

# NEWS RELEASE

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## DEAF INUIT OF NUNAVIK WORKSHOP

**Kuujjuaq, May 22, 2018** – The second workshop for Deaf Inuit of Nunavik will be held at the Pigiursavik Centre in Inukjuak, from May 22 to 26. Participants of the workshop will arrive from 8 different communities around Nunavik. This year's event is an expanded version of the first workshop held in May, 2016. Both workshops follow a Needs Assessment that was funded by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), in 2015. The two major needs identified in this assessment were:

1. The need for the Deaf to have improved autonomy and participation in their communities.
2. The need for the Deaf to identify, socialize and communicate with each other and other Deaf groups and individuals.

There are currently 15 Deaf adults and two Deaf children in Nunavik. For most, the shared language of communication is a combination of American Sign Language (ASL) and Inuit signs and expressions related to culture and community.

This year's event will be expanded to include Deaf children, family members and the group of previously trained Inuit sign language interpreters.

- Deaf adults will focus on enrichment activities in ASL. There will also be informative presentations by various community organizations such as the Justice System, KRG employment, and Social Services.
- There will be a beginners ASL class for family members and some who have lost their hearing later in life.
- A course will be run for previously trained Inuit sign language interpreters to upgrade their skills.
- Separate language rich activities for the two Deaf students and some of their siblings will take place.

There will be evening activities to bring everyone together and on the evening of May 23, Inukjuamiut will be invited to view “Those Who Come Will Hear” a film by Simon Plouffe. He interviewed some of the Deaf adults for this film during the May, 2016 workshop. Evening activities will be open to the public for those that would like to experience what it’s like to be in a sign language environment and for those that are interested in improving their ability to communicate using sign.

*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 55<sup>th</sup> parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.*

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