



News Release

New funds for suicide prevention work in Nunavut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 6, 2006) – Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq today announced that Nunavut is ready to give effect to Health Canada's National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

“Youth suicide is an urgent issue for Inuit youth, one which needs community-specific approaches yet builds on the knowledge we already have about causes, prevention, and responding to crisis,” said Aglukkaq.

Successful implementation of the strategy will reduce risk factors, promote prevention, and build new links among governments, agencies and community groups.

Nunavut's share of the national strategy funds for 2006-07 is \$439,868. This will be administered by a steering committee with members from the Government of Nunavut, Health Canada, the Embrace Life Council, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and the National Inuit Youth Council. The steering committee will have information about Nunavut's Inuusiqaatsiarniq Strategy ready for distribution in a few weeks, including application forms. (*Inuusiqaatsiarniq* roughly means ‘to be having a good life.’)

“Suicide is a problem that not only affects youth but impacts the whole community,” said Aglukkaq. “I am pleased the Government of Nunavut and the federal government can work together on reducing the suicide rate among Inuit youth. This work also complements the on-going efforts of the department to build healthy communities.”

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