



## **UPDATE – STATEMENT FROM KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ON PUVIRNITUQ WATER DISTRIBUTION CHALLENGES**

**For immediate release**

**Kuujuuaq, Quebec, May 13, 2025** — The Nunavik community of Puvirnituk continues to face severe water distribution challenges. Several factors impact the delivery of a reliable supply of drinking water to residents: water infrastructure limitations, limited capacity of alternate delivery by water trucks, retaining experienced technical staff, and weather-related delays in pipeline repairs and water truck delivery. These conditions have deteriorated due to continuing extreme winter weather.

The frozen section of five-kilometre-long water pipeline reported in March persists, and unimpeded raw water transmission remains impossible.

The thawing of frozen pipeline and replacement of a damaged section cannot take place until weather conditions improve and warmer temperatures sustain. In the meantime, staff of the KRG Municipal Public Works (MPW) and Transportation departments are assisting the municipality in the struggle to clear snow-clogged roads.

The start of repairs to the pipeline will begin once weather and temperature conditions improve. Temporary replacement pipe and other supplies have arrived in the community, and if weather improves, interim repairs to the water supply system can be made by early June, with normal operations resuming during the summer.

In the meantime, water trucks travel to the raw water pumping station to load and distribute water, with manual chlorination performed for disinfection. Extended travel distance on snowy, icy roads and prolonged loading times are reducing distribution efficiency. The town's water transportation fleet is working at reduced capacity, with three of five water trucks operable. The municipality is experiencing delays in receiving spare parts to make truck repairs. Staff of the KRG MPW Department are working closely with the municipality to resolve this issue.

Further, staff of the KRG MPW and Civil Security departments are meeting regularly with community partners to review and install temporary solutions until normal operations resume.

KRG MPW staff also are working with the town to regularly test the water supply, especially at the local hospital. Daily testing by certified instructors is underway to ensure water safety and reliability, and to further train local operators.

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