



News Release

Minister opens Naja Isabelle Home for severely disabled

CHESTERFIELD INLET, Nunavut (June 22, 2005) – Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq today opened Nunavut’s newest residential care facility, the Naja Isabelle Home.

“This home will continue the tradition of service first brought to this community by the Grey Nuns at St. Theresa Hospital,” said Aglukkaq. “The Government of Nunavut’s commitment to bring health care closer to home means severely disabled clients can now stay here in Nunavut instead of being placed in facilities in the south, to the benefit of both the clients and their families.”

The \$3.8 million facility was completed last year. Operations began in January 2005 once all furniture and equipment was installed. The facility serves 10 clients who range from infants to mature adults in age. Local residents took special training so they could work as special attendants. A Registered Nurse serves as the Director of Patient Care of what is now one of the largest employers in the community.

The Naja Isabelle Home is named after Sister Thérèse Isabelle, who trained at the Regina Grey Nuns School of Nursing before moving north in 1968. Chesterfield Inlet was both her first and last posting, serving for almost 15 years before retiring in 1998.

The community of Chesterfield Inlet was very involved in the development of the new facility. When the Diocese of Hudson’s Bay decided in 2000 to withdraw from operating the long-term care facility in the old Ste. Theresa Home, the community established its own development corporation to take on the challenge of building and operating a new facility. Today the building is owned by the Government of Nunavut and operated, under contract, by the Pimaksirvik Corporation. (*Pimaksirvik* means ‘home for those who cannot look after themselves.’)

“Naja Isabelle Home is about health care delivered to Inuit, by Inuit,” said Aglukkaq. “It is proof of what can be done when communities and government work together to help people in need.”

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