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NUTAQQANUT INULRAMIRNULLU
UQAQTIKHAANIK

REPRÉSENTANT DE
L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE

REPRESENTATIVE FOR
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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Representative for Children and Youth's Office Announces First Formal Systemic Review

Review to investigate Government of Nunavut mental health services for young people

Iqaluit, NU Today, the Representative for Children and Youth's Office (RCYO) launched a formal systemic review into the Government of Nunavut's mental health services for young Nunavummiut. This will be the Office's first such review and marks the official launch of its systemic advocacy program.

"Through our individual advocacy cases, we have seen the serious impact that a lack of child and youth mental health services is having on young Nunavummiut," the Representative for Children and Youth, Sherry McNeil-Mulak said. "This investigative review will give a clear picture of what it is like to be a young person in need of mental health services in this territory and make recommendations to the Government of Nunavut for needed improvements."

Formal systemic reviews are a key part of the RCYO's systemic advocacy program. Systemic issues impact the rights of many young people, are likely to continue if not addressed, and often require changes to legislation, policy or services to resolve.

"We've heard about this issue from young people at Nunavut's Youth Parliaments. We've seen it in our individual advocacy cases and we've heard it from the public in each and every community we have visited," McNeil-Mulak said. "A child's right to adequate health care, including mental health services, is a fundamental right found in Articles 24 and 39 of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. With this review, we are working to ensure this right is upheld and respected."

The RCYO has notified the Department of Health of the review and investigative work will begin immediately. As part of its investigation, the RCYO will conduct interviews with stakeholder groups, review extensive documentation, and analyze all information collected in order to generate practicable recommendations directed at the Government of Nunavut. The RCYO anticipates the review will take one year to complete.

About the Representative: The Representative for Children and Youth is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The RCY office protects and promotes the rights of Nunavut's children and youth. We represent their voice in matters that affect them and ensure the Government of Nunavut protects and advances their rights and interests. Please visit our website, www.rcynu.ca.

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