TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO NORTHERN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE PROTECTION OF DOGS AGAINST RABIES

1. OBJECTIVES

Due to the endemic nature of rabies in Northern Québec and the absence of veterinarians in the Inuit, Cree and Naskapi Communities, covered by the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and the Northeastern Québec Agreement, the Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) wishes to provide Northern Québec Communities with technical and material assistance to protect local dog populations against rabies, thus reducing the risk of rabies transmission to humans.

This program is intended to ensure the vaccination of dogs against rabies over three months of age in each of the eligible Northern Communities.

2. RESOURCES

The MAPAQ, in partnership with the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire de l’Université de Montréal, will:

- Inform residents of the Inuit, Cree and Naskapi Communities of the main characteristics of rabies, and give recommendations on protecting the population, in collaboration with concerned authorities.
- Train individuals, designated and paid by each community, on how to vaccinate dogs.
- Provide rabies vaccines, syringes, needles, and required forms.

3. ELIGIBILITY

The fourteen Inuit Communities, the nine Cree Communities, and the Naskapi Community of Kawawachikamach are eligible for the program.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

To help native communities protect their dogs against rabies, and thus reducing the risk of rabies transmission to humans, the MAPAQ, in partnership with the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire de l’Université de Montréal, offers to:
• Provide community representatives with the additional information needed on the nature of the disease on dogs.

• Recommend a method to protect residents from the disease.

• Assign a veterinarian to each community to train their designated individuals. Training will cover the following:
  - How to vaccinate dogs.
  - The main characteristics of the disease on dogs.
  - Proper use, storage and expiry dates of the vaccines.
  - Which dogs can be vaccinated.
  - Obtaining permission of the dog’s owner.
  - Animal restraint and vaccination techniques.
  - Identifying vaccinated animals, filling out vaccination certificates, managing vaccination register, and knowing whom to provide with copies.
  - Onset of immunity in vaccinated dogs, and probable duration.
  - The importance of controlling stray dogs.

5. **PROGRAM CONDITIONS**

To be eligible to the program, Northern Communities must apply to the MAPAQ. Communities must agree to:

• Control stray dogs within their boundaries.

• Designate and pay one or few individuals to:
  - Vaccinate the animals throughout the year.
  - Help to observe biting dogs or cats, to isolate rabies suspected or potentially exposed animals, to prepare and ship a specimen for rabies analysis.
  - Be trained based on expectations.

• Ensure that all dogs in the community over three months of age be vaccinated against rabies.

6. **PROGRAM TERMS**

The program comes into effect on April 01, 2018, and ends March 31, 2019.