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## THE NUNAVIK HEALTH BOARD IS LEADING THE CHANGES OF QUEBEC'S YOUTH PROTECTION ACT

**Kuujjuaq, February 15, 2018** – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) attended the Children and Families Together Conference held in Ottawa on January 26, 2018. The importance of family in Inuit social, economic and political life is often brought to light during occasions where Inuit culture is discussed.

The alarming rate of Youth Protection Services' reports was recounted by the *Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse* of Quebec in 2007, asserting that there are families facing severe difficulty in Nunavik. As a result, since 2012, the NRBHSS has taken a stance on working toward the empowerment of communities and the development of various community-based initiatives such as:

- Launching a process that has allowed a complete revision of the Health and Social Youth Services, the Illusiliriniqmi Pigutjiutini Qimirruniq (IPQ).
- The Saqijuq project of social regulation, in efforts to curb impacts of excessive consumption of alcohol and/or drugs.
- The creation of the Health and Social Services Youth and Family Advisory Committee to ensure the development and adaptation of services toward the empowerment of communities.
- Support the development and reinforcement of the community family houses project, support and enhance parents' roles.
- Begin the process and application of the Article 37.5 of the Quebec Youth Protection Act in order to proceed with a cultural adaptation and application of this law.

"Family is the foundation of a child's life. It defines children that will grow up and define Inuit. By making resources available to parents and leaders they become real-life role models for youth and instill pride in being Inuit. Youth are resilient and with the right tools we can help strengthen them to overcome trauma they may have endured." said, Minnie Grey, Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.



Mina Beaulne, a young advisor of the Nunavik Health Board, is leading the changes of Quebec's Youth Protection Act and gathering leaders from across Nunavik to consult in sessions. "Mina takes to heart the rights of Youth, she is doing a great job. We're proud to see how proactive she is in the Region." said Minnie Grey. The next session will be held at the end of February.

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire 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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