



RENEWABLE RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND PARKS

ACTIVITY REPORT FEBRUARY – MAY 2024

Mandates and responsibilities:

- Fishing and Trapping Support: program administration, technical assistance to community programs and management of the regional program.
 - Uumajuit Wardens: wildlife protection on the land in the marine sectors.
 - Environmental: technical assistance to the northern villages, environmental monitoring, research, climate change and environmental projects.
 - Land Use Planning: technical assistance to the northern villages and regional planning.
 - National parks development and operation.
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1. INUIT HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Community agreements were sent but we have not heard back from several NVs and received quarterly reports, except for one.
- The new fishing vessel for Akulivik will be ready for pick up in July, and the Quaqtqaq freezer should be arriving in June.
- We met with the workers concerning the solar cabin kits with Tarquti Energy Corp. and the secretary treasurers of what to expect concerning this project.
- We visited HSP Salluit concerning the boat. As soon as technical specifications are received, we will go for tender for the new vessel to be received in 2025.
- Regional Agent has returned part time and will resume full time end of June.

2. UUMAJUIT WARDENS PROGRAM

- To date, 405 days of patrol, as well 7 days of search and rescue assistance to municipalities.
- Regular Weekly telephone meetings held with Quebec Wildlife Protection Officers (MFFP) DFO representatives, and all wardens are active and ongoing.
- Statistics reporting on Beluga sightings and harvests along with monitoring of hunting daily harvests, ongoing with each warden.
- As part of the Nunavik Indigenous Guardians Initiative, the Wardens continue to document and report observations on environmental and climate changes on the land.
- Participated in the monthly meetings of the KRG/DFO Liaison committee.
- Recruitment for a warden in Aupaluk is still on going.
- DFO officers will have patrols this summer with possible Arctic region officers.
- We are working on technical issues for wardens to submit weekly reports since a number of NV are not submitting their reports. This is being worked on by the IT department and the wardens.
- We are preparing tenders for four snowmachines and four ATV for NV and finalizing list of priority with machine conditions in each NV. Machines are scheduled to be delivered in the Summer 2024 sealift.

3. ENVIRONMENT

Residual Material Management

- New drop-offs point projects were presented and accepted by Tasiujaq, Aupaluk, Akulivik and Ivujivik. Construction of the sites is planned for this summer and fall; the equipment will arrive on the first sealift.
- Kangiqsualujuaq and Kangiqsualujuaq drop-off points are now electrified, and NV employees have received training for handling hazardous household waste and for the operations at the sites. Awareness and information campaigns are underway with commerce and institutions, as well as the public. Operations are planned to start by the end of May.
- The Kuujuaq Eco-center is now connected to the power grid network, an awareness and information campaign is underway with commerce and institutions, as well as the public. Operations are planned to start by the end of May.
- The Mid-Residual Management Plan 2021-2027 assessment report has been prepared to take stock of progress on the various measures, over the 21 measures, 13 are ongoing, five are completed, two still to be done and one have been abandoned (repairs of appliances).
- KRG signed an agreement for collective selection with Eco-enterprises Quebec. Under this agreement, KRG is responsible for the coordination between EEQ and NV and the transporting of recyclable materials to the South. Each NV will sign an agreement for the implementation of the project; Kuujuaq and Umiujaq will be the first communities to host projects.
- A composting project in Kuujuaq and Kangiqsualujuaq: construction of sites will be done this summer and call for tenders for purchasing of equipment are ongoing.
- We are preparing to launch a new digital platform (R3build.ca) to better manage the construction residual materials in Nunavik, once online you will be able to access it directly on the Web or through KRG website.
- The first meeting of the Nunavik Waste Management Committee was held on May 15, the main goal of this first meeting is to promote awareness on the Nunavik Waste Management plan 2021-2027 for each regional organization to better manage their waste generated, especially on construction projects.

Granular Material Management

- The final report of the restoration project in Puvirnituk was completed on the 3rd of March 2024 by an external consultant; it must be translated in English prior to presenting it to the NV because it is in French only. This report is a scientific assessment of the work carried out on the vegetalisation project in Puvirnituk. The key point of interest is that Puvirnituk is the first community to experiment with a new technique for restoring sand pits in Nunavik.
- The final report of the gravel inventory project was sent on the 8th of March 2024 to the northern village of Inukjuak.
- Communications with NV and Pituvik LHC are ongoing regarding the next gravel pit to be exploited this summer (outside of Municipal Boundaries). Pituvik Landholding corporation might be interested in collaborating with the NV of Inukjuak and KRG for this project. It concerns a potential gravel pit with high potential to contain good-quality material in large quantities.
- The MRNF nonexclusive leases of gravel pits were renewed for Tasiujaq (1 site), Kangiqsualujuaq (one site), Akulivik (two sites) and Kuujuarapik (three sites)

Spill Management

- During the reporting period, nine spills were reported to the KRG: Two from mining companies and seven reported or observed by regional organizations.
- Environmental prevention inspections were undertaken in Aupaluk, Salluit and Kuujuaq on heating oil tanks and drums to identify leaks or possible non-compliance.
- A major spill occurred at the FCNQ garage in Tasiujaq in February. A site inspection was conducted in collaboration with MELCCFP. A report has been sent to the responsible indicating that urgent rehabilitation work will need to be carried out.
- A major spill occurred at the Kangiqsujuaq'Inn Hotel in Kangiqsujuaq in April. A report has been sent to the MELCCFP identifying urgent rehabilitation work to be carried out.
- Discussions are underway on the implementation of contaminated soil treatment platforms in NV. This program, spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, targets the management of contaminated soils in the region. It seeks to promote local treatment and reclamation of contaminated soils to mitigate costs and establish safer soil management practices.
- A municipal environmental workshop took place in April at the KRG head office, attended by NV town managers and landfill operators.

Regional Environment

Caniapiscau Watershed Abandoned Outfitting Camp Clean-up:

- KRG received authorization from owners to clean 13 permanent camps in 2024 and 2025. Partial clean-ups will take place this summer to retrieve hazardous waste and debris. No building dismantlement will be done.

Nunavik Abandoned Mineral Exploration Sites Restoration:

- A communication plan is being implemented with a NAMESR video completed that will be shown to Regional Council, and the completion of a final report within the next several weeks.

Mid-Canada Line:

- KRG and the MELCCFP concluded at the end of April that a complementary characterization was necessary on sites 315A and 330A to obtain a more precise volume of contaminated soils. The remediation project will be split in two phases:
 - Complementary characterization (including retrieving of all surface materials and buildings + further sampling and analyses) planned for summer 2025.
 - Remediation work (including excavation and treatment of contaminated soils) planned for summer 2026.
- A work plan worth \$1.3 million was developed in March to complete phase 1 of the project. The plan was approved by the MELCCFP and is the foundation of a funding agreement that we expect will be signed in the fall of 2024, with field work commencing in 2025.

Water source protection

- KRG is producing water source vulnerability studies for Inukjuak, Akulivik, Kangirsuk and Kangiqsujaq to identify potential risks within the water shed of these communities. MELCCFP is exploring a similar study for Kuujjuarapik.

4. LAND USE PLANNING

Regional Planning

- During the period, 13 projects of land use occupation were approved; six involving the Impact-Causing Exploration Work that required a new authorization from the MRNF. Also, the MRNF requested our feedback on two new land lease requests on the George-River Territorial reserve for protected area purposes. The Executive Committee is recommending denying this request.
- In the context of the Québec new Authorization of Impact-Causing Exploration Work: - Information meetings were held during April and May with the MRNF, Makivvik, MELCCFP, and two exploration companies to understand how this new regulation will impact the certificate of conformity process.
A meeting with the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee was held, on March 22, regarding the issue of converting outfitter leases into recreational leases or traditional camp and the abandonment of these camps on the Kativik region.

Municipal Planning, Expansion Plans and Technical Assistance Program

- Public consultations for new community master plans were held in Puvirnituk (February), and Tasiujaq and Kangirsuk (April) and meetings with these NV Councils for presenting a second draft of their new master plan.
- We continue to update community master plans based on community feedback in Kuujjuaraapik, Puvirnituk, Ivujivik, Kangiqsujaq, Kangirsuk, Inukjuak and Quaqtak.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Nunavik Land Holding Corporation Association to define the requirements for the interactive platform of planning tools and permit emissions.
- Civic numbers basemap were updated in March and April for Puvirnituk, Kangiqsujaq, and Kangiqsualujuaq. The updated maps are available on KRG website.
- Studies are ongoing for Quaqtak icing problem by our consultants Poly-Géo and Centre d'Études Nordiques (CEN) on the banks of the river (near the CLSC). The icing does have an impact on the infrastructure of the communities, including houses, road, and bridge.
- The KRG land use planning team met in April with the NV Council and Qaqqalik LHC on Salluit 4 plans.

PROTECTED AREAS

Plan Nature

- In March, staff took part in the 3rd phase of Indigenous consultation session on the Québec Nature Plan, which includes the goal of protecting 30% of Québec by 2030.
- The KRG responded on April 12 to the MELCCFP consultation on the development of the Nature Plan by reiterating that the Nature Plan should take place solely and directly with the region's stakeholders, to have an action plan that is specific and appropriate to Nunavik, in which only relevant targets meeting regional development needs will be selected.

20% Protected Areas

- During the period, we finalized the Inuktitut, Cree and Naskapi translation of the final report and summary sheets for Phase 1 of the consultations on protected areas in Nunavik. Documents will be shared with communities and posted to the Nunavik Protected Areas web site.
- Held monthly Advisory Committee meetings to plan Phase 2 of consultations on protected areas in Nunavik that will start in fall 2024.
- Participated in meetings of the subcommittee on the implementation of specific commitments on mining activities in the Nachicapau Lake Area. Discussions on the conditions to be issued within the future Reserve to the State took place, and a temporary suspension of the right to designate on map has been obtained from the MRNF for certain areas in the Nachicapau Lake sector.
- Participated in March and May in working sessions with the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach and the MELCCFP representatives to produce Cambrien / Nachicapau Status Report.
- Collaborated with Parks for a boreal birds and bats inventory in the Rivière-George and Rivière-George-Nord Territorial Reserves for Protected Area Purposes and in Ulittaniujalik National Park. The recorders were installed in May and will be removed in August.
- Installed recorders for an inventory of boreal birds and bats in the Nachicapau Lake Sector on May 25 that will be removed in August.
- Installed equipment for the biodiversity monitoring project in the Rivière-Arnaud (Payne River) Territorial Reserve for Protected Area Purposes in May. This project was initiated by the MELCCFP to monitor the effects of climate change on ecosystems.
- Installed recorders for an inventory of boreal birds in the Rivière-Arnaud (Payne River) Territorial Reserve for Protected Area Purposes in May for removal in.

Park projects

- **Iluliliq National Park:**
 - New zones with a temporary suspension of the right to designate on map has been granted at the end of April by the MRNF in the consensual zones between the Working Group and the Government of Québec.

- A Working Group letter and resolutions from the NVs and LHCs of Salluit and Ivujivik in response to the Government of Quebec proposed boundaries for the park project requesting to consider the 2015 study area was sent to the MRNF in May.
- Held a virtual meeting of the Iluiliq National Park Project Working Group on May 17 where the MELCCFP has explained the most updated government consensual boundaries of the study area for this future park.

5. NUNAVIK PARKS

Statistics: # of visitors March to May 2024

	# visitors in the park	# of visitors to the exhibition
Pingualuit	101	132
Kuururjuaq	57	42
Ulittaniujalik	n/a	n/a
Tursujuq	89	n/a

- Nunavik Parks is advocating for installation of a pavilion in Kuujjuaq, in accordance with the Ulittaniujalik Master Plan and the Policy for Québec National Parks. The primary objective of the project is to contribute to the, highlight the beauty of Nunavik, raise awareness of parks, improve visitor experience, host exhibits and community events and offer space for public gatherings. This project will allow visitors to establish contact with the land and the culture. We are currently in the process of securing a location. No funding has yet been secured for this project, once a location is confirmed discussions will begin on funding sources.
- The annual Nunavik Parks management meeting took place in Kuujjuaq between March 11-15, gathering all directors and coordinators. Training, workshops and presentations were given, contributing to the development of employees, infrastructures, conservation and education projects.
- Nunavik Parks exhibited at the Montreal Outdoor show in March, a a great window for the parks and the region to outreach the Montreal market.
- At the beginning of May, Journalists visit parks to publish articles in different media including Air Inuit magazine, La Presse, and Geo Plein Air. This contributes to putting Nunavik Parks on the map.

Conservation and education

- Nunavik Parks conservation and education team are in the process of finalizing the first edition of Conservation Stories – a publication aiming to be a window on the conservation and education activities undertaken by Nunavik Parks, a great tool to communicate to Nunavimmiut actions taken in the parks. Print and online editions will be available in five languages.
- The conservation and education specialist, in collaboration with the Protected Area team is preparing a new monitoring project concerning birds’ biodiversity along the George River including Parc national Ulittaniujalik. The data collected will not only be informative locally but will also be part of a larger dataset spanning the boreal

forest of Canada and help potentially answer broader questions. This is in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Service.

- The conservation and education specialist will work in close collaboration with Parc national Tursujuq to start a beaver-monitoring program. The impact of beavers on fish population is a concern in the region.

Nunavik Parks 20th anniversary

After 20 years of operations, Nunavik Parks today operates four national parks. Nunavik Parks protects 37 000km² and is a key driver of economical and touristic development in the region. Preservation of Inuit culture pervades all aspects of our operations, making our parks prime locations to share and learn and to reconnect with the land. Many unique activities are planned for this year.

- **Tursujuq:** a multi-day gathering with take place at Nataspoka in October, bringing together Cree and Inuit from Whapmagoostui, Kuujjuarapik, Umiujaq, Inukjuaq.
- **Pingualuit:** a workshop aiming at remaking a copy of the Maasiu Ningiuruvik kayak hosted by the discovery center will be organized in September to preserve and share kayak making knowledge in Kangiqsujuaq.
- **Kuururjuaq and Ulittaniujalik:** In October, two activities are planned in Kangiqsualujjuaq. A chert project will be carried out for Kuururjuaq and a caribou hide cleaning and preparation to smoke will occur for Ulittaniujalik;
- **Kuujjuaq:** Nunavik Parks is inviting the community to a feast and cultural evening in November. All employees will participate in a 2-day workshop and training.

APPENDIX ___

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