



Access to Justice Family Violence Prevention

Stephen Jackson – Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Health

Public Awareness Campaign Launch in Iqaluit

On behalf of Minister Lorne Kusugak

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Minister of Health, Lorne Kusugak, I am pleased to be here for this exciting launch.

The minister and the Department of Health's staff appreciate the hard work that has gone into developing this awareness campaign.

We thank all the partners who have dedicated their time to the important cause of healing family violence.

This campaign is an important step toward the goal of addressing the harms family violence causes to all Nunavummiut regardless of age, income or culture.

It recognizes that healthy families are a responsibility that spans a diversity of expertise and requires the support from a variety of organizations.

This is in line with the Government of Nunavut's Inuusivut priority, which commits us to working toward the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities.

The Department of Health is committed to improving the health of families across Nunavut.

Part of that commitment is a dedication to helping all Nunavummiut lead productive lives in self-reliant and healthy communities.

It is vital that our approach incorporates Inuit traditional knowledge and Inuit Societal values at all levels of service delivery and design.

The social determinants of health remind us of the many underlying factors that contribute to the health and wellbeing of Nunavummiut.

This means that healthy families are comprised of healthy individuals.

To that end, from those on the frontlines to the policy and law makers, Department of Health staff work tirelessly every day to improve the health of all Nunavummiut.

The Department of Health recognizes that healthy families is a multi-faceted issue that must be addressed not only by the availability of services but also through education.

Physical health, mental health and sexual health all contribute to the quality of family life.

We commit to supporting individuals, groups, and communities in their efforts to obtain the knowledge and skills that will improve personal, familial, and community control over their health and wellness.

Through our health centres, and the divisions of population health, mental health, and addictions, we offer a variety of programming and services that assist in the enhancement of family health.

In support of the family violence campaign, two educational pod casts on mental and sexual health were developed to add to our support and treatment services.

The podcast on sexual health focuses on helping people understand what a healthy relationship looks like.

It is designed to help Nunavummiut understand the signs of unhealthy relationships, know their options around sexual health and feel comfortable around aspects of personal autonomy when it comes to sex and their bodies.

This tool is valuable to both men and women and can be used to understand not only if their personal relationships are healthy but when it might be time to seek outside help.

The podcast on addictions and mental health focuses on how our mental health, and issues with addiction can impact family health.

It helps people understand that abuse comes in many forms and has many contributing factors.

This podcast helps to reinforce how necessary it is for Nunavummiut to take care of their mental health, address issues with addiction and violence.

This will help them better understand when to seek medical help for the betterment of their personal and family life.

To support better collaboration in fostering healthier families, the Department of Health has agreed to join the Advisory Committee.

We believe that bringing all our partners together will create much needed cross-organization dialogue. It will allow us to share best practices, enhance collaboration and develop new ideas that will benefit all of Nunavut's families.

I, Department of Health Staff, and our minister are excited to be part of this new collaborative initiative.

We look forward to joining together to become a more unified voice to support healthier families.

Thank you