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News Release

For Immediate Release

Official Opening of the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility

RANKIN INLET, Nunavut (January 25, 2013) – The Government of Nunavut's Department of Justice is pleased to officially open the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, the first of its kind in the Kivalliq region.

"As Minister of Justice, I am pleased to mark the official opening of the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility which is now completed and has opened its doors to its first inmates. Having this facility operational is the first step towards our goal of housing all Nunavut offenders within the territory," said Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Justice.

The construction of the 48-bed medium security facility started in March 2010. Now operational, the facility will be able to welcome additional inmates, who will be transferred from other jurisdictions over the next few months.

The facility will offer many opportunities and benefits to inmates, staff and to the community. "It is important that our inmates have access to family and community support to help them become contributing members of the community," said Minister Shewchuk.

The selection of inmates is based on institutional behavior, program availability and location of the inmate's home community. Inmates will be expected to participate in programs aimed at a rehabilitative objective and focusing on community-based programming such as spousal assault and literacy.

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