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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut iuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

Government of Nunavut Department of Health

2014/2015 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan

From the Director of Medical Insurance



Services based in the Qikiqtani General Hospital include 24-hour emergency services, in-patient care (including obstetrics, pediatrics and palliative care), surgical services, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging, and respiratory therapy.

Nunavut's primary health care providers are predominantly family physicians and community health nurses. The Department recruits and hires its own nurses and physicians. Specialist services are accessed primarily from the Territory's main referral centres in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Yellowknife and Edmonton.

More than one third of the Department's total operational budget is spent on costs associated with medical travel (\$64,686,706) and physician and hospital services (\$57,140,612) outside the Territory. Due to the Territory's very low population density and limited health infrastructure (i.e. diagnostic equipment and health human resources), access to a range of hospital and specialist services often requires residents to travel outside the Territory. The two regional health facilities (Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay), as well as the Qikiqtani General Hospital, are enabling Nunavut to build internal capacity and enhance the range of services that can be provided within the Territory.

Nunavut Health Insurance Plan

The Act governs who is covered by Nunavut's Health Insurance Plan and the payment of benefits for insured medical services. The Nunavut Health Insurance Plan is administered by the Department on a non-profit basis. Insured hospital services are provided in Nunavut under separate legislative authority - the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*.

Eligibility

Eligibility for the Nunavut Health Insurance Plan is briefly defined under Section 3(1), (2) and (3) of the Act. The Department also adheres to the *Interprovincial/Territorial Agreement on Eligibility and Portability*.

Every Nunavut resident is covered by, and entitled to, insured health services with standard terms and conditions. A resident means a person who is lawfully entitled to be, or to remain in Canada, who makes his or her

