



A Day in the Life: Marlene Wolki (Paulatuk, NT)



In celebration of Community Health Representative Day, Marlene Wolki tells us about her experience in her role as a CHR.

Marlene Wolki has been the Community Health Representative (CHR) in Paulatuk since 2016. Living in Paulatuk since the 80s, she considers the community to be her home.

Knowing that she has the full support from her employer and the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), she feels confident in her abilities to deliver key messages in a ways that are understood and practical for her community. The DHSS provides training opportunities, education resources and ideas for health promotion while Marlene determines how to deliver them.

Since Paulatuk has a small population, Marlene works as a part-time CHR. Her daily routine consists of going to the office for the morning or afternoon and following the schedule she created which was approved by the Nurse in Charge (NIC). With a diverse schedule of tasks set for each day, she says that there is never a day where she feels lost or unsure of what to do. Every day is different, and that is one of her favourite parts of being a CHR.

A major part of Marlene's position in working at the Health Centre is re-explaining health related issues to patients after seeing the NIC or locum doctor in a way that makes sense to them. Marlene also often attends Hamlet meetings to update counsellors on the Health Centre and what up-coming initiatives she has planned in her community.

A memorable moment in Marlene's career as a CHR was when her teachings involving the importance of cancer screenings led to a young boy telling his mother that she should get screened for breast cancer. The mother approached Marlene the next day and thanked her for the difference she is making in Paulatuk.

Marlene says she feels like she is a natural at being a CHR with her strong desire to help and care for others. Before her role as a CHR, Marlene felt lost, but now she feels that she is right where she needs to be!

If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at 1-855-846-9601.

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, téléphonez-nous au 1-855-846-9601.