



Infrastructure investments, new public safety initiatives and new appointments highlight quarterly meeting of Regional Council

Kuujuuaq, Quebec, June 12, 2025 — The Regional Council of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) met from May 26-29 in Kangiqsujaq. Significant Council accomplishments and decisions include:

Key appointments and negotiations

- The Council confirms the selection of the following members to serve on Nunavik boards:
 - Adamie Kalingo on the board of directors of the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund
 - Sally Nuktie, Jonathan Epoo and Claude Gadbois on the board of directors of the Nunavik Housing Bureau
 - Qiallak Nappaaluk to the Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee of Kativik Ilisarniliriniq
- Jobie Tukkiapik is confirmed as new director of the KRG Renewable Resources Department.
- The Director General's Office (DGO) welcomes back Paul Parsons as Assistant Director General. Also joining the DGO as Assistant Director Generals are Maggie Putulik and David Wilson. The new assistant directors join Ron Bowles, Director General, who was appointed in February.

Economic development and eliminating the digital divide

- KRG-owned Tamaani Internet has completed the transfer of all Ungava communities to high-performance Starlink terminals. Tamaani also has updated internet service packages to provide residential and business customers with increased bandwidth and new fibre-optic modems.
- KRG Sanajit now enjoys status as an official career referral service for all trades and occupations covered by the CCQ (Commission de la construction du Québec).
- The Council has earmarked funding in excess of \$1.8 million for new skills development and on-the-job training projects for Nunavik Inuit. These projects involve significant support from Makivvik, Canadian Royalties and Kativik Ilisarniliriniq as project coordinators.
- Pending approval of Quebec's ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable (MTMD), improvements to aircraft movement areas, airport fencing, among other upgrades, are taking place this summer at Aupaluk, Kangirsuk, Kuujuuaq, Puvirnituq, Quaqtaq and Salluit airports.
- The KRG is in negotiations with the MTMD on renewal of a multi-year agreement to maintain public transit services in Nunavik municipalities.
- The Council approved a \$2.5 million funding envelope to complete feasibility studies on the development of marine infrastructure throughout Nunavik.

- Renowned Nunavik researcher Dr. Gérard Duhaime of Laval University presented the 2025 edition of Nunavik in Figures, a pocket-sized publication presenting a detailed Nunavik demographic portrait. This latest Nunivaat publication is a valuable statistical tool to assist the KRG in the negotiation of funding and governance agreements with other governments.
- As part of the one-year renewal of the Cost-of-Living Reduction (COLR) Program with the Government of Quebec, the KRG Treasury Department is updating program information and application forms to make the program more accessible to Nunavimmiut. COLR measures include gasoline price reduction, Elders assistance, household appliances and harvesting equipment, food and other daily-living essentials, airfare reduction, and country food community support.

Municipal infrastructure improvements

- KRG Chairperson Hilda Snowball presented an update on KRG emergency measures and coordination of all-agency response to the Puvirnituq water crisis. Among measures enacted by the KRG was the invocation of expedited procurement to purchase water pipe materials, hire contractors to install temporary pipeline bypass points, and source heavy equipment.
- The Department of Renewable Resources is making progress on installing residual material management infrastructure in Nunavik municipalities. There has been a noticeable increase in recent months in the number of recycling drop-off points, composting sites and other special collection locations.
- The Nunavik Climate Change and Environmental Monitoring Committee recently approved four environmental enhancement projects valued at over \$1.4 million.
- The Council received confirmation that Makivvik will build 70 new homes in 2026 and 2027, including duplexes and single-family units. This housing allocation is in addition to Nunavik Housing Bureau (NHB) renovations to 126 houses and restoration of 14 disaster-impacted dwellings.
- The Council received an update on a range of municipal infrastructure improvement programs that the KRG manages, including:
 - The Isurruutiit municipal infrastructure improvement program has 123 work-in-progress projects across Nunavik worth close to \$140 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 Council approved just over \$16.4 million to 11 projects under the Pivallutiit Program to renovate municipal cultural and recreational facilities.
 - The KRG has approved six municipal infrastructure projects worth over \$4.9 million as part of a \$11.1 million envelope funded under the Fuel Excise Tax Program.
 - The Recreational and Sports Infrastructure Financial Assistance Program is supporting arena renovations in Kangiqsualujjuaq and Quaqtaq, and community centre expansion and repairs in Kangirsuk and Umiujaq.

Culture and recreation

- KRG's ESUMA Program supports stay-in-school initiatives and educational achievement. ESUMA is finalizing plans for summer-long activities in all 14 municipalities, with up to 40 unique events focusing on empowering Nunavik youth through literacy.

- Élections Québec officials presented a framework for the participation of municipalities and Nunavik residents in the next Quebec general election in October 2026. The Council urged Élections Québec to learn the lessons from the recent federal election where residents were denied the right to vote because a number of polling stations were not staffed.
- The Council approved funding to hire Elder Coordinators in each Northern Village to improve Elder access to services, and to facilitate improvements to community infrastructure that better accommodate the needs of Elders.
- Nunavik Parks is updating pricing support under the Nunavik Parks Beneficiary Access Initiative. Beginning this summer, Nunavik JBNQA beneficiaries will be eligible for a 75% price reduction on all park tour packages and park-destination airfares.
- The Qarjuit Youth Council (QYC) shared details with the Regional Council on plans for a cultural wellness campaign, a 2026 Elders and youth retreat, and an Inuit Youth Summit. The QYC represents over 4,500 dedicated Inuit youth of Nunavik and Chisasibi; providing opportunities and knowledge to improve quality of life, and explore young people's full potential as responsible citizens and leaders. QYC priorities include mental health, Inuit identity, and school perseverance.
- Cirqiniq, the KRG cultural and social performance showcase, is hosting a summer camp in Kuujjuaq from June 22-28, with youth from around Ungava Bay taking part.
- Arctic Winter Games tryouts have concluded with strong interest shown by athletes and performers. Over 200 young men and women attended tryouts in Inukjuak, Umiujaq and Kangiqsualujjuaq.
- Nunavik Voices, the KRG's quarterly magazine, has received a Clear-Mark Award from the Center for Plain Language in Washington, DC. Clear-Mark judges selected Nunavik Voices for engaging community-focused storytelling, an appealing design, and excellence in communicating the KRG's activities in clear, plain language.

Public and civil security

- Council endorsed a resolution calling for the KRG to complete a review of the Nunavik Police Service (NPS) in light of recent incidents in Salluit and Kangiqsualujjuaq. Terms of reference are being prepared, and further discussion with Makivvik, the KRG's organizational partner on the Nunavik Public Safety Committee, are underway.
- The Council approved a research exchange agreement with University of Strathclyde Scotland. Entitled 'Strengthening search and rescue in Arctic Canada and Scotland with data collection, analysis and modeling' the research project will accelerate knowledge sharing, best practices and advanced SAR modeling between Nunavik and Scotland.
- A presentation on the Quebec itinerant court in Nunavik evoked Council concerns of long-standing inadequacies including excessive, burdensome delays in court proceedings, the chronic absence of Inuit interpreters, and nonrecognition of Inuit-based justice remediation.
- The KRG Civil Security and Communications departments presented details on 72-hour home emergency kits and video testimonials from Inukjuak and Kangiqsualujjuaq municipal leaders as part of a successful Civil Security (Emergency Preparedness) Week in early May.
- The KRG is pursuing an extension to a financial assistance agreement with the Ministère de la Justice du Québec to renew funding of the Crime Victims Assistance Centre (Sapummijit), and to fund a Nunavik-wide victims assistance awareness campaign.

- The NPS is expanding detention facility surveillance capabilities with a further \$20 million funding allocation approved by the Council.
- KRG Communications is in discussion with municipalities on identification of media platforms (for example, social media and radio) that would be most helpful to each NV in reaching residents, particularly during emergencies. The goal is to elevate public communication capacity by identifying resources, platforms and training needs of each municipality.
- The KRG and the NPS successfully negotiated a new, five-year funding agreement with governments of Quebec and Canada that will assist the NPS to modernize operations, strengthen community relationships, and improve the ability to recruit new officers from within Nunavik and elsewhere.
- Umiujaq and Inukjuak recently connected to the St. Eustache, Quebec emergency dispatch call centre, which will significantly reduce response times. Council also mandated the Executive Committee to finalize a \$15 million contract for call-centre emergency services to eventually connect all Nunavik communities to this integrated first-responder system.
- The Nunavik Police Service is donating a snowmobile to each Nunavik municipality to enhance search and rescue capability.
- Civil Security tabled a comprehensive report summarizing KRG and municipal fire safety activities throughout Nunavik in 2024.
- 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.
- Nunavik Police Service (NPS) chief Jean-Pierre Larose reported on Nunavik crime trends, and informed Council of results of NPS-led police investigations and operations.

Quote:

“Our Regional Council made impactful, key decisions that are designed to measurably improve the safety and well-being of Nunavimmiut. Strategic investments in job skills training, emergency services, municipal infrastructure, and policing, among others, provide Nunavik Inuit and their communities with the means to safely and confidently pursue new horizons of progress and opportunity.”

– Hilda Snowball, 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.

Note: Copies of all departmental activity reports and presentations to Regional Council available [here](#).

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