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Introducing the Tukisiutik Application: Bridging Health-care Access Gaps for Inuit

Kuujuuaq, November 20, 2023 – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is pleased to announce the official launch of the Tukisiutik application, a groundbreaking tool enabling healthcare professionals to better intervene with individuals who speak Inuktitut, is now available on the Apple App Store.

Made possible through the collaboration and financial support of the Canadian Partnership against Cancer and Health Canada, this mobile application offers a range of features designed to improve health-care accessibility and communication for Inuktitut speakers alike. Key features include:

- **Symptom Index:** Quickly assess and understand common symptoms;
- **Pain Rating Scale:** Easily gauge and communicate pain levels, facilitating better interactions between patients and healthcare professionals; -;
- **Anatomical Glossary:** Access a comprehensive list of anatomical terms in English, French and Inuktitut, promoting clear communication during medical consultations;
- **Audio Pronunciations:** Hear pronunciations of medical terms in both English and Inuktitut, ensuring clarity and comprehension.

The Tukisiutik Application is a testament to health-care professionals' commitment to breaking down barriers in health-care access and improving the well-being of Inuit. The NRBHSS believes that access to accurate health-care information should be a right for all, and Tukisiutik is a significant step towards achieving this goal.

Dr. Nathalie Boulanger, Director of Professional Services at the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre, shared her thoughts on the app's development, saying, "Out of an informal conversation, a visionary concept took shape. As we contemplated the challenging task of effective communication with unilingual patients, particularly in scenarios where interpreters or family members were unavailable, the idea to create a medical-glossary app for health-care professionals and Inuit patients came to life. We believe that access to precise health-care information is an inherent right, and the Tukisiutik app embodies the tangible realization of this core belief."

To download the Tukisiutik application and start benefiting from its features, simply visit the Apple App Store and search for "Tukisiutik."

For more information about the Tukisiutik application, please visit our website at <https://nrbhss.ca/en/tukisiutik-application-medical-glossary>.

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About the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services:

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.

Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS)

For information: Yentl Béliard-Joseph
Communications Coordinator, NRBHSS
yentl.beliard-joseph.rr17@ssss.gouv.qc.ca
Tel.: 438.969.0554