



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUNAVIK MOURNING THE PASSING OF ONE OF THE FATHERS OF NORTHERN QUÉBEC RESEARCH

Kuujuaq, Québec, June 18, 2014 – On June 17 a pioneer and long-term partner of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), Dr. Éric Dewailly, passed away in an unfortunate incident on Réunion Island. The NRBHSS is profoundly saddened and affected by the loss of such a valuable world-renowned researcher but even more of a wonderful friend.

Dr. Dewailly was the first researcher to come to the Arctic in the eighties to demonstrate the impact of contaminants on the health of the Inuit population by founding the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP). His leadership, great ability to listen and boundless enthusiasm made him a very well-known and much-appreciated researcher in the region. In 2004 he was the soul and leader of the vast study *Qanuippitaa?*, which is to this day the most used and complete study on the Nunavik Inuit population and which became a model for circumpolar regions. Through his work he opened doors and mentored several researchers who came to study the North and its inhabitants.

“Éric was a generous, kind and inspirational man, always available for the Inuit, and his tremendous work helped us in a way that words cannot fully express. His unique knowledge, his love for the North and his presence will be greatly missed by all,” said Minnie Grey, Executive Director of the NRBHSS.

While the NRBHSS grieves Dr. Dewailly, its thoughts are with his wife and family members who were present and also injured in this tragic incident.

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.

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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.rsss17.gouv.qc.ca.