



PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release

New Centre Construction Project

Isuarsivik postpones the beginning of the construction to 2021 and the opening to 2023

Kuujjuaq (September 9, 2020) — It is with great sorrow that the Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre ("Isuarsivik") announces a one-year delay for the construction of its new Kuujjuaq facility. The construction of this new Centre, which will triple its accommodation capacity, was scheduled to begin in the summer of 2020. In order to limit the spread of the COVID-19, the Municipality of Kuujjuaq has adopted measures to reduce the risk of propagation, including a ban on employing more than five workers from outside Nunavik for all construction projects. For this reason, the contractor, Les Constructions Pépin et Fortin Inc., who was awarded the contract for the construction of the main building in April, will only be shipping certain materials and equipment required for the construction of the building, which will officially begin in the spring of 2021.

Despite the impacts of such change in the construction schedule, the organization makes every effort to be resilient and flexible. Indeed, Isuarsivik's Board of Directors and management team wish to recognize the good work of the regional organizations in managing the crisis of COVID-19. "We respect the decision of the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq's council members and we understand that it reflects the concerns and preoccupations of the overall community" said Dave Forrest, Isuarsivik's Chair. "It is imperative for our community organization to nurture healthy relationships and support community leaders. In this sense, we thank the council members for taking the time to listen to our opinion and to try to find a solution in this complex situation. We are also hopeful that other regional, provincial, and federal partners will understand our situation and offer additional support for this crucial project," adds Dave.

This heartbreaking announcement comes at a time when the resources for assistance in the region remain more essential than ever. "Following a prolonged period of isolation, the need for recovery services and resources is growing in the region for people who not only want to stop consuming, but also aim to reduce the amount and frequency of use. In fact, the imposed limit on alcohol sales in the communities during the pandemic has allowed us to witness what our communities could look like with less exposure to alcohol abuse. Above all, the pandemic exposed us to a significant increase in requests for guidance and



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About Isuarsivik

Founded in 1994, the Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre is a Kuujjuaq-based non-profit community organization that provides a culturally focused 42-day healing program to ensure that Nunavik Inuit adopt a healthy, dependence-free lifestyle. The organization is recognized regionally 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 over 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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If you need more information or would like to schedule an interview, please contact:

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