



**RENEWABLE RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT,
LANDS and PARKS department**

**ACTIVITY REPORT
December 2021 to February 2022**

Mandates and responsibilities:

- Fishing and Trapping Support Program: overall program administration, technical assistance to the Community programs and management of the regional program;
- Uumajuit Wardens Program: wildlife protection on the land in the marine sectors;
- Environmental Program: 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.

1. INUIT HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING SUPPORT PROGRAM

- The 2022 HSP budget was transmitted to the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP); at the end of November,
- Following the approval by the KRG Council, the Community Agreements for 2022 were transmitted to the NVs for their approval;
- Following approval by the executive committee the funding agreements for Country Food sharing 2021-22 totaling \$1.8 million have been transmitted to each Northern Village.
- At the end of January, the first payments to the communities which total \$ 3,465,510 were processed;
- Construction of the new Puvirnituq HSP boat is completed and arrangements are being made for delivery in early summer;
- A second public tender has been published for the HSP Landing barge for Kuujjuaraapik;
- A second public call for tenders has been published for the Nunavik Land Mobile Radio projects in; Tasiujaq, Aupaluk, Kangirsuk, Quaqtac, Ivujivik, Inukjuaq, Umiujaq and Kuujjuaraapik.
- Provided technical assistance to the NVs of Tasiujaq and Quaqtac for their HSP Community Freezer projects
- Maintained regular communications with all Nunavik Communities as to their HSP activities

2. UUMAJUIT WARDENS PROGRAM

- As of the end of December the wardens completed 1050 patrol-days for 2021 and 5 days of search and rescue assistance for 2021;
- To the end of January for 2022, 10 patrol-days have been reported;
- Weekly telephone meetings 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 on a daily basis, 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;
- Covid 19 guidelines being followed by all wardens;
- Recruitment for a warden in Quaqtuaq and Aupaluk are on going.

3. ENVIRONMENT

Residual Material Management

- Follow-up of recycling programs in Nunavik, a total of 420 tons collected for shipment to the south: 300 tons with the hazardous material clean up project, 30 tons of residual materials covered by extended producer responsibility (used oil, used electronics, paints, etc.) and 90 tons of recycling tires and batteries;
- A Société du Plan Nord study of the stocks and flows of residual materials will be conducted in Inukjuak during the summer 2022 by the firm Englobe with the collaboration of the NV of Inukjuak and the technical assistance from the KRG;
- Metal recycling project: project initiated with call for tenders for technical services and purchase of equipment, this first project will be done in Kangirsuk starting in summer 2022;
- Eco centre project: plan and design for this project are ongoing, project should initiate its first phase in Kuujuaq during summer 2022;
- Participated in the 12th meeting of the Nunavik Management working group on February 1st, the main items on the agenda were: situation in the pandemic context, modification of law 65 for deposits, regulation respecting heating oil systems modifications, source of financial funding from both federal and provincial levels for waste management and contaminated soil management in Nunavik.

Spill Management

- Continuation of the monitoring and follow-up of hydrocarbon spill reports, and technical assistance and support were provided to the regional organizations in regards to environment regulations and clean-up procedures;
- During this period, 14 spills were reported to the KRG: 8 from mining companies and 6 reported or observed from regional organizations;
- Technical assistance was provided to the NV of Umiujaq for completing an environmental rehabilitation at the *Alariak* abandoned construction camp; 500 tons of contaminated soil have been excavated and the site is now exempt of contamination;
- Environmental prevention inspections undertook on municipal building fuel tanks in Umiujaq to identify leaks or possible non-compliances;
- Environmental sampling taken in Umiujaq (1), Akulivik (3), Kangiqsualujuaq (4), Kangirsuk (2), Inukjuak (3) and Puvirnituq (12) and contamination have been detected on all sites; a notice of contamination have been sent to the building owners for them to take actions for decontamination; KRG will do a follow-up on these sites in 2022;
- Meeting with the Land holding association in December to identify possible solutions for prevention and follow-up on spills and contaminated site;
- Meeting with MELCC in December for the implementation of the National tracability program for spills and contaminated soil; when implemented this new regulation will help monitoring and tracking the contamination that are occurring in Nunavik from the spill, to the decontamination process to the proper disposal of the soils;
- Site characterization in the Northern Village of Puvirnituq in the Tank Farm vicinity where many hydrocarbon spills happened in the past years. Test results show high levels of contamination on the adjacent lots. Discussion with FCNQ and Ministry of Environment will occur in the coming months in order to elaborate a decontamination plan for this area.

Quarry and Borrow Pits

- Status report on granular resources and recommendations were presented to the NV of Quaqtaq.

Climate Change Adaptation and Monitoring

- Organized and participated in a Nunavik Climate Change Committee on Adaptation meeting on December 16. Nunavik project proposals were reviewed and recommendations made to CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North (CCPN) and Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring (ICBCM) programs;
- 4 Nunavik projects were approved by CCPN & ICBCM following recommendations: 3 projects through the RNUK and 1 partnership between KRG & Makivik. The KRG project will allow for the transfer of MTQ's ice and trail monitoring equipment and catalogue of photos to KRG to maintain the project in the region;
- Continued collaboration with Makivik in the development of a Nunavik Climate Change Adaptation Strategy;
- Participated in a series of workshops:
 - Peer-to-peer sharing initiatives with the Cree Nation Government supported by ICBCM on December 14 and January 26;
 - Youth Engagement in Inuit Guardians and Climate Monitoring Initiatives hosted by ITK, ECCC & CIRNAC on November 30;
 - Forum d'orientation de la recherche sur les impacts économiques des changements climatiques hosted by MELCC on December 3;
 - Discussion regarding Nunavik Indigenous Guardians initiatives with Makivik, KRG RRELP, Nunavik Research Centre, NMRWB and RNUK on December 10;
 - Regular meetings with CCPN/ICBCM/CCHAP and Northern Liaisons on December 15, January 12 and February 2;
 - ArcticNet Virtual Annual Scientific Meeting from December 6-10;
- Participation on a MTQ conference for knowledge transfer regarding the impact of climate change and the adaptation of linear infrastructures.

Environmental Research

- Participated in Regular scheduled Inuit Research Advisory Committee Meeting to discuss and make a video for the Arctic Net Virtual Meeting;
- Participated in a annual Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee meeting on November 16th, during this meeting it was decided that Monica Nashak will become the new co-chair with Kitty Gordon of NRBHSS;
- Participated in a meeting for NRRRA Steering Committee on November 19th, during this meeting the members have move forward with the nomination of Aleashia Siasie who would act as an interim director while waiting for the formal creation of the regional research body;
- Joined and participated virtually in the annual Arctic Net Scientific conference between December 6 to 10;
- Participated in the Nunavik Climate Change Committee on Adaptation on December 16, certain new project proposals were presented during that meeting;
- Participated in a virtual meeting on January 20 regarding the Siku App, during this meeting the presenter explained how the app can help hunters and researchers to capture wildlife pictures, GPS locations, have data collected by different users and help monitor climate changes;
- Participated in the Arctic net Advisory Committee meeting on January 26;
- Participated in meetings of the Tuksik Steering Committee held on December 10 and January 21;
- Participated to the 1st scientific committee of the permafrost chair on December 13.

Regional Environment

- During the summer and fall 2022, the KRG, in collaboration with the MELCC will develop a guide and chart to characterize, identify and map the wetlands and water courses in a 10 km radius from the Northern Villages, this project will improve the knowledge on these possible fragile ecosystems with a goal of minimizing the impact of project development;
- The KRG transmitted a letter to MELCC in December regarding the planning of the Mid-Canada Line Phase III projects and the leading role that KRG could play for the final clean-up of these sites.

Caniapiscau Watershed Abandoned Outfitting Camp Clean-up:

- A meeting with MERN and MFFP representatives took place on November 24 to discuss the future of the Caniapiscau project. It was proposed to slightly modified the goal of this project in order to clean-up hazardous waste accumulated at permanent outfitting camps nearby sensitive area such as lakes and watercourses. KRG is waiting for confirmation from ECCC funding agency if the modification if accepted, inventories should be done in summer and fall 2022 and clean-up activities in 2023.

Nunavik Abandoned Mineral Exploration Sites Restoration:

- The steering committee meeting took place on November 23 to present the activities that took place during the summer 2021;
- KRG is currently negotiating with MERN for an addendum to the agreement to extend the end date to March 2024 due to COVID-19 causing delays in project progress.

4. LAND USE PLANNING

Regional Planning

- Letters of Conformity: during this period, 3 projects of Land use occupations for mining and exploration activities were approved;
- Participated in a meeting regarding the Bill 102 with Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources on January 14th. Modifications to the Mining Act are a part of this Bill, it will modify the authorizations to be obtained by claim holders related to impact-causing exploration work; the KRG will collaborate with MERN to make sure the following regulations will be aligned with the future Kativik Regional Zoning Bylaw;
- Following the participation in the MAMH consultations on the "National urban and land use strategy", a draft amendment to the Kativik Act has been prepared regarding land use planning section;
- Online presentation of the MFFP on December 1 on the new Forest Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change, comments on the strategy were sent to the MFFP on December 13;
- Participated on January 18 in a meeting with researchers from UQAR for the project to analyze the Nunavik coast potential for the construction of marine port facilities on the whole Nunavik coast.

Municipal Planning, Expansion Plans and Technical Assistance Program

- Technical assistance was provided to:
 - Tasiujaq, Kuujuaq, Kangiqsualujuaq, Ivujivik and Quaqtac for consistent integration of construction projects into NV land use plans;
 - Planning of community expansion area for 2022;
- Finalization of Quaqtac Master Plan and Zoning Bylaw revision, including revision of the maps;
- Provided comments on the a new BNQ standard: Risk-based approach for community planning in northern regions (can-bnq 9701-500); once implemented, this new standard will become an obligation for the promoter to respect the type of building foundation to use versus

the type of soil; therefore it will have a beneficial impact on sustainable development of the communities;

- Analyze potential lots in Kuujjuaq village core through new data collection.

5. PROTECTED AREAS

20% Protected Areas

- Meetings with the consultant MU Conseils (specialized in first nations consultation process), on December 10 and January 19, to discuss, finalize and agree on the Communication plan and detailed information campaign program for the Nunavik Protected Areas Consultation project;
- Confirmation, on January 14, of the possibility of extending the Contribution Agreement between KRG and ECCC until March 2024 regarding funding for the Nunavik Protected Areas Consultation project;
- Specific Agreement to preserve the Cambrien Lake / Nachicapau Lake / Fort Mackenzie (Waskaikinis) Areas:
 - Participation in a meeting of the *Subcommittee on the search for alternatives to hydroelectric power development in the area covered by the Agreement* on January 27;
 - Participation in working session with Naskapi and MELCC representatives on the production of Cambrien/Nachicapau Status Report.

30%

- Nations Table meeting on December 7 concerning the development of the mechanism for allocating 30% of the territory:
 - Discussion and exchange on the position of the various Nations (Inuit, Cree, Innu, Naskapi, etc.) concerning the development of the mechanism. It was agreed to ask the MELCC to get feedback on the comments from the summer 2021 pre-consultation.

6. PARKS

General

- In 2021, considering the situation due to the pandemic, Nunavik Parks prioritized to offer activities to Nunavimmiut (youth cultural camps, elders, students, autonomous visitors, short packages, etc.);
- In 2021, there were a total of 537 visitors in all parks and 659 at all the visitor centers;
- Wardens and conservation and educational specialists participated with Quebec Wildlife Protection Officers in patrols in each of the 4 parks in 2021;
- Educational panels for Pingualuit, Kuururjuaq and Tursujuq parks were received and will be installed this year in camps and in the parks;
- Educational information sheets were received;
- Annual parks management meeting was held on Zoom in January. Presentations were on 2022 objectives, roles and responsibilities of national parks managers, upcoming physical assets management plan, new emergency measure plan, cultural activities, impact of covid on winter operations and customer service and marketing projects;
- 2022 packages dates and information have been published;
- Drafting of a 5 year waste material management plan underway. Contract was given to Éco-conseil Symbios. Consultation will be done this winter with parks employees, representatives of local communities and parks users;
- New employees in Kuujjuaq are Emma Cain as a Visitor experience technician, Gabriela Rojas-Hevia as Safety and infrastructure specialist, Patrick Maltais as Education technician and Olivier Cameron-Trudel as Conservation and education specialist;

Pingualuit

- In 2021, there were 191 visitors in the park and 383 at the visitor center;
- Matilita Tukkiapik was hired as administrative technician;
- The hiring process for two park wardens and of one administrative technician is underway;
- Operation Coordinator position was created. The hiring process was launched in January;
- Park employees had 4 Inuit traditional activity trainings with Minnie Etidloie and Qiallak Qumaaluk. In November & December, small groups of primary students came for singing and string game practices;
- In November, The MFFP replied to our request to grant educational permits annually to fish during the winter for non-beneficiaries on 4 lakes in the Park. The number of permits issued in the winter remains marginal;
- Park Director presented Pingualuit cultural activities at the annual parks management meeting held on Zoom in January;
- The Park warden and helpers did snowmobile repairs and built sled and boxes for winter.

Kuururjuaq

- In 2021, there were 62 visitors in the park and 136 at the visitor center;
- Undertook maintenance at Qarliit for the 2 domes;
- Took local school groups seal hunting, caught 3 seals and taught how to butcher the seals;
- Team lunch organized with employees and their families;
- Kuururjuaq team helped retrieve 1 ski-doo under the ice along with NV and community members;
- Harmonization Committee Meeting had been postponed to a later date.

Ulittaniujalik

- In 2021, there were 6 visitors in the park;
- The Park Development plan has been drafted;
- Harmonization Committee meeting has been postponed to a later date.

Tursujuq

- In 2021, there were 278 visitors in the park and 140 at the visitor center;
- Welcome Snap Quebec with their first Plan Nous participant. This project aims to create links through the meeting of representatives of different communities, and to discover the richness of the landscapes and enhance the biocultural diversity of Quebec;
- Johnny Kasudluak was hired as a park maintenance technician;
- The Park Director and the Education and Conservations specialist positions have been posted.

DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

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Nunavik Parks

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Vacant

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