Introduction
By 2018, Greenland has officially had an independent controlled social and labour administration for 50 years. The realization in 1968 took place 12 years before the signing of the Greenlandic home rule act in 1979. The taking over of the social and labour administration became a historical turning point for the introduction of a more organized and democratic social welfare system.

Two focus points
During this initial historic archive study we divided the project up starting with the first first focus point from 1960-1979 and a second focus point from 1979 to 2018.

The first focus point
In Greenland, in the early 1960s, there was no systematic or equal distribution of social services. Focus was on the technical planning of the urbanization process, housing and infrastructure. There was little sign of social planning.

The second focus point
The time after 1980s and 1990s period prompted key social policy initiatives such as the first social reform commission and an actual Greenlandic led social workers education. During the 1970s Greenlanders traveled to Denmark in order to train as social workers. In 1988 the first class of Greenlandic social workers graduated in Greenland. Tough times for the public Greenlandic economy in the late 1990s and a lack of new social policies created a political pause, which was expressed in a stagnant process of forming new social legislation. The 2000s were about adjusting Greenland to the track of a modern welfare society in an international perspective, among other things, with a professional social reform commission. Today Greenlandic social workers graduate from the University of Greenland with BA-degrees and participate in research conference on arctic social work.

This short overview together with an article series aims to clarify the development of social work and show how the country moved from having a Danish run social system to having an independent Greenlandic run social system.

Further Reading
(For full references in Danish)

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Timeline

This study provides a historical back-drop of the Danish ministerial and early Greenlandic social policy considerations. We looked at the planning behind the purpose of establishing early social action that led to the education of the first Greenlandic social office workers (not yet social workers) in 1966. In 1968 the Danish government and the Greenlandic country council established the social and labour administration of Greenland to be placed in the capital Nuuk.

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Timeline (continues one column over)