

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Nunavut's Regional Action Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination

On March 23, 2018, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) President Natan Obed and the Honorable Dr. Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services, announced a joint ITK-federal government commitment to eliminate TB across Inuit Nunangat by 2030. \$27.5 million over 5 years had been allocated for Inuit TB elimination within the 2018 federal budget.

The elimination target date was informed by the Inuit Tuberculosis Task Force – which was established by the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee in the fall of 2017 to develop a comprehensive framework for the elimination of TB across the Inuit Nunangat. The Task Force included representatives from Inuit organizations and public government, and experts in TB care and programming, TB research and health equity. The *Inuit Tuberculosis Elimination Framework* (the TB Framework) was released by ITK in December of 2018. Its purpose was to guide development of Inuit region-specific action plans to eliminate TB in every Inuit community in Canada by 2030.

The *Nunavut Tuberculosis Elimination Action Plan, 2020-2023* was created through a collaborative process led by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), in partnership with the Government of Nunavut. It is the first in a set of action plans that will be implemented to achieve TB elimination across Nunavut by 2030. The TB action plan describes what will be done in Nunavut over the next 3 years to build relationships, programs and knowledge, and to secure the long-term commitments and substantial investments needed to achieve and sustain TB elimination.

There are 10 focus areas of this TB action plan:

- Partnership, collaboration and advocacy
- Strengthening the health system
- Housing
- Nutrition, food security and food sovereignty
- Strengthening families and communities
- Eliminating TB stigma
- Strengthening the Nunavut TB Program
- Community TB screening and treatment
- Inuit education and employment
- Inuit governed research

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Through these focus areas we will:

- 1. Improve access to healthcare by increasing Inuit employment and use of Inuktut in health and TB programs.
- Support our partners at the Government of Nunavut to make the Nunavut TB Program stronger and to continue community-based TB screening and testing clinics to reduce the number of Nunavummiut with active TB and latent TB infection (sleeping TB).
- 3. Invest in new and existing programs to provide additional support to people and communities affected by TB.
- 4. Work across sectors to connect the TB action plan with efforts towards healing from historical traumas, reducing poverty, closing the public housing gap, and strengthening our social infrastructure.
- 5. Implement a TB research strategy that meaningfully involves Inuit to answer our questions and inform our way forward.
- 6. Implement community-based and community-led initiatives to eliminate TB and to end the stigma and discrimination often faced by those with TB.
- Establish the Nunavut Tuberculosis Caucus and use the Nunavut Declaration on Tuberculosis Elimination as tools to maintain political will and secure additional resources and investments we need to achieve our vision of a strong and TB-free Nunavut by 2030.
- 8. Expand the mandate and membership of the Nunavut Tuberculosis Elimination Advisory Committee to ensure implementation of the action plan is inclusive, transparent and effective. This approach will allow us to move forward in an informed way, and with confidence that we have adequate tools, capacity and funding necessary to proceed.
- 9. Develop tools that will enable us to monitor, to evaluate and as needed, to adjust the Action Plan to help us achieve our goals.
- 10. Demonstrate accountability to Nunavummiut by reporting on Nunavut's progress toward achieving TB elimination at least annually.