



## PRESS RELEASE

Official celebration of the construction work commencement

# FUNDING SECURED IN FULL AND OPENING OF THE NEW CENTRE CONFIRMED FOR 2021

**Kuujuaq (August 29, 2019)** - It was with a real sense of satisfaction, relief, and gratitude that the Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre ("Isuarsivik") officially broke ground on the new building. More than 100 guests were present to mark this historic moment for the region. We were joined by several dignitaries from the governments of Canada and Quebec, including Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade, Ms. **Yvonne Jones**, and Member of National Assembly for Ungava, Mr. **Denis Lamothe**. We also welcomed three leaders of our regional organizations, including Ms. **Louisa Grey**, chair of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), Ms. **Jennifer Munick**, chair of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and Mr. **Adamie Delisle-Alaku**, vice-president of Makivik Corporation (Makivik). It was a time of celebration for everyone as the Government of Canada announced additional funding earlier today to complete the project's budget allocation. By the end of 2021, the new Centre will not only open its doors, but will also triple its annual capacity.

August 29, 2019, will forever be remembered by the volunteer members of the Isuarsivik Board of Directors, but also by regional partners, and particularly by the Inuit of the region. "Today, we are honouring our communities. We show beyond doubt that their needs have been heard, and that one of the solutions to heal our people's intergenerational trauma will be available to more individuals and families in the 14 communities by 2021," proudly stated Mary Aitchison, Vice-President of the Board.

As the organization celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 2019 marks a new chapter and sets the tone for the years to come. "I am delighted to see that so much effort, time, and commitment has paid off and will translate in the creation of a quality and safety state-of-the-art recovery centre. A Centre that remains focused on Inuit cultural traditions and practices, which are at the very heart of its design and programs," added Dave Forrest, President of the Board.

The entire project, evaluated at \$40.5 million, includes the construction of an access road, a parking space, a building that can accommodate 32 beds for individual and

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family program users, numerous office spaces, a daycare centre and a school tutoring area for the clients' children. The site will also house 12 accommodation units for the staff.

The new Centre is Nunavik's project. Its confirmation is good news for our communities and brings some comfort to our people, hard hit by distress over the past decades. "At Isuarsivik, we think outside the box and our current and future users' needs are our priority. This is why we are all the more proud to know that in 2021, our Centre will be the first indigenous recovery facility in Quebec to accommodate families as part of the healing process" added Alicia Aragutak, Executive Director.

The success of a project of this scope required rigorous perseverance from all stakeholders, including the Isuarsivik Board members, its managers, its special collaborators, and the entire clinical and support team. "On behalf of all Nunavummiut, I would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the realization of this dream. I would also like to thank our five donors, without whom we wouldn't be able to start the construction of the new main building next spring" said Mary Aitchison, Vice-President.

Funding for the project, estimated at \$40.5 million, is based on the following contributions:

- 21 million from the Government of Canada, with Infrastructure Canada;
- 8.5 million from the Government of Quebec;
- 6 million from the Government of Canada, with Indigenous Services Canada;
- 2.75 million from Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre;
- 1.2 million from KRG
- 1 million from Makivik.

In addition, the Société du Plan Nord (SPN) has supported the project by conducting the technical and financial studies necessary for the design and construction of the building as well as the coordination of the project, for a distinct envelope of \$1.5 million.

Founded in 1994, Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre is a Kuujuaq-based non-profit community organization that provides a culturally focused healing program to ensure that Nunavik Inuit adopt a healthy, dependence-free lifestyle. The organization is recognized as an essential solution to the region's many challenges and as an invaluable source of assistance for people with substance abuse problems. Thanks to its 25 years of experience, Isuarsivik stands out for its integrated knowledge, its competent and experienced team, and its holistic approach to assist Nunavik Inuit in their healing process.

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