

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER IN NUNAVIK

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Wachiya! Tansi! Kuei! A bit about me...

- Naskapi-Cree, born and raised in Schefferville, QC
- Member of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach and Cree from the Cross Lake Cree Nation in Manitoba.
- RN x 20 years
- BNSc from Queen's University (2008)
- MSc from Université Laval
- Nurse Advisor in Public Health since 2019
 - *Leading the development of the Public Health Officer program in Nunavik*



You are the experts of your community.

You know what the needs are in your community.

You will be the ones LEADING the way by using what you already have: a library of Knowledge



Who are PHO's? What will they do?

Principal Responsibilities and Functions

- Support the community in preventive activities related to:
 - *tuberculosis (TB) as well as individuals with active TB or latent TB*
 - *Vaccination*
 - *STBBI's*
- Participate in the design and carrying out of community-mobilization activities adapted to Inuit culture and facilitate access to information and appropriate resources.



Who are PHO's? What will they do?

Support/Prevention

- Contribute, jointly with the health committee of the community of assignment, to the prevention, education and awareness of different public health files.
- Foster community mobilization by participating in communication and community-awareness programs through radio messages, interventions among target groups and social media (Facebook and others).
- Organize and facilitate group activities.
- Support access to the various available resources for these issues



Who are PHO's? What will they do?

Clinical Support on TB

- Support TB patients and their families throughout the care process: hospitalization, adherence to treatment, identification of contacts, referral to resources, etc.
- Contribute to the application of Direct Observation Treatment in a community setting.
- As needed, provide information to foster culturally safe and adapted care.



Who are PHO's? What will they do?

Organization

- Participate in the design of communication tools, protocols or policies according to identified needs.
- Guide the care team in ensuring culturally adapted care.
- Participate in local, operational planning.
- Develop strong leadership skills.



Pilot Project

- PHO's already working with TB and Public Health Nurse on different areas within the community:
 - Collaborating with screening efforts
 - Information sharing, education, awareness
 - DOT, patient outreach
 - Vaccination documenting and data entry in provincial software



Sailivik Inauguration, October 2022
Photo: NRBHSS

Training program:

What is planned:

- Attestation program (ACS) to offer foundations of Public Health topics
 - *2 year program: 1 week course work (in a community in Nunavik), then go home to do your 3 weeks of practice*
 - *On the job training program*

Where we are at:

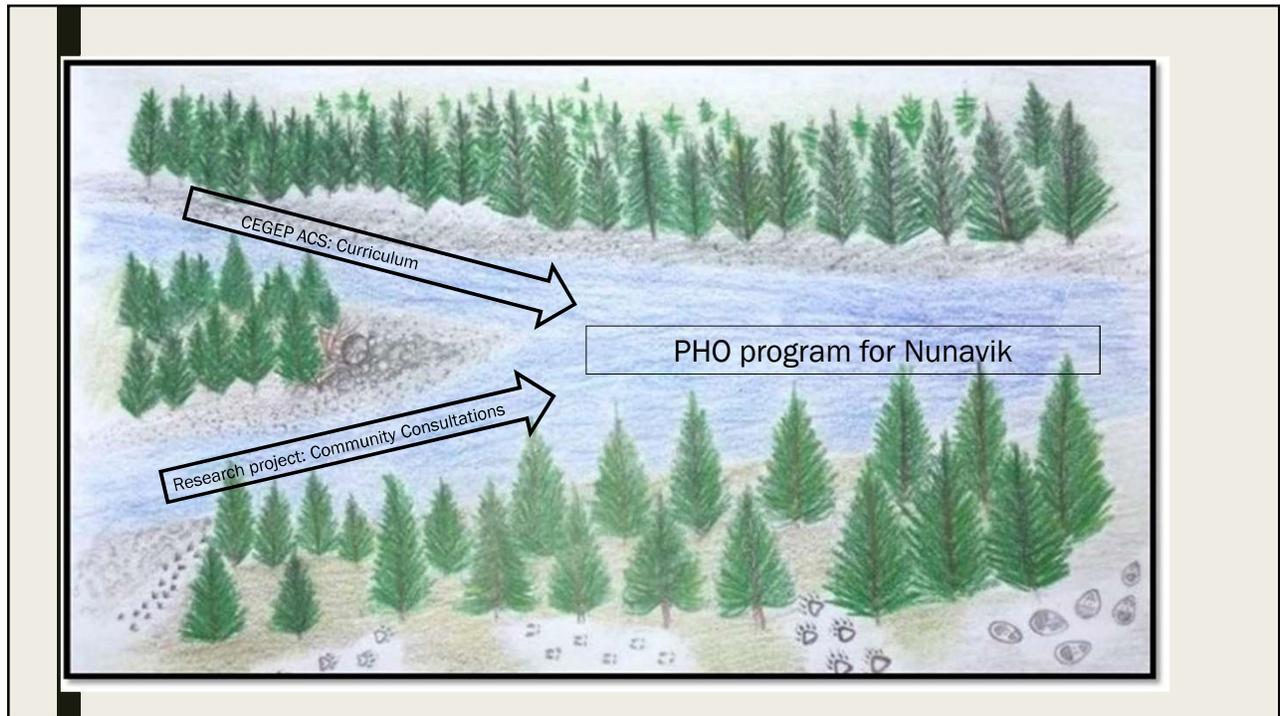
- Looking into CEGEPS to partner with for the development of this program
- Looking forward to start in September 2023



McGill Research Project: Community Health Workers in TB

- Interviews with former, current TB Patients and Families, Leaders
 - *What they would like to have based on their experience.*
 - *What they did not want others to go through*
 - *What skills they would like workers to have.*
- Purpose is to inform PH efforts in TB care and integrate findings into opportunities for the development of effective training modules appropriate to the needs of Nunavik.





QUESTIONS?

Thank you 😊