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NUNAVIK CLINICAL PLAN: FOCUS GROUPS TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES IN DEVELOPING HEALTH SERVICES

Kuujjuaq, November 28, 2019 – In November, focus groups were organized in Kuujjuaq to bring together Nunavimmiut from all 14 Nunavik villages to discuss the development of health services that are culturally adapted to Nunavik. These meetings are in line with the [Nunavik Regional Clinical Plan](#).

On November 12, the users of Kangiqsualujjuaq, Salluit, Inukjuak, Puvirnituq and Kuujjuaq formed the first group. On November 13, those from Ivujivik, Umiujaq, Quaqtaq, Aupaluk and Tasiujaq held their discussions. Those from Akulivik, Kuujjuaraapik, Kangiqsujuaq, Kangirsuk and Umiujaq then met on November 14. All attended on a voluntary basis and were interested in discussing and finding potential solutions to the system’s challenges. Those challenges were raised by the population during interviews held in the context of the survey on the users’ perspective in 2018-2019.

Several topics were discussed, including the issues of communications between care centres (North-South), the cultural integration of workers, the development of mental-health care, the needs in terms of training and the development of specialized services in the North. Those discussions will enable defining how those ideas could be implanted in the future.

Minnie Grey, Executive Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, took the time to meet the participants of the focus groups. With them, she emphasized the importance of user participation in the development of a care network that is more closely aligned with the needs and values of the Inuit population.

The organization of the focus groups was facilitated by funding from the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)*, pursuant to the project “*Partenariat entre les usagers, leurs proches et les autres acteurs des établissements du réseau de la santé et des services sociaux*” [Partnership between the users, their loved ones and other actors of the institutions of the health and social services network].

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services 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 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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