News Release

For Immediate Release

Nutaqqavut Health Information System

IQALUIT, Nunavut (July 24, 2012) – An innovative system for the collection of comprehensive health and wellness information on mothers, babies and young children has begun in Nunavut, and will guide future health programming for the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS).

Nutaqqavut "Our Children" Health Information System (NHIS) collects data from early pregnancy through to age 5. This dynamic system is unique in Canada and the aim is to improve the health status of mothers, children and family as outlined in *Developing Healthy Communities -- A Public Health Strategy for Nunavut -- 2008-2013.*

"The Nutaqqavut Health Information System will give us new insight on the well-being of women during pregnancy and their children during early childhood," said Dr. Geraldine Osborne, Nunavut Chief Medical Officer of Health. "It will provide invaluable information to HSS, clinicians and health care providers, parents and communities to help in making the best decision about the health of young children."

NHIS was developed by the Department of Health and Social Services, along with its partners at the University of British Columbia, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), and Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre.

Personal information that is collected through NHIS is protected under Nunavut's privacy legislation. Only population level information will be released.

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Media Contact:

Ron Wassink
Communications Specialist
Health and Social Services

Tel: 867-975-5710
Email: rwassink@gov.nu.ca

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