



Kativik Regional Government announces activation of EAUFON-2 fibre-optic link to Nunavik communities on Hudson Strait

Salluit, Quebec, February 12, 2024 — The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) announced today the activation of the second phase of its Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network (EAUFON).

Hilda Snowball, Chairperson of the KRG, made the announcement today in the community of Salluit, located at the extreme northern tip of Nunavik.

EAUFON-2 involves a 675-kilometre fibre-optic connection of northern Nunavik communities; stretching subsea from Akulivik on the Hudson Coast to Ivujivik and Salluit on the Hudson Strait, and opening up a direct, overland link to Kangiqsujuaq.

This second phase extends the EAUFON-1 connection that has been in operation since 2022. In phase one, 1,175 kilometres of subsea fibre-optic cable connected Hudson Coast communities between Chisasibi and Puvirnituq – including Kuujjuaraapik (Whapmagoostui), Umiujaq and Inukjuak – to reliable, high-speed internet. Another EAUFON-1 project is connecting Kuujuaq, home of the KRG, to the fibre-optic network already in place in the Naskapi community of Kawawachikamach.

Activation of the EAUFON-2 network is another milestone in the KRG's delivery of a reliable, affordable and high-capacity internet network throughout Nunavik. To date, the KRG has installed over 1,800 kilometres of subsea fibre-optic cable, connecting eight communities.

EAUFON-1 and -2 would not have been possible without the support of the Government of Quebec, and the Government of Canada. Along with the KRG, both governments have contributed close to \$165 million to Nunavik fibre-optic development. The KRG looks forward to the continuation of this essential support as we complete the final phase (EAUFON-3) with the activation of the Ungava Bay communities of Quaqaq, Kangirsuk, Aupaluk, Tasiujaq, Kangiqsualujuaq and Kuujuaq.

Quote:

“The KRG continues its diligent work to shrink and eventually eliminate the digital divide that separates Nunavik from southern Quebec and the rest of Canada. We remain committed to working with our Quebec and Canadian government partners to realize affordable, high-speed internet for everyone. Community systems such as education, telehealth, telemedicine and tele-justice are counting on the KRG and our government partners to complete the EAUFON network to deliver vital services to all Nunavummiut.”

– Hilda Snowball, Chairperson

The Kativik Regional Government delivers comprehensive public services to Nunavimmiut under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1978). KRG is governed by a 17-member Council of elected municipal representatives from 14 northern communities in Nunavik, an elected Chair and Vice-Chair, and the chief of the Naskapi First Nation of Kawawachikamach.

Contact: Denis Abbott, APR / KRG Communications / Tel: 819-964-2961, ext. 2250 / media@krg.ca