



News release

Government of Nunavut hosts hearing symposium in Iqaluit

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 15, 2001) – The Department of Education, in a joint initiative with the Department of Health and Social Services, is hosting a symposium to examine the issues surrounding hearing loss in Nunavut. The series of meetings, which will run from March 20 to 22, will bring Nunavummiut together with hearing experts from various Canadian universities and institutions.

“Hearing loss can be devastating for those affected - especially children,” Education Minister Peter Kilabuk said. “It is important that we learn as much as we can about hearing loss and preventative practices and programs so that we can design or adapt the appropriate strategy for Nunavut.”

As the group examines the specific hearing issues facing remote and northern communities, the focus will be on prevention, identification, intervention and follow-up services. Discussions will include perspectives from the home, school and community environments.

“Nunavut must face the challenges that surround the issue of hearing loss,” Health and Social Services Minister Ed Picco said. “These meetings will give us the opportunity to work with others who have found solutions and designed effective programs or models of service that work well in remote and northern locations.”

The federal government is funding the \$118,000.00 conference through the Lakehead University Centre of Excellence for Children and Youth with Special Needs. Nunavut is in partnership with this centre.

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