



Tungasuvvingat Inuit

MEDIA RELEASE

# MAMISARVIK HEALING CENTRE FOR INUIT OPENS IN ONTARIO

OTTAWA, ON - OCTOBER 25, 2019



It is with great pleasure that Tungasuvvingat Inuit announces the grand re-opening of Mamisarvik Healing Centre in Ottawa. Mamisarvik was created in 2003 to serve and offer the delivery of Inuit-specific trauma informed healing and address substance use disorders. More than 500 individuals and many families have experienced the positive outcomes of this much-needed treatment program throughout the years.

In 2017, as a result of funding deficiencies, the Mamisarvik program was forced to dissolve. However, the work continued behind the scenes to find a solution and a revised healing program for Inuit. As a result of collaborative efforts, support from the Government of Ontario and a detailed strategy, Mamisarvik returns revitalized and ready to enhance the lives of Inuit on a journey to healing and wellness.

Mamisarvik Healing Centre has renovated a building at 25 Rosemount Avenue in the Hintonburg community of Ottawa. The building accommodates 10 beds, a commercial-grade kitchen, multiple meeting spaces and common areas, cultural spaces and a 24-hour support team of health professionals. The three floor facility will offer day programs in addition to full-time residential programs. A day program begins October 29th, 2019 and the first residential treatment will begin in early 2020.

TI Executive Director, Jason LeBlanc stated, **“We could not be more proud of continuing to offer Inuit-specific healing for individuals and families in Ontario. Our facility will offer extensive counselling sessions, culturally-specific healing, time with Elders and a world-class team of health experts. This is a very special day and one that will continue a legacy of healing for Inuit in Ontario”.**

Mamisarvik will provide professional, confidential, non-judgmental recovery for Inuit men and women that are 18 years of age or older. Chris Stewart is the Director of Health and Wellness with TI and said, **“The program will provide a much needed non-mainstream option for Inuit in Ontario. The continued support for this program will align with the Calls to Action #22 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to respect traditional healing practices of Inuit.”** The Urban Inuit population is growing at a rapid rate and in 2016, Stats Canada reported 40% of Inuit in the country now lived outside of Inuit Nunagat. As the number of Inuit residing in Ontario continues to grow, Mamisarvik will now be available to offer healing services as an option for recovery”.

The day and residential healing programs will focus on areas ranging from stabilization, individual and group therapy and group sharing. A strength-based approach is used and topics throughout treatment will include trauma, substance use, self-regulation, relationships, anxiety, stress management and many more. Traditional cultural activities and time with Inuit Elders will also be an important piece of the healing journey.

For more information on the Mamisarvik Healing Centre programs or to submit an application as a client, contact 613-692-8132 x226 or [intakemhc@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca](mailto:intakemhc@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca)

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<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/98-400-X2016167>

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Mamisarvik Photos

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Tungasuvvingat Inuit is the only Inuit-specific service organization of its kind in Canada offering 20+ highly integrated, front-line programs and services to urban Inuit in Ontario. Tungasuvvingat Inuit is a one-stop resource centre to meet the rapidly growing, complex and evolving needs of Inuit in Ontario and is recognized as a leading advocate for urban Inuit and is prominent within the framework of national Inuit organizations