



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **The most in-depth public health survey ever conducted in Nunavik begins on Saturday with 2,000 *Nunavimmiut* being recruited to participate**

**Kuujuaq, Québec – August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – After years of consultations and several months of intensive planning, Qanuilirpitaa? 2017, the most important health survey ever conducted in Nunavik is starting its journey.

It is a unique project where the Canadian Coast Guard Ship *Amundsen* will become the centre for the collection of important information about the health of close to 2,000 Nunavimmiut.

For 48 days starting in Kuujuaaraapik on August 19th and ending in Kuujuaq on October 5th, the *Amundsen* will stop in each of the 14 Nunavik communities. Participants will be transported on board the ship by barge or zodiac and sometimes even by helicopter where they will be met by a team of 40 nurses, researchers, medical technicians, dentists and interviewers.

A series of questionnaires about their physical and mental health as well as some clinical tests and the collection of blood and urine samples will be performed.

This survey has been in the planning for the last 4 years and is in continuity with the one held in 2004 but with a bigger agenda this time. In addition to the follow up of the participants aged 30 and over from 2004, 1,000 Inuit between 16 and 30 years old will be invited to participate along with an additional 300 in the 30 plus age group. Community profiles will also be done as part of a commitment to make the survey results as useful as possible to the communities and the regional leaders.

The survey is being overseen by a regional Steering Committee headed by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and made-up of representatives of the major regional organizations and of the mayors.

“It’s been a long process planning and preparing this survey so it is great to see it come to fruition. This survey is a product of partnerships and will provide very important tools for Nunavik to continue in its efforts to be proactive about health issues and community wellness,” said Minnie Grey, the Executive Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and President of the Steering Committee.

Makivik Corporation President Jobie Tukkiapik is eager to know what the data collected during the survey will reveal. “There is nothing more important than the health of our people and Makivik is without a doubt looking forward to the findings of this survey and its effect,” Mr. Tukkiapik said.

The realization of the survey has been made possible through a collaborative partnership with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec and the Université de Laval Centre Hospitalier Universitaire’s Quebec Research Centre. The NRBHSS, Kativik Regional Government and the Makivik Corporation are making significant financial contributions. The Kativik School Board is funding an innovative project to help nurture the competencies and skills of Inuit students in the fields of health and science.

Other funds come from the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services, Health Canada, Artic Net and the Amundsen Science Ship Time Fund. Groups such as Qarjuit Youth Council are giving their time to help promote the survey. The generosity of Air Inuit and First Air is highly commendable. Air Inuit has donated 14 pairs of airline tickets to be used within Nunavik that will be drawn among participants in each community. First Air has donated a pair of tickets for a flight from Kuujuaq to Montreal that will be drawn at the end of the survey.

More information is available on our website at [nrbhss.gouv.qc.ca/en](http://nrbhss.gouv.qc.ca/en) and you will be able follow the journey into the lives of Nunavimmiut throughout the survey on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/qanuilirpitaa/](https://facebook.com/qanuilirpitaa/)) where videos, pictures and commentaries will be downloaded.

*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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