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NRBHSS LAUD VIEN COMMISSION'S REPORT

Kuujuuaq, October 2, 2018 – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) wishes to express its appreciation of the report of the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec (CERP). The report and its calls for action in the areas of health services, social services and youth-protection services strongly reflect the concerns raised by the NRBHSS during the commission's inquiry.

The NRBHSS welcomed the CERP's mandate and actively cooperated with the commission's attorneys. On several occasions, the NRBHSS described and brought to the CERP's attention certain situations of discrimination experienced by Inuit users or employees in the Nunavik health and social service network. Moreover, the NRBHSS formulated several recommendations in the paper submitted to the commission during the hearings in Kuujuuaq. Those recommendations are largely reflected in the report submitted by the CERP.

The NRBHSS is also pleased with the follow-up to the report, assigned to the Québec ombudsperson, an independent entity that has demonstrated its will and capacity to intervene in Nunavik to ensure Nunavimmiut rights are respected.

Minnie Grey, Executive Director of the NRBHSS, stated that "The CERP report has recognized the importance of the transformations we have made over several years in the Nunavik health and social services network, to ensure adequate response to Nunavimmiut needs." She added that "We now expect the Government of Québec to respond to the report's calls for action, and this with our close involvement in their design and application."

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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