



News release

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Nunavut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (October 25, 2001) - Health & Social Services Minister Ed Picco wants to remind Nunavummiut that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Canadian Cancer Society reports that every day throughout Canada an average of 53 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and every day 15 women in the country die of the disease.

“Even though the incidence rates of breast cancer are much lower than in the rest of Canada, women in the north are not immune,” Minister Picco said. “Over the past 10 years, 22 cases of breast cancer have been reported in Nunavut.”

Breast cancer is treatable if caught early enough and Picco urges women in Nunavut to take care of themselves and watch for the signs.

“Well-women clinics throughout Nunavut will continue to promote breast self-examination and dietary health,” he said. “Proper diet and exercise can also go a long way towards preventing a number of diseases. Breast self-examination when combined with regular check-ups and mammography if necessary, will help improve a woman's chances of having the disease diagnosed early.”

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