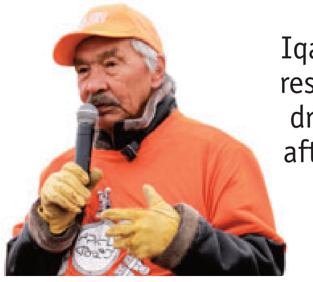
Nurses have raised alarms about harassment in Nunavut for years. What's changed?

5

Afghan war veteran reflects on 'making connections' in his year of service

7



Iqaluit city councillor resigns after impaired driving charges, days after he was sworn in

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Flying high: Artcirq circus program celebrates 25 years

Igloolik after-school arts program adds music component

Madalyn Howitt

In a one-room studio nestled in the back of Igloolik's old curling arena, 13-year-old Mysti-Maye Kripanik is hanging upside down in the air.

The young circus arts teacher is suspending herself in a split, her feet wrapped tightly around two long strips of white silk cascading down from the ceiling.

A few metres below her, half a dozen kids eagerly wait in line for their turn to flip upside down on a second pair of dangling silks, while the occasional thud of feet hitting a cushioned gym mat ring punctuates the air.

It's a typical scene in the Blackbox Studio, home

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The teachers and co-ordinators of the Artcirq after-school circus program in Igloolik have some fun during a break between classes at Igloolik's Blackbox Studio on Sept. 6. From left: Levy Tapatsiak, Ashley Akittirq, Mysti-Maye Kripanik, Tylie Arnatsiaq, Shayne Maliki and Keith Irngaut. (Photo by Madalyn Howitt)

Deputy minister apologizes for harassment at Nunavut health centres

Memo says department's policies based on best practices but 'continue to evolve'

Randi Beers

The Government of Nunavut's deputy minister of health offered an apology to her staff last week in response to allegations that Nunavut's health centres are toxic work environments.

"I want to take the time to acknowledge that recent publications in the media may be concerning to health staff both on a personal and professional level," Megan Hunt wrote in a memo addressed to all Department of Health staff, dated Nov. 2.

"I want to assure you that we take these matters seriously. I also want to express my sincere apologies to those who have experienced or witnessed bullying or harassment in the workplace."

The memo was obtained by Nunatsiaq News on Nov. 3. Hunt was not immediately available for comment because she was in the legislature, said Health Department spokesperson Danarae Somerville.

The apology follows the publication of a three-part series in Nunatsiaq News detailing the experiences of nurses who say they've been targeted, reprimanded, harassed or blacklisted after asking for support or identifying ways to improve their health centres. The series also explores the government's response to the issue.

In the two-page memo, Hunt said the government's processes to report and address workplace conflict are based on best practices, but "continue to evolve."

"This includes working with the Department of Health's human resources division and the Department of Human Resources to ensure that complaints and conflicts are addressed in a timely manner and that corrective measures are taken if required," Hunt said in the memo.

However, the memo does not say what that work will entail. The Department of Health and Department of Human

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ᑐᓴᕋᓭᓴᖅ ᐅᖃᖅᓯᒪᔪᖅ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᕝᕕᖕᒋᑦᑕ ᐱᖁᔭᖕᒋᑦ ᐱᐅᓂᖅᐹᖑᒧᒪᑕ ᐊᑐᖅᑕᐅᒋᐊᓖᑦ "ᐊᓯᔾᔨᐸᓪᓚᐊᖕᒋᓐᓇᖅᖓᑕ'

ᕇᓐᑎ ᐱᐅᔅ

ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᒐᕙᒪᒃᑯᖕᒋᑦ ᒥᓂᔅᑕᐅᑉ ᑐᖏᓕᖓ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᖅᑐᓕᕆᓂᕐᒧᑦ ᒪᒥᐊᑦᑐᖅ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᖅᑎᕐᑯᑎᖕᒋᓐᓄᑦ ᐱᓇᓱᐊᕈᓯᕆᓚᐅᖅᑕᖓᓐᓂ ᐸᓯᔭᔅᓴᕈᖅᑎᑕᐅᓚᐅᕐᖓᑕ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᕝᕕᖓᔫᖅ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᕐᕕᒃᒪᐅᒪᑦ.

"ᐃᓕᓭᖅᓯᒍᒪᕗᖓ ᒫᓐᓇᑭᓪᓗᒃ ᐱᕙᓪᓕᐊᔫᒃᑰᓚᐅᖅᑐᒥᑦ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᕝᕕᒻᒥ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᖅᑏᑦ ᐃᒻᒥᓂᒃ ᐱᓕᕆᑎᓪᓗᒋᑦ ᐱᓕᕆᔾᔪᒪᕆᐅᑎᓪᓗᒋᓪᓗ," ᒪᐃᒐᓐ Hᐊᓐᑦ ᑎᑎᕋᖅᑐᓂ ᑐᓴᕋᔅᓯᒪᑦ ᑕᒪᑐᒪ ᒥᔅᓵᓄᑦ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᕝᕕᐅᑉ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᖅᑎᖕᒋᓐᓂ, ᐅᓪᓗᕆᖅᑐᖅ ᓅᕖᐱᕆ 2-ᒥᑦ.

"ᖃᐅᔨᒪᕋᓱᐃᔪᒐᖓ ᑕᒪᒃᑯᐊ ᐱᒪᕆᐅᕆᒐᑦᑎᒍ. ᒪᒥᐊᓇᕐᓚᕆᐅᒐᓗᐊᖅ ᑕᐃᒪᐃᑦᑐᒃᑯᓚᐅᕋᔅᓯ ᑕᑯᓐᓇᖅᑐᓯᔫᓐᓃᑦ ᑕᐸᓯᑦᑕᐅᔪᓂᑦ ᐅᕙᔫᓐᓃᑦ ᐸᕝᕙᓯᑦᑕᐅᔪᓂᑦ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᕝᕕᒻᒥ."

ᑐᓴᕋᓭᓴᖅ ᐱᔭᐅᓪᓗᓂ ᓄᓇᑦᓯᐊᖅ ᐱᕙᓪᓕᐊᔪᒃᑯᖕᒋᓐᓄᑦ ᓅᕖᐱᕆ 3-ᒥ. Hᐊᓐᑦ ᐊᑐᐃᓐᓇᐅᑦᑕᐅᑎᒋᓚᐅᓐᖏᑦᑐᖅ ᐊᐱᖅᓱᖅᑕᐅᒍᒪᓂᓪᓗᒍ ᒪᓕᒐᓕᐅᕝᕕᒻᒦᓚᐅᖅᖓᑦ, ᐅᖃᖅᑐᓂᓗ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᖅᑐᓕᕆᔨᒃᑯᑦ ᐅᖃᖅᑎ ᑕᓇᕋᐃ ᓴᒧᕝᕕᐅ ᐊᑐᐃᓐᓇᐅᓪᓗᓂ.

ᒪᒥᐊᓚᐅᖅᑐᑦ ᐱᕙᓪᓕᐊᔪᓂᒃ ᐱᓇᓱᐊᕈᓯᓇᓚᐅᖅᑕᑎᓐᓂ ᓴᖅᑮᔪᖅᑲᓚᐅᖅᑎᓪᓗᒍ ᐱᖓᓱᐃᓕᖅᑲᖓᔪᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᑦᓯᐊᖅ ᐱᕙᓪᓕᐊᓕᔪᒃᑯᖕᒋᓐᓂ ᐅᖃᐅᓯᖅᑲᖅᑐᖅ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᓖᖅᑎᑦ ᐱᔭᐅᓇᓱᐊᖅᑐᑦ, ᐃᓂᖅᑎᖅᑕᐅᔪᖅᑲᖅᑐᓂ, ᐸᕝᕙᓯᑦᑐᑎᑦ ᑎᑎᕋᖅᑕᐅᓚᖅᓯᒪᔾᔭᔫᒍᓐᓃᕐᓂᖕᒋᓐᓂ ᐃᑲᔪᖅᑐᖅᑕᐅᔪᒪᓪᓗᑎᑦ ᐅᕙᓗᓐᓃᑦ ᓇᓗᓇᐃᔭᐃᓪᓗᑎᑦ ᐱᐅᓯᕚᓪᓕᑎᑦᑎᑲᓐᓂᕈᒪᓪᓗᑎᑦ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᕝᕕᖕᒋᓐᓂ. ᑖᒃᑯᐊᓗ ᕿᐅᓂᕆᓚᐅᖅᑕᖕᒋᑦ ᑕᒪᒃᑯᓄᖓ ᒐᕙᒪᒃᑯᓐᓂ ᕿᒥᕐᕈᓪᓗᑎᑦ.

ᒪᕐᕉᓐᓂᒃ ᒪᐸᒐᓕᓐᓂᒃ ᐅᖅᑲᖅᓯᒪᔪᑦ, Hᐊᓐᑦ ᐅᖃᖅᑐᓂ ᒐᕙᒪᒃᑯᑦ ᐃᓕᖅᑯᓯᖕᒋᓐᓂ ᐅᓂᒃᑳ-ᓕᐅᕆᐊᖅᖓᑕ ᑲᒪᒋᔭᖅᑳᖅᑐᑎᓪᓗ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᕐᕕᒥ ᐊᑲᐅᙱᓕᐅᕈᑎᖃᖅᑐᒥᑦ ᐱᐅᓂᖅᐹᖑᔭᖅᑐᖅ ᑕᐃᒻᒪ, ᑭᓯᐅᓂᓕ "ᐊᓯᔾᔨᐸᓪᓚᐊᖕᒋᓐᓇᖅᖓᑕ."

"ᑖᓐᓇ ᐱᖃᓯᐅᔾᔨᔪᖅ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᕝᕕᖕᒋᓐᓂ ᐋᓐᓂᐊᖅᑕᐃᓕᒪᔪᓕᕆᔨᒃᑯᑦ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᖅᑎᖕᒋᓐᓂ

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