

PRESS RELEASE



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PREPARATIONS FOR THE MOST IN-DEPTH PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY EVER UNDERTAKEN IN NUNAVIK ARE PROGRESSING AT A RAPID PACE AS QANUILIRPITAA? 2017 PREPARES TO SET SAIL IN AUGUST

Kuujuaq, Québec---June 15, 2017. Qanuilirpitaa? 2017 is pressing ahead, emboldened by the desire to contribute to the knowledge about the physical and mental health of Nunavimmiut through one of the largest ever public health surveys in Nunavik.

In less than three months an experienced team of researchers, Inuit interviewers and technicians will board the Canadian Coast Guard's research icebreaker Amundsen. It will be the beginning of a seven week trek up the Hudson Bay coast and then down the Ungava Bay coast stopping in each of the 14 communities of Nunavik.

Qanuilirpitaa? 2017 – How are we now? – will soon be a question on everyone's mind. In its quest for better health care and community services, Nunavik leaders who initiated this vast survey need Nunavimmiut to actively participate. It is the natural extension to the 2004 survey Qanuippitaa? – How are we? – which contributed to more effective health prevention and promotion programs and improved health care services.

The health of approximately 2,000 randomly chosen residents will be carefully examined during the survey. They will be contributing at improving physical and mental health services not only for their loved ones but for the entire community. About half the participants will involve 16 to 30-year-olds. The youth and young adults of Nunavik will make-up a key component of the survey. So will the 1,000 adults over 30 years old. This cohort includes a follow-up examination of a significant number of those who were part of the 2004 survey.

The data collected will help draw a clearer picture of the health status of Nunavimmiut.

“Qanuippitaa 2004 became a well-known health survey that inspired other regions to do their own surveys, so we are very proud to embark on Qanuilirpitaa 2017. I encourage Nunavimmiut to take part as this is about learning more about our health and taking ownership of our own data which can lead to improvement of services in our region” said Minnie Grey, Executive Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

All of the data collected will belong to the Inuit. The survey is being overseen by a steering community comprised of representatives of the main regional organizations. (NRBHSS, Makivik Corporation, KRG, KSB, Avataq, Qarjuit Youth Council, Mayors and other local representatives.).

Makivik President, Jobie Tukkiapik welcomes the news, “We hear over and over again Inuit are tired of being studied. However Qanuilirpitaa survey is different in that Inuit are full participants in the research and information on our health not only benefits our region but it also saves lives. Makivik is a supporter of Qanuilirpitaa 2017 and encourage fellow Nunavimmiut to cooperate fully.”

This is a special survey conducted for the Nunavik population and managed by their representatives. People can expect to hear a great deal more about this major initiative in the coming weeks. Look for the Qanuilirpitaa logo and go to our website nrbhss.gouv.qc.ca and click on Qanuilirpitaa? tab to learn more about a project that will impact your family’s health services and those of future generations to come.

The NRBHSS is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Québec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

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Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services
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