

This project will make it possible to:

- Provide culturally relevant services, improving the efficacy of the healthcare system for clients. Patients' compliance with treatment, as well as motivation to self-manage their condition, depends on their level of acceptance of the healthcare approach they receive. This compliance also depends on their understanding of the different treatment options that are presented to them. Finally, taking into account the cultural dimension of health services makes it possible to fulfill the need for a comprehensive approach to cancer care and to reduce disparities related to cultural differences.
- Improve the coordination of healthcare services for Inuit and Cree patients. The lack of coordination in the healthcare system with respect to managing chronic diseases – especially in remote areas – was noted in the main documents on this subject.
- Improve access to healthcare and cancer care services in Nunavik and Eeyou Istchee through the development of local healthcare provision.
- Position areas 17 and 18 within the national cancer control network.

The initiative will help to build and maintain connections through a network that will bring people from across the country together to benefit from each other's experiences and tackle common challenges. In total, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is investing \$10.2 million in the implementation of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Control Initiative that the *Quality and culturally adapted care and services for Inuit and Eeyou* patients with cancer is a part of.

The three and a half year project is part of broader strategy stemming from the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Action Plan on Cancer Control. Released in 2011, this plan represented a collaborative effort by the many organizations and individuals working to improve cancer outcomes among First Peoples in Canada. Informed by First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners and the cancer control community, the plan outlined where the Partnership is best positioned to advance cancer control for and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

“Advancing cancer control with and for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities is a priority for the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer,” said Lee Fairclough, VP, Strategy, Knowledge Management and Delivery at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. “Initiatives like this one are intended to improve how we provide care in a culturally responsive and safe way. It will be very rewarding to see the impact of this work in Québec and more precisely in the Nunavik and James Bay Cree Territory and across Canada.”

About the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (area 17)

*The NRBHSS 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.*

About the the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (area 18)

*The CBHSSJB is a Cree agency created in 1979 under the **James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement**. As Region 18 within the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec, it is responsible for providing health and social services within the nine Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee, the traditional Cree territory which covers the watershed emptying into James Bay.*

About the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

The [Canadian Partnership Against Cancer](#) works with Canada's cancer community to reduce the burden of cancer on Canadians. Grounded in and informed by the experiences of those affected by cancer, the organization works with partners to support multi-jurisdictional uptake of evidence that will help to optimize cancer control planning and drive improvements in quality of practice across the country. Through sustained effort and a focus on the cancer continuum, the organization supports the work of the collective cancer community in achieving long-term population outcomes: reduced incidence of cancer, less likelihood of Canadians dying from cancer, and an enhanced quality of life of those affected by cancer.

For more information, please contact:

Marie-Claude René

Advisor in medical affairs and physical health

Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (Region 17)

Office: 819 964-2222 ext. 273

marie-claude.rene@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Jill Elaine Torrie

Assistant Director of Public Health

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (Region 18)

Office: 418-923-3355

Torrie.jill@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Lenore Bromley

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

Office: 416-915-9222 ext. 5781

lenore.bromley@partnershipagainstcancer.ca

- 30 -

Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

For information: Dawn Forrest
Communications Officer, NRBHSS
819 964-2222, extension 251

This communiqué is also posted on our Web site at www.rss17.gouv.qc.ca