



News Release

Expansion of Nunavut Nursing Program

IQALUIT, Nunavut (July 8, 2008) – Minister of Health and Social Services Leona Aglukkaq today announced the expansion of the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing program, as part of the Nurse Recruitment and Retention Strategy, and commitment to home-grown nurses.

“The nursing program continues to be a success, and we are doing everything possible to encourage Nunavummiut to study health related fields,” said Aglukkaq. “We are committed to developing a home-grown nursing workforce, and by expanding the program we are making it possible for Nunavummiut outside of Iqaluit to enjoy a rewarding career.”

In the fall of 2008, foundation studies for the nursing program are to be expanded to the communities of Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, with an enrollment target of 15 students in each community. A foundation study is a one-year program offered to better prepare potential students in math and sciences for entering the nursing program.

Targeted for 2009, the Nunavut Arctic College nursing program will be offered in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

In addition, nursing students needing child care services will now be eligible for a subsidy.

“The training and delivery of health-related services in Nunavut is crucial to our collective well-being,” said Ed Picco, Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. “I am thrilled with this expansion and look forward to building on the success of our nursing program across the territory.”

The Nurse Recruitment and Retention Strategy, released in November 2007, is a five-year, multi-dimensional plan that includes initiatives aimed at nurse recruitment, orientation, mentoring and professional development, education and training initiatives for Inuit, and support for Nunavut nursing students.

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