



NEWS RELEASE

Inuit Health Survey launches for 2008

Paulatuk, Northwest Territories (*August 6, 2008*) – The 2008 Inuit Health Survey for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut and Nunatsiavut kicked off today when the survey crew boarded the Canadian Coast Guard Ship *Amundsen* in Paulatuk. The group of bilingual interviewers, nurses and lab technicians are en route to Tuktoyaktuk where they will start surveying the first of over 1,000 people across the three regions. In 2007, 1,214 people participated from 18 communities in Nunavut.

Participants will fill out questionnaires on household crowding, food security, alcohol and drug use, mental health and community wellness. During a clinical appointment, participants will have tests for diabetes and cardiovascular risk factors, nutritional status and environmental exposures. Individual results will be returned within four months of a participant's visit to the ship and all information will be kept confidential.

The Inuit Health Survey is the first comprehensive look at the health of Inuit in these three regions. The results will help identify priority areas and guide future Inuit-specific health delivery programs and promotion.

Throughout the course of the Health Survey, partnerships between Inuit organizations, educational institutions and different levels of government have set a precedent for Northern research. Steering committees in each region have guided decision-making and provided support.

The project is funded by the Government of Canada Federal Program for International Polar Year, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Health Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs, the Government of Nunavut and ArcticNet. The health survey is coordinated by the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment of McGill University.

Follow the journey of the *Amundsen* and the survey crew at www.inuithealthsurvey.ca. Photos and stories are updated daily.

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