

News Release



GN and NTI Take Leadership to Help Nunavummiut Choose Life

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 12, 2009) – Premier Eva Aariak and acting NTI President James Eetoolook are taking leadership to help Nunavummiut choose life by announcing a suicide alertness and intervention training program.

"Across the territory, I want people to choose life," said Premier Aariak. "To that end, we are launching a training program, Uqaqatigiiluk!, to help family members, friends and front-line workers feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide by someone they know is at risk. Uqaqatigiiluk! will be delivered in the Inuit language and English across the territory this year."

"Providing our caregivers with the tools they need to help people at risk of suicide is a very positive step," said acting NTI President James Eetoolook. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with the GN on this critical issue."

P^cb^cb^cb.! / Uqaqatigiiluk! / Talk About It!, Nunavut's suicide alertness and intervention training program, will be an adaptation of the best-practice Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshops developed by Calgary-based LivingWorks Education. The two-day training program will be delivered in 11 Nunavut communities and at professional development conferences for front-line government employees during the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

The Premier made the announcement at the conclusion of a three-day workshop in Iqaluit. Two dozen Nunavummiut took the two-day ASIST training, then spent a third day reflecting on the training they had received and developing recommendations on how the curriculum and materials can best be adapted for delivery in Nunavut communities.

Uqaqatigiiluk! is being implemented by the Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services. The program will be delivered to Nunavummiut over the coming year in the Inuit language and English. To facilitate this goal, five-day Train-the-Trainer workshops will also be held to prepare Nunavummiut to deliver Uqaqatigiiluk! in our communities.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Government of Nunavut are partners in this project, which secured \$823,000 in funding from Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund for the adaptation of ASIST and initial delivery of Uqaqatigiiluk! training in Nunavut communities.

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