



Press Release

For immediate release

KRG Applauds New Federal Funding to Improve Internet Capacity

Kuujuuaq, Québec, November 11, 2020 - The Kativik Regional Government welcomes the Government of Canada's financial contribution to ensure affordable, high-speed broadband internet service to remote communities.

The KRG expects to receive its fair share of the Universal Broadband Fund announced last year. This fund includes \$150-million to increase internet capacity throughout Canada within the next year. The KRG through Tamaani Internet will seek the maximum allotment of \$5-million from this fund in order to have the increased internet capacity in operation by November 2021 at the latest.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant increase in the use of the limited capacity of internet connectivity in Nunavik. Access to tele-education and tele-health services are essential to the well-being of Nunavimmiut. Reliable internet has become a basic service that is required by everyone. Yet internet capacity remains limited in our remote communities and access to a high capacity and high-speed network has become more urgent than ever before as we confront this global pandemic.

This week's announcement represents an important step towards responding to the increased internet usage in the region due to the pandemic. It will also contribute to our unflinching commitment towards improving our telecommunication services in all Nunavik communities as soon as possible.

Even before this week's announcement, the KRG has been pressing the Federal and Provincial Governments to support our efforts at obtaining additional satellite bandwidth to help alleviate the congestion as much as possible. The agreement with Telesat will ensure access to the Low Earth Orbit or LEO satellite service. KRG has been investigating bandwidth availability. Now it has a realistic opportunity to enable Tamaani Internet to acquire new satellite capacity and bring increased broadband connectivity to Nunavik's remote communities.

The funding announced this week is part of a \$1.75-billion universal broadband fund that was unveiled during last year's federal budget. The KRG is pleased to learn that Ottawa is living-up to its financial commitment along with the Quebec government towards helping Nunavik deploy the undersea fibre optic network project that will help bridge our digital divide.

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The Kativik Regional Government is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development.