OBJECTIVES

The common objective of Qulliit and the CIÉRA’s CURA project Inuit Leadership in Nunavut and Nunavik was to make important Inuit women role models better known to Inuit youth and the general public. Inuit women tend to have more success in school than Inuit men and therefore generally reach higher levels of education but they are much less represented in elected positions. The Arnait Nipingit Leadership Summit and the book published on that occasion were important contributions to support and value women’s identity in Nunavut. It was also a call to young Inuit women to take the lead in public life and contribute directly to transform the current family crises.

SUMMARY

Arnait Nipingit is a project that was first proposed by Qulliit, the Nunavut Status of Women Council, to make a book from testimonies of a dozen Inuit women who have been, or are currently involved in public life. Qulliit wanted this book to be published at the occasion of a conference held in Iqaluit in September 2010 called, Arnait Nipingit (“Women’s Voices”) Leadership Summit. Twelve interviews are published in the book: Donna Adams, Nancy Anilniliak, Okalik Eegeesiak, Leena Evic, Ann Meekitjuk Hanson, Rhoda Innuksuk, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Madeleine Redfern, Joan Scottie, Elisapee Sheutiapik, Manitok Thomson, and Sheila Watt-Cloutier.

PARTNERS

Nunavut Secretariat, Government of Nunavut
Qulliit Status of Women Council
Nunavut Arctic College.
Arnait Video Production (Igloolik)
ISUMA.TV
OUTCOMES

BOOK DISTRIBUTION

• 80 books were distributed at the Arnait Nipingit Women Leadership Summit

• 35 copies of the book were ordered by the Canadian Studies Program of Carleton University to be used in class with students

• The book will be officially launched at the CIÉRA’s annual conference in Quebec City

• The book will be distributed in book stores in southern Canada through Nunavut Arctic College distribution service

• The book will be distributed in the Arctic through the Arctic Co-operatives Limited network of retail stores servicing 32 arctic communities

ORGANIZERS

Louis McComber, Shannon Partridge (editors)
Karliin Aariak, Louis McComber, Shannon Partridge (interviewers)
Leena Evic, Jean Kusugak, Gloria Putumiraqutuq (translators)
Kowesa Etitiq, Francis Lévesque (researchers)
Ryan Van Bruggen, Nunavut Secretariat, Government of Nunavut (concept of the book with women leaders, liaison with Qulliit, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, and the researchers)
Shylah Elliott (executive Director of Qulliit Status of Women Council, selection of women contributors)
Susan Sammons (director of the Language and Culture Program at Nunavut Arctic College)

MEDIA

Nunatsiaq News:
Arnait Nipingit
Online
http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/22091066_arnait_media_productions_puts_arnait_nipingat_online/

CBC North

Igloolik Arnait Video Blog:

Editors’ Presentation presented at the Arnait Nipingit Women Leadership Summit online at ISUMA.TV

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This book gathers the reflections of eleven Inuit women who have taken the risk of leadership in Canada and beyond. Whether an advocate, policy maker, or cultural leader, each woman tells the story of her journey toward becoming a voice for her fellow Inuit. Solid cultural values and a strong sense of service are their common denominators, even if their missions and personal convictions vary. Some are leaders in cultural development and environmentalism; others thrived as members of territorial legislatures. Some are advocates in their home communities; others took their passion for public issues to national and international arenas. In every case, these women are driven by a desire to see Inuit society flourish through its language, traditions, and institutions.

Edited by Louis McComber and Shannon Partridge