COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE PUBLIQUE SUR LES RELATIONS ENTRE LES AUTOCHTONES ET CERTAINS SERVICES PUBLICS AU QUÉBEC :

ÉCOUTE, RÉCONCILIATION ET PROGRÈS

Under the direction of Judge Jacques Viens

Application for Limited Participant Standing for the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

Nunavik's health and social services network includes the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), the Inuulitsivik Health Centre (Hudson Bay) and the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre (Ungava Bay). The signing of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA*) and supplementary agreements established guidelines for the development of health and social services in Nunavik. The organization of health care and social services is a provincial jurisdiction, but it is adapted to regional realities.

Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

Created in 1995 by virtue of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services' principal mandate is to organize health and social service programs in the region (14 villages of Nunavik), evaluate those programs' effectiveness and ensure the users receive services of good quality appropriate to their needs. Further, it ensures the organization and efficient use of financial resources granted to the Nunavik region.

The NRBHSS is an organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the populations of the 14 communities on its territory. Its overall mission is to adapt the health and social service programs to the population's needs and to the region's realities.

For the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)*, Nunavik corresponds to administrative health region 17. The NRBHSS manages a health and social services budget of almost \$167 million for the population of the 14 communities. Its head office is located in Kuujjuaq.

Board of Directors

A board of directors composed of 20 members oversees the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services. (*ARHSS*, section 530.30).

The board of directors of the regional board shall be composed of the following persons as and when they are appointed:

- one representative appointed by each northern village included in the territory defined in section 2 of the *Act respecting northern villages and the Kativik Regional Government* (Chapter V-6.1);
- the executive director of each institution and another person appointed by the members of the board of directors of each institution, chosen from among the persons referred to in paragraph 1 of section 530.13;



 a regional councillor appointed by the board of directors of the Kativik Regional Government.

With the exception of the executive director, the term of office of the directors shall be three years. At the expiry of their term, they shall remain in office until they are replaced or reappointed.

In addition to its administrative functions, the board is responsible for identifying priorities for the population in terms of health and social services, priorities that are subject to the NRBHSS annual public information session.

The law mandates a majority of Inuit members on the boards of the NRBHSS and other institutions.

Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The board of directors administers the business of the regional board. It exercises all the powers of the regional board. It defines the strategic orientations of the regional board and exercises its responsibilities, in accordance with the province-wide orientations, while favouring networking with the local, regional and provincial partners.

The board of directors has the following functions:

- identifying the priorities regarding the needs of the population to be served and the services to be offered to that population, accounting for the distinctive sociocultural and linguistic characteristics of that population and the distinctive subregional and socioeconomic characteristics of the region, and developing orientations in this regard;
- allocating equitably the human, physical and financial resources made available to it, accounting for the same distinctive characteristics as those contemplated in paragraph a) and ensuring their economical and efficient use;
- appointing the executive director of the regional board;
- appointing the senior administrators;
- appointing the regional service quality and complaints commissioner in accordance with section 63 of the act;
- adopting the strategic plan and the annual management report;
- presenting the regional board's priorities regarding health services and social services and its annual activity report to the public at a public information meeting;
- approving the management and accountability agreement;



- approving the financial statements;
- monitoring performance and accountability for results.



Interest in the Committee's Work

The NRBHSS has a direct and genuine interest in the committee's work, as it is concerned with the access of Inuit beneficiaries of the *JBNQA* to health and social services on the Nunavik territory, where it is responsible for organizing said services, or off-territory, where it assumes joint responsibility with partner institutions of the health and social services network.

The NRBHSS has a direct and genuine interest in the committee's work, as it is concerned with the quality of the services received by Inuit beneficiaries of the *JBNQA* on the Nunavik territory and in the partner institutions of the health and social services network.

The NRBHSS has a direct and genuine interest in the committee's work, as the accessibility and the quality of the services received by Inuit beneficiaries of the *JBNQA* are based in part on the cultural safety of said services, both on the Nunavik territory and in the partner institutions of the health and social services network.

The NRBHSS has a direct and genuine interest in the committee's work, as it is in a position to inform the committee members during the phase of recommendations on the feasibility of concrete measures aimed at improving the accessibility and quality of the health and social services received by the Inuit beneficiaries of the *JBNQA*.

The NRBHSS has a direct and genuine interest in the committee's work, as the commission's very mandate directly concerns health and social services.

The NRBHSS has a direct and genuine interest in the committee's work, as it is concerned with the quality, availability and accessibility of the services offered to youths, including youthprotection services.

The NRBHSS has a direct and genuine interest in the committee's work, as it will ensure the representation of Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik.

Finally, the NRBHSS, because of its jurisdiction and its extensive expertise on Inuit territory, shall fuel and guide the committee's considerations.



Contribution of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services to the Committee's Work

The NRBHSS shall contribute to the committee's work through its familiarity with the issues and challenges facing the Inuit beneficiaries of the *JBNQA* in relation to health and social services, including youth-protection services.

The NRBHSS shall contribute to the committee's work through its familiarity with the initiatives and solutions under development or recently applied and which are aimed at responding to said issues and challenges.

The NRBHSS shall provide the committee with specific expertise in health and social services on a territory whose population, by vast majority, is aboriginal, namely Inuit.

The NRBHSS will bring up Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik's argument.

For several years, the NRBHSS has been a true leader in terms of reflection and innovation in terms of developing creative solutions. Our experience throughout Nunavik, which represents one third of Québec's territory, could certainly benefit the committee.



For the above reasons, the NRBHSS hereby applies for limited participant standing in the committee's work.

The regional board is represented by Jean-François Arteau, advocatus emeritus, who has great experience in working with public institutions created under the JBNQA and is very familiar with these issues, and who has resided for several years in Kuujjuaq.



Representative of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services



Declaration under Oath

I, the undersigned, Me Jean-François Arteau, advocatus emeritus and representative of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, with a business address at 600 Maisonneuve Boulevard West, suite 1700, Montréal, hereby declare that:

I am aware of the procedural and operating rules of the public investigating committee on relations between aboriginal communities and certain public services in Québec: hearing, reconciliation and progress, and hereby agree on my behalf and on behalf of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services to comply therewith.

All the facts stated under the present declaration are true.

Signed in *Pulse*, on April 27 2017

Me Jean-François Arteau

Sworn before me in Outlee , on April 27 2017

