



Fact Sheet: Information about the Qulliq

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls honours Inuit people by including the Qulliq at the centre of the room during the Truth Gathering Process.



Elder Annie Bowkett from the Manitoba Inuit Association lighting the Qulliq during the opening ceremonies for the first National Expert Panel Hearings on August 22, 2017.

The Qulliq is an Inuit lamp that provides light and warmth to the Earth. The lamp is made out of soapstone and is shaped in a half moon with a vessel to hold oil for burning. The oil is poured into the vessel, and a mix of arctic cotton, *suputi*, and moss, *ijju/maniq*, is delicately placed along its groove. This wick then absorbs the oil below and it can then be lit. Once lit, the wick slowly burns, and is tended with a hook-shaped tool, the *taqquti*.

It was originally made by a husband for his wife. This symbolized that she was the flame keeper of the home. On a deeper spiritual level, it also honours the fact that women are the life carriers.

The lamp is traditionally used by women to take care of their families. It can be used for cooking, drying wet clothes, melting ice, boiling water, providing light to sew clothes for her family, and for creating warmth and energy within the home.

Within the National Inquiry, the Qulliq is a symbolic expression that demonstrates the strengths of Inuit women, as well as their tender love and care. It shall carry light into the families' as they continue on their healing journeys.

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