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## CONTINUED EFFORT TO ELIMINATE TUBERCULOSIS

**Kuujuuaq, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024** – Since 2015, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), in collaboration with health centres and communities, have devoted tremendous effort in its plan to eliminate tuberculosis (TB). On March 24<sup>th</sup>, World Tuberculosis Day is a reminder that the battle against this disease is still ongoing. It is also a time to illustrate the many health inequities that persist between the populations of southern Quebec and Nunavik, where rates of this preventable disease are over a hundred times higher.

In the past year, the NRBHSS has put forward several initiatives as part of the TB elimination plan. The Board has continued its screening and disease awareness activities, as well as its support to health centres for the treatment of patients and their contacts. On November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, village mayors took part in the Regional Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis. That event, which was set up 4 years ago, contributed significantly in motivating the various leaders to work together and implement new strategies adapted to Nunavimmiut.

The NRBHSS, in collaboration with Nunavik's healthcare institutions, plans to continue its screening and prevention activities in numerous communities, as well as improving access to care by exploring new tools for diagnosing and treating tuberculosis, with new approaches guided by the communities affected.

### Activities Surrounding March 24

As part of World Tuberculosis Day, the NRBHSS will be launching a quiz to learn more about tuberculosis. Various points touched upon will include how to find out more about ways TB is transmitted, what the symptoms are and treatments. The quiz will be available on the NRBHSS Facebook page and on its website.

In addition, the NRBHSS, in collaboration with the Kativik School Board, will be launching a drawing contest for children in Nunavik communities to illustrate a 2025 calendar under the theme "My TB-free community". Children will be encouraged to express what they learn about TB through an awareness-raising activity and to draw an image of a TB-Free Community, or a representation of the fight against this disease. 14 drawings will be selected to illustrate the cover of the calendar, the 12 months of the year 2025, and the first page of the 2026 calendar.

The NRBHSS thanks in advance all those who will participate in the quiz and drawing contest. We also thank those who follow Public Health's recommendations to protect their health and that of their community. Together, let's invest in the fight against this disease and keep our communities healthy.

*The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire*

*Quebec 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

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