

NRBHSS Declaration on Water Supply and Sanitation

The General Assembly of the United Nations recognized in 2010 that the right to water supply and sanitation is a fundamental right in the area of economic and social rights. Water supply and sanitation play an essential role in protecting human health and the environment.

Given that access to water is a condition of survival, we affirm that all persons residing in Nunavik have the right to a sufficient supply of quality drinking water to meet their essential needs, including for drinking, food preparation, personal hygiene and household consumption (clothes washing, maintenance and other tasks).

The right to water supply and sanitation cannot be dissociated from other human rights. It cannot be subject to discrimination and implies respect by all. It cannot be dissociated from the right to improved physical and mental health, or from the right to life and dignity of the person.

We must ensure that water supply and sanitation are managed equitably and efficiently by the northern villages, using durable systems and in such a way as to strengthen the autonomy of local populations.

The right to water supply and sanitation shall be supported by all Nunavik stakeholders, who must each urgently assume their responsibilities, as well as jointly and explicitly adopt a comprehensive water resources management policy.

*Unanimously endorsed at the Annual General Meeting of the Nunavik
Board of Health and Social Services on June 29, 2022*

