



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## RELOCATION OF THE NORTHERN QUÉBEC MODULE

**Kuujuuaq, September 9, 2010** – The organizations of the Nunavik health and social services network—the Inuulitsivik Health Centre, the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS)—deplore the situation concerning the project for relocating the *Module du Nord Québécois (MNQ)* to the former Chinese hospital.

In May and June this year, various meetings were held with the elected officials and the population of Villeray as well as the partners concerned (the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)*, the NRBHSS and the Montréal Agency). During those meetings, it became apparent that the project raised several concerns and objections. To meet these concerns, various studies were requested and an implementation committee to be set up.

Faced with the opposition, the Nunavik health and social services organizations were strongly concerned that the Inuit clientele would not be accepted in the Villeray borough even though we received some support for the project. “The organizations of the Nunavik network firmly believe that the injury inflicted is too deep to pursue the relocation project to the former Chinese hospital,” stated Alasie Arngak, Chairperson of the NRBHSS board of directors.

Given the situation, a regional decision was made to relocate to another area that responds to our needs and which would permit centralizing the services offered by the *MNQ*.

For the moment, the clients are lodged in the existing installations and we remain optimistic about finding a solution in the near future. “The population remains at the heart of our priorities and we will invest all the efforts necessary to bring the relocation project to a satisfactory conclusion,” affirmed Jeannie May, Executive Director of the NRBHSS.

The *MNQ*'s mandate has multiple facets. Applications for appointments in Montréal are forwarded to the *MNQ* by the nurses of the 14 Nunavik villages. The *MNQ* organizes lodging in transit homes for the patients as well as support services. The *MNQ* monitors the patients and ensures that they return to their home community as soon as possible. It offers interpretation and transportation services to the patients and their families while they are in Montréal. Finally, it has access to medical consultants, a social worker and a number of nurses to ensure the Inuit patients receive the appropriate care. The *MNQ* is under the authority of the Inuulitsivik Health Centre in Puvirnituk and offers services to the entire Nunavik population.

- 30 -

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