



January 19, 2024

Hon. George Hickes, MLA
Chair – Committee of the Whole
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
926 Sivumugiaq Street
Iqaluit, NU
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Dear Mr. Hickes,

I wish to clarify and provide additional information to some of my responses during the Department of Health's (Health) appearance at Committee of the Whole on October 31, November 1 and 2, 2023. Please find below additional information about the work of Health.

Aqqusariaq: Substantial Completion Date, Cost of Wastewater and Water, and Educational Programming

The substantial completion date of Aqqusariaq is December 2025. While the Government of Nunavut (GN) received rebates on the lot price, the cost of water and sewer utilities are the GN's to bear. These expenses are included in the construction estimates provided by the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS). Health has been consulting with the Department of Education (Education) as the daycare and children's programming are designed. Two members of the Development Team leading the design of the children's programming are Education staff: a Manager of Early Childhood Development and an Early Childhood Officer.

Site for the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre

The site for the new Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre and a new 5-plex for housing are to occupy lots 339, 340, 341 and 342 in addition to some community land behind those lots.

New Mental Health Location in Kugaaruk

Health does not have a formal capital request for mental health and addictions space in Kugaaruk. Presently, outreach staff have an office in the Wellness Centre and Health is in the process of renewing the lease. The Mental Health and Addictions Nurse is at the community health centre.

Between 2018 and 2022, hanging has been the most prevalent method of suicide among individuals aged 15 and older. In contrast, firearms have been the most common method for suicide among children aged 0 to 14 years. Suicide by firearms was found to be more prevalent among men than women, while hanging was a more common method among women. Suicide due to drug overdose has been observed exclusively among women aged 40 to 59 years.

Due to the numbers, there are no clear, significant trends that could lead to forecasting. However, Health does more than collect numbers; by reviewing the profile of those who have died by suicide Health makes recommendations for programming and support. For example, the Atii, Angutiit! program is a men's group that focuses on younger males.

Average and Median Age at Suicide by Year (2018 – 2022)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average Years)	24	29	31	25	27	27
Median (Years)	23	27	29	23	25	24

Total Number of Suicides per Year (2012 – 2022)

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Suicides	26	45	28	32	32	25	29	38	25	36	26

As we aim to provide open, transparent, and accurate information, I hope this helps to clarify questions and concerns raised by Members.

Matna,

Hon. John Main
Minister of Health
Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

cc: Members of the Committee of the Whole
John Quirke, Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Megan Hunt, Deputy Minister of Health