

DHSD Minister Statement – Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Family Services & Health Services

Mr. Speaker,

Family Services

Inuit Child First Initiative

New Appeal Process

DHSD has put in place an appeals mechanism to ensure clients have a process to access in cases where it is felt a decision regarding access to their NIHBs and/or ICFI's does not align with policy, procedure(s), or program directive(s). Beneficiaries who wish to make an Appeal can contact the Child Services Manager Dolores Flowers who will organize the appropriate documentation to serve to the Appeals Committee.

Contact information:

Dolores.flowers@nunatsiavut.com or childfirst@nunatsiavut.com

709 947 3328 ext 268

New Staff

The ICFI are pleased to welcome two new staff to the ICFI. Tracy Dicker and Tuttu Hunter have been hired in Hopedale and Happy Valley Goose-Bay, respectively. They began their positions on January 15th, 2024. Congratulations to you both on your new positions. We are excited to continue working together in your new capacity.

Social Development

Hilary Fry, Indigenous Relations Manager presented to NL Health Services Labrador-Grenfell Zone a PowerPoint presentation that she has developed about Nunatsiavut Government and Labrador Inuit. So far delivered to senior management in the HVGB region. Next is St. Anthony and Lab West. The long-term plan is that all front-line providers receive this education in person by me as part of their orientation

Health Services Mr. Speaker,

Electronic Nursing Month End Reporting

A new electronic month end reporting platform for Nursing will be rolling out in the New Year. This platform was developed in partnership with the NG Epidemiologist, and this being tested December 7, 2023 Nursing staff and the plan for full implementation in January 2024. This new monthly reporting system will provide a more fulsome and real time reporting system for the Community Health Nursing Program.

Tuberculosis

Case counts for 2023 remain stable with no new outbreaks or clusters. Community engagement sessions have been completed in all five communities throughout Nunatsiavut. Sessions were well attended. Information to follow once information has been compiled.

TB Bulletin to be rolled out in the New Year to provide an update on community engagement. The TB social media campaign continues in collaboration with the Communications Department.

Vision:

DHSD are in the process of putting out an Request for Proposals for vision clinics on the North Coast and Upper Lake Melville. We are developing a contract between NG and vision providers. Purchasing vision equipment for all 5 communities in Nunatsiavut. Cowan's Optical (vision clinic who currently serves the North Coast Communities) worked out of Vogue Optical week of December 4, 2023 in Goose Bay. Working on the current waitlist.

Ground Transportation Proposal put forth by Ground Transportation Drivers requesting a second 11 passenger wheel chair accessible van.

NIHB Staff:

Selma Suarak started as NIHB Interpreter/Translator on November 20th, 2023. She works from the Labrador Health Centre. Welcome Selma all the best in your new position, patients will be very happy that you are there to help them.

Community Health Promotion Calendar

Nearing finalization following input from most team leaders. Calendars will also be adaptable to specific communities, with national days/weeks marked for health days (i.e. world rabies day, national breast-feeding week etc.).

Snowmobile Safety Infographic

Developed for Wellness Coalition and Community staff. This resource is currently in final stage of edits.

DHSD

Mr. Speaker,

QNIHS

Survey Data Collection

Data collection in all five communities throughout Nunatsiavut clued up on Friday November 24, 2023. A total of 574 surveys were completed, which is 97.8% of our goal. Further data to follow once time permits for analysis.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL)

DHSD held an in-person MEL session with a consultant the ITK has hired to support regions with the evaluation portion of data collection. The CLOs (Fieldworkers), QNIHS team and Communications Manager was present for the 2-day in person evaluation session. The NG Epidemiologist presented on some preliminary data collected from QNIHS appointment and data log.

CLOs and Fieldworkers, we present with a small token of appreciation to mark this momentous accomplishment for NG.

QNIHS Managers Meeting

The QNIHS Manger and Epidemiologist attend QNIHS with ITK and the Inuit regions in Ottawa from November 14-17, 2023. This was a strategic planning meeting, with dedicated discussion on the next phase (data analysis and dissemination), communications, etc.

Data Analysis & Dissemination

The next phase of the QNIHS is the data analysis and dissemination phase. This phase will also require dedicated support from the Communications department to support. Janice Goudie has been meeting with the team internally since September 2023 to prepare for upcoming communication priorities.

Mr. Speaker,

Indigenous Health Relations Manager

Cultural Safety Collaborative

NLHS-Labrador Grenfell Zone received funding from Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC) – partnered with NG.

A power point presentation, including: (1) Nunatsiavut communities, (2) Government, (3) DHSD and services, and (4) Labrador Inuit Culture (considerations for care) has been developed.

DHSD

Delivered in-person to senior management at the Labrador Health Centre in December 2023 with great feedback.

The plan:

Deliver to senior management at the other main sites (St. Anthony and Labrador West), and include in mandatory orientation during onboarding of all staff within health services.

Additional funding to be used to bring senior management within NLHS to Nunatsiavut to provide greater understanding of culture, barriers and challenges to accessing health services.

Anti-Racism Events

Funding received through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Two-part event(s):

- Community engagement sessions:

Two-day event: took place in November, 2023 in HVGB.

Included representation from all communities within Nunatsiavut and ULM, including youth and elders, some external stakeholders, and internal NG staff.

Exchange of powerful and emotional but insightful experiences.

Framework to combat Indigenous-specific racism developed as a result of “What we heard” at sessions.

- Anti-Indigenous Racism Forum:

Second two-day event: scheduled Jan 23-24, 2024 in HVGB

Participants (approx. 100) - combination of community, NG staff, and professionals from non-Indigenous systems (healthcare, education, justice, CSSD).

Hired professional facilitator from MUN: Dr. Delores Mullings: Vice Provost on anti-racism, diversity.

Event - a combination of knowledge sharing and application-based work (group work, case scenarios, practice outlines).

Panel of speakers: NG staff and community members.

The plan: Final report to be developed and shared: include recommendations for non-Indigenous providers to bring awareness, guide policy, and improve practice(s) re. anti-Indigenous racism in colonial systems and workplaces.