News Release

Incident Ended at Qikiqtani General Hospital

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 19, 2012) – An incident that took place this afternoon at Qikiqtani General Hospital (QGH) has ended peacefully.

Shortly after lunch, staff became aware of the situation. They followed the hospital's emergency plan and evacuated patients in the old section of the hospital.

"The safety of our patients, staff and residents is our utmost concern," said Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services. "I thank staff and the RCMP for their quick action in bringing this situation to a peaceful resolution."

Ma also expressed his appreciation to the City of Iqaluit's Bylaw Enforcement staff.

Hospital staff will be offered counseling through the Employee Assistance Program.

Hospital clinics will remain closed until tomorrow morning while the Emergency Department remains open.

****

Background:

QGH is a 35-bed, acute-care facility in Iqaluit. It is the only hospital serving the territory of Nunavut. The section of the hospital where the incident took place houses the Emergency Department, surgery, laboratory and X-ray.

###

Media Contact:

Ron Wassink
Communications Specialist
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 975-5710
Email: rwassink@gov.nu.ca