

News Release

Government responds to Iqaluit tragedy

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 8, 2011) – While many of the details concerning yesterday's four deaths in Igaluit are still emerging, the Government of Nunavut has gathered resources to assist those impacted by this tragedy.

"There are no words that can adequately describe the shock and grief that is resonating throughout Iqaluit and Nunavut. My heart goes out to the family and friends of those who have been touched by this tragedy," said Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak.

The Government of Nunavut has mobilized a number of resources to offer assistance to those who have been impacted by this event. There are counseling services available from a number of places and additional crisis counselors are being flown into Iqaluit to assist. A full list of crisis support services is available on the Government of Nunavut website at www.gov.nu.ca.

Crisis Counseling is available in Iqaluit at the Social Services office located at Grinnell Place, beside the Post Office or they can be telephoned at 975-7250.

"There are many government and non-government services available to Iqalummiut who are coping with this devastating event, and I encourage people to make use of this assistance," said Premier Eva Aariak. "I ask Nunavummiut to be aware of how this is affecting those around you. Watch for signs that people need further assistance and ask for help when it is required. Let us support each other during this time of need, and find the strength to move past this tragedy."

###

For More Information Contact:

Pam Coulter **Director of Communications** Dept. of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Tel: 867-975-6049

Email: pcoulter2@gov.nu.ca

News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on www.gov.nu.ca. Tuhaqtaghat ittut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani www.gov.nu.ca.

Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaçtun et en français à : www.gov.nu.ca.



Crisis Support Services:

Crisis Counseling

Go to your local social services office – here in Iqaluit that is in Grinnell Place beside the post office OR call 975-7250

Kamatsiaqtut Nunavut HelpLine

Call 979-3333 -- 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. 7 days-a-week

Student Counseling

Trained crisis counselors will be available to students and teachers that were impacted

Churches and clergy

Speak to your trusted clergy – they too can offer support during a time of crisis. The Anglican Church opened at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, for anyone wishing support and everyone welcome.

Family support

Be aware of how this is affecting those around you. Watch for signs that people need further assistance and call one of the numbers above if they do.

GN Employees

As part of their benefit package the Government of Nunavut provides free counseling to Government of Nunavut employees and their immediate families. They can call 1-800-663-1142 – 24 hours-aday, 7 days-a-week.

As additional services come available they will be announced.