



News Release

New continuing care service approved for Nunavut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 13, 2005) – A new ‘continuing care’ service will be offered in Nunavut, beginning with the communities of Gjoa Haven and Igloolik, Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced today.

“People who require 24-hour medical care will be better able to stay in Nunavut, rather than move to out-of-territory facilities,” Aglukkaq said. “The new service will expand the options available to adults with medical needs to receive the care they need closer to home. This new service was promised in *Pinasuaqtavut*, the government’s mandate.”

The Government of Nunavut will begin with two ‘Continuing Care Centre’ facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik. The first should be operational by spring 2008. Staff will consult with local residents shortly on the location and design of the centres.

The new continuing care service provides for people in need of 24-hour personal care, palliative care, respite care and sub-acute care. It is anticipated that the two new centres will include space to offer wellness and community care programs, as well as host small events that will support on-going links between the community and patients.

Residential care is now offered in Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. The new services in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik will complement both this type of service and home and community care services now offered throughout the territory.

Health and Social Services spends approximately \$4.7 million annually on continuing care services provided outside Nunavut. By offering continuing care in Nunavut, not only will persons who require the service benefit but there will be job opportunities for local residents. Training and certification will be available in Nunavut to help ensure qualified staff is in place when the facilities open.

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