



support from Nunavimmiut, whose isolation weighs heavily on their mental health. For them, we will intensify our efforts to minimize the impact of the construction delay caused by the pandemic and to offer our new services as soon as possible," declares Isuarsivik's Executive Director, Alicia Aragutak.

"We are disappointed for the families in need who are eagerly awaiting the new family recovery program, which can only be offered in our new facility. However, I want to reassure the population that our 42-day recovery program will be maintained in our current premises with the highest standards of quality and safety until the opening of the new centre," adds Alicia. While the organization has recently reopened its administrative section, services remain suspended until further notice in order to implement government recommendations, tailored for the region, for inpatient facilities. However, Isuarsivik is confident that at least one cycle will be offered by the end of this year to the women who submit their applications. Moreover, it is possible to apply to the centre at any time via isuarsivik.ca/application-form. All applications received are added to the waiting list and will be seriously evaluated for future cycles.

Positive News

Recognized for its efficiency and determination, the Isuarsivik team has already initiated communication with its partners. The goal is to secure support and funding to deal with possible additional cost related to the postponement of the project caused by COVID-19. In June, Indigenous Services Canada responded positively by confirming an extra contribution of \$500,000 to the \$6M already allocated for the construction project. "Canada takes seriously the issues of substance use and mental health that affect the lives of Nunavimmiut, especially in the context of COVID-19. When the pandemic began, the Inuit communities of Nunavik adopted exceptional isolation measures to better support their health and mental well-being. The additional funding for the construction of the new Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre will help Nunavik Inuit partners to develop and deliver high-quality, culturally appropriate health services during COVID-19 as well as to address the many challenges ahead related to the postponement of construction. I do share your disappointment at this news but am glad that Canada can do its part to support the health of Nunavimmiut," stated the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services.

Furthermore, the new Isuarsivik's Continued Care Services Department reacted quickly to the current pandemic by developing a virtual care project that would allow guests who have completed the healing program to obtain remote post-treatment follow-up. Through its new *Rapid Response for Remote Communities* emergency fund, the **MakeWay Foundation** (formerly Tides) offered \$30,000 to Isuarsivik to take the first steps, becoming the lead funder for this important initiative. Other partners will be added by the end of the year to ensure that the project gets off the ground as soon as possible, with the utmost safety consideration for both employees and guests.



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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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