

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**\*\*April 29, 2024\*\***

**\*\*Nunavut Inuit Women's Association Urges Immediate Action Following Release of Campaign 2000 Poverty Report Card\*\***

**\*\*Nunavut, Canada:\*\*** On April 25, 2024, Amautiit, the Nunavut Inuit Women's Association (NIWA) stands in solidarity with Campaign 2000 as it unveils its first ever annual Poverty Report Card, revealing the harsh realities faced by Nunavut's most vulnerable populations. NIWA echoes the urgent call for action to address the systemic issues perpetuating poverty and inequality in our communities.

As an organization deeply rooted in advocating for the rights and well-being of Inuit women and families, NIWA recognizes the profound impact of poverty on individuals and communities across Nunavut. The findings of this year's Poverty Report Card underscore the need for immediate and concerted efforts to combat poverty and its far-reaching consequences.

Key highlights from the report include:

- **\*\*Child Poverty Rates:\*\*** Alarming high child poverty rates persist in Nunavut, with a significant percentage of our children living in conditions of economic hardship. NIWA emphasizes the importance of prioritizing the needs of our youngest community members and investing in their future through targeted interventions and support services.
- **\*\*Food Insecurity:\*\*** Many households in Nunavut continue to grapple with food insecurity, facing barriers to accessing nutritious and culturally relevant food. NIWA stresses the importance of addressing food sovereignty and ensuring that all residents have access to healthy and affordable food options.
- **\*\*Impact of COVID-19:\*\*** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has further deepened the vulnerabilities faced by those living in poverty, exacerbating existing inequalities and widening socio-economic disparities. NIWA emphasizes the need for targeted support for those most affected by the pandemic, including Inuit women, children, and elders.

NIWA urges all levels of government, Indigenous leadership, and community stakeholders to heed the findings of the Poverty Report Card and to take decisive action to address poverty in Nunavut. Our organization calls for:

1. Reforming Government Programs and Policies:

- Fix existing government programs, policies, and subsidies such as Nutrition North to better support residents of Nunavut.
- Pursue options to reduce dependency on external food supplies by exploring local farming, greenhouses, and other sustainable food sources.

## 2. Proactive Investment in Prevention:

- Invest in preventative measures rather than reactive responses, such as addressing the foster care system and the legal system's approach to incarceration.
- Focus on reducing poverty by providing education and support in areas like financial literacy and long-term financial sustainability, starting from schools.

## 3. Support for Inuit-Led Solutions and Traditional Practices:

- Validate and support the nutritional, cultural, and skill-building benefits of country food and hunting through government programs.
- Build capacity for Inuit-led solutions and data collection, ensuring policies are evaluated by the people they affect and support systems are robust and community-driven.

As we confront the stark realities outlined in the Poverty Report Card, NIWA remains committed to working collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders to create positive change in Nunavut. Together, we can build a future where all Inuit women and families have the opportunity to thrive and prosper.

For more information on NIWA's advocacy efforts and initiatives, please visit [www.amautiit.ca](http://www.amautiit.ca)

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**### About Nunavut Inuit Women's Association (NIWA):**

The Nunavut Inuit Women's Association (NIWA) is a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing the rights, well-being, and empowerment of Inuit women in Nunavut. Through advocacy, education, and community engagement, NIWA works to address the social, economic, and cultural challenges facing Inuit women and to promote gender equity and social justice within our communities. The Inuktitut word that best captures Amautiit's vision is *inunnguuijuq*, which refers to capable and well-adjusted individuals. The word *inunnguuijuq* incorporates the concept of nurturing and guidance provided by parents and others. This comprehensive support, which begins in pregnancy, fosters the strength, confidence, resilience, enrichment and empowerment needed for people to realize their rightful place in families and communities.