



Department of Health & Social Services
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
Anniaktoliginikot, Inulikiyiitlu Havakviat
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News Release

Nunavut First in Canada to Provide all its Communities with Telehealth Units

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 1, 2005) – Nunavut is the first jurisdiction in Canada to establish interconnected telehealth units in all community health centres. The Department of Health and Social Services is launching telehealth facilities in Kimmirut and Whale Cove, completing its chain of connectivity. Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi (IIU network) connects Nunavummiut to quality care.

“I am proud to say that Nunavut is a leader in North America in the field of telehealth technology. We are very pleased that we have achieved our goal of having all 25 communities in Nunavut equipped with telehealth units.” Health and Social Services Minister Levinia Brown said. “The work done by Health and Social Services staff to develop the IIU network and the use of this innovative program by Nunavummiut is building healthy communities and bringing care closer to home.”

Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi (IIU), Nunavut’s telehealth network, offers programs such as family visitations, continuing medical education, pediatrics and obstetrics. It improves the accessibility and quality of care delivered in the communities in a way that is cost effective by reducing the need to travel to other locations for medical and social care.

The Ikpigusukniqmut Foundation received a total amount of \$150,000 from NorthwTel and video-conferencing developer Tandberg Canada Inc. to establish telehealth centres in Qikiqtarjuaq, Kimmirut and Whale Cove. NorthwTel also covered the cost of wiring the buildings at 10 telehealth sites.

“This is an example of how partnerships between the private sector and the public sector help Nunavut develop and expand its economy,” said Brown. “Telehealth is being used and delivered in Nunavut by Nunavummiut to give our people better access to health professionals outside their community.”

In the fall of 2004, Nunavut’s IIU network won a Silver Award of Excellence at the 2004 Canadian Information Productivity Awards and an Award of Excellence from the Canadian Society of Telehealth.

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