



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CAMPAIGN FOR TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING IN KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ

**Kuujuuaq, July 12, 2012** – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) would like to report on the current tuberculosis outbreak in Kangiqsualujjuaq.

As of July 11, 2012, 76 tuberculosis cases have been reported in Nunavik for 2012: 67 in Kangiqsualujjuaq, 8 in Salluit and 1 in Kangiqsujaq. By comparison, the data for 2010 and 2011 indicate 12 and 27 respectively. This outbreak is consistent with the tendency observed over the past few years toward a rise in the number of cases of active tuberculosis in both Nunavut and Nunavik.

The primary symptoms are a major cough that persists for more than three weeks, often accompanied by expectorations, as well as fever, great fatigue, loss of appetite, night sweats and weight loss. “If you these symptoms, do not wait; visit your CLSC immediately,” urged Dr. Serge Déry, Nunavik Director of Public Health.

### Campaign for Tuberculosis Screening in Kangiqsualujjuaq

To prevent the spread of the disease, the Nunavik Department of Public Health and the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre are organizing a campaign for screening through pulmonary X-rays in the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

This examination, which is safe and painless, will be offered to individuals aged 15 years or over who have not undergone a pulmonary X-ray since February 2012. They will receive an invitation by mail to have X-rays taken at the CLSC starting on July 23 and continuing until mid-August. The screening will then continue house by house at a rate of approximately 40 residents per day. The order of households will be announced over the radio each day.

“We will set up all the measures to ensure the community’s safety. Those measures will without a doubt contribute to controlling and slowing down the spread of tuberculosis,” pointed out Dr. Déry.

*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 55<sup>th</sup> parallel in terms of the provision of health services 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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