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## Saqijjuq Is Now a Fully Independent Community Organization

**Kuujuuaq, November 7, 2023** – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is pleased to announce that the Saqijjuq program has become a fully-fledged organization. Saqijjuq has been registered as a non-profit organization, and is already ready to launch its operations.

"Saqijjuq began in 2014 with a mission to promote cultural healing in Nunavik by offering community services rooted in Inuit traditions and culture. This successful initiative was made possible thanks to the active involvement of our local and national partners. We are very proud of the progress made since the establishment of these services and of the benefits they have brought to the community," said Jennifer Munick-Watkins, Executive Director of NRBHSS.

"We are delighted that Saqijjuq is now an organization by Inuit, for Inuit and have renewed our commitment to support its mission," she added. This commitment will take various forms such as service loans and recurring funding from the Nunavik Regional Board. Good interministerial collaboration, both provincially and federally with Saqijjuq and regional organizations, is in place to support the community organization and its services.

Saqijjuq currently employs 44 people, including 37 Inuit, across three organizations. The priorities outlined for the next two years include consolidating existing services, providing training and education for teams, and fostering Inuit leadership. The next step in Saqijjuq's autonomy is the first Annual General Meeting and election of the first Board of Directors, scheduled for November 29.

### About Saqijjuq

Launched in 2014 by the NRBHSS and its regional and national partners, Saqijjuq's mission is to promote cultural healing in Nunavik through collaborative community actions rooted in Inuit values and traditions.

Saqijjuq includes a prevention component, with initiatives that encourage positive lifestyles, offer activities to strengthen self-esteem among young people, and support the transmission of Inuit cultural and community values. It also includes an intervention component through concerted community services regarding psychosocial issues, addictions and violence, as well as an intervention component focused on suicide prevention. Each year, several hundred people benefit from one or more of these services.



**Jonathan Bouchard, Coordinator of Saqijuq and Randy Gordon, Project Manager of Saqijuq**  
*Picture: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services*

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About the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Service:

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Quebec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of providing health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

**Source:** Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS)

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