



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INUIT TRADITIONAL ADOPTION: A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS INUIT RIGHTS

Kuujuuaq, June 14, 2012 – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is pleased to learn of the new developments in the area of Inuit traditional adoption. Yesterday at the National Assembly, Justice Minister Jean-Marc Fournier submitted a draft bill on the issue. Recognition of Inuit traditional adoption is a major step towards the preservation of the Inuit way of life, values and traditions.

Our partnership with Makivik Corporation and other aboriginal organizations resulted in a mechanism that provides *Nunavimmiut* with an opportunity to consolidate their rights and customs. This will allow them to obtain a new act of birth reflecting the child's new filiations.

Traditional adoption is a key element in Inuit culture and tradition, and the NRBHSS acknowledges its importance.

“It is with continued good will, determination and partnership that the NRBHSS and other Inuit institutions will improve the social wellness of *Nunavimmiut*,” emphasized Gilles Boulet, Acting Executive Director of the NRBHSS. Pending the adoption and application of this draft bill, the NRBHSS will continue following up this issue.

The NRBHSS is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Québec 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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This communiqué is also posted on our Web site at www.rrsss17.gouv.qc.ca.