

News Release

For Immediate Release

Opening of the expanded Tumikuluut Saipaaqivik Child Care Centre in Apex

Apex, Nunavut (February 28, 2025) – Today, Premier P.J. Akeeagok, Minister of Education, Pamela Hakongak Gross, federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Jenna Sudds, and guests celebrated the official opening of the newly expanded Iqaluit Inuktitut Daycare – Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik, Iqaluit’s only Inuktitut daycare, located at building 3044 in Apex.

The new location of Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik marks a significant step in increasing access to culturally-relevant and affordable child care in Nunavut. The project, spearheaded by Y.W.C.A. Agvik in partnership with Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik, received over \$1.8 million in funding from the Canada-Nunavut Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement through Nunavut's Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) [Infrastructure Funding Program](#). The relocation of the existing daycare to the newly-built facility preserves its original 20 child care spaces and provides an additional 16 new licensed spaces.

“This daycare signals another important step towards reinvesting in education, one of the pillars in the Government of Nunavut’s Katujjiluta mandate,” said the Honourable P.J. Akeeagok, Premier of Nunavut. “Affordable, culturally grounded early childhood education in Inuktitut is a gamechanger – setting up children for success and providing parents and caregivers opportunities for advancement in training, post-secondary education and employment.”

The Government of Nunavut is committed to creating 238 new licensed spaces by March 31, 2026. The expansion of Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik brings the total number of new spaces created to 181 since signing the Canada-wide agreement.

The Government of Canada is providing Nunavut nearly \$66 million over five years (2021-2026) to support a variety of early learning and child care initiatives that will

