



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UPDATE REGARDING KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ ARENA

**Kuujuuaq, April 22, 2015** – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) and the Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq have been working together to identify what caused several people to fall ill on April 10 during the Bantam Regional Hockey Tournament in Kangiqsualujjuaq.

Results of the gas tests along with the symptoms experienced by those affected point towards nitrogen dioxide emitted from the Zamboni as the cause. A combination of factors contributed to this event, such as higher gas emission levels than normal from the Zamboni, its more frequent use than usual due to a hockey tournament, as well as possible issues with the ventilation system and gas detectors.

Medical staff examined over 140 people in Kangiqsualujjuaq. Thirty individuals were given oxygen and seven were transported to Kuujuuaq for further medical attention. Everyone recovered quickly and is symptom-free.

The Director of Public Health, Dr. Serge Déry, has confirmed that the arena can be reopened for activities that do not require use of the Zamboni. Public Health authorities will ensure adequate follow-up with the Northern Villages in order to help prevent the recurrence of such episodes.

The NRBHSS would like to thank the Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq for its close collaboration in this matter.

*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 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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**Source:** Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services  
Public Health

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