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RÉGIE RÉGIONALE DE LA SANTÉ ET DES SERVICES SOCIAUX DU NUNAVIK
NUNAVIK REGIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

SAVE LIVES, JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Kuujjuaq, March 24, 2023 – World Tuberculosis Day, observed on March 24, is the occasion to remember that the fight against this disease has not ended. Since 2015, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), in conjunction with the communities of Nunavik, have initiated several efforts toward a plan to eliminate tuberculosis.

The earlier the disease is detected, the fewer the consequences for the stricken individual and the lower the risks of spreading the disease to others. In 2023, the NRBHSS will continue working with the health centres and the communities to carry out testing, provide treatment and organize educational activities related to the disease.

Since 2012, vaccination against tuberculosis (BCG) has been reintroduced progressively in some of the communities of Nunavik. On January 1, 2023, the BCG vaccine was officially integrated into the children's vaccination schedule for all infants in Nunavik, to protect them from the serious consequences associated with tuberculosis. For all children born in Nunavik, after January 1, 2023, vaccination with BCG is ideally provided before the age of one month, but only after receiving a negative test result for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

In the past year, the initiatives carried out have bolstered self-determination and the integration of Inuit knowledge and expertise into the plan to eliminate tuberculosis. An important innovation is the integration of Public Health Officers (PHOs). These people are part of the teams in some communities who orient community interventions. Sailivik, a space dedicated to prevention and health-promotion activities, was inaugurated in 2022 in Kangiqsualujjuaq. Through the joint efforts of Inuit workers and Public Health nurses, the centre is characterized by an approach aimed at fostering local participation in terms of disease prevention and promotion of health and well-being. The new leadership on the regional anti-tuberculosis committee, assumed by Mayor Qiallak Nappartuk, contributes to the serious motivation among the mayors and other leaders to work together.

The NRBHSS expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who have followed Public Health recommendations to protect their health and that of their community. Let's all work together against tuberculosis and keep our communities healthy.

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 the provision of health 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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