

## **Decentralized nursing education to establish a Circumpolar Northern and Indigenous workforce.**

### **Aim and objectives**

The project is aiming to improve the quality and quantity of northern nursing programs through NNEN to meet the challenge to deliver a stable, culturally competent health workforce in northern areas with indigenous populations. The aim is to be achieved through sharing best practices and research.

### **Background**

The accessibility and quality of baccalaureate nursing education in northern regions is important to address. The development of a stable, local nursing workforce in the high north promises to improve community health, wellness and self – sufficiency. Northern health care in the circumpolar region is typically extensive to deliver. Registered nurse compose the most numerous and widely prevalent category of health professionals across the North. It is widely accepting that education nurses in rural and remote areas will improve recruitment and retention to rural and remote areas.

### **Design**

Through an established network partners from Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Russia will conduct research assessing pedagogics and didactics most appropriate for northern nursing education adapted to culturally conditions in areas with indigenous populations.

### **Methods**

Within the network best practices will be shared at biannual meetings and a concomitant survey tracking northern nursing northern nursing education programs and an innovative learning institute for Circumpolar health to allow northern nursing students to meet and learn from their counterparts around the Circumpolar North.

### **Temporary results**

The project is in the very start. So far one has found that linking quality of education, socio-economic well-being, cultural competence and health within a decentralized and distributed nursing program will serve as a long-term and sustainable investment in Circumpolar North.