



News Release

For Immediate Release

Release of Report on Contaminant Assessment in Nunavut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 28, 2012) – A report based on the results from the Inuit Health Survey shows country food provides essential nutrients that are important to maintain health and can also prevent chronic diseases. The report also shows Inuit are exposed to high levels of cadmium due to smoking, and that ringed seal livers have high levels of mercury.

The Inuit Health Survey 2007-2008 Contaminant Assessment in Nunavut was done through a partnership of the Government of Nunavut (GN), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), and researchers from McGill University, the University of Toronto and the University of Ottawa. Researchers spent two years surveying Nunavummiut. Inuit were assessed for exposure to heavy metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants. The goal of the Inuit Health Survey was to obtain an overview of the health status and living conditions of Nunavummiut.

“Our conclusion is that benefits of eating country foods outweigh the risk of contaminants for most Nunavummiut. However, we did find that cadmium exposure was related to smoking and that ringed seal liver contained significant amounts of mercury,” said Dr. Laurie Chan, a toxicologist at the University of Ottawa, and one of the principal investigators of the study. “In light of our findings, most adults should not be concerned about contaminants in country food.”

“We will use this information from the Inuit Health Survey to enhance our current health promotion programs,” said Dr. Geraldine Osborne, Chief Medical Officer of Health with the Department of Health and Social Services.

.../2

ᐱᑦᑕᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᑕᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ, ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ, ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ, www.gov.nu.ca.
News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on www.gov.nu.ca.
Tuhagtaghat ittut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani www.gov.nu.ca.
Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français à : www.gov.nu.ca.

