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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Public Service Announcement

Nunavut recognizes Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week

Start Date: November 25, 2015
End Date: December 5, 2015
Iqaluit, NU **60 sec**

Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week is November 30 to December 5, 2015.

In Nunavut, no HIV infections were diagnosed between 2006 and 2014. However, Nunavut has a syphilis outbreak – and syphilis is a risk factor for HIV. Aboriginal people (Inuit, First Nations and Metis) are four times more likely to get HIV than non-aboriginal Canadians.

The past few years have seen inspiring changes for people diagnosed with HIV. New treatments mean that people who have HIV can live almost as long as people who don't have HIV. These treatments also reduce the risk of giving HIV to another person.

There are three things Nunavummiut can do to prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections:

1) Talk about HIV/AIDS, syphilis, and other sexually transmitted infections to help reduce stigma, fear and shame.
2) Use condoms. Condoms and lubricants are free at health centres and other community locations in Nunavut.
3) Get tested for HIV, syphilis and other STIs, before you have sex with a new partner, if you've had sex without a condom, and if you or your partner(s) have sex with someone other than each other.

December 1, 2015, is also World AIDS Day. For more information on sexual health, HIV/AIDS, STI testing and treatment options, visit your local health centre or www.irespectmyself.ca.

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