

NEWS RELEASE



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Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan Released

(September 12, 2011 – Iqaluit, Nunavut) Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak joined Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Vice-President Jack Anawak, Government of Nunavut Health Minister Tagak Curley, Embrace Life Council President Becky Kilabuk, and RCMP “V” Division Superintendent Howard Eaton today to sign and release the *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan*.

The 2011-2014 action plan was created through a partnership between NTI, GN, Embrace Life Council, and RCMP, and operationalizes the eight commitments made in the *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy*.

Premier Eva Aariak congratulated the group on their progress and reiterated her support for the *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan*. “The rate of suicide in our territory is shocking, and the issue touches the lives of all Nunavummiut. We must continue talking about it openly, and take immediate and appropriate action that will save lives in the future,” said Premier Eva Aariak.

“We are dedicated to preventing suicide in Nunavut, and this action plan sets out the ways in which we will work together. This year alone, there have been 23 completed suicides in our territory. The current reality is unacceptable and we can make a difference” said Anawak. “We must do more to provide healing and provide safer and more supportive environments for our children and youth, and above all, work together across the territory.”

“The action plan will ensure a more focused and active response to suicide prevention,” said Curley. “It will take the dedication of partners, individuals, families and communities to make a difference. While government can provide leadership in this regard, it will take a collective effort of all Nunavummiut to lower the rates of suicide in the territory,” said Curley.

“The challenge of preventing suicide and building healthier communities in Nunavut is a complex task, but there is great hope and much dedication. Our commitment to seeing a strong, healthy and vibrant Nunavut is made stronger with this action plan,” said Kilabuk.

“The "V" Division RCMP remains fully committed in partnering with government, local agencies and community residents to address the issues of suicide prevention,” said Eaton.

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