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**CRUCIAL STEP COMPLETED IN THE CLINICAL PROJECT OF THE NUNAVIK HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES NETWORK**

The NRBHSS board of directors adopts the first set of recommendations of the three advisory committees.

**Kuujuuaq, December 18, 2012** – Meeting for the 88<sup>th</sup> session of the board of directors of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) from December 4 to 6, 2012, the members unanimously adopted the first set of recommendations of the three advisory committees.

**Objectives of the Clinical Project in Nunavik**

- 1-Improve and develop services identified as priorities by the region’s actors;
- 2-Reinforce partnerships between local and regional organizations in order to ensure better response to the complexity of the social situation and current health problems;
- 3-Improve the way health and social services are developed in the region so that the population’s concerns and aspirations are at the core of the decision-making process.

**Background of the Clinical Project**

In 2004, the *MSSS* asked all the regions of Québec to revise and improve services to ensure they respond more adequately to the needs of their respective populations. That process was called the Clinical Project. In 2009, Nunavik joined the initiative when its two health centres decided to revise their programs for mental health, addictions and youths in difficulty.

In June 2010, the partners of the Nunavik health and social services network, meeting on the occasion of a session of the steering committee, identified nine services for improvement and development as priorities for the region. In the fall 2012, the advisory committees consisting of representatives of the principal regional organizations and Inuit associations approved the recommendations formulated by the following four working committees:

	<b>Youth Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Addictions Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Mental-Health Advisory Committee</b>	
Chairperson	Muncy Novalinga	Siasi S. Irqumia	Charlie Nowkawalk	
Working committee	Qiturngavut – Neglect	Nuisuurq – Foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)	Suicide prevention	Residential mental-health resources
Goal	Develop a support network for Nunavik parents	Prevent FAS and support affected families	Prevent suicide and <b>celebrate</b> life	Ensure services of good quality for individuals suffering from psychiatric disorders

## **Preliminary Recommendations**

“This process signals a major change in the philosophy of the Nunavik health and social services network. The orientation for the system’s development is the result of a process of consultation and partnership, at the heart of which the needs and desires of *Nunavimmiut* serve as the basis,” pointed out the members of the NRBHSS board of directors.

“The clinical project involves more than 40 organizations and more than 150 persons actively working over the past four years. We are counting on our partners’ usual cooperation to ensure progress in the other regional priorities identified in 2010,” mentioned Gilles Boulet, Acting Executive Director of the NRBHSS.

## **Upcoming Steps**

Although certain measures take several years before their complete implantation, others could be deployed as of 2013.

*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 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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