



Press Release

For immediate release

## Visit from Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

**Kuujuuaq, Québec, March 10, 2022** – Newly elected Kativik Regional Government (KRG) Councillors were honoured with a meeting from the Quebec Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Ian Lafrenière on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

The Minister and Councillors discussed community issues, many of which related to the challenges faced during the harsh winter season, concerns of an increasing population and resources required to support it and the lack of financial assistance alongside high tax rates in the region.

The two parties also addressed housing needs, lack of proper resourcing for elders, and a few councillors expressed concerns about organized crime affecting children, causing deaths and accidents in the community.

To emphasise their concern from the rising crime, Billy Cain, Mayor for Tasiujaq, proposed the use of the Viens Commission Report as a tool to help Nunavik in getting proper policing services, while KRG Chairperson, Hilda Snowball, concluded the conversation by asking the Provincial Government to step in and do their part.

Minister Lafrenière promised a visit to each of the aboriginal communities in Nunavik by June 2022. The exchange between the KRG Councillors and the Minister ended with the Minister proposing a technical group for water and sewage issues along with discussions between both parties every two weeks to establish priorities.

This is the second visit since October 2021, where the Minister briefly visited the town of Kuujuuaq and met with Jean-Pierre Larose the Nunavik Police Service Chief to reflect on the challenges facing policing in Nunavik.

Both the Minister and regional Councillors are determined to build common ground to find solutions.



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*The KRG 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.*