



News release

Health minister opens residential wellness facility

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 17, 2003) – Health and Social Services Minister Ed Picco opened an Iqaluit-based facility providing residential programming to meet a variety of wellness and coping needs in the Qikiqtani region

Akausisarvik will provide short-term residential programming for those who would be able to live independently, but who need some specific skill development or short term care. Skill development could be in such areas as stress management, job skills or other skills promoting health and more independent living.

“I am very pleased that the Pairijait Tigumivik Society, the City of Iqaluit, Human Resource Development Canada and Health and Social Services have established this partnership,” Minister Picco said. “Establishing this facility would not have been possible without this partnership.”

In 2001, the City of Iqaluit, through a process funded by Human Resource Development Canada, approved a Continuum of Care plan, designed to create a more favourable environment for Iqalungmiut affected by homelessness. The programming that Akausisarvik will provide responds to one of the highest priority needs identified in the plan.

“The Pairijait Tigumivik Society was one of the first advocates for these services and I am especially pleased that the Society has agreed to manage the operations of the facility,” Minister Picco said. “The Society already operates the elders’ facility and Tammaativvik, the medical boarding home in Iqaluit, making this an excellent fit.”

In 2002, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut approved funding for an Addictions and Mental Health Strategy, which included funds for a program to help people develop coping and other life skills in a short-term residential setting. Akausisarvik will serve as a bridge to other community and regional services, which can be customized to suit each client’s needs.

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