



Cost-of-living support, economic diversification and infrastructure investments highlight quarterly meeting of Regional Council

Kuujuuaq, Quebec, December 19, 2025 — The Regional Council of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) met from November 24-27 in Kuujuuaq. Significant Council accomplishments and decisions include:

Key appointments

- The Regional Council welcomed three new members: Nancy Etok who replaces Maggie Emudluk (KRG Chairperson) as Kangiqsualujuaq representative, Jonathan Grenier (Kuujuuaq) who is replacing Jennifer Munick-Watkins, and Louise Nattawappio, the new representative of Naskapi First Nation of Kawawachikamach.
- The Regional Council has elected the following Council members to serve on boards of directors with partnering agencies:
 - Billy Cain, Speaker, Kativik Regional Development Council
 - Nuna Akpahatak, Nunavik Tourism Association
 - Charlie Nowkawalk, Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund
- The Council has confirmed the hiring of several new KRG management employees:
 - Valerie Lefin, Director of Human Resources
 - James Craig, Director of Transportation
 - Jean-François (Jeff) Bernier, Interim Chief of the Nunavik Police Service
- Through an education partnership with Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (KI), eight Inuit beneficiaries are enrolled in a McGill University certificate program on Leadership in Public Administration. We anticipate another eight beneficiaries will pursue this training in 2026.

Cost-of living support, economic development and eliminating the digital divide

- The Council received news that the renewal of the Cost-of-Living (COL) agreement is in the final stages, and scheduled to come into effect in April 2026. The COL Reduction Program is dedicated to making household items, transportation, and support more affordable in Nunavik. The KRG, Makivik and Government of Québec are signatories to the program.
- A significant EAUFON milestone has been achieved with completion of detailed marine and terrestrial mapping of the Ungava Bay pathway for EAUFON subsea fibre optic cable installation. When completed, Tamaani Internet, a KRG subsidiary, will have capacity to deliver reliable, high-speed connectivity to residents, organizations and businesses in all 14 municipalities.
- The 2025 edition of Nunavik in Figures, a pocket-sized publication presenting a detailed Nunavik demographic portrait, is being distributed throughout Nunavik this fall.

- The KRG Executive Committee will soon finalize an agreement with Québec’s Employment Ministry (Ministère de l’Emploi et de la Solidarité Sociale, MESS) to allocate close to \$200,000 toward increases in training allowances for Nunavimmiut participants in employment programs.
- On behalf of the Council, the Executive Committee will soon begin negotiations with Québec’s Societe de l’Assurance Automobile du Québec (SAAQ) on renewal of a three-year agreement for Services Nunavik to manage SAAQ operations and programs throughout Nunavik.
- Through the Department of Renewable Resources, the KRG is applying to renew funding to support the future growth of the Inuit Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Support Program. Québec Government funding is supplemented by Makivvik and KRG financial support in three areas: fur and Inuit clothing, harvesters fuel assistance, and the Inulirtait initiative for the purchase of tools and hunting equipment made by Inuit.
- Laval University professor Gérard Duhaime informed the Council that Nunivaat – the Nunavik statistical program – is updating the Nunavik Economic Portrait and the Nunavik Price Index. Both tools are key references for decision-making, and support the KRG’s negotiation of the renewal of major agreements with the Québec Government. Dr. Duhaime is also working with the Nunavik Elders Committee on a study of Elders socioeconomic conditions.
- During [Social Economy Month](#), the KRG Regional and Local Development Department announced funding for community revitalization projects for Akulivik, Inukjuak, Ivujivik and Kangiqsualujjuaq. As well, a bio-food sector development initiative is moving forward in Puvirnituaq, and a Nunavik bio-food strategy is in development.

Municipal infrastructure improvements

- The KRG is participating with the Municipality of Puvirnituaq and Government of Québec in an audit of the town’s water supply crisis earlier this year. The audit will review crisis response, ongoing infrastructure issues, and inter-agency roles in future emergencies.
- The KRG Transportation Department is recruiting for open Observer-Communicator positions at Akulivik, Quaqtuaq, Salluit and Umiujaq airports. Beneficiaries from these communities are encouraged to apply.
- The Council received an update on municipal infrastructure improvement programs that the KRG manages, and passed resolutions to kick-start funding of new projects, including:
 - Council approved 13 road development projects worth \$16.7 million under the Isurruutiit municipal infrastructure improvement program. There currently are 136 work-in-progress projects across Nunavik worth over \$150 million. Projects are designed to repair and improve drinking water, wastewater, road systems and waste management services, and to maintain, repair and purchase essential equipment.
 - The KRG has approved funding of \$657,243 toward the construction of a marine rescue shelter in Kangiqsujuaq as part of a \$11.1 million envelope funded under the Government of Canada Fuel Excise Tax (TECQ) Program.
 - The KRG-Makivvik financed Recreational and Sports Infrastructure Financial Assistance Program is supporting arena renovations in Kangiqsualujjuaq and Quaqtuaq, and community centre expansion and repairs in Kangirsuk and Umiujaq.
- The KRG Department of Renewable Resources is making progress on installing residual material management infrastructure in Nunavik municipalities. An eco-centre and material management (drop-off) site has opened in Kuujjuaq, joining an Inukjuak eco-centre that opened earlier this year, and new eco-centres scheduled to open in Ivujivik and Salluit in 2026.

- In partnership with Québec’s Transport Ministry (Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable, MTMD), the KRG Transportation Department is completing improvements to aircraft movement areas, airport fencing, among other upgrades, at Aupaluk, Ivujivik, Kangirsuk, Puvirnituq, Quaqtaq and Salluit airports.

Culture, environment and recreation

- The Council has approved the start of negotiations with the Québec Ministry of Environment to provide funding support for two new environmental initiatives:
 - New biodiversity inventory studies by the KRG-supported Biodiversity Monitoring Network to evaluate how fauna and flora in natural environments are impacted by climate change
 - Assist Nunavik municipalities to prepare protection plans for vulnerable, critical drinking water sources
- The Executive Committee of Council will hold discussions with Nunavik municipalities on designating funds to hire Elder Coordinators who will work to improve Elder access to services, and facilitate improvements to community infrastructure to better accommodate the needs of Elders.
- The Council approved funding of slightly more than \$837,000 to support the Nunavik-wide ESUMA Stay-in School campaign for Summer 2026. An estimated 40 separate awareness initiatives are being planned for all 14 Nunavik communities. The 2026 School Perseverance Days campaign under the theme – Expand Your Horizons – takes place from February 16-20.
- Nunavik Parks has announced the dates for [2026 winter and summer park exploration packages](#), and published Conservation Stories, a collection of articles on environmental research, conservation, and visitor experiences to our four national parks.
- Preparations are well underway for organizing the team representing Nunavik at the 2026 Arctic Winter Games from March 8 to 15 in Whitehorse, Yukon. Athletic tryouts concluded with strong interest shown by athletes and performers across the region.

Public and civil security

- The KRG Executive Committee and Director General’s Office have provided a mandate to Interim Police Chief Jean-François Bernier to implement changes in police culture and performance. The purpose of the directive is to highlight KRG’s expectation that NPS community policing better align with community expectations. He also will implement recommendations of the KRG’s internal review of the Nunavik Police Service (NPS), and work with the Nunavik Public Security Committee to make changes that reflect greater sensitivity to cultural realities. And, he will work with the KRG to recruit a permanent Chief of Police during 2026.
- The Council endorsed a resolution to allow the NPS to hire special constables to support the work of NPS officers in municipalities, especially in the area of municipal by-law enforcement.
- The NPS has hired two coordinators to lead the new Youth Cadet Program. The program is designed to strengthen ties between police and youth, promote positive role models, and encourage young people to consider future careers in public safety.
- Interim NPS Chief Bernier provided the Council with a report on Nunavik [crime trends](#), and informed Council of results of NPS-led police [investigations](#) and operations.

- The KRG is negotiating with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) on a multi-year extension of the Indigenous Search and Rescue Program. The aim is to strengthen marine SAR training, conduct joint practice operations with experienced CCG teams, and supplement first-aid and psychological support services in the region.
- The Civil Security Department is rolling out a [winter emergency preparedness campaign](#) that provides a winter checklist of best practices for ensuring community safety, maintaining essential municipal operations, and supporting emergency response and recovery.
- Fire chiefs from across the region took part in their annual meeting to conduct workshops and fire station site visits aimed at enhancing emergency preparedness, occupational health and safety, fire prevention awareness, and identifying new training needs.
- Almost half of Nunavik municipalities are now connected to the St. Eustache, Québec emergency response call centre. Akulivik, Inukjuak, Ivujivik, Kuujjuaraapik and Umiujaq are linked to centre's emergency response and dispatch service, with Salluit and Puvirnituk scheduled to be hooked up before the end of the year.

Quote:

“Our Regional Council passed resolutions on significant measures designed to support continued progress in making our region’s social fabric stronger and more durable in the present and for the future. Creating the right environment for our future is at the core of our long-term vision and focus during negotiations with the Government of Québec.

– Maggie Emudluk, Chairperson

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

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