



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Proud recipient of the Arctic Inspiration Prize 2021 \$1 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF NUNAVIK IN THEIR HEALING PROCESS

Kuujuuaq (March 5, 2022) —The Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre is humbled and honoured to receive the 2021 Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) in the \$1 million category for its project *Ilagiitigut anngiangijaaqatigiinnirq ilurqusivuttigut*, or "Family at the Heart of the Healing Process" in Inuktitut. The project proposes to address substance abuse by focusing on the reclaiming of Inuit identity and culture, and the connection to the land. Its activities will provide opportunities for families to heal as a whole. Inuit values and traditional practices will be at the heart of the project, which will be offered to families in the new Isuarsivik Centre set to open in 2023.

The *Ilagiitigut anngiangijaaqatigiinnirq ilurqusivuttigut* project was created after years of consulting with Nunavimmiut to better understand their needs and concerns on how they want to take control of their physical and mental health and well-being.

"Family is the unconditional force that protects and secures us. Our family accompanies us in happy times. Our family supports us in difficult times. When one member is not doing well, everyone carries the emotional burden. Our guests have been emphasizing for a long time their need and interest in participating to a healing process with their family bubble. Today, I am moved and proud to tell them that this will be possible very soon," says Mary Aitchison, a member of the project committee and vice-president of the Isuarsivik board of directors.

Now that the financial resources are secured and the collaborators are confirmed, the team will mobilize to collect traditional and modern Inuit knowledge and best practices in the coming weeks. Isuarsivik guests will be consulted as well as several stakeholders of the region such as hunters, seamstresses, elders, and addiction counsellors so they can share their knowledge and actively participate in the creation of this new holistic approach to the family program.

"Our culture and language have a protective and restorative effect on our personal and collective well-being. I am honoured to bring forth the creation of such an anticipated and essential program for our families. I am also excited to begin our collaboration with people from all walks of life, all dedicated to the creation of a program that will breathe new life into families in need. We can honour the gifts we were given and work together to revitalize and solidify our cultural foundation for generations to come." says Sarah May, co-team leader and coordinator of Inuit Values and Practices at Isuarsivik.



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The project, which was in its 3rd year of nomination in the \$1 million category, finally charmed the selection committee.

“Congratulations to the Ilagiitigut anngiangijaaqatigiinnirq ilurqusivuttigut team on winning the \$1 Million Arctic Inspiration Prize” said Cody Dean, Chair of the Arctic Inspiration Prize National Selection Committee. “This project focused on family healing rooted in the reclamation of identity and culture and rebuilding connections to the land provides a bold vision that can inspire those across the North. With such a diverse and determined team, they are sure to surpass every expectation and have a lasting impact on their region.”

Supported by the entire Nunavik region, the Ilagiitigut anngiangijaaqatigiinnirq ilurqusivuttigut project was officially nominated by Christine Barnard, director of ArcticNet with the help of ambassadors and organizations from various backgrounds.

- Denis Lamothe, Government of Quebec
- Pita Aatami, Makivik Corporation
- Jennifer Munick, Kativik Regional Government
- Minnie Grey, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services
- Larry Watt, Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre
- Rosena Emak, Qarjuut Youth Council
- Minnie Molly Snowball, Qarmaapik
- Aileen MacKinnon, Saqijuaq
- Sammy Koneak, Former Mayor of Kuujuaq

Ilagiitigut anngiangijaaqatigiinnirq ilurqusivuttigut is the 5th Nunavik project to receive an Arctic Inspiration Prize, and the first to ever receive the \$1 million grand prize.

About Isuarsivik

Founded in 1994, the Isuarsivik Regional Recovery Centre is a Kuujuaq-based non-profit community organization that provides a culturally focused 42-day healing program to help Nunavimmiut adopt a healthy and addiction-free lifestyle. The organization is recognized within the 14 communities as an essential solution to the region's many challenges and 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, competent and experienced team, and holistic approach in assisting Nunavik Inuit in their healing process.

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