



Partnership to Train Inuit Doctors

(May 4, 2022 – Iqaluit, Nunavut) With the goal of increasing the number of Inuit physicians, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) have partnered with the University of Ottawa Medical School to secure seats and provide targeted supports to students.

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Health, has secured up to two seats beginning in September 2023. All eligible applicants to this stream are entitled to apply for support from the Government of Nunavut to assist with travel and application costs.

Nunavut Inuit applicants are eligible for enhanced application support, such as in obtaining pre-requisites, through NTI and Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's Quvvariarniq Program. Upon admission, Nunavut Inuit applicants would also be eligible for additional ongoing educational support, such as a training allowance, childcare allowance and tutoring.

Applications to the University of Ottawa are due October 1, 2022. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply early. Graduates of the Nunavut Arctic College Bachelor of Science in Arctic Nursing may be eligible. Visit <https://med.uottawa.ca/undergraduate/admissions> to learn more.

Quotes

"I am very pleased to see this partnership moving forward. With the help of NTI and the University of Ottawa, we are working to fulfil the Government of Nunavut's goal of training and hiring more Inuit Health Professionals. Through this partnership, we can provide Nunavummiut with opportunities for professional employment and improve access to culturally informed care," said Minister of Health John Main.

"Over the next few years, we would like several cohorts of Nunavut Inuit to begin training towards becoming a doctor. The training and employment of Inuit health care professionals is essential for accessible, safe, high quality Inuktit health care in Nunavut," said Aluki Kotierk, President of NTI and Chair of the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

Information Session

To learn more about the University of Ottawa's medical school, the admissions process and financial supports available from the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc, please join us for a Zoom information session:

May 26, 2022 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Eastern

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88146155803?pwd=bzNuVzZzYTI6UEk3RDIPVEtrcUpaQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 4615 5803

Passcode: 257701

For further information:

Chris Puglia
Manager of Communications
Department of Health
867-975-5949
cpuglia@gov.nu.ca

Malaya Mikijuk
Director of Communications Trainee
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Tel: (867) 975-4900/Toll-free: 1-888-646-0006
mmikijuk@tunngavik.com
www.tunngavik.com

Backgrounder

Inuit employment as health care professionals has not changed in Nunavut over the past 20 years.

DEPARTMENT	DATE	PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS FILLED / TOTAL	INUIT PROFESSIONALS	
			#EMPLOYED	% OF FILLED
HEALTH & SS	MARCH 2001	133 / 184	15	11%
HEALTH & SS	MARCH 2004	190 / 226	20	11%
HEALTH & SS	MARCH 2007	201 / 349	35	17%
HEALTH & SS	MARCH 2010	195 / 332	25	13%
HEALTH & SS	MARCH 2013	203 / 353	23	11%
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPT SEPARATES FROM HEALTH DEPT				
HEALTH	MARCH 2016	139 / 312	08	6%
HEALTH	MARCH 2017	168 / 335	11	7%
HEALTH	MARCH 2018	180 / 349	10	6%
HEALTH	MARCH 2019	175 / 362	15	9%
HEALTH	MARCH 2020	189 / 382	18	10%
HEALTH	MARCH 2021	186 / 391	17	9%

SOURCE: GOV'T OF NUNAVUT, DEP'T OF HUMAN RESOURCES: INUIT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS [GOV.NU.CA]

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report described the importance of building capacity in health professions so that Indigenous people can revive their capacity to heal themselves and close the gap in health outcomes; Call to Action 23.i.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls:

- Calls for Justice 7.7, we call upon all governments, educational institutions and health and wellness professional bodies to encourage, support and equitably fund Indigenous people train and work in the area of health and wellness;
- Calls for Justice 7.8, We call upon all governments and health service providers to create effective and well-funded opportunities, and to provide socio-economic incentives, to encourage Indigenous people to work within the health and wellness field and within their communities. This includes taking positive action to recruit, hire, train, and retain long-term staff and local Indigenous community members for health and wellness services offered in all Indigenous communities; and
- Calls for Justice 16.8, We call upon all governments to invest in the recruitment and capacity building of Inuit within the medical, health, and wellness service fields. Training and competency in both contemporary and Inuit medical, health, and wellness practices and methodologies are essential for effective services in these fields.