



“Currently when Inuit elders develop Alzheimer’s or other dementias they are sent to the south — Ottawa Embassy West — very far away from their loved ones. I want care providers in Nunavut to have the knowledge and skills they need to care for their elders with dementia and responsive behaviours and keep them in their homeland, close to their families for longer.”

— Diane Graham

(photo) Rankin Inlet shoreline, October 2018



Diane Graham

Diane Graham, RN, BScN, PBDM and GPA Certified Coach, was hired by the Government of Nunavut as Healthcare Manager for Home and Community Care. She currently oversees eight communities in the Kivalliq region and also facilitates GPA in both the Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot regions. Diane found herself

regularly fielding questions from staff about dementia care and responsive behaviours.

Realizing there was an urgent need for staff dementia education, with the support of the Government Diane began planning GPA Basics education sessions and workshops to train GPA Certified Coaches. She shares a little about Nunavut’s first year of GPA, below:

“The Government of Nunavut strives to serve its people by preserving their cultural and societal values. However, healthcare is below the norm here compared to the rest of Canada. Sometimes it feels as though Nunavut has been forgotten. We are committed to training and supporting local Inuit healthcare providers to be GPA Certified Coaches. As Coaches, they will teach GPA to their colleagues. With

high staff turnover in the region, including those coming and going on rotation, we decided to train a large number of GPA Certified Coaches.” In 2018, nine new GPA Coaches were certified.



A few final words from Diane:

“I believe GPA training can help and empower Nunavut to better care for its elders living with dementia and responsive behaviours. We also hope it will allow elders to stay at home longer. My greatest hope is for Nunavut to build at least one long-term care facility in the region. This facility could incorporate GPA, P.I.E.C.E.S., Dementiability and other dementia care tools. It would help make long-term care sustainable and also help heal some of the suffering that the Inuit have endured over the last few decades.”

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