

Background:

Minister opens Naja Isabelle Home for severely disabled

The Naja Isabelle Home continues the tradition of caring for the disabled that began in the 1940s with the opening of Ste. Theresa Hospital. It was operated by the Diocese of Hudson's Bay. The Grey Nuns provided nurses and other staff for the facility.

In 2002, the Pimaksirvik Corporation was created by the Chesterfield Inlet Hamlet Council to take over the service contract. (*Pimaksirvik* means 'home for those who cannot look after themselves.') At that time, work began to design a modern facility to better serve the needs of the clients.

A community contest was held to name the new facility. The name "Naja Isabelle Home" was chosen to honour Sister Thérèse Isabelle who worked for more than 15 years as both a Nurse and Director of Nursing at Ste. Theresa Hospital as well as for more than three years in other Nunavut communities.

The new facility was built by GC North. The total budget was \$3.8 million, including furniture, fixtures and equipment. It began operations in January 2005. It is 8,337 square feet (774.5 m²) in size.

The Pimaksirvik Corporation operates the Naja Isabelle Home. It employs 35 people, of whom 28 are NLCA Beneficiaries. It is a major employer in the community of 345. All staff live in the community. Nunavut Arctic College and the Corporation developed a training program that allowed residents to acquire the skills needed to care for patients properly.

Naja Isabelle Home currently hosts 10 patients. They range in age from infants to mature adults and come from all over Nunavut. The residential facility provides 24/7 supervision of patients who require specialized care at level 4 or 5. This level of care requires RNs, LPNs or Nursing Assistants at all times to respond to the medical needs and specialized program of the patients.

The President and CEO of Pimaksirvik Corporation is Mark Ippiak. He can be reached at 867-898-9292 still the right number .