



News Release

Contracts Signed for Qikiqtani General Hospital

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 26, 2004) – Significant progress for upgraded health care in the Baffin Region was made with the signing today of a development agreement and a construction contract for the new \$46 million Qikiqtani General Hospital.

The Government of Nunavut signed the development agreement with Qikiqtaaluk Corp., which in turn signed a construction contract with SNC-Lavalin Engineers and Constructors Inc.

Representing the Government of Nunavut at the signing ceremony were Finance Minister Leona Aglukkaq, Health and Social Services Minister Levinia Brown and Minister of Community and Government Services Peter Kilabuk.

Peter Keenainak, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer and Harry Flaherty, Project Director signed on behalf of Qikiqtaaluk Corp. Garry Mockler of SNC-Lavalin was also present.

Qikiqtaaluk Corp. has received financial support for this development agreement from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. through Atuqtuarvik Corporation. As project developer Qikiqtaaluk Corp. owns the facility.

“This new facility will keep health care dollars in Nunavut and allow us to expand the scope of health care programs and services delivered in the territory,” said Aglukkaq.

“As the project developer Qikiqtaaluk Corp. will provide valuable project development experience on this large scale, complex project,” said NTI President Paul Kaludjak. “This is an extremely important accomplishment for one of our Inuit corporations.”

After opening its doors in 2006, the hospital will be a focal point for health care in Nunavut resulting in fewer Nunavummiut being medivaced to southern centres for their care needs.

“We are building on our care closer to home model,” said Brown. “The new hospital will help us retain and recruit health care professionals and will provide training opportunities for Nunavummiut.”

“Construction of the Qikiqtani General Hospital will provide jobs for Inuit because provisions have been built into the construction contract to encourage Inuit employment,” said Kilabuk.

Once the new facility is complete, the existing Baffin Regional Hospital will house dietetics, a pharmacy, rehabilitation services, ambulatory care, support services and specialists' clinics.

- 30 -

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