

*For improved access to healthcare*

## **Québec Greenlights Construction of 150 Housing Units for Nunavik Healthcare Workers**

**Quebec, April 14, 2023** – To support ongoing clinical efforts with the new service offering at the Ungava Tulattavik and Inuulitsivik Health Centres, the Minister of Health Christian Dubé, the Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit Ian Lafrenière, and the MNA for Ungava Denis Lamothe have announced approval for the construction, to start this summer, of 150 housing units for healthcare workers in Nunavik.

These new housing units will be added to those currently available to staff of the Ungava Tulattavik and Inuulitsivik Health Centres and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), which are already in full use. It should be noted that the real estate market in Nunavik faces various challenges and is struggling to meet the region's housing needs.

This construction project is thus part of the government's overall efforts to better attract and retain workers throughout the healthcare system, particularly in Nunavik. It will ultimately improve citizen access to quality care.

### **Quotes:**

“One of the major obstacles to attracting healthcare workers to Nunavik is the lack of housing. Our government is thus taking concrete action in order to better attract and retain workers and thereby meet significant needs. Ultimately, it is the citizens of these communities who will reap the benefits with access to quality health care. We are committed to providing our staff with an attractive and quality work environment in addition to improving accessibility for all. These are key elements of our health plan.”

*Christian Dubé, Minister of Health*

“This project demonstrates the importance our government places on the well-being of people living in the Nord-du-Québec Region. It is my hope that this development will strengthen our ability to compete in the recruitment and retention of the healthcare workers in the region. The project is also part of the government's efforts to develop new quality care units in Nunavik to meet multiple healthcare needs.”

*Ian Lafrenière, Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit*

“The announcement of this project to build housing for healthcare workers in the territories covered by the Ungava Tulattavik and Inuulitsivik Health Centres addresses a critical need. All communities in the Nunavik region will benefit from the arrival of these new healthcare professionals. We will be closely monitoring the progress of this project and will be there for the inauguration.”

*Denis Lamothe, MNA for Ungava and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public Security*

“The availability of quality housing is an essential aspect of our ability to attract and retain healthcare professionals here in Nunavik. We know that the supply is very limited in the communities here. The housing currently available is no longer sufficient to meet the need to build our teams and attract new professionals. Making these units available will therefore help us meet this important need. This project authorization will enable us to move quickly and bring this project to life, which will have a major impact on the services we can offer the public.”

*Jennifer Munick-Watkins, Executive Director, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS)*

**Highlights:**

- The Ungava Tulattavik and Inuulitsivik Health Centres currently serve all 14 Inuit communities.
- The housing project is residential. Each apartment will have one or two bedrooms and a living area including a living room, bathroom, kitchen, and dining room. Common areas are also planned.
- According to the schedule, the units will be delivered gradually, subject to their approval, starting in spring 2024.
- The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is managing this \$176.5-million project.

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