



News release

Government of Nunavut intensifies efforts to recruit nurses

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 29, 2001) - Health & Social Services Minister Ed Picco has announced his department will be implementing key recommendations of the Nunavut Illuarsaijiit Action Team's Nurse Recruitment and Retention Report. The initiative is designed to attract nurses for long-term employment in the territory.

In keeping with the report's recommendations, nurses who sign on for a minimum three-year stay in Nunavut will be offered a taxable labour market supplement of \$24,000. The supplement consists of a \$6,000 sign-on bonus, \$2,000 paid quarterly over two years plus a \$2,000 bonus at the end of the second year. The incentive package will take effect immediately.

"The shortage of nurses and the demand for them has forced us to take vigorous measures to recruit and retain personnel," Minister Picco said. "By doing this now, we hope to ensure we have a stable, competent, professional workforce."

Nunavut must compete with other jurisdictions throughout North America that offer attractive sign-on bonuses and benefit packages. Other remote Canadian jurisdictions have instituted special recruitment initiatives including: temporary labour market supplements, signing bonuses, free or subsidized rent, paid professional development and vacation travel assistance.

"These incentives, which are designed to specifically attract nurses to work in Nunavut, are not meant to underrate the contributions of people working in other parts of the health system." Minister Picco said.

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