

NEWS RELEASE

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PIUSIVUT: A BOLD AND INNOVATIVE VOICE FOR THE YOUTH OF NUNAVIK

Kuujjuaq, March 16, 2018 – Piusivut, an audio podcast unlike anything Nunavik has heard before, is now available on the Internet. Listen to the voices of Nunavik's youth talking about their identity, their relationships and their lives. These are podcasts that open the doors to frank discussions about what is important to Inuit youth and their aspirations for the future.

Piusivut is part of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services' Checkup Project, aimed at promoting safe and healthy sexual relationships. It was conceived as a means to allow Nunavik youths an opportunity to address the many facets of their sexuality, speak openly about their concerns and explore the avenues of hope and understanding.

Along with roundtable discussions that include young Inuit participants from all walks of life, host Louisa Yeates also interviewed Nunavik performers, artists, community leaders, health specialists and role models.

The first of eight podcasts was officially launched at the beginning of February. Every episode addresses a topic important to the youths of our communities. Guests will dig deep into the many elements of youth sexuality as it relates to other aspects of the health of Nunavimmiut. The discussions address several topics including cultural pride, alcohol, sexuality, sexually transmitted infections, gender identity and homosexuality, not to mention heart-wrenching issues such as abuse and consent, suicide and colonialism which are part of the complex social fabric of Nunavik.

The episodes will be shared on the Checkup Project Facebook page where a download link is available. Piusivut is also available on Sound Cloud, iTunes and Google Play. Abbreviated Inuktitut versions of the podcasts will also be aired on local community FM stations. Listeners will have an opportunity to speak out and express their views on what youths have to say regarding the many topics Piusivut will tackle.

Youths want a forum to express their grief and their hopes. They need a place to heal the wounds of the past and exchange on the opportunities for the future. Piusivut seeks to be that forum engaging Nunavik youths to talk about what matters to them.

For more information, visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/CheckUpProject/.

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 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

For information: Rhéal Séguin

Communication Officer

Public Health Department, NRBHSS

Tel.: 819 964-2222 extension 223 or 418-564-6974

