



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Kativik Regional Government confirms Jean-François Bernier as Chief of Nunavik Police Service

Kuujuuaq, Québec, March 17, 2026 — The Regional Council of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) has voted to confirm the appointment of Jean-François (Jeff) Bernier as permanent Chief of the Nunavik Police Service (NPS).

Jeff Bernier has been serving as Interim NPS Chief since November, 2025. A former Deputy Director with the Québec City Police Service (Service de police de la Ville de Québec, SPVQ), he was hired under a KRG-SPVQ service sharing agreement. Earlier today, Chief Bernier announced his retirement from the SPVQ in order to join the NPS on a permanent, full-time basis.

Chief Bernier has been working with the KRG Executive Committee and Director General's Office (DGO) to implement changes in NPS culture and performance that better align with community expectations for policing. He recently provided a detailed report to the KRG Regional Council on Nunavik crime trends, and the changes necessary to better prepare the NPS to fight major crimes, improve public safety, and restore public confidence.

Further, Chief Bernier has been working closely with the KRG-Makivvik Public Security Committee and the DGO to develop recommendations in response to the Committee's audit of the NPS. He will present an action plan for improving Nunavik policing services to the KRG Executive Committee and Regional Council within the next several months.

Notably, Chief Bernier has visited all Nunavik communities; taking part in DGO-organized meetings with town councils and Inuit leadership. He also has taken part in public call-in programs on local radio stations where he had an opportunity to hear Nunavimmiut concerns with policing, to provide updates on individual policing matters, and to discuss ways that police services can be improved.

Quote:

"We have witnessed encouraging signs of Chief Bernier's willingness to meet directly with community leaders, and to acknowledge critical gaps in policing that concern Nunavimmiut greatly. The Regional Council is ready to support his efforts to lead the implementation of changes in policing behaviour and procedures that create a safer, trustworthy connection between Nunavik police and the people and communities they serve."

– Maggie Emudluk, Chairperson, Kativik Regional Government

Biography

Jean-François Bernier began his policing career with the Montréal Police Service in 1998, and joined the Québec City Police Service several years later as a patrol officer, serving within police units that specialized in crowd management and public order.

From 2006 to 2010, Mr. Bernier held the position of Sergeant Detective in the Narcotics Unit, before being assigned to the Mixed Regional Anti-Biker Unit of the Sûreté du Québec to 2011.

Between 2011 and 2013, he served as Lieutenant Detective within the SPVQ's specialized services. From 2013 to 2015, he worked as a team leader within the Anti-Biker Unit, responsible for long-term investigative projects for the Sûreté du Québec.

Returning to the SPVQ, he served from 2015 to 2016 as Lieutenant Detective in the Narcotics Unit, before being promoted to Captain in 2016 within the Deputy Directorate of Territorial Surveillance where he held the position of Deputy Commander until 2017.

From 2017 to 2018, he served as Captain of the Network Crime Module, and in 2018 he was promoted to Inspector. He subsequently held key leadership roles within the Police Affairs Section and Specialized Services until 2021.

Recognized for his tactical and strategic expertise, Chief Bernier also served for several years as a major incident commander and supervised all specialized units of the SPVQ, including SWAT teams, physical surveillance, infiltration, electronic surveillance, and intelligence.

From 2021 to 2025, he held the position of Deputy Director of Organizational Development and Police Affairs, before being appointed Interim Chief of the Nunavik Police Service in November, 2025.

Kativik Regional Government

The Kativik Regional Government delivers comprehensive public services to Nunavimmiut under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975). The 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.

Media Contact

KRG: Denis Abbott, APR / KRG Communications / Tel: 514-795-5196 / media@krg.ca