

# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

## Aqqusariaq, Nunavut's in-territory recovery centre, enters completion phase

**Iqaluit, Nunavut (September 18, 2026)** – After 10 years of planning and nearly three years of construction, Aqqusariaq, the 24-bed addictions and trauma recovery facility in Iqaluit, is entering the final stages of construction and operational preparations ahead of welcoming Nunavummiut.

As the project transitions from construction to operations, the Government of Nunavut's (GN) Department of Health is finalizing a funding agreement with a new Inuit-led not-for-profit established by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI). Under this model, the not-for-profit will be responsible for operating the facility, while the Government of Nunavut will fund the delivery of services. Services at Aqqusariaq will be integrated with Nunavut's broader health system to support coordinated care for Nunavummiut. This funding is supported in part by an ongoing \$9.7 million annual commitment from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for Aqqusariaq operations.

The facility has been designed by and for Nunavummiut through the guidance of the Culture and Lived Experience Advisory Committee (CLEAC) and the development team. Grounded in Inuit ways of knowing and being, it will provide inpatient addictions and trauma recovery services including counselling, on-the-land programming and aftercare. The space has been designed to support individuals and families from across Nunavut throughout their healing journey.

Construction is now entering its final phase as interior spaces, outside landscaping and exterior finishes are nearing completion. Since the tundra-turning ceremony in 2023, the project has made significant progress and is approaching substantial completion in the coming weeks.

“We are proud to support an Inuit-led model of care that will bring culturally-grounded addictions and trauma recovery services closer to home,” said Minister of Health Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster. “This milestone reflects years of collaboration between the GN,

Indigenous Services Canada, NTI, members of the Culture and Lived Experience Advisory Committee, and many others who helped shape the vision for Aqqusariaq.”

After a decade of planning and partnership, Akqqsariaq is closer than ever to becoming the place Nunavummiut have long imagined: a place of healing, connection and hope, where Inuit knowledge, language, food, culture and community are at the center of care.

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