



CIVIL SECURITY Department

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2025

The Civil Security Department raises awareness of emergency preparedness and support-related activities. In particular, the department works closely with the 14 Northern Villages (NVs) to strengthen planning, and human and physical resources for fire departments, and for search and rescue operations.

Revised - Nunavik Fire Safety Cover Plan (R-NFSCP)

Infrastructure

Renovation of the firehall in Salluit is well underway, with a completion and handover expected in the coming weeks.

A formal request for additional funding has been submitted to the Ministère de la Sécurité Publique (MSP) to purchase fire trucks for Ivujivik and Umiujaq, and to proceed with construction of their firehalls.

As well, a second letter has been sent with two additional requests:

1. To defer three actions outlined in the implementation plan of our Revised Nunavik Fire Safety Cover Plan, in accordance with Section 30.1 of the Fire Safety Act.
2. Authorization to amend the coverage period of the Fire Safety Cover Plan from 2019–2024 to 2019– 2029, thereby extending it from five to ten years to ensure alignment with the full implementation plan period.

Currently, five municipalities – Kuujjuarapik, Umiujaq, Inukjuak, Akulivik Ivujivik – are connected to the Saint-Eustache emergency call centre. The team, along with the fire chiefs, revisited the call centre during the Annual Fire Chiefs Meeting in September. The Civil Security Coordinator takes part in monthly coordination meetings to ensure steady progress toward connecting all Nunavik communities to the emergency dispatch system. Salluit will be connected shortly, pending completion of minor technical repairs. Puvirnituq is currently facing issues with damaged cables from the Fire Department transmitter and antenna. We anticipate the necessary repairs will be completed shortly.

To improve firefighter safety during emergency operations, clear and reliable communication is critical. A service contract has been awarded to Tel-Cel to conduct a comprehensive assessment of firefighter radio communication systems across Nunavik. We are exploring advanced technology solutions to expand service capabilities, and to ensure a stable framework for ongoing maintenance and technical support to all NVs.

Jean Morin of Tel-Cel presented his layout plan to our Nunavik Annual Fire Chief Meeting, and he is actively working to survey NV needs. The next step is to prepare a technical requirements document (RFP) to launch a call for tender by the first quarter of 2026.

Firefighter Training

William McCrae, our Firefighter Training Officer, assisted with firefighter training at our local facility in September. The department hosted a successful weekend training session with a dozen firefighters from Inukjuak, Akulivik, Kuujjuaq, Puvirnituq and Kuujjuaraapik, focusing on essential skills such as ropes and knots, ventilation techniques, and search procedures.

William McCrae and Steven Walker, Civil Security Technician, traveled to Penticton, British Columbia to complete a Fire Service Instructor course. This three-day training included theoretical and practical components, along with multiple assignments designed to enhance instructional capabilities.

In September, Steven Walker participated in the cold water bootcamp project in Yellowknife to raise awareness of the dangers of hypothermia for the Nunavik Region. In October, Steven was in Quaqtaq to pre-register new and existing firefighters to the registry of the École nationale de police du Québec (ENPQ) and witness the passing of support resolutions by the NV Council.

In November, Steven visited Akulivik, followed by a trip to Ivujivik later in the month. The purpose of these visits was to train firefighters on the new wildland firefighting equipment, ensure that all new and existing firefighters completed the ENPQ forms, and support the adoption of the NV Council resolutions.

Craig Lingard, Benoit Plante, Mitch Vail, William McCrae attended an in-person meeting with New Brunswick Community College in Miramichi to explore future training development opportunities. Seasonal closure of our Kuujjuaq training facility is complete, and we have ensured it has been properly maintained and ready for next year.

The 2025 Nunavik Annual Fire Chiefs Meeting in Montreal from September 15–18 was hosted by the Civil Security Department, and gathered together fire chiefs, partners, and stakeholders from across the region. The four-day event featured workshops, presentations, and site visits aimed at enhancing fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and frontline firefighter support. Opening remarks were delivered by Civil Security Director Craig Lingard, followed by sessions on firefighter health, cancer awareness, occupational safety, and upcoming training plans. National partnerships were highlighted by guest speaker Erin Pigott of the Canadian Coast Guard. Members of the Nunavik Coast Guard Auxiliary were honored for their service.

A key highlight of this year's event was a field trip to St. Eustache, where chiefs visited the emergency call centre that will eventually handle Nunavik's fire service calls. Participants had the opportunity to see how calls from across the region are routed, triaged and dispatched. The group also toured the St. Eustache fire hall, gaining valuable insight into urban fire operations that can be adapted for local contexts in Nunavik. The visit underscored the importance of reliable communications and robust partnerships between communities and emergency services.

Akulivik Mayor Larry Hubert attended the annual fire chiefs meeting as his community is next in line for a call-centre partnership rollout. He emphasized the importance of elected officials supporting local fire departments, highlighting the critical role fire chiefs and firefighters play in community safety. Mayor Hubert expressed his commitment to ensuring these services receive the necessary resources,

training, and support; stating that strong fire services are essential to building stronger, safer communities

Throughout the sessions, one message rang clearly: Nunavik's firefighters need continued access to training, resources and support. Presenters and chiefs alike emphasized that building capacity through ongoing education and structured support systems is critical to both firefighter safety and the protection of communities. Discussions ranged from fire truck maintenance and inspection protocols to strategies for improving regional communications systems.

Closing sessions on the final day included presentations from suppliers and partners, as well as a joint evaluation of the week's workshops. Chiefs shared feedback and ideas for future training priorities, ensuring that next year's meeting will build even further on the progress made in 2025.

The Nunavik Annual Fire Chiefs Meeting remains a cornerstone event for fire service leadership in the region. By combining technical workshops, external expertise, and collaborative discussion, the gathering continues to ensure that Nunavik's firefighters are supported in their vital role of protecting communities across the region.

Other Activities

Puvirnituk water crisis

In response to the May 2025 water crisis in Puvirnituk, and as part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the Department of Civil Security is actively implementing the recommendations from the internal debriefing report. These recommendations are being integrated into our strategic objectives and incorporated into our work plan.

Civil Security along with Municipal Public Works, the Director General's Office and the Senior Executive Assistant participated in the provincial audit. We currently are awaiting the results, and the appropriate actions will be taken once the final report is received. In the meantime, we continue to work closely with all partners, including the NVs, to strengthen our Civil Security management processes and improve our overall emergency response capabilities.

Canadian Coast Guard

An evolving relationship with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) continues to be mutually beneficial.

A presentation by CCG representatives is scheduled for this Regional Council.

With financial assistance from Federal Coast Guard Funding programs, a new rescue boat has been built and received in Kangiqsualujjuaq.

Regarding potential environmental marine spills, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kuujjuaq, Tasiujaq, Aupaluk and Kangirsuk received two containers (caches) of limited marine spill response equipment in the fall of 2024. Quaqtaq, Salluit, Puvirnituk and Kuujjuarapik will receive similar kits this fall. Planning is underway for local training on this equipment, and negotiations continue to have kits in the remaining Nunavik communities.

Civil Security mechanics fieldwork visits

During the reporting period, our mechanics completed visits to all communities within our operational region. The primary objectives were to enhance emergency response infrastructure, perform equipment checks, and support local teams with training and technical installations.

Key Accomplishments

1. Infrastructure Installations

- Thermal imaging cameras: Installed on rescue boats to improve visibility and safety
- Starlink systems: Deployed to improve connectivity in remote areas, supporting emergency services and community access
- Multifunctional display screens: Integrated on rescue boats for better navigation and system monitoring
- Shockwave seats: Installed to enhance crew safety and comfort during high-speed operations

2. Equipment Inspections

- Fire trucks: Conducted thorough mechanical and safety checks on all units, ensuring readiness and compliance with operational standards
- Rescue boats: Performed inspections and minor repairs, confirming seaworthiness and equipment functionality
- Diagnostic-Link software: an essential tool for troubleshooting advanced technology in onboard computers in newly acquired fire trucks

3. Training & Support

- Assisted in training local firefighters on operation and maintenance of newly delivered fire trucks
- Provided hands-on demonstrations and troubleshooting guidance for newly installed systems

Human Resources

The department is pleased to welcome Daniel Boilard as our new Public Safety and Fire Prevention Technician. Daniel brings with him over 25 years of experience in fire safety, prevention and investigation. Throughout his career as a Fire Prevention Technician, he has developed extensive expertise in inspections, risk assessments, regulatory compliance, implementation of fire safety plans, arson investigations, and the delivery of training programs. He is deeply passionate about promoting prevention, safety, and overall workplace well-being. We are actively looking to fulfill the second vacant position.

Fire prevention and public safety activities

Kris Tukkiapik, Civil Security Technician and Team Leader, visited communities along the Ungava Coast from August to November:

- Tasiujaq: installation of new compressor completed, and recertification in Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) achieved
- Kuujjuaq: assisted in delivering training at the training centre with participants from Inukjuak, Akulivik, Puvirnituk, Kuujjuaraapik and one from Kuujjuaq.
- Quaqtak and Kangirsujuaq: completed SCBA recertification
- November: SCBA recertification achieved in Kuujjuaraapik, Umiujaq and Inukjuak with assistance from Jordan Jones, Hudson Coast technician

General Information

We are pleased to welcome Camille Le Gall-Payne as our Civil Security Coordinator - Resilience Plan. This role will ensure the implementation of a Disaster Risk Regional Management Approach in accordance with the Act Respecting Civil Protection to Promote Disaster Resilience. The Coordinator will plan and elaborate a Nunavik Public Safety and Awareness Strategy.

On September 3, the department met with emergency response representatives from the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) and the Nunavik Police Service (NPS). Participants included:

- Department of Civil Security:
 - Craig Lingard, Director
 - Benoit Plante, Advisor
- SQ:
 - Chief Inspector Patrick Marchand
 - Inspectors Nathalie Martin and Alexandre Pinard, Assistant Director
 - Captain Marc Robert, Head of Specialized Services
- Nunavik Police Service:
 - Director Jean-Pierre Larose
 - Assistant Director of Operations Jean-François Morin

This initial meeting served as an opportunity for stakeholders to meet for the first time and to present the current Search and Rescue (SAR) framework in Nunavik. Discussions focused on the operational capacities of each organization to conduct SAR operations in the region, and how collaboration could be strengthened going forward.

The Department of Civil Security delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the current SAR situation in Nunavik and shared its vision for future development. The meeting lasted over two hours and was well received by all participants.

The NPS reiterated its significant limitations in terms of equipment, personnel, and operational capacity to fulfill its SAR mandate effectively. The SQ clarified that, under the Police Act, it is committed to assisting any police service in Québec with SAR operations. From the SQ's perspective, however, SAR in Nunavik is a municipal responsibility; yet without adequate resources or a clear mandate.

The Department of Civil Security, which has already led three round tables on the subject, expressed its intention to develop and coordinate a Nunavik-specific SAR program for the region's 14 northern communities.

Next Steps and Proposed Actions

The three organizations agreed on the following actions:

- Establish a dedicated working group on search and rescue in Nunavik
- Develop a collaboration agreement between NPS and SQ, as outlined in the most recent NPS tripartite agreement
- Participate jointly in design and implementation of a SAR model tailored to Nunavik's needs
- Involve SQ legal advisors, professionals, and partners from Quebec's civil and public safety sectors in advancing the project in the coming months
- Consult with regional authorities to ratify a project agreement

The department also acquired InReach Messenger Plus SOS satellite communicators with photo and voice messaging capabilities. One device will be distributed to each community. This marks significant SAR progress for Nunavik.

We received notification from the Regional Direction of Civil Security and Fire Safety of Nord-du-Québec that they have shared best practices in civil security with colleagues across Québec, along with presentations from other municipal regional counties (MRC). This exchange has led to the creation of a best practices guide for MRCs that will be published in the coming months.

Brigitte Paradis (Civil Security Administrative Coordinator), France-Sylvie Loisel (Senior Advisor), and Camille Le Gall-Payne (Civil Security Resilience Plan Coordinator) participated in the 27th Annual Civil Security Symposium in Québec City. They attended several plenary sessions focused on climate adaptation, including topics such as responses to emerging risks, resilience investment, risk and protective factors affecting municipal managers during disasters, and the impacts of disasters on civil protection leadership and strategic responses.

The second edition of Civil Security Week is scheduled for May 2026. Preparations are currently in progress in partnership with the Department of Communications. Active participation from municipalities and strategic partners will be key to ensuring the event's success.

Nunavik Emergency Management Skills (NEMS)

The Civil Security Department is in the process of establishing a new approach to emergency management in Nunavik with the creation of NEMS, Inuit cultural approach based on four pillars:

- Development of disaster management skills
- Sharing of knowledge on risk management
- Ownership of civil security concepts and processes
- Accreditation of a training program by Public Security Ministry

The program will be designed to reflect the culture, language and local realities. Working groups will be divided into three sectors: Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait and Ungava, each including representatives from four to five villages per sector.

In the short term, an advisory committee will be established to coordinate the initial sessions. The project will involve the collaboration of various stakeholders, including municipalities, academics, government agencies, and others.

The Resilience Plan Coordinator participated in the Inuit Climate Table (ICT) on Clean Growth and Climate Change in October in Ottawa. The ICT brings together representatives of the four Inuit Treaty Organizations, regional organizations, and provides opportunities to discuss climate change mitigation and adaptation with senior officials from federal departments and Agencies. In addition to a general session, each region had an opportunity to meet bilaterally with federal representatives on regional-specific issues related to the following themes:

1. Food and Wellness
2. Energy and Climate Resilient Infrastructure
3. Capacity, Education and Knowledge
4. Health and Biodiversity Ecosystem

See listing of departmental employees – Appendix A – next page

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