

OTTAWA, ONTARIO (February 9, 2016)

It is with great sadness that we announce the indefinite suspension of services at the Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) Mamisarvik Healing Centre effective March 31, 2016 while we evaluate the structure and feasibility of delivering our residential addiction and trauma recovery counselling program.

TI is a not for profit charitable organization with a mandate to empower and enhance the lives of Inuit through the provision of Inuit specific programs and services and has been delivering Inuit mental health and supportive services since 1987. In 2003, we were proud to launch the Mamisarvik Healing centre as a result of Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) funding. With the closing of the AHF in December of 2013, TI decided to invest its own organizational resources to try to sustain operations of its treatment centre. We have received support from the Government of Nunavut and Correctional Services Canada to offer our trauma informed residential treatment program to their clients on a fee based service. Two years later, TI has invested approximately \$500,000 of its own funds to keep the doors open but we are now without any financial reserves entering fiscal year 2016-17.

“A residential treatment centre is not financially sustainable exclusively on a pay as you go model. We are in need of ongoing operational funding as most other treatment centres receive from one level of government or another”, noted Jason LeBlanc, Executive Director Tungasuvvingat Inuit. “We have a proven model of success that has empowered hundreds of lives and we want to link with people who can support those outcomes.”

The Board and senior management remain committed to the work of Mamisarvik and want to celebrate the great success of the past 13 years in designing and delivering Inuit specific trauma informed residential addiction services. We also want to thank all our partners and supporters who work in the field. Collectively we are working toward a common goal of improving the mental health and well being of Inuit through culturally safe and appropriate services.

“This was a very difficult decision no one took lightly. The Board of Directors wants to acknowledge that Mamisarvik has been a true success story because of the great work of our staff and the clients,” said Malaya Rheume, Board President “we have the experience and expertise for this line of work and TI is committed to finding a financially viable way to help Inuit.”

For more information, contact, Jason LeBlanc 613-565-5885 ext. 15 [exec-dir@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca](mailto:exec-dir@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca)

### **About Tungasuvvingat Inuit**

Tungasuvvingat Inuit is an Inuit-specific, provincial service provider that provides social support, cultural activities, counselling and crisis intervention as a one-stop resource centre to meet the rapidly growing, complex and evolving needs of Inuit in Ontario.

For more information, visit [www.tungasuvvingatinuit.ca](http://www.tungasuvvingatinuit.ca)