



News Release

Grand opening of Kivalliq Health Centre celebrated

RANKIN INLET, Nunavut (September 14, 2005) – Premier Paul Okalik and Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq formally opened the new Kivalliq Health Centre in Rankin Inlet today, putting into action a key component of the Government of Nunavut's *Closer to Home* health care strategy.

“The Kivalliq Health Centre gives the people of the Kivalliq more health care options,” said Premier Okalik. “It is an important part of the government's commitment to build Healthy Communities.”

“The new health centre is an important part of the health network we are ‘growing’ to serve Nunavummiut better,” said Minister Aglukkaq. “People will no longer have to travel outside of Nunavut to access essential diagnostic and care services.”

The \$20 million project began in 2001. Operations began ahead of schedule, in late August, as a result of a fire at the Rankin Inlet Health Centre. The new facility puts under one roof a team of nurses, physicians and other professional and support staff that together provide out-patient, maternity, laboratory and emergency services. In the past, these services were offered on a smaller scale in several locations around the hamlet.

Over the coming months, additional services will come on-line, including acute pediatric care, in-patient care, and palliative care. These services were not available in the Kivalliq before.

Staffing for the Kivalliq Health Centre is almost complete. The old Health Centre is being renovated for use by public health, rehabilitation, and home care services.

See Backgrounder

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