

## News Release

## Qikiqtani General Hospital Opens

**IQALUIT, Nunavut** (October 19, 2007) – Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Premier Paul Okalik today officially opened Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit. The new hospital will provide more Nunavummiut with state-of-the-art health care.

"We will be proud of this new health facility for many years to come," said Aglukkaq. "This is a major step in our plan to improve access to health care throughout the territory and I look forward to the benefits it will bring Nunavummiut."

There is a total capacity of 35 beds at the new hospital, with an expanded in-patient unit, increased number of day surgery beds and more birthing rooms. The total project cost is \$64 million, including equipment.

"The Qikiqtani General Hospital will be providing Nunavummiut with care closer to home and we will all experience the benefits," said Okalik. "Today is a momentous day for health care in Nunavut."

"The hospital is more reflective of Nunavut's needs and it has been built to keep pace with the future, said Aglukkaq. "We have made significant steps towards the hospital's accreditation, and anticipate that the brand new building meets those standards, with our self assessment targeted for completion in the spring."

To immediately operate the new facility thirteen new positions have been added. The transfer of services from the Baffin Regional Hospital will take 2 to 3 weeks to complete. The existing Baffin Regional Hospital will be used for physicians' and specialists' clinics and out-patient services.

"Today's grand opening shows our government's on-going commitment to enhancing health services and supporting the well being of Nunavummiut," said Okalik. "

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