



News Release

Foster Care and Special Care Rates Increased

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 27, 2005) – Nunavut foster parents will receive more financial support thanks to a \$1 million increase in funding, Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced today.

“We have a new rate guide that ensures foster parents receive adequate and equitable per diems, regardless of which region or community they live in,” Aglukkaq said. “The rate increase is one way the Government of Nunavut is supporting the healthy development of children and youth, as promised in *Pinasuaqtavut*.”

The new rate guide also accommodates the needs of children in care with special challenges. Assessment guidelines have been established that will help the social worker evaluate the demands placed on a foster family in tending to a child’s social, physical and behavioural needs. Depending on a child’s needs, a foster family could receive a per diem of up to \$100 a day.

The new base rates are as follows:

- \$43 for Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Pangnirtung, Sanikiluaq, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Whale Cove, Arviat, Cape Dorset, and Kugluktuk
- \$45 for Qikiqtarjuaq, Hall Beach, Repulse Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Igloolik, Baker Lake, and Coral Harbour
- \$47 for Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Resolute Bay
- \$50 for Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, and Kugaaruk.

“Foster parents are very important to the well being of vulnerable children,” Aglukkaq said. “They are the safety net for families in crisis. I appreciate their dedication and generous spirit.”

At present there are about 295 foster homes in Nunavut. On average, about 325 children are in care each month. This is the first rate increase since 1999. Rates ranged from \$35 to \$100 a day, and varied by region, a legacy of the health board system in place until 2000.

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