



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## OPENING IN PUVIRNITUQ OF THE UVATTINUT SUPERVISED APARTMENTS

**Puvirnituk, Québec, September 10, 2014** – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), in partnership with the Inuulitsivik Health Centre (IHC), the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau, the Kativik Regional Government and the *Société d’habitation du Québec*, is proud to announce the opening of the Uvattinut Supervised Apartments. This non-profit community organization provides lodging and community support services for low-income Inuit who have mental health problems and are at risk of itinerancy. Since its mission is regional, Uvattinut has eight fully equipped apartments primarily for residents of Puvirnituk but also welcomes applicants from other villages in Nunavik.

“Because of the special needs of its clientele, Uvattinut can succeed only if there is a high level of collaboration with the community of Puvirnituk and the IHC, which has expertise in mental illness,” explained Elisapi Uitangak, Chairperson of the NRBHSS.

The IHC’s collaboration is seen as vital because it is the only organization that can provide the high level of complex services required by the residents of Uvattinut. These include nursing, social services and the services of educators from the mental-health rehabilitation centres, in particular Aaniavituqarq (crisis centre).

Staff from Uvattinut and Aaniavituqarq and social workers will perform the following tasks:

- assist residents with money management;
- ensure medication compliance;
- ensure the proper maintenance and upkeep of each apartment;
- assist residents in dealing with social and family problems.

Staff from Aaniavituqarq and on-site staff at Uvattinut will assume the following tasks:

- discourage inappropriate visitors such as drug dealers;
- stop squatters from taking over apartments;
- provide clients with the opportunity to socialize and enjoy recreational and traditional activities organized by the centre and the community;
- encourage clients to improve their skills in cooking and household activities;
- help clients acquire the skills necessary to their reintegration into the community.

*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 55<sup>th</sup> parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.*

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