

## Statement

## Court Orders Compensation from Tobacco Companies

**March 7, 2025**  
**Iqaluit, Nunavut**

Minister of Health John Main today made the following statement:

"I am pleased to announce that our efforts to recover healthcare costs from tobacco companies have reached a historic resolution. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice has approved a \$32.5 billion settlement, the largest settlement of its kind in Canadian history and the third largest worldwide.

For decades, deceptive practices by tobacco companies have harmed Nunavummiut and placed a significant financial burden on our healthcare system. Legal action to recover these costs began over 20 years ago, with mediation spanning five years.

These funds will:

- Strengthen healthcare services, with Nunavut receiving \$97 million—\$23 million upfront and the remainder over time.
- Provide compensation to individuals affected by smoking-related illnesses through a court-monitored third-party organization.
- Support research into smoking-related diseases.
- Hold tobacco companies accountable for their past actions.

This settlement aligns with ongoing efforts in Nunavut and across Canada to reduce smoking rates. In Nunavut, where smoking rates remain among the highest in the country, initiatives such as education campaigns, increased taxation, smoking restrictions, advertising bans, and warning labels play a crucial role in protecting public health. These funds will help strengthen Nunavut's healthcare system by supporting smoking cessation programs, expanding access to treatment for smoking-related illnesses, and improving overall health outcomes for Nunavummiut.

If you or someone you know needs help to quit smoking, visit [NU Quits](#) or your local health centre.”

###

**Media Contact:**

Charmaine Deogracias  
Manager, Communications  
Department of Health  
867-975-5712  
[cdeogracias@gov.nu.ca](mailto:cdeogracias@gov.nu.ca)

ᐅᖃᐅᔭᓕ ᐱᐁᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᐁᐅᐅᑦ, ᖃᑦᑐᐱᐅᑦ ᐱᐁᑦᐱᑦᐅᐅᑦ ᐅᐱᐱᐅᑦᑐ ᐅᑯᓂ [www.gov.nu.ca](http://www.gov.nu.ca).  
Statements are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on [www.gov.nu.ca](http://www.gov.nu.ca).  
Uqautit haililhimajun Inuktitut, Qablunaatun, Inuinnaqtun Uviutullu uvani [www.gov.nu.ca](http://www.gov.nu.ca).  
Les déclarations sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français au [www.gov.nu.ca](http://www.gov.nu.ca).

## Communications