

2012 Arctic Winter Games – Whitehorse, Yukon

From March 4 to 10, Team Nunavik–Québec competed in Whitehorse, Yukon, at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games (AWG). Nunavik athletes brought home a total of 36 ulus: 10 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze. The AWG also provided an opportunity for Team Nunavik–Québec to demonstrate Nunavik’s incredible culture and creativity. The preparations and coordination of Team Nunavik–Québec’s participation at the biennial AWG is spearheaded by the KRG Recreation Department.



Julia St-Aubin (right) from Kangiqsualujjuaq in the Snowshoe short distance event is cheered on by members of Team Nunavik–Québec (background).



Aisa Pirti from Puvirnituk won gold in One-Foot High Kick.

Youth Employment Services Nunavik

While the number of jobs in the region is growing quickly, especially in the mining and public administration sectors, the employment rate of Nunavik Inuit is only 51%. There are not enough qualified workers in the communities to take advantage of the region’s new employment opportunities.

Equally troubling, 60% of Nunavimmiut are currently under the age of 25 and the region’s young population is forecast to continue to grow. From the current number of 12,305, Nunavik’s population is forecast to reach 13,800 by 2017.

At their last sitting, KRG Councillors learned more about Youth Employment Services (YES) Nunavik. Launched in earnest by the KRG in 2011, the role of YES Nunavik is to:

- prepare youth to be fully involved in their communities;
- help youth to successfully integrate the labour market.

The biggest employment problem facing the region’s youth is their low level of education. Close to 85% of students quit school before obtaining their high school diploma. YES Nunavik provides a range of services and support for young people to return to school, to find and hold a good job, or to start a small business. It is particularly focused on projects that can motivate youth and help them see what they are good at.

YES Nunavik has one office in Kuujjuaq and plans to open three more: in Inukjuak in 2012, as well as in Puvirnituk and Salluit in 2013. Look for YES Nunavik on Facebook with the search words: youth employment services Nunavik.



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Mining Symposium

A mining symposium was organized by the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund (NMEF) in February. Over 100 participants were present, including representatives of 13 mining companies. The topics covered included job opportunities, government regulations, and protection of the environment. It was also pointed out that, with or without the *Plan Nord*, mining development is set to move ahead in Nunavik and that a regional strategy is needed to help manage this upcoming development. For their part, the Northern villages and the KRG have a role to play in monitoring mining development, voicing community concerns and ensuring economic spinoffs throughout the region.



Participants from throughout the region participated at the NMEF-organized symposium on mining development.

Table Québec–Nunavik

On February 23, elected leaders of the KRG, the Kativik School Board, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, and the Makivik Corporation sat down for the first meeting of the Table Québec–Nunavik with elected Québec leaders. The mandate of the Table is to provide direction to files arising from the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*, the *Plan Nord* and *Plan Nunavik*. The Table is a unique discussion and coordination forum to ensure the strengthening of political, economic, social and administrative relations between Québec and Nunavik.

Funding Renewed for Cost-of-Living Measures

The Québec government recently announced the one-year renewal of funding for Makivik–KRG cost of living measures: \$5 million from April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013. This funding is needed more than ever before since the launch of Nutrition North Canada and its planned elimination of subsidies on essential non-perishable food and non-food items in October 2012. The six Makivik–KRG measures are the Food Program, the Transportation Subsidy Program (for vehicles and appliances), Support for Inuit Harvesting Activities, the Gasoline Subsidy Program, the Airfare Reduction Program, and Elders' Assistance. The federal and provincial governments must not be allowed to forget about the critical obstacles faced by disadvantaged families in Nunavik due to the region's high cost of living.

Post-Secondary Students

On February 14, 25 Nunavimmiut enrolled in post-secondary studies in Montreal attended an information session. The session was organized by the Kativik Local Development Centre and the Kativik School Board. Topics included jobs openings in Nunavik, business start-up opportunities, as well as information on actual and forecast impacts of climate change. This is the third year an information session has been organized for post-secondary Nunavik students.

KRPF Training Exercise

On February 28, KRG councillors and staff meeting in Kuujuaq were permitted to view first-hand an emergency-situation training exercise for KRPF officers. During the exercise, the role of the suspect was played by an actor and imitation firearms were used.



More Highlights of the February Council Sitting

Combined Policing in Nunavik

In order to deal with the problem of contraband drugs and alcohol, the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPF) has adopted a combined policing approach. The Aboriginal Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (A-CFSEU) consists of officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the *Sûreté du Québec* (SQ) and Aboriginal police services across Québec. Given its close ties with residents in Nunavik villages, the KRPF plays a key role in the A-CFSEU.

For its part, the Nunavik Investigation Unit began operations in 2009 and is a partnership of the SQ and the KRPF. The KRPF's current strategy to fight drug and alcohol abuse also includes various prevention activities. At their last sitting, KRG Councillors underlined the important efforts of the KRPF in the region's communities.



Combined policing operations, like the A-CFSEU, permit law enforcement agencies to share expertise, information and resources.

Information provided by Nunavimmiut to police plays an essential role in the regional fight against drug trafficking and bootlegging. The KRPF can be reached:

- in Nunavik, by calling toll-free 1-800-964-2644 or any village detachment;
- from outside the region at 819-964-2488.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

Statistics show that only 15.8% of secondary students in Nunavik do not consume drugs and alcohol. Many young people do not decide to use these substances; they need to in order to be accepted by their peers. At the last sitting of the KRG Council, Nunalituqait Ikajuqatigiitut emphasized that the region's children need safe environments to grow up. KRG councillors responded firmly that everyone needs to take responsibility in their own communities and in their own homes. The active prevention initiatives of the regional health centres, youth services, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the KRPF and other organizations are all important.

Improved Tamaani Internet Services



Tamaani Internet is now offering new, faster services in every Nunavik community, with speeds up to three times faster than before.

One of the features of the new plans is a change in usage limit: usage is now calculated on a monthly rather than daily basis. This feature gives users more flexibility as to when and how they surf the Internet. These improved Tamaani services add to a growing list of quality Tamaani products, including videoconferencing. For more details on Tamaani, visit www.tamaani.ca, or to upgrade your Internet plan, call 1-800-TAMAANI.

Recent Fire Statistics

According to informal statistics produced by the KRG Civil Security Section, the number of fires in Nunavik almost doubled in 2011 compared with the preceding year. An average of almost \$4 million in material losses per village was recorded.

These results serve to underline that public awareness activities regarding fire hazards must be renewed. Under the *Nunavik Fire Safety Cover Plan*, new fire halls were constructed in Kangiqsujuaq, Inukjuak and Puvirnituaq in 2011 and fire trucks were delivered to Kuujjuarapik, Inukjuak, Puvirnituaq, Kangiqsualujjuaq and Salluit. As well, fire fighter training launched in the fall of 2011 is continuing.



Almost half of all fires in the region affect dwellings.

Agro-Food Development in Nunavik

Development of the agro-food sector in Nunavik is recent. Notwithstanding, up until the middle of the 20th century, Inuit were self-sufficient in terms of food supply. Today, 80% of all the food consumed by Nunavimmiut comes from outside the region. The agro-food sector prioritizes the exploitation of local food sources and locally processed products.

At their last sitting KRG Councillors learned that the goal of the regional agro-food initiative coordinated by the KRG Regional and Local Development Department is to promote sustainable food development from different sources, such as country foods, and the production of ready-to-eat meals.

Last year, two important agro-food projects involved the Kuujjuaq greenhouse and the Isiritsivik smokehouse in Kangiqsujuaq. In 2012, a project to train Nunavimmiut food inspectors will also be implemented. The agro-food sector has the potential to contribute to the general health of Nunavimmiut, job creation, reducing food transportation costs, and Inuit culture.



Country foods are an important source of nutrition for most Inuit.

In Nunavik, households spend on average 50% of their income on food while, in the South, this percentage ranges between 15 and 20%. The KRG agro-food initiative is funded by the Regional Development Fund (managed by the KRG), the *ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation* (agriculture, fisheries and food) and the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* (health and social services).

— Local Employment and Development Planning —

Through its Regional and Local Development Department, the KRG has supported the creation of employment and development plans in every community. Local planning processes allowed working groups to identify issues and solutions and, then, for political leaders to set priorities. Across the region, 299 local projects cover areas such as community infrastructure, economic development, support for subsistence activities, and crime prevention.

In 2012, each community will be responsible for beginning to implement its employment and development plan, in cooperation with local stakeholders such as landholding corporations and cooperatives. Since new community priorities may arise from time to time, communities are being encouraged to regularly review their local employment and development plans.



Each local employment and development plan contains general and specific objectives for the community in keeping with sustainable development.

KRG Appointments

At their last sitting, KRG Councillors made the following representative appointments: Siasi Smiler to the board of directors of Native Para-Judicial Services of Québec, Selena Whiteley to the Federal Environmental and Social Impact Review Panel and Isabelle Parizeau to the Regional Partnership Committee. Isabelle Parizeau was also appointed Interim Director General of the KRG.