



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATUS REPORT ON THE TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK IN  
KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ**

**Kuujjuaq, October 11, 2012** – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) has taken stock of the tuberculosis cases in Nunavik.

Since November 2011, 90 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) originating in Kangiqsualujjuaq have been reported to the Department of Public Health. The peak of the outbreak was observed in May 2012; during that month, some 20 cases were reported. June and July each saw about 15 cases. Further, in the past two and one half months, only one new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was reported in the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

Consequently, the NRBHSS hereby announces that the tuberculosis outbreak in Kangiqsualujjuaq is currently being resolved.

A high level of vigilance is being maintained relative to the disease by the clinicians of the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre (UTHC). Close follow-up to cases and infected contacts is under way and will be maintained according to recognized control protocols.

**Complete Treatment Leads to Better Control**

With the goal of limiting the spread of tuberculosis and facilitating full recovery, it is important that individuals who have contracted active tuberculosis take their full course of medication. Even though the symptoms may no longer be apparent, complete treatment will lead to better control of the disease by preventing the development of resistance to medication and greatly reducing the risk of future reinfection. Moreover, infected contacts who receive preventive treatment must undergo the full course of treatment to avoid developing the active version of the disease.

**BCG Vaccine Now Available**

The Nunavik Department of Public Health recommends the BCG vaccine among the public-health measures for preventing tuberculosis in the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq. The vaccines are now available and vaccination is scheduled for this week.

The BCG vaccine is offered to all newborns and children under the age of two years in the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq, according to clinical evaluation. The parents of children who require the vaccine will be called by the CLSC to bring their children to the clinic. A skin test to screen for tuberculosis infection will be performed first, according to the nurse's clinical evaluation.

*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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