

Statement

Tobacco negotiations and health care funding for Nunavut

October 18, 2024
Iqaluit, Nunavut

Today, Minister of Health John Main released the following statement:

"I want to share an important update regarding Nunavut's ongoing negotiations with Canada's three largest tobacco companies.

Nunavut, in collaboration with other provinces and territories, is actively working to recover health care costs associated with tobacco-related illnesses. This case stems from alleged wrongful practices by tobacco companies from the 1950s to the 1980s, which resulted in significant health care expenses. We have been participating in a mediation process under the [Companies' Creditors Arrangements Act](#) to recover these costs for the past five years.

As Nunavummiut, we understand the profound impact smoking has on our health. I am proud that our territory is part of this collective effort to seek justice and better health outcomes for our communities.

Nunavut fully supports the Proposed Plan of Arrangement designed to secure substantial funding for our health care systems – funds that are critical for improving treatment and care in our territory. We urge tobacco companies to support this plan as a fair resolution to this long-standing issue. However, we remain committed to pursuing our claims in court if necessary.

The \$32.5 billion plan, including \$95 million allocated to Nunavut, aligns with ongoing efforts across Canada to reduce smoking. In Nunavut, we are making concerted efforts to reduce smoking rates, but we recognize that there is still much work to be done. Our goal is to create a future where no one smokes, ensuring that future generations grow up free from the health risks associated with tobacco use. This funding will enhance health care services in our territory and provide better support for our communities.

I am confident that this process will move us closer to recovering the costs of tobacco-related health care, benefiting Nunavummiut for years to come. This initiative is about more than just financial recovery – it's about strengthening our health care system and protecting the well-being of Nunavummiut.

Matna.”

Media Contact:

Casey Lessard
Director Communications
Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
867-975-6004
CLessard2@gov.nu.ca

ᐅᓄᔭᕐᑦᑲᑦ ᐸᐱᑦᑲᑦ ᐱᓂᐅᑦ, ᓴᓪᓗᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᐱᓂᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᐅᐱᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᐅᑲᓂ www.gov.nu.ca.
Statements are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on www.gov.nu.ca.
Uqautit hailihimajun Inuktitut, Qablunaatun, Inuinnaqtun Uviuitullu uvani www.gov.nu.ca.
Les déclarations sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français au www.gov.nu.ca.

Communications