



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUTTAUTIIT CONFERENCE: THE FIRST REGIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND HEALING CONFERENCE IN NUNAVIK

Kuujuuaq, June 18, 2015 – On behalf of the Regional Suicide Prevention Committee, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is pleased to announce that Nunavik’s first regional suicide prevention and healing conference will be held Puvirnituk from October 5 to 10.

During the conference, 66 participants from across the region will take part in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), colonial history workshops as well as healing and grieving workshops. Conference participants will have the opportunity to participate in recreational and cultural activities throughout the week, organized by the community of Puvirnituk.

On the last day of the conference, there will be a well-being network exhibition to share information on programs and services available in Nunavik, providing an opportunity for participants and community members to learn about initiatives being taken to help improve the well-being of Nunavimmiut. The community will also be invited to participate in an experiential village activity that afternoon aimed at understanding the radical changes Nunavimmiut have experienced and exploring how bridges can be created to build a stronger community for all.

The creation of an annual regional suicide prevention and healing conference, inspired by the Dialogue for Life Conference in Montreal, was recommended through the Ilusiliriniqmi Pigutjiutini Qimirruniq process in order to raise public awareness around suicide and provide an opportunity for front line workers and community members to receive support and training. The Puttautiit Conference will become an annual event in Nunavik with the intent of holding it in a different community each year.

*The NRBHSS is a public agency created in 1978 under the **James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement**. It is responsible for nearly the entire 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

Information: Meredith Griffiths
Communication Officer, NRBHSS
819 964-2222, extension 275