

NEWS RELEASE

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SAQIJUQ'S MOBILE INTERVENTION TEAM

Kuujjuaq, September 20, 2019 – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is pleased to share news of the Mobile Intervention Team (MIT), which falls under the initiatives created by the Saqijuq program. The MIT began its innovative work in the spring of 2019, in the community of Purvinituq. Responding to crisis interventions that do not necessarily require typical police presence. Comprised of four, there are two teams, composed of one Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPF) officer and the other a social worker from Inuulitsivik. They have received training designed specifically to intervene in situations that may not simply necessitate detainment and representatives of various organizations are impressed with the results and work done so far. Jean-Francois Morin Deputy-Chief, KRPF Operations stated "We are very pleased with the already noticeable and positive changes that are linked with the implementation of the Mobile Intervention Team. It's taken away a considerable workload from our officers, and the team has been very active throughout the community, creating positive connections with the other organisations and most importantly, the people from the community."

The team is in direct contact with various departments of the Inuulitsivik Health Center, and on occasion, co-intervene using this method. Being mobile in something other than a typically used KRPF vehicle, they can approach situations in a less seemingly imposing manner and also may encounter situations that could have otherwise gone unreported previous to the existence of the MIT. Various services in Puvirnituq follow up with the team and information is updated and shared regularly. An external participative evaluation was started in July and evaluations will continue with the development of the project.

Saqijuq is an innovative project that began with Puvirnituq being the first pilot community, with plans to develop in Kangirsuk in the upcoming year. Various methods of preventative initiatives drive Saqijuq to encourage community regulation with activities that include, yet are not limited to: alternative sentencing, on the land activities for those that might not have the means to be out on the land, mentoring and teaching, light mechanic skills, survival, sewing, traditional carpentry (i.e. sled making) etc. Other communities will benefit from Saqijuq's presence accordingly, over time.

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Quebec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

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Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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