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## Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre acquires its' first Inuk midwife

**Kuujuuaq, September 3, 2020** – It is with absolute pride the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) announces the first Inuk from the Ungava coast who has graduated from a midwifery program. Ms. Marilyn Mesher of Kuujuuaq has successfully completed her studies and is now a certified midwife. Ms. Mesher graduated July 4th, 2020 from the Inuulitsivik Midwifery Education Program supported by the Quebec Midwives Association and the department of Inuit Values and Practices at the NRBHSS.

In Nunavik, the midwifery program first started in 1986 in the community of Puvirnituk, then in Inukjuak in 2001 and in Salluit in 2004. Nunavik currently has a total of fifteen (15) certified Inuit midwives, excluding those who have retired.

“The Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre formally acknowledges of Marilyn Mesher’s achievement in completing the midwifery program. She is the first Inuk midwife from the Ungava coast. We are immensely proud of Marilyn. We want to thank all partners involved in helping Marilyn succeed”, said Mr. Larry Watt, Executive Director of UTHC.

“We are all very proud of Marilyn’s achievement today. She has worked very hard to attain her certificate and this success will encourage others to follow in her footsteps. We need more Inuit midwives on the Ungava coast as giving birth is a very special moment for families everywhere and I am very proud to say we will now have an Inuk midwife to assist Inuit women in giving birth”, said Mrs. Minnie Grey, Executive Director of the NRBHSS.

*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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