



## News Release

### Wellness workers meet to discuss violence, suicide prevention, substance abuse

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 6, 2002)** – The Department of Health and Social Services will host Nunavut's first Community Wellness Symposium on February 12, 13 and 14 in Iqaluit.

Health and Social Services Minister Ed Picco said the symposium is designed to bring Nunavut community wellness workers together to work on issues such as violence, suicide prevention and substance abuse. Participants will also focus on topics such as men's healing, land-based initiatives and peer counseling.

“This event will bring together wellness workers from across the territory to discuss some difficult issues facing Nunavumiut today,” Minister Picco said. “The symposium will provide an ideal venue for people to sit together and begin to break the sense of isolation people working on these issues can sometimes feel.”

The department has invited community wellness coordinators and leaders of community-based wellness projects, as well as representatives of Inuit organizations and other partner groups.

During the week the department will work with participants toward establishing a stable network of people and organizations that will operate independently of government, but with greater knowledge of ways in which the department can offer support.

Minister Picco will open the symposium at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 12 at the Navigator Inn.

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