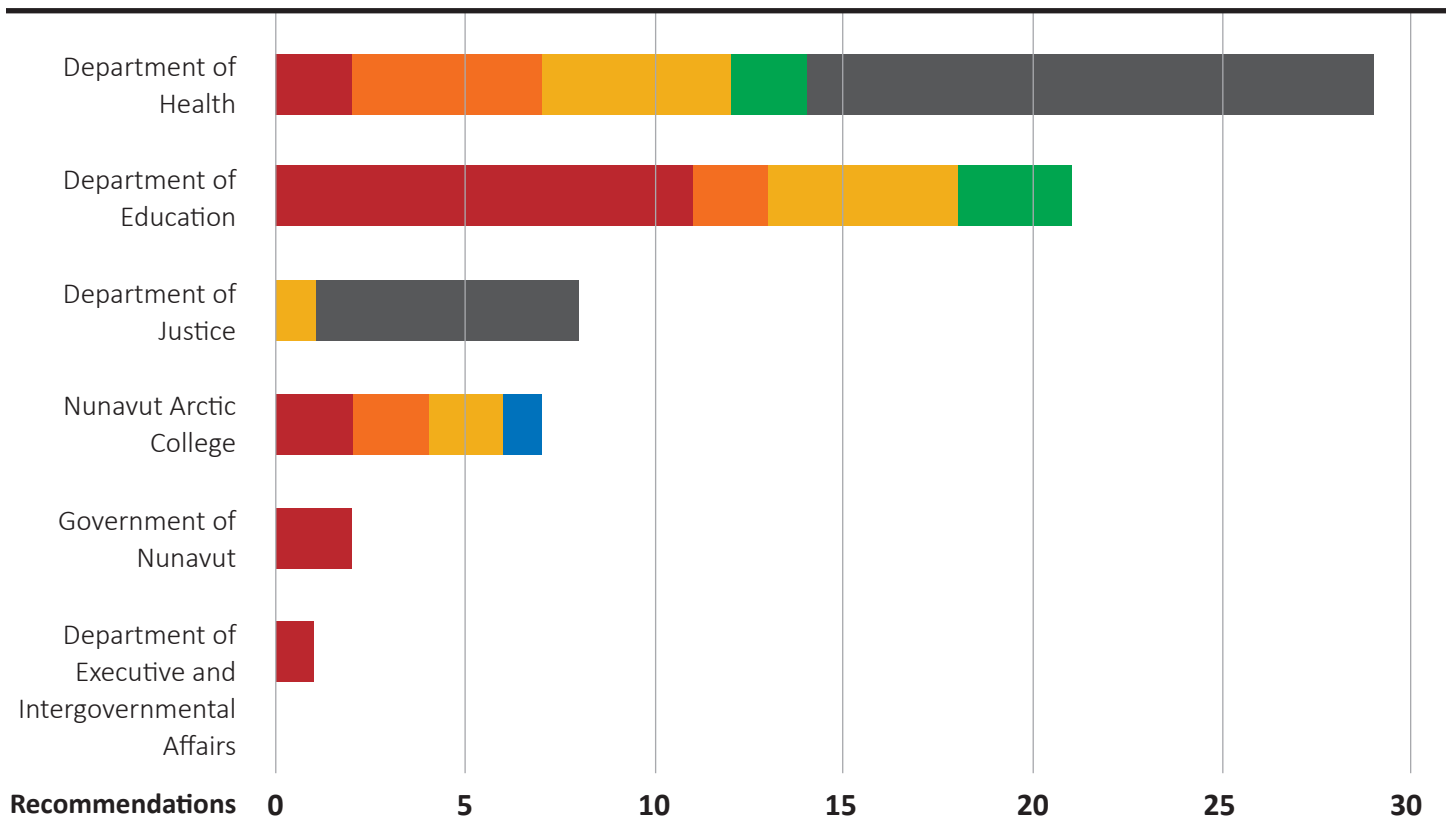
Summary of Recommendation Implementation by Department

This year, we also developed a recommendation monitoring scale to assess the progress departments have made in fulfilling the Representative’s recommendations, see Table 12.

LEGEND

- **NO PROGRESS** Has met none or almost none of the aspects of the recommendation
- **LIMITED PROGRESS** Has met few aspects of the recommendation
- **SOME PROGRESS** Has met some of the requirements, or the most important requirements, of the recommendation, but other aspects of the recommendation remain unfulfilled
- **SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS** Has met almost all of the requirements
- **IMPLEMENTED** Has fully met the requirements of the recommendation
- **PENDING** Less than one year has passed since the recommendation was issued

TABLE 12: Summary of Recommendations Implemented by Department*



* Two recommendations have two parts, which are monitored separately, and six recommendations involve more than one department.

Submission on the Department of Education’s Proposed Amendments to the 2008 Education Act

In 2018, the Representative made eight recommendations to the Department of Education on the proposed amendments to the *Education Act*. In June 2019, the Minister of Education introduced Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act* (Bill 25). In the fall of 2019, following Bill 25’s referral to the Standing Committee on Legislation (Standing Committee), our office provided a submission to, and appeared before, the Standing Committee to speak to these eight recommendations as well as a new ninth recommendation. Bill 25 received assent on November 10, 2020.

TABLE 13: Proposed Amendments to the 2008 Education Act Submission Recommendations

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
	Based upon the Minister of Education’s comments made before the Standing Committee in November 2019; Bill 25, <i>An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act</i> ; correspondence with the Department of Education dated December 7, 2020, and July 30, 2021; and the Government of Nunavut and Territorial Corporations Business Plan 2021-2024.	
1. Expressly include commitment to the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> as a guiding principle in the administration and interpretation of the revised <i>Education Act</i> .	Agree	Implemented
	Rationale: The preamble of the <i>Education Act</i> now states, in part, “Affirming Nunavut’s commitment to the implementation, in the public education system, of the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> , adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 20, 1989 and ratified by Canada on December 13, 1991”.	
2. Deliberately and thoughtfully seek input from students past and present when developing policies and procedures in support of the revised <i>Education Act</i> and in future legislative reform.	Agree	Implemented
	Rationale: The Minister of Education confirmed in 2019 that the Department of Education had solicited feedback from student and focus groups.	
3. Address the exclusion of minor students from initiating and actively participating in administrative proceedings, particularly those that pertain to student suspension and/or expulsion.	Partially Agree	Limited Progress
	Rationale: "The amended <i>Education Act</i> includes amendments that increase youth participation during reviews related to inclusive education." There were no amendments made to the <i>Education Act</i> to increase participation of minor students in proceedings that pertained to suspension and/or expulsion.	

TABLE 13: Proposed Amendments to the 2008 *Education Act* Submission Recommendations continued...

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
4. Strengthen student participation in the work of the District Education Authorities by adding clearer provisions in the legislation and establishing voting privileges for the elected student representatives.	Agree	Implemented
	Rationale: Bill 25 amended the <i>Education Act</i> to state, “the student representative elected under this section has the same rights and responsibilities as members of the district education authority, including the right to vote”.	
5. The Department of Education deliver Early Childhood Education programs in all communities in Nunavut.	Disagree	
	Rationale: "The <i>Child Day Care Act</i> only allows the department [of Education] to license and not provide day care services. The delivery of Early Childhood Education programs is the responsibility of DEAs [District Education Authorities].	
	The amended <i>Education Act</i> allows the Minister to support the DEAs in the delivery of ECE [Early Childhood Education] programs by allowing the Minister to fund third parties to deliver ECE should DEAs elect not to.	
	The delivery of ECE programming will be more thoroughly reviewed through the review of the <i>Child Day Care Act</i> ."	
6. Prioritize the recruitment of young Inuit into the teaching profession under the Inuit Employment Plan.	Partially agree	Limited progress
	Rationale: The Department of Education advised that the <i>Education Act</i> requires the Minister of Education to develop a recruitment and retention strategy, and support Nunavut Arctic College with its Inuit Language teacher education programs. In doing so, the Act addresses the need for Inuit teachers of all ages.	
	The recommendation specifically called for prioritizing recruitment of young Inuit into the teaching profession under the Inuit Employment Plan. Review of the department’s Inuit Employment Plan indicates that no such priority exists, but that “[t]he department continues to work alongside partners, such as Nunavut Arctic College, to fund and promote various education career paths to high school students.”	
7. Add definitions of inclusive education and student supports to the <i>Education Act</i> , and ensure children, youth, and their families are made aware of the supports that are available to them. The definitions for education program and school program should be clarified in the legislation, including which matters fall under each program and who is responsible for tending to these matters.	Partially agree	Some progress
	Rationale: The <i>Education Act</i> does not include definitions of inclusive education or student supports. "Inclusive education and student supports are not terms that can be easily defined since they encompass everything in part 6 of the Act. We can clarify their meaning within the Inclusive education policy and procedural documents."	
	The <i>Education Act</i> has revised the definitions of education program and school program, and has clarified the roles of the Minister of Education and District Education Authorities.	

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
<p>8. Introduce the concept of mature minors to the <i>Education Act</i> to reduce barriers for minor students who wish to make decisions on their own behalf, and who have the maturity to do so.</p>	Disagree	<p>Rationale: The concept of mature minors was not introduced into the <i>Education Act</i>.</p>
<p>9. Shorten the timelines for the Minister to develop and establish orientation and mentoring for teachers, as outlined in s.96 of the <i>Education Act</i>, to within the first year after they take up the duties of their positions and ensure that a component of orientation and mentoring is completed prior to the start of teachers' employment.</p>	Disagree	<p>Rationale: The Department of Education did not confirm agreement or disagreement with this recommendation. The RCYO determined the department disagreed because section 96 of the <i>Education Act</i> remains unchanged.</p> <p>However, the Department of Education advised that "pre-orientation resources are provided to support new educators as they prepare to undertake their new positions. The department also provides opportunities for new teachers to connect and collaborate with their colleagues. Once teachers begin their employment, training and professional development continues." The Department of Education is "developing materials to support educators in orientation, mentorship, and professional development."</p> <p>The two-year window to provide teacher orientation and mentoring, as detailed in section 96 of the <i>Education Act</i>, provides "support for newly hired educators <u>throughout</u> the first two years of their employment..."</p>

Language: Submissions were provided to the Department of Education in English and to the Standing Committee in Inuktitut and English. It is available on our website in all official languages.

Our Minds Matter: A Youth-Informed Review of Mental Health Services for Young Nunavummiut

On May 22, 2019, the Representative made 15 recommendations to departments to address the inadequate mental health services for young people in the territory. Last year, our office began monitoring departments' progress in fulfilling these recommendations. One recommendation is no longer being monitored as the lead department disagreed with the recommendation so there will be no associated action to monitor. Monitoring of the remaining 14 recommendations continued in 2020-2021.

In July 2020, the Representative wrote to the Commissioner in Executive Council, the Premier of Nunavut, under Section 34(2) of the RCYA, to report a lack of adequate and appropriate action by departments to address the recommendations made in *Our Minds Matter: A Youth-Informed Review of Mental Health Services for Young Nunavummiut (Our Minds Matter)*. The reasons for writing included that departments did not respond to the RCYO's requests for feedback, departments missed numerous deadlines to provide responses, departments provided responses that did not offer adequate information on the steps they were taking to give effect to the recommendations, and conflicting information was provided. The Commissioner in Executive Council responded in July 2020 stating he would bring the Representative's concerns and recommendations to Cabinet, committing to work on the recommendations and to ensure coordinated government services for children and youth across the territory.

Following the July 2020 correspondence with the Commissioner in Executive Council, the RCYO continued to request information from departments to determine if they agreed with the recommendations and to assess their progress in meeting the recommendations. The status of the recommendations is based upon the information received from departments up until March 31, 2021, with a focus on the progress made in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

TABLE 14: *Our Minds Matter* Recommendations

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
<p>1. The Department of Health and the Department of Education collaborate to ensure a full range of mental health services, including universal programming, targeted interventions, and intensive interventions are delivered in Nunavut schools.</p>	<p>Partially agree</p>	<p>Some progress</p>
<p>2. The Department of Education ensure that all school staff, including <i>Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit</i>, guidance counsellors, teachers, support staff, and principals, receive basic mental health training on how to connect children and youth with appropriate mental health services and how to support them while this connection is being made.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Some progress</p>

Based upon correspondence with the Department of Education (November 1, 2020; December 7, 2020; July 30, 2021; August 12, 2021); the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (February 11, 2020; October 26, 2020; November 24, 2020); the Department of Health (October 16, 2020; October 29, 2020; January 15, 2021), and Nunavut Arctic College (November 5, 2020).

Rationale: Although “the Department [sic] of Health and Education agree with this recommendation”, the RCYO determined there was partial agreement, as the Department of “Health does not recommend providing intensive intervention in schools”.

The Department of Health and the Department of Education started discussions around revising the School Based Mental Health and Wellness Framework.

The Department of Education has worked with the Department of Health to develop a reading program aligned with curriculum that includes mental wellness. Posters and card games that incorporate healthy living and social emotional learning vocabulary, messaging and images have been developed.

"As part of the Health & Safety Guidelines for NU [Nunavut] schools during COVID-19, an operational directive was sent to all schools on October 1, 2020 noting that school leaders provide opportunities for staff and students to access mental health, counselling, and student support services."

"The operational directive listed mental health and addictions staff as approved visitors to schools to provide mental health services in the schools."

The Department of Education secured funding through the Child First Initiative to pilot school-based mental health support services. Although the COVID-19 pandemic limited the delivery of the pilot, it provided direct mental health support to 104 students during the 2019-2020 school year. The Department of Education is reviewing a preliminary evaluation report to inform the development of long-term, school-based mental health support planning.

Rationale: The Department of Education records department-organized training and associated participants, but cannot capture all training undertaken by staff.

In partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, the Department of Education delivered Psychological First Aid training to 22 of 33 *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit*. Training materials are available to school staff.

An Education Support Services – Mental Health Flowchart was developed and distributed to help schools connect children and youth with appropriate mental health services.

A contact list, updated monthly, of Department of Health Mental Health and Addictions Staff in every community was distributed to Regional School Operations.

TABLE 14: Our Minds Matter Recommendations continued...

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
3. The Department of Education enhance mental health literacy in schools.	Agree	Some progress
	<p>Rationale: The Department of Education had a number of initiatives underway as outlined in the Representative’s 2019-2020 annual report.</p> <p>This fiscal year, the department’s focus shifted to supporting students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The department developed resources in response to COVID-19-related school closures and to support the re-opening of schools, which included a toolkit with activities focusing on mental health, for students.</p> <p>In partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, the Department of Education developed, translated and distributed a self-care workbook for youth titled <i>Finding Hope Through Caring</i>, which included topics such as finding support, supporting peers, safety plans, ways to connect and reach out, etc.</p> <p>The Department of Education is also working with a local organization to offer Makimautiksat facilitator training, a program that promotes mental health and wellness among youth, to <i>Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit</i>.</p>	
4. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Justice, immediately address the consent barrier that exists when students who may benefit from mental health services are identified in the school environment.	Partially agree	Some progress
	<p>Rationale: The Department of Education advised last fiscal year that, while it agrees with addressing barriers to students accessing mental health services, it would not be implementing a mature minor framework for referrals to mental health. For this reason, the RCYO determined the department was in partial agreement with this recommendation.</p> <p>This year, the Department of Education provided a copy of the revised and finalized Education Support Services Directive, confirming that the Department of Education considers students who have reached the age of 16 years as ‘adult students’ for the purposes of sharing information to support access to mental health services.</p> <p>However, the consent barrier for young people 15 years of age and younger remains. Work between the Department of Education and the Department of Justice regarding this issue has yet to take place.</p>	

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
<p>5. The Department of Health ensure that contracts that adequately meet service demands are established for out-of-territory mental health services for children and youth where these services are not currently available in Nunavut, and ensure that children and youth receive appropriate aftercare and follow-up upon return to their home communities.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Some progress</p>
	<p>Rationale: Last fiscal year, the Department of Health reported having eight facilities that offer specific treatment services for children and youth on the current Standing Offer Agreement (SOA). This is an increase from the one facility previously on SOA.</p> <p>This year, the Department of Health advised that the department has made progress regarding follow-up options in contracts with out-of-territory facilities, naming a number of processes that have been implemented, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structured annual reviews for out-of-territory clients; 2. Formal training with mental health nurses to reiterate their role in follow-up with out-of-territory clients; 3. Quarterly reports from out-of-territory facilities are reviewed and tracked; 4. In-person visits by an out-of-territory contractor, prioritizing youth; and 5. An active partnership with the Office of the Public Guardian regarding all shared clients. 	
<p>6. The Government of Nunavut establish an in-territory facility that offers residential mental health treatment for children and youth, including, but not limited to, psychiatric, psychological, behavioural, and counselling services. These services should incorporate family engagement and healing and be grounded in Inuit knowledge, culture, and parenting practices.</p>	<p>Neither agree nor disagree</p>	<p>No progress</p>
	<p>Rationale: No changes from last fiscal year when the Department of Health stated that, “It is very unlikely that the [Nunavut Recovery Centre] will be providing the full spectrum of mental health services for children or youth. It is anticipated that the only mental health services offered to children or youth at the [Nunavut Recovery Centre] will be in connection to family therapy for issues related to addiction and trauma.”</p>	

TABLE 14: Our Minds Matter Recommendations continued...

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
<p>7. The Department of Health implement recommendations iii(4) and iii(5) from the 2015 Coroner’s Inquest into Suicide, and apply these recommendations in cases of suicidal ideation in addition to suicide attempts. These recommendations state, in part, that the Government of Nunavut,</p> <p>Recommendation iii(4)</p> <p>Establish a formal follow-up protocol for individuals who have attempted suicide by April 2016.</p> <p>Recommendation iii(5)</p> <p>Change the Mental Health Act to allow for family to be contacted and immediately involved after a suicide attempt regardless of the age of the person who has attempted suicide. This should be systematic, and it requires also that Mental Health workers receive training and re-orientation to always develop safety plans and conduct counselling with the family present. This is a new recommendation that involves allotment of resources to re-training and a change in orientation to a more family and community intervention approach.</p> <p>To supplement recommendation iii(5), we further recommend adding the option of an alternative adult if a family member is deemed inappropriate.</p>	Neither agree nor disagree	Some progress
<p>Rationale: The Department of Health advised that recommendations iii(4) and iii(5) are reflected in the new <i>Mental Health Act</i> currently before the Standing Committee.</p> <p>The proposed Act “allows for the selection of an alternative adult in the case of a mature minor” and “in the case of a minor, the tikkuaqtaujuut [selected representatives] are the minor’s parents, or other person who are lawfully entitled to give consent to the minor’s medical treatment.” If notification of the tikkuaqtaujuut is not appropriate, an individual can make an application to the Review Board requesting that their tikkuaqtaujuq not be notified.</p>		

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
<p>8. The Department of Health clarify the position titles, roles, responsibilities, and reporting structure of all mental health-related positions to ensure children and youth are connected with the existing services that best fit their needs.</p>	Agree	Implemented
	<p>Rationale: Last fiscal year, the Department of Health advised that it had completed a review of roles and reporting structure. The department created a Mental Health and Addictions Program Supervisor position for each region, with new positions reporting to this supervisor. All new mental health nurses and mental health consultants receive training on these community-based positions, including their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>This fiscal year, the Department of Health revised their organizational structure. All Mental Health and Addictions staff now report to the Territorial Director of Mental Health and Addictions. The Territorial Director of Mental Health and Addictions and Inuusivut staff report to the same assistant deputy minister. These changes bring together traditional approaches in mental health with clinical services.</p>	
<p>9. The Department of Health:</p> <p>a. finalize and deliver a comprehensive training program, that includes a substantial focus on delivering supports to children and youth, to mental health and addictions outreach workers; and</p>	Partially agree	Some progress
	<p>Rationale: Last year, the Department of Health advised the RCYO that while it agrees mental health workers should be able to support children and youth, care is provided through a team and not siloed individuals. For this reason, the RCYO determined the department was in partial agreement with the recommendation.</p> <p>This year, the Department of Health developed and provided the RCYO with a copy of the <i>Mental Health and Addictions Program Outreach Worker Orientation Handbook</i>. The handbook includes some information relevant to working with children and youth, such as the Duty to Report as per the <i>Child and Family Services Act</i>, contact information for the RCYO, and information on medical consent for minors. However, the child- and youth-related material is not a substantial focus of the handbook.</p> <p>As of September 2020, all Mental Health and Addictions paraprofessionals had been trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or ReachOUT, which are suicide prevention and awareness trainings.</p>	
<p>b. ensure that in communities with more than one mental health and addictions outreach worker, one of these positions is dedicated to working with children and youth.</p>	Agree	Implemented
	<p>Rationale: The Department confirmed each community has a Youth Program Facilitator position and Iqaluit has three.</p>	

TABLE 14: Our Minds Matter Recommendations continued...

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
<p>10. Nunavut Arctic College, in partnership with the Department of Health, offer professional education programs that build the capacity of the mental health workforce in Nunavut, and that these programs offer a focus or specialty related to child and youth mental health.</p>	Partially agree	Limited progress
	<p>Rationale: Exploratory work is underway regarding the following:</p> <p>The Department of Health’s Mental Health and Addictions division has consulted with Nunavut Arctic College regarding a social work program and has had preliminary contact to explore other less intensive training opportunities for Mental Health and Addictions staff. Further, Mental Health and Addictions has also consulted with the Educational Upgrade Program to assess the possibility of including a Mental Health and Addictions Worker program in the program’s curriculum.</p> <p>Nunavut Arctic College has been working to develop a joint Bachelor of Social Work with Memorial University, laddering the degree from the existing Social Service diploma. This program “will provide a great opportunity to develop curriculum specific to child and youth mental health”.</p>	
<p>11. The Department of Health, or any other department hiring a mental health service provider:</p> <p>a. engage the services of Elders or cultural consultants to guide the delivery of mental health services; and</p>	Neither agree nor disagree	Limited progress
<p>b. offer an ongoing spectrum of cultural competency training and ensure that a minimum of one component is completed prior to the start of employment.</p>	Neither agree nor disagree	Limited progress
	<p>Rationale: Last year, the Department of Health confirmed that Indigenous Cultural Competence training is mandatory for mental health staff, and that the division aims to have their staff complete the training as close to their hire date as possible. This year the Department of Health advised this training is also mandatory for physicians.</p> <p>While some divisions make this training mandatory for their staff, it is strongly encouraged and Government of Nunavut staff take this training voluntarily.</p>	

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
12. The Department of Health increase public and service provider awareness of existing mental health services available for children, youth, and their families.	Agree	Some progress
	Rationale: The Department of Health advised that there was a territorial initiative to broadcast mental health-related radio shows for children and youth between March and July 2020. In some cases, these shows continued after July 2020 due to popular demand.	
	Mental Health and Addictions staff also engaged children and youth remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic with creative activities that promoted awareness of mental health services and supports; conducted community feasts to promote available mental health services as COVID-19 restrictions lifted; and approached schools to introduce themselves, advise of local services, and how they could be accessed.	
13. The Department of Health develop a youth-informed public awareness campaign for children, youth, and their families to reduce mental health stigma.	Agree	Limited progress
	Rationale: The Department of Health advised that “Embrace Life Council is looking at launching an online safety campaign for preadolescents and teens in November 2020. A campaign for youth and adults to destigmatize suicide will be launched in the upcoming months.”	
	Embrace Life Council advised that the launch of both campaigns was delayed with one anticipated in May 2021 and the other in September 2021.	
14. The Government of Nunavut, under the leadership of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, develop and implement an interdepartmental service coordination protocol for the delivery of child and youth-related services.	Agree	No progress
	Rationale: In 2019-2020, The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs advised that a service coordination protocol for the delivery of child and youth-related services would be developed and implemented under the joint leadership of the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services, and that the Government of Nunavut would endeavor to conclude the protocol by June 2020.	
	The Department of Health advised that “this work was paused due to staff turnover and COVID-19.” They also stated that “collaboration between the Departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Family Services, and Health is ongoing.” The revised timeline is April 2021.	

Language: *Our Minds Matter* was submitted to the Legislative Assembly in Inuktitut and English. It is available on our website in all official languages.

Submission to the Department of Education on the Student Record Regulations and Policy Intentions

At the request of the Department of Education, the Representative provided a submission in response to the Student Record Regulations and Policy Intentions on October 19, 2019.

TABLE 15: Student Record Regulations and Policy Intentions Submission Recommendations

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
	Based upon correspondence from the Department of Education dated November 1, 2020, and December 7, 2020.	
Rationale is identical for all Student Record Regulation recommendations.	Rationale: The Department of Education continues to work with the Department of Justice to finalize the draft regulations. As of March 31, 2021, the draft regulations have not been shared with the RCYO. We are therefore unable to report any progress regarding the recommendations as we have no evidence that any have been implemented.	
1. Move forward with the proposal to review each student record biannually. [s.3(2)]	Agree	No progress
2. Expand the proposed categories for the collection of student information to include student identification numbers from all Canadian jurisdictions, and not specifically Nunavut, Alberta, or the Northwest Territories. [s.4(1)(b)]	Agree	No progress
3. Consider the ability of mature minors to consent to the inclusion of the information in their student record. [s.4]	Neither agree nor disagree	No progress
4. Allow signed statutory declarations to validate the name and date of birth in the student record, in addition to the list of government issued documents that are currently proposed. [s.4(1)(a) and s.4(1)(b)]	Agree	No progress

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
5. Use gender inclusive language in official documents and templates. [s.4(1)(c)]	Neither agree nor disagree	No progress
6. Ensure currently accepted terms for ethnicity are used. [s.4(1)(e)]	Neither agree nor disagree	No progress
7. Move forward with the proposal to collect email addresses and reject the proposal to replace residential address with mailing address only. [s.4(1)(f) and s.4(1)(g)]	Agree	No progress
8. Add a provision to exclude any information relating to advocacy cases that involve the work of the Representative for Children and Youth's Office from the student record. [s.5(b)]	Neither agree nor disagree	No progress
9. Add specific timelines in the student record process. [s.9]	Neither agree nor disagree	No progress
10. Establish an electronic transfer process to address the challenges and delays that arise by exclusively using registered mail for the transfer of student records. [s.9(2)]	Neither agree nor disagree	No progress
11. Deliberately and thoughtfully seek input from students past and present during this process to ensure their opinions are considered.	Neither agree nor disagree	No progress

Language: The submission was provided to the Department of Education in English and is available upon request in all official languages.

Submission to Nunavut Arctic College for the 10-Year Strategic Plan Consultation

The Representative provided a submission to Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) on February 28, 2020, in response to its public call for input on its 10-year strategic plan. In response to a direct request from NAC for input, the Representative re-submitted these recommendations on October 28, 2020.

TABLE 16: Nunavut Arctic College 10-Year Strategic Plan Consultation Submission Recommendations

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
Based upon correspondence from NAC dated November 5, 2020.		
1. Seek input from young people as part of a broader consultation process.	Agree	Some progress
	<p>Rationale: Representatives from the Board of Governors met with high school students in the communities visited for public consultation.</p> <p>The RCYO requested additional information on the number of communities visited, the number of students consulted, and how the representatives from the Board of Governors connected with and encouraged young people to provide their input. NAC did not respond to this request by March 31, 2021.</p>	
2. Keep young people informed of post-secondary education and career options supported by Nunavut Arctic College.	Agree	Some progress
	<p>Rationale: NAC has hired two Strategic Recruitment Specialists since 2019 who work to build relationships with schools and organizations in the territory.</p> <p>In correspondence with RCYO, the college stated that it “recognizes the importance of strengthening its relationship with young people” and that the Board of Governors found that the connection with young people has “great potential for improvement.”</p>	
3. Develop and implement a child rights module for delivery within all current and future course offerings.	Agree	No progress
	<p>Rationale: NAC has not provided any evidence of a clear plan or commitment to include child rights modules in future course offerings.</p>	
4. Offer professional programs to build the capacity of the mental health workforce in Nunavut and ensure that these programs offer a focus or specialty related to child and youth mental health.	Agree	Limited progress
	<p>Rationale: NAC has been working to develop a joint Bachelor of Social Work degree with Memorial University, laddering from NAC’s Social Service Diploma Program. This program “will provide a great opportunity to develop curriculum specific to child and youth mental health.”</p>	

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
5. Form a partnership to allow students to earn a Bachelor of Social Work.	Agree	Substantial progress
	Rationale: NAC has been working to develop a joint Bachelor of Social Work degree with Memorial University, laddering from NAC's Social Service Diploma Program.	
6. Explore and implement ways to enhance offerings that will support post-secondary education and career options in the recreation field.	Agree	No progress
	Rationale: NAC stated that this recommendation has been noted and will be considered in the development of the 10-year strategic plan.	

Language: The submission was provided to NAC in English and is available upon request in all official languages.

Submission to the Standing Committee regarding Bill 36 - *The Mental Health Act*

The Minister of Health introduced Bill 36 - *Mental Health Act* in October 2019. On April 6, 2020, the Representative provided a submission in response to a call from the Standing Committee. The Representative also provided the Department of Health with a copy of the submission.

TABLE 17: Bill 36 - *Mental Health Act* Submission Recommendations

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
	The Standing Committee anticipates reporting on its consideration of Bill 36 in fiscal year 2021-2022.	
Status, recommendation accepted, and rationale information is identical for all Bill 36 recommendations.	Not known as of March 31, 2021	Pending
	Rationale: Recommendations less than one year old.	
1. Amend part 1, section 2 of Bill 36 to add specific criteria that sets out when a minor will be considered a mature minor, including language that ensures that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There will be no minimum age for a young person to be declared a mature minor; and b. The health professional has determined that the medical treatment and the procedure to be used is in the best interests of the minor and their continuing health and well-being. 		
2. Amend part 1, section 3 of Bill 36 to require health professionals to allow minors to choose their tikkuqtaujuq or tikkuqtaujuq, or in cases where the minor does not have the capacity to choose, require health professionals to consider every minor’s opinion, as to whom their tikkuqtaujuq or tikkuqtaujuq should be.		
3. Amend part 1, subsection 3(9) of Bill 36 to include the minor as an individual who may apply to the Board of Review for a decision respecting “the consent or decision” referred to in that subsection.		
4. Amend part 7 of Bill 36 to require the Board of Review to consider the opinion of the young person when making a decision about them, unless the Board of Review determines that doing so is inappropriate or in any way harmful to the young person.		
5. Amend part 2, section 4 of Bill 36 to specifically include the delivery of intensive mental health interventions for students in schools.		
6. Amend part 2, section 5 of Bill 36 to require that the mental health and addictions strategy address the specific mental health needs of children and youth.		
7. Amend part 9, section 75 of Bill 36 to require that the annual report include, at minimum, statistics on services and outcomes of children and youth who had contact with mental health services.		

Recommendation Made

8. Amend Bill 36 to require that reports made pursuant to part 3, section 7 regarding suicide attempts be forwarded to the Representative for Children and Youth as a critical injury, where the attempt is made by an individual who meets the definition of a child or youth as defined in the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

 9. Amend Bill 36 to require that information collected pursuant to part 3, subsection 8(5) be forwarded to the Representative for Children and Youth as a critical injury, where the information concerns an individual who meets the definition of a child or youth as defined in the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

 10. Amend part 3, section 13(1) of Bill 36 to allow for the disclosure of information to the Representative for Children and Youth.

 11. Amend part 5, section 32 of Bill 36 to require that, where the individual is a child or youth, as defined in the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, they will be provided with information on the Representative for Children and Youth's Office as outlined in section 22 of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

 12. Amend part 5, section 18 of Bill 36 to include a general statement of child rights as they are agreed to in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, in addition to the rights enjoyed by others.

 13. Amend part 8, section 71(2) of Bill 36 to include a requirement that in order to be a rights advocate, a person must be knowledgeable of child rights as per the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

 14. Amend part 9, section 77 of Bill 36 to include a requirement that a health professional must be knowledgeable of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in order to be designated as a mental health rights specialist for the purposes of the Act.
-

Language: The submission was provided to the Standing Committee in English and Inuktitut and to the Department of Health in English. It is available upon request in all official languages.

Recommendation to the Department of Health regarding the *Medical Travel Policy* and Escorts for Pregnant Women

In 2017, it was brought to the RCYO's attention that the Department of Health did not provide escorts for expectant mothers. These women were on medical travel to give birth outside of their community. In 2019-2020, the Department of Health amended the *Medical Travel Policy* to include a specific requirement for expectant mothers to receive an escort under subsection 6.6(f) of the policy. As a result, we deemed the systemic issue resolved.

In May 2020, subsection 6.6(f) was removed from the policy, which reopened this systemic issue.

On September 1, 2020, the Representative made a recommendation to the Department of Health to reinstate subsection 6.6(f) of the *Medical Travel Policy*.

TABLE 18: Escorts for Pregnant Women Recommendation

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
	Based upon correspondence from the Department of Health dated September 23, 2020, and January 15, 2021.	
<p>1. I recommend that the <i>Medical Travel Policy</i> be immediately updated to reinstate the eligibility criteria for an escort when “the client requires travel for confinement to give birth outside of their home community.”</p>	<p>Neither agree nor disagree</p> <hr/> <p>Rationale: The Department of Health advised that changes to the <i>Medical Travel Policy</i> made in May 2020 are “temporary modifications to limit non-essential escort travel when necessary”. The department also advised that all individuals on medical travel for the purposes of giving birth receive an escort, and that this is covered off by the <i>Medical Travel Policy</i>, even with changes made during the pandemic.</p> <p>Although the department “agrees that individuals on confinement should and will have an escort”, as of March 31, 2021, the Department of Health has not amended the <i>Medical Travel Policy</i> to fulfill the Representative’s recommendation.</p>	<p>No progress</p>

Language: This correspondence was in English.

Submission to the Department of Justice regarding the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*

The Representative provided the Department of Justice a submission on February 10, 2021, in response to an invitation to provide feedback on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* (FAIA).

TABLE 19: *Family Abuse Intervention Act* Submission Recommendations

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
	The RCYO will request an update on the implementation of these recommendations after the one-year mark.	
Status, recommendation accepted, and rationale information is identical for all FAIA recommendations.	Not known as of March 31, 2021	Pending
	Rationale: Recommendations less than one year old	
1. The <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> clearly state that a Community Intervention Order may include a provision recommending that a child attend specified counselling.		
2. The <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> explicitly state that every affected young person must be granted an opportunity to express their opinion and have it considered when decisions about them are being made under the Act.		
3. The <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> include commitment to the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> as a guiding principle in the administration and interpretation of the Act.		
4. The <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> reference the Duty to Report, as laid out in section 8 of the <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> .		
5. That section 25 of the <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> be amended to allow minors younger than the age of 14 years to make an application for abuse intervention.		
6. The Department of Justice implement a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) to consider the direct or indirect, intended or unintended, short-, medium-, or long-term consequences that any revisions to the existing <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> will have on the children and youth of Nunavut.		
7. That the Department of Justice seek input directly from children and youth to inform the department's review of the <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> .		

Language: This submission was provided to the Department of Justice in English and is available on our website in all official languages.

Recommendation to the Department of Health regarding the *Medical Travel Policy* and Escorts' Authority to Provide Consent

In 2016-2017, the RCYO launched our first pilot informal systemic review as part of the development of the office's systemic program. This review focused on the issue of medical consent for children and youth who have been custom adopted. Concerns stemmed from the uncertainty surrounding an adoptive parents' legal authority to provide medical consent.

After working informally with the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services on this matter over several years, regarding a number of draft recommendations and confirming with out-of-territory service providers that this issue was ongoing, the Representative determined that the issue could be addressed by amending the *Medical Travel Policy*. The Representative made this recommendation to the Department of Health on March 24, 2021.

TABLE 20: Medical Travel Escorts' Authority to Provide Consent Recommendation

Recommendation Made	Recommendation Accepted	Status
	In correspondence dated March 25, 2021, the Department of Health stated it was "taking the recommendation under advisement."	
1. The Department of Health amend the <i>Medical Travel Policy</i> to require that all client escorts travelling with clients who are infants or children bring satisfactory evidence of their authority to provide legal consent for medical decisions on the infant or child's behalf.	Not known as of March 31, 2021 Rationale: Recommendation less than one year old	Pending

Language: This correspondence was in English.

IN PROGRESS SYSTEMIC ISSUES

TABLE 21: Systemic Issues In Progress and Steps Taken to Address the Issue

	Correspondence to lead department(s)	Raised with additional department(s)	Discussed at proactive meeting(s)	Outstanding information request	Departmental initiative in progress	Systemic review in progress
All Departments						
Accessibility of services and opportunities for children and youth	●		●			
Department of Education						
School attendance	●	●	●		●	
Violence in schools	●				●	
Crisis response protocol in schools	●		●			
Lack of daycare	●				●	
Daycare and District Education Authorities' (DEA) policies	●		●			
Student educator ratio and overcrowded classrooms	●		●		●	
Opportunities after graduation	●		●		●	
Teacher shortages	●		●		●	
Shortage of Student Support Assistants (SSAs)	●				●	
Lack of preschool/early childhood education spots for children					●	
Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) travel policy	●					

TABLE 21: Systemic Issues In Progress and Steps Taken to Address the Issue continued...

	Correspondence to lead department(s)	Raised with additional department(s)	Discussed at proactive meeting(s)	Outstanding information request	Departmental initiative in progress	Systemic review in progress
Department of Family Services						
Inadequate staffing	●		●			●
Out-of-territory care						●
Safe houses for young people and their families	●		●		●	●
Collection of basic information on young people in care			●			●
Child sexual abuse rates	●	●	●	●		
Inadequate protection			●			●
Department of Health						
Concerns about young people being ‘formed’ under the <i>Mental Health Act</i>					●	
Dental care services	●				●	
Issues relating to specialty services	●			●		
Pediatric visit guidelines and impact on smaller communities					●	
COVID-19 isolation hubs	●					

	Correspondence to lead department(s)	Raised with additional department(s)	Discussed at proactive meeting(s)	Outstanding information request	Departmental initiative in progress	Systemic review in progress
Department of Justice						
Child-friendly court	●		●		●	
Transition planning for young people in custody	●		●			
Inappropriate use of guardianship order					●	
Children under care of parent(s) under guardianship order	●		●		●	
Lack of community correction officers in communities	●		●			
Legal Services Board						
Youth unaware of legal aid support	●				●	
Department of Family Services and Department of Health						
Lack of proper training for sexual abuse investigations	●					

Language: Correspondence with departments was done in English.

SYSTEMIC ISSUES AWAITING ACTION

TABLE 22: Systemic Issues Awaiting Action, by Lead Department(s)

Department of Community and Government Services

Recreation for children and youth

Department of Education

Quality of the education system

Department of Family Services

Child and Family Services Act appears to offer less protection to youth than children

Food security

Including the voice of the child in decisions

Parental support for families

Stability of foster home placements

Support for foster parents and their input

Transition planning for young people in care

Young people placed in unsafe homes

Nunavut Housing Corporation

Inadequate and overcrowded housing

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Part of our mandate is to raise Nunavummiut's awareness of child rights and to share information about how our office works to make sure departments' legislation, policies, procedures, programs, and services meet the needs and support the rights of young people, and the families, who rely on them.

Our communications and public awareness work takes many forms, including giving presentations and hosting information sessions, attending public events, hosting a child rights-based contest, developing and distributing information and promotional materials, monitoring media and social media for problems and issues that impact young Nunavummiut and their families, and maintaining our office's website, www.rcynu.ca.

While our office is located in Iqaluit, we work on behalf of all young Nunavummiut making our most comprehensive public awareness initiative our community engagement work. It is important that we visit communities to hear directly from Nunavummiut, and see first-hand, the current challenges affecting young people and their families in each community.

All of these initiatives share the goal of building and strengthening relationships with our many stakeholders including children, youth, families, community members, departments, the Legislative Assembly, and the media.

Every year we strategically plan public awareness initiatives while continually looking for new opportunities to engage with Nunavummiut as they arise and our resources allow.

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2021

The way we describe the work of our office and all of our program areas was revised in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This year, those revisions were strategically implemented across all communication channels, including our website; our reports, including our systemic reports and submissions, our business plan, our quarterly reports, and our annual report; media releases; and our verbal communication with stakeholders. The Communications and Public Awareness chapter of the RCYO Policy & Procedure Manual was revised to incorporate all of these changes, as well as a Facebook policy.

WEBSITE

This year, we reconfigured our website, www.rcynu.ca. All website content was updated, in all official languages, to reflect the revised wording determined in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Changes to the website were also made to better suit user patterns and internet challenges. The reconfiguration:

- ✳ removed outdated content,
- ✳ streamlined the most often accessed information, and
- ✳ eliminated photos to allow the website to upload more quickly.

Some of the new content includes:

- ✳ a chart highlighting complementary ISV principles and articles in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*,
- ✳ all of our created-in-Nunavut child rights resources;
- ✳ our community engagement visits are featured on the home page, and
- ✳ our media releases are connected to the resulting news stories.

TABLE 23: Website Visits, by Language Accessed*

Total website visits	298
English	94.9%
Inuktitut	3%
French	2.1%
Inuinnaqtun	0%

* Updating the website may have skewed the data reported.

FACEBOOK

This year, we launched our Facebook page. This communication channel will help our office educate Nunavummiut about child rights and the work of our office as well as provide an additional way for people to connect with us.

Language: All posts are made in English, Inuktitut, and French using Microsoft translator. Inuinnaqtun translations will be added to posts as soon as they are completed through the Department of Culture and Heritage.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Due to COVID-19 travel precautions, instead of visiting communities this year we connected with Nunavummiut across the territory in other ways. Outreach was conducted via email, over the phone, and by using online meeting software. Information materials and promotional items for distribution were mailed to stakeholders in several communities. For a complete list of these initiatives, see Table 29, on page 69.

Our revised community engagement plan, completed in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, will be piloted when the pandemic travel and gathering restrictions end.

⁴⁵ Bell, J. (2019, October 22). "Nunavut mom's child abuse must be denounced, appeal court rules." Nunatsiaq News. Retrieved from <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/nunavut-moms-child-abuse-must-be-denounced-appeal-court-rules/#:~:text=In%20a%20case%20that%20exposes,two%20years%20less%20a%20day>.

⁴⁶ Neary, D. (2019, October 21). "Abusive mother won't serve jail time due to deficiencies of Nunavut's foster care system, appeal judges rule." Nunavut News. Retrieved from <https://nunavutnews.com/nunavut-news/abusive-mother-wont-serve-jail-time-due-to-deficiencies-of-nunavuts-adoption-system-appeal-judges-rule/>

LETTERS AND STATEMENTS

Statement from the Representative re: Nunavut Court of Appeal's reasons for decision

On November 16, 2020, the Representative made a statement in response to the reasons for the Nunavut Court of Appeal's decision to stay the sentence of a mother convicted of causing "horrendous injuries"⁴⁵ to her five-year-old child. The judge felt the woman's second child was safer with her, a convicted child abuser, than in the care of the Director of Family Services.

The Representative's statement included the following:

It is the responsibility of the Department of Family Services to protect and provide adequate care to Nunavut's children and youth. The department failed this child and their family. The Court of Appeal's comment on the "bleak future"⁴⁶ for those in foster care, is a call to action that the system requires immediate attention, as it is failing to fulfill its obligation to all Nunavummiut who rely on these services...

I have raised my many concerns to the Deputy Minister of the Department of Family Services' attention numerous times. I am taking this opportunity to ensure that all Nunavummiut are aware of my concerns and the actions that the RCYO is taking to hold government accountable and improve services. My office is currently conducting a review of the child welfare services provided by the Department of Family Services, based on our advocacy cases. Further, the RCYO is currently developing its Reviews of Critical Injuries and Deaths program...

It is the responsibility of the RCYO and the public to hold the GN accountable for providing the services we need. We must demand better.

Language: This statement is available on our website in all official languages.

CHILD RIGHTS EDUCATION RESOURCES

Anaana's Tent

Identifying a need for child rights video resources in Inuktitut, we created three animated segments for Anaana's Tent in partnership with Inhabit Education and Taqqut Productions Inc.

Anaana's Tent is a fun, educational television program set in the Arctic, geared towards children two to five years of age. The program airs on Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN) in both Inuktitut and English. Our segments focus on family, culture, and safety in an age appropriate way and are anticipated to air in the fall of 2022.

Language: Child rights segments will broadcast in Inuktitut and English.

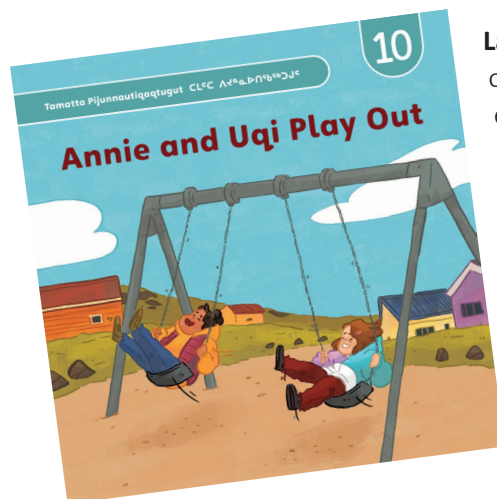


Copyright Taqqut Productions Inc.

Annie and Uqi Play Out

Annie and Uqi Play Out, our second child rights book developed in partnership with Inhabit Education and the Department of Education for the department's Inuktitut Titiqiriniq balanced literacy program, was printed this year, after being put on hold in 2019-2020 due to COVID-19 precautions.

Language: Hard and digital copies of *Annie and Uqi Play Out* and the extension activities, in Inuktitut and English, will be delivered to all Nunavut schools in the 2021-2022 school year, with Inuinnaqtun and French versions to follow once translations are completed. Digital copies of *Annie and Uqi Play Out*, and the extension activities, will be accessible on our website as available.



Your Story, Your Voice contest

Every year on November 20, National Child Day is celebrated in recognition of Canada's agreement to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. In honour of National Child Day, we host a child rights-based contest, which aims to raise awareness of child rights and the work of our office. The contest is open to all schools across the territory and provides educators with classroom resources and activities to hold child rights-based discussions in the classroom.

This year, we hosted our sixth annual *Your Story, Your Voice* contest. This year's theme, "All young people should

be seen and heard", highlights Article 12 of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which states that all young people have the right to give their opinion, and adults should listen and consider it when making decisions on the young person's behalf. The contest welcomes art submissions and this year expanded to include video submissions. We were excited to receive thoughtful submissions from 24 students in four classes.

Language: Digital copies of contest materials, classroom resources and activities were emailed to Nunavut principals by the Department of Education's Partner Relations division and made available on our website in all official languages of Nunavut.

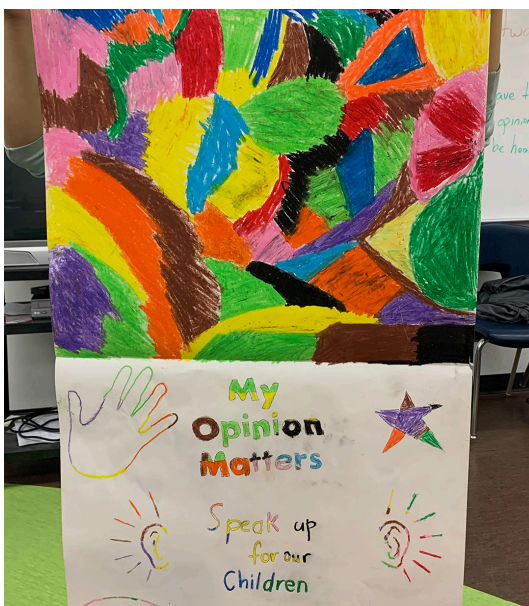
FIGURE 6: 2020 *Your Story, Your Voice* contest winners



Grade 7-9 (Mussenden) at Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik High School, Gjoa Haven



Grade 7, 8, 9 (Rowley) at Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik High School, Gjoa Haven



Grade 10 Art at Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik High School, Gjoa Haven

Child rights are rules that apply to every child in the world. No exceptions. These rules are all collected in a document called the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which 193 countries have signed to show that they'll do everything possible to make sure the laws of their countries respect these rights. However, four countries have not formally adopted it.

Now, children are considered full-fledged human beings, with one big difference. Unlike adults, they are still growing and developing their personalities. They have many needs, like eating, having a family, going to school, expressing themselves and being protected from abusers. They are not independent and cannot protect themselves, so they need to be taken care of and guided, which makes them vulnerable. That's why there are laws that specifically address children's needs.

So, when these laws are obeyed, children can develop to their full potential and prepare for a good life as an adult. Of course, things aren't like this everywhere in the world, and there is still work to be done to make sure that children can have full childhoods.

Grade 9 student at École des Trois-Soleils, Iqaluit. The original submission was made in French.

Virtual Presentation: *Effective Communication*

This year, our office developed a virtual presentation about effective communication for students in grades seven to 12. Part of this process involved asking young people for their input on what makes an engaging virtual session. This presentation will be available to schools across the territory next fiscal year through Connected North and by contacting our office directly.

Language: Presentation is available in English and is being translated into Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Number of Partnership Agreements: 6

This year, the RCYO entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Office of the Languages Commissioner (OLC). We established this MOU since some child rights complaints brought to our attention are also potentially in violation of language rights. This MOU permits the sharing of relevant information between our office and the OLC. Prior to finalizing this MOU, it was reviewed by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Since 2018, partnership agreements (protocols) have been in place that aim to guide the working relationships between our office and each of the four main child- and youth-serving departments: the Department of Education, the Department of Family Services, the Department of Health, and the Department of Justice. This year, our office reviewed and proposed revisions to the protocols for the consideration of the departments. We anticipate feedback from the departments next fiscal year.

Our office also has an MOU with the CCCYA. This MOU details the working relationship between all Canadian offices, particularly in connection to providing advocacy supports to mutual clients who may cross from one province or territory to another, to ensure seamless and timely access to services, and permits the sharing of relevant information. This MOU has been in place since 2015.

REVIEWS OF CRITICAL INJURIES AND DEATHS

This program is not operational as Section 4(1)(b) of the RCYA is not yet in force.

In Nunavut, critical injuries of young people are not independently reviewed and deaths of young people are only reviewed by the Office of the Chief Coroner when the death has occurred in the territory, to determine the identity of the deceased, and how, when, where, and by what means they died.⁴⁷

Once this section of the RCYA is in force, our Reviews of Critical Injuries and Deaths program will conduct investigations into circumstances leading up to a critical injury or death of a young person, to determine if they received the services they were entitled to and if these services met their needs.

After completing a review, our office may make recommendations to ensure accountability of the responsible department(s) and/or to make suggested improvements to legislation, policies, procedures, programs, and services with the intention of preventing similar injuries or deaths of young people from occurring in the future.

⁴⁷ According to s9(1)(b) of the *Coroner's Act*, the Chief Coroner investigates deaths of young people "to determine cause of death and the circumstances surrounding death." The investigations are required when the death is reportable under s8 of the Act: (a) occurs as a result of apparent violence, accident, suicide or other apparent cause other than disease, sickness or old age; (b) occurs as a result of apparent negligence, misconduct or malpractice; (c) occurs suddenly and unexpectedly when the deceased was in apparent good health; (d) occurs within 10 days after a medical procedure or while the deceased is under or recovering from anesthesia; (e) occurs during the course of employment; (f) is a stillbirth that occurs without the presence of a medical practitioner; (g) occurs while the deceased is detained or in custody involuntarily pursuant to law in a jail, lock-up, correctional facility, medical facility or other institution; or (h) occurs while the deceased is detained by or in the custody of a police officer.

REVIEWS OF CRITICAL INJURIES AND DEATHS UPDATE FOR 2020-2021

This year, the RCYO created a database to track critical injuries and deaths.

When the historical reporting, from September 30, 2015, to March 31, 2020, was provided by the Director of Child and Family Services and recorded in the database the number of critical injuries and deaths rose from 556 to 928. The reason for the increase in the number is because the RCYO counts each child involved in an incident instead of just the incident. For example, six children who witness the same instance of family violence equals six critical injuries, not one instance of family violence. For a breakdown of critical injuries, by year and type, see Table 24.

As we continued to receive reports of critical injuries and deaths from the Director of Child and Family Services this fiscal year, inaccurate and inconsistent reporting was noted. In July 2020, the Representative wrote a letter to the Executive Director regarding these ongoing issues.

In November 2020, the Department of Family Services requested that the RCYO review the criteria of reportable critical injuries and deaths. We completed our review and provided it to the Department of Family Services in December 2020. As of March 31, 2021, the department had not taken any action to implement the revised criteria or address our reporting concerns.

This fiscal year, the Director of Child and Family Services reported 447 critical injuries and four deaths of young people who were receiving services. For a breakdown of deaths by year and cause, see Table 25 on page 66.

TABLE 24: Critical Injuries Reported by the Director of Child and Family Services, by Year and Type

	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	Sept. 30, 2015 - Mar. 31, 2016
TOTAL INJURIES	447⁴⁸	125	132	533	9	115
Emotional Harm	357	64	83	405	4	67
Physical Harm	28	11	8	15	1	3
Physical Assault	17	18	15	60	2	17
Sexualized Violence	11	11	10	29	2	18
Substance-related Harm	14	6	7	4	0	1
Suicide Attempt, Suicidal Ideation	20	15	9	20	0	9

⁴⁸ Inconsistencies in the ongoing reporting of critical injuries by the Department of Family Services have been noted, as the annual total reported is not equal to the number reported by the department for the Status of Young Nunavummiut section on page 14.

TABLE 25: Deaths Reported by the Director of Child and Family Services, by Year and Cause⁴⁹

	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	Sept. 30, 2015 - Mar. 31 2016
TOTAL DEATHS	4	4	3	3	2	2
Accidental	0	0	0	1	1	0
Homicide	0	1	0	1	0	0
Natural	1	1	1	0	1	1
Suicide	1	1	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	2	1	1	1	0	1
Awaiting Coroner's Report	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insufficient Information	0	0	1	0	0	0

This year, the RCYO followed up with the Office of the Chief Coroner regarding the deaths reported in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, as seven deaths did not have a determined cause of death and were awaiting the Coroner's report. In December 2020, the RCYO requested that the Office of the Chief Coroner provide the final cause of death once it was determined. As of March 31, 2021, the RCYO had not yet received this information.

In 2020-2021, the Chief Coroner reported 16 deaths of young Nunavummiut. Eleven deaths were awaiting a Coroner's report to determine the cause of death.

TABLE 26: Deaths Reported by the Office of Chief Coroner, by Year and Cause⁴⁹

	2020-2021	Oct. 1, 2019 - Mar. 31 2020
TOTAL DEATHS	16	12
Accidental	0	1
Homicide	0	0
Natural	0	0
Suicide	5	4
Undetermined	0	0
Awaiting Coroner's Report	11	7

While the RCYO is receiving and tracking critical injury and death reports, the Reviews of Critical Injuries and Deaths program is not yet operational for two reasons:

1. Section 4(1)(b) of the RCYA, which legislates the Reviews of Critical Injuries and Deaths program, is not in force. Although sections 19, 20, and 21 of the RCYA, which speak to the reporting of critical injuries and deaths by the Director of Child and Family Services and the Coroner, have been in force since September 2015.
2. The RCYO does not have the human resources necessary to operate the Reviews of Critical Injuries and Deaths program.

On December 3, 2020, a request for the human resources necessary to operate the program was submitted to the Management and Services Board. A decision was pending as of March 31, 2021.

⁴⁹ This fiscal year, three deaths were reported by both the Director of Child and Family Services and the Chief Coroner.

COMPLIANCE WITH SERVICE STANDARDS

Our office is committed to providing ethical, equitable, and consistent services. We aim to provide a measurable level of service that our clients can expect under normal circumstances.

Our service standards are integrity, inclusivity, accountability, and empowerment. Each of our service standards has quality assurance measures, detailed below, which help us evaluate our performance.

INTEGRITY

Demonstrating high standards of behaviour and conduct that are respectful and caring of people.

Quality assurance measures applicable to our integrity service standard and how we met them:

► **Review of individual advocacy problem began within two business days of it being raised to our attention.**

For 38/60 (63%) of our individual advocacy cases, review of the problem began within two business days.

► **Monitor and follow-up on department's responses regarding recommendation implementation to encourage timely and complete responses.**

TABLE 27: Departmental Responses Regarding Recommendation Implementation

	On Time	Late	Extended & On Time	Extended & Late	No Response	TOTAL
Department of Education	0	0	0	5	0	5
Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	1	0	0	0	0	1
Department of Family Services	0	1	0	0	0	1
Department of Health	16	0	3	0	2	21
Nunavut Arctic College	0	7	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	17	8	3	5	2	35

INCLUSIVITY

Being open, welcoming, and inclusive of all young people, their families, and other stakeholders.

Quality assurance measures applicable to our inclusivity service standard and how we met them:

► **Maintained contact with young person throughout their individual advocacy case, when applicable.**

In 43/60 (72%) of our cases, the young person was not capable of being involved in the advocacy work. In 1/60 (2%) of our cases, the young person declined involvement in the advocacy work. Of the remaining 16 cases, our child advocates maintained contact with 16/16 (100%) of the young people involved.

► **Systemic recommendations support young people’s rights and are guided by the input, voices, lives, and/or feedback of young Nunavummiut, whenever possible.**

All 23 recommendations (100%) made by the RCYO in 2020-2021 support young people’s rights.

Nine of the 23 recommendations (39%) made by the RCYO in 2020-2021 were guided by the voices of young Nunavummiut.

TABLE 28: Child Rights and the Voice of Young Nunavummiut in Recommendations

	Child Right(s) Supported	Surveys	Recommendation calls upon department to listen to young people
Bill 36 - <i>Mental Health Act</i> Submission (page 50)			
Recommendation #1	3, 4, 12		●
Recommendation #2	3, 4, 12, 23		●
Recommendation #3	3, 4, 12, 25		●
Recommendation #4	3, 4, 12		●
Recommendation #5	3, 4, 12, 24, 39	●	
Recommendation #6	3, 4, 12, 19, 23, 24, 39	●	
Recommendation #7	3, 4, 23, 24, 39		
Recommendation #8	3, 4		
Recommendation #9	3, 4		
Recommendation #10	3, 4		
Recommendation #11	3, 4, 42		
Recommendation #12	3, 4, 42		
Recommendation #13	3, 4, 42		
Recommendation #14	3, 4, 42		

	Child Right(s) Supported	Surveys	Recommendation calls upon department to listen to young people
<i>Medical Travel Policy: Escorts for Pregnant Women (page 52)</i>			
Recommendation #1		3, 4, 9	
<i>Family Abuse Intervention Act Submission (page 53)</i>			
Recommendation #1		3, 4, 24, 39	
Recommendation #2		3, 4, 12	●
Recommendation #3		3, 4, 42	
Recommendation #4		3, 4, 19	
Recommendation #5		3, 4, 12	●
Recommendation #6		3, 4	
Recommendation #7		3, 4, 12	●
<i>Medical Travel Policy: Escorts' Authority to Provide Consent (page 54)</i>			
Recommendation #1		3, 4, 24	

► **Facilitate engagement opportunities with all stakeholder groups.**

TABLE 29: Stakeholder Engagement Sessions, by Group/Type and Language

Stakeholder Group/Type of Engagement	Language(s)
Adam Arreak Lighthstone, MLA Iqaluit-Manirajak	English
Arctic Bay:	
Community Justice Outreach Worker (CJOW), email outreach	English
Community Social Services Worker (CSSW), Income assistance worker, Clerk/Interpreter, email outreach	English
Government Liaison Officer (GLO), email outreach	English
Health centre, outreach call	English
Inuujaq School, email outreach	English
RCMP, email outreach	English
Arviat:	
CSSW, email outreach and follow up call	English
GLO, email outreach	English
Qitqliq Middle School, email outreach	English

TABLE 29: Stakeholder Engagement Sessions, by Group/Type and Language continued...

Stakeholder Group/Type of Engagement	Language(s)
Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates: Summer Meeting by teleconference Fall Meeting by teleconference Winter Meeting by teleconference Webex information sharing sessions	English and French English and French English and French English
Baker Lake: CJOW, email outreach CSSW, email outreach and follow up call Health center, email outreach John Amitnaaq Secondary School, email outreach Rachel Arngnamaktiq Elementary School, email outreach	English English English English English
Cambridge Bay: CJOW, Community Corrections Officer (CCO), Community Justice Specialist, email outreach CSSWs and Supervisor, email outreach Health centre, email outreach Kullik Ilihakvik Elementary School, email outreach Kiilnik School, email outreach	English English English English English
Chesterfield Inlet: CSSW, email outreach and follow up call GLO, email outreach Victor Sammurtok School, email outreach and follow up call <i>Information materials and promotional items for distribution were sent to Victor Sammurtok School</i>	English English English All languages
Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario	English
Coral Harbour: CSSW, email outreach and follow up call GLO, email outreach Sakku School, email outreach Health center, email outreach	English English English English
Department of Education: Principals, vice principals, and <i>Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit</i> , email outreach Proactive Meeting	English English
Department of Family Services: CSSWs conference Executive Director and Family Wellness Regional Directors Executive Director, Family Wellness Family Wellness, Iqaluit Therapeutic Program Manager Family Mediator Coordinator Family Wellness Regional Managers Headquarters staff Proactive Meeting Regional Director, Family Wellness, Iqaluit and South Baffin; and Supervisor	English English English English English English English English English

Stakeholder Group/Type of Engagement	Language(s)
Department of Health: Chief Information Officer Manager of Population Health Information and Health Information Specialist Mental Health Nurses, email outreach	English English English
Department of Justice: Acting Deputy Minister Deputy Minister Proactive Meeting	English English English
George Brown College, Child Development Class	English
Gjoa Haven: CJOW and CCO, email outreach CSSWs and Income Assistance Workers, email outreach Health centre, email outreach Quqshuun Ilihakvik Elementary School, email outreach	English English English English
Grise Fiord: GLO, email outreach Health centre, email outreach	English English
Igloolik: GLO, email outreach	English
Iqaluit: CJOW, email outreach Ilagiittugut Centre for Youth Information tables Isumaqsunnigittukkuvik Young Offenders Facility Qimaavik Women's Shelter Umingmak Centre	English English Inuktitut/English English English English
Information and Privacy Commissioner	English
John Main, MLA Arviat North – Whale Cove	English
Kimmirut: Justice worker, email outreach	English
Kinngait: Community Justice Specialist, email outreach	English
Kugaaruk: GLO email outreach Health centre, email outreach	English English
Kugluktuk: Health centre, email outreach Justice Case supervisor, email outreach	English English
Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth	English

TABLE 29: Stakeholder Engagement Sessions, by Group/Type and Language continued...

Stakeholder Group/Type of Engagement	Language(s)
Naujaat: CSSW, email outreach and follow up call	English
Health Center, Mental Health Nurse, email outreach	English
Tuugaalik High School, email outreach	English
<i>Information materials and promotional items for distribution were sent to Tuugaalik High School</i>	All languages
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	English
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta	English
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Newfoundland and Labrador	English
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Prince Edward Island	English
Office of the Languages Commissioner	English
Ottawa Health Services Network Inc.	English
Pangnirtung: CJOW, outreach call	English
Pat Angnakak, MLA Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu	English
Piruatigiit Resource Centre	English
Pond Inlet: GLO, email outreach	English
Qanuipit Children's Health and Wellness Measure	English
Qikiqtarjuaq: GLO, email outreach	English
Rankin Inlet: CJOW, outreach call and email	English
CSSW, outreach call and email	English
Health center, outreach call	English
Leo Ussak School, outreach call	English
Maani Ulujuk Ilinniarvik, outreach call	English
Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Center, outreach call	English
RCMP, outreach call	English
Simon Alaituq School, outreach call	English
Regional Inuit Association Youth Coordinators, email outreach	English
Resolute Bay: GLO, email outreach	English
Health centre, email outreach	English

Stakeholder Group/Type of Engagement	Language(s)
Sanikiluaq: CJOW, outreach call and RCYO presentation online CSSW, outreach call and email Justice Correction Officer, email outreach Mental Health Nurse, email outreach Nuiyak Elementary School, email outreach Paatsaali High School, email outreach RCMP, outreach call and RCYO presentation online <i>Information materials and promotional items for distribution were sent to RCMP and community CJOW</i>	English English English English English English English All languages
Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth	English
Senator Dennis Patterson	English
Senator Rosemary Moodie	English
Statistics Canada/Children First Canada	English
Taloyoak: CJOW, email outreach Health centre, email outreach	English English
The Standing Committee on Social Development, Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories	English
Whale Cove: CSSW, outreach call and email GLO, email outreach Inuglak School, email outreach <i>Information materials and promotional items for distribution were sent to Inuglak School</i>	English English English All languages

► All information is publically available in all official languages of Nunavut.

- Inuktitut and English upon release
- Inuinnaqtun and French as translations completed

TABLE 30: Documents Published on the RCYO Website, by Language and Date

	Inuktitut	English	Inuinnaqtun	French
Media Release: Government of Nunavut’s proposed actions to address mental health needs of young Nunavummiut deemed “entirely unacceptable” by Representative for Children and Youth	July 7, 2020	July 7, 2020	July 7, 2020	July 7, 2020
RCYO’s 2019-2020 Annual Report	Sept. 21, 2020	Sept. 21, 2020	January 7, 2021	January 7, 2021
Media Release: Representative for Children and Youth releases Status of Young Nunavummiut in 2019-2020 annual report	Sept. 22, 2020	Sept. 22, 2020	Sept. 22, 2020	Sept. 22, 2020
Statement from the Representative re: Nunavut Court of Appeal’s reasons for decision	Nov. 16, 2020	Nov. 16, 2020	Nov. 16, 2020	Nov. 16, 2020
Submission to the Department of Justice on the Review of the <i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i>	March 29, 2021	March 29, 2021	March 29, 2021	March 29, 2021

ACCOUNTABILITY

Demonstrating responsible, informed decision making that is timely, relevant, and child- and youth- centered.

Quality assurance measures applicable to our accountability service standard and how we met them:

► **Ensure department’s accountability of individual advocacy problem.**

Sometimes, in order to resolve an individual advocacy problem, it must be brought to the attention of a supervisor, manager, director/executive director, and/or deputy head. This process is known as an escalation. As of August 3, 2020, we started tracking escalations required to resolve advocacy problems.

TABLE 31: Individual Advocacy Escalations, by Department and Reason

	Number of Cases	Number of Young People Involved
Department of Family Services	20	38
Non-response from service provider	10	17
The advocacy matter required intervention from a higher level of decision-maker within a department	3	8
The matter required urgent attention due to the associated timelines or potential for harm	3	7
Response was inadequate and did not provide information requested	4	6
Department of Education	0	0
Department of Health	0	0
Department of Justice	0	0
TOTAL	20	38

► **Timely guidance and/or recommendations provided to departments on systemic issues affecting young Nunavummiut.**

TABLE 32: Timeliness of RCYO Guidance and/or Recommendations

	On Time	Late	Extended & On Time	Extended & Late	Declined
Bill 36 – The <i>Mental Health Act</i> Submission	1				
Escorts for Pregnant Women Recommendation	1				
<i>Family Abuse Intervention Act</i> Submission			1		
Medical Travel Escorts’ Authority to Provide Consent Recommendation		1			
Child Abuse and Neglect Response Protocol	1				
Safe Sport Framework and Policy Manual	1				
Safe Sport Implementation Material	1				
TOTAL: 7	5	1	1	0	0

► **Relevant information about the work of our office is shared with the public in a timely manner.**

TABLE 33: Media Engagement, by Date

Date	Action	Outcome
July 7, 2020	A media release was issued to provide an update on departments' feedback and progress made to date, to address our recommendations made as a result of our review of mental health services for young Nunavummiut, <i>Our Minds Matter</i> .	Coverage was received from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Nunatsiaq News, and Nunavut News.
September 22, 2020	A media release was issued regarding the release of our 2019-2020 annual report, which included a new Status of Young Nunavummiut section. The Representative facilitated an interview with The Canadian Press and CBC.	Coverage was received from Nunatsiaq News and Nunavut News. This information was also connected to a three part series on violence in schools released by CBC. National coverage was received from the National Post, Global News, and more than 45 news outlets, across the country, shared the story online.

EMPOWERMENT

Creating opportunities for young Nunavummiut to develop skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort; supporting our staff to further develop their skills in order to best meet the evolving needs of our young people.

Quality assurance measures applicable to our empowerment service standard and how we met them:

▶ **Hire a summer student.**

Due to COVID-19 precautions, a summer student was not hired this year.

▶ **The young person involved in the individual advocacy case is supported to self-advocate.**

Of the 16 cases that involved young people with the capacity and desire to direct the advocacy work, 13 (81%) of them self-advocated more as the case progressed.

▶ **Prioritize engagement opportunities with young Nunavummiut.**

Two in-person engagement events were held with young Nunavummiut this fiscal year, due to COVID-19 precautions.

TABLE 34: Engagement Events Held with Young Nunavummiut

Event	Number of participants	Language
Ilagiittugut Centre for Youth residents	3	English
Nunavut Sivuniksavut students	2	English

► Empower staff through relevant training and professional development.

Our staff are encouraged and supported to take part in opportunities that further strengthen our internal capacity and expertise to best meet the evolving needs of young Nunavummiut.

TABLE 35: Staff Training and Professional Development Completed

Training/Professional Development	Date Completed	Number of Staff
Advanced Policy Training	Ongoing	1
Case Management System Administrator Training	July 2020	1
Case Management System	May 2020	1
CCCYA Information Sharing Sessions		
Ongoing professional support and development to assist all child and youth advocacy offices across Canada in staying up to date on issues, resources, and best practices. Session hosted via Webex.		
Q & A: Ethical, Meaningful and Sustainable Youth Engagement	September 2020	4
Q & A: Alternative/Virtual Approaches to Engaging Youth	November 2020	1
Nova Scotia and Manitoba: Experience with Youth Advisors/Youth Advisory Groups	March 2021	1
<i>Child and Family Services Act</i>	August 2020	4
Child and Human Rights Extension Certificate	June 2020	4
Cultural Immersion/IQ Day	September 2020	8
Fundamentals of Negotiation and Dispute Resolution	January 2021	1
Indigenous Cultural Competence	November 2020	1
Inuktitut Language Training	March 2021	1
Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship	Ongoing	1
Hivuliqtikhanut Emerging Leaders Series	February 2021	1
RCYO Policy and Procedure Manual	June 2020	1
Policy Foundations	January 2021	2
<i>Representative for Children and Youth Act</i>	June 2020	1

BUDGET REPORT

Summary Statement of Budget and Expenditures
Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2021

TABLE 36: Budget Report

	Budget	Expenditures	% of Budget Spent
Permanent Salaries	1,655,000	1,517,347	
Casual Wages	-	60,639	
Total Compensation & Benefits	1,655,000	1,577,986	
Travel & Transportation	195,000	440	
Materials & Supplies	145,000	31,544	
Purchased Services	65,000	33,512	
Contract Services	227,000	318,576	
Fees & Payments	20,000	10,789	
Tangible Assets	19,000	23,179	
Computer Hardware & Software	10,000	12,471	
Total Other Expenses	681,000	430,511	
Total	2,336,000	2,008,497	86%
Surplus		327,503	14%

LOOKING FORWARD

Using the information in our report to inform departmental decisions and improve services for young Nunavummiut and their families is a pattern we hope to see develop. For example, this year, the Department of Justice connected with our office soon after reporting a fluctuation in the number of in-territory registered sexual offenders with offences against young people. This correspondence ensured we were aware of and understood the reason for the change. It also confirmed the action the department took to better understand the scope and magnitude of the issue.

Additionally, during our most recent Standing Committee appearance, our work, as detailed in the 2019-2020 annual report, led to a dialogue about the child sexual abuse crisis in the territory, and the request for a proposed budget for fully funded breakfast and lunch programs in all schools across the territory.

Bringing our concerns to the departments' attention helps us all better understand the scope and magnitude of the challenges young Nunavummiut and their families face, today. But, the responsibility of determining a plan of action, committing to the plan, and executing it until completion lies with departments. Change is not possible without action, so we will continue to hold departments accountable for their commitments and the important role they play in the lives of Nunavummiut.

If history has taught us anything, it is that without adequate tracking, documentation, action, and accountability for decisions made that impact the lives of young people, it is very easy for children to be lost within a system. As it is the role of my office to ensure this does not happen, we will continue to do our work on behalf of young Nunavummiut and their families regardless of the push back or barriers we encounter. I can promise you, this pattern will never change.