

APRIL 2017

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Keeping Nunavimmiut up to date on the work of the Kativik Regional Government



Meeting between the Québec Premier and the KRG Chairperson

On February 15, 2017, the Chairperson of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Jennifer Munick, met in Quebec City with Québec Premier Philippe Couillard, a first face-to-face meeting since her election as KRG Chairperson in November 2015.



From left to right:
Bobby Snowball, Jennifer Munick, Premier Philippe Couillard, Lucy Kumarluk, Michael Gordon

The meeting was constructive and was an excellent opportunity to address a number of KRG and regional priority issues. The two leaders also confirmed their commitment to the close working relationship that has developed over the years between the KRG and successive Québec governments. A strong awareness of northern development issues was demonstrated by Premier Couillard.

Also participating to the meeting were the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, Geoffrey Kelley, the MNA for Ungava, Jean Boucher, the KRG Vice-Chairperson, Lucy Kumarluk, the KRG Director General, Michael Gordon, and the President of the Nunavik Elders' Committee, Bobby Snowball.

The KRG representatives delivered important messages on key issues such as justice, policing and government follow-up to the special report by the Québec Ombudsman on detention conditions in Nunavik that was released a year ago. The undersea fibre optic Internet feasibility study, partly financed by the Quebec government through the Société du Plan Nord, was also touched on during



the meeting. While talking about the promotion of greener energy solutions, the KRG raised concerns related to Hydro-Québec changing rate structure, which may negatively impact Nunavik.

To conclude, the President of the Nunavik Elders' Committee Bobby Snowball emphasized that Native and non-Native has to live together and to continue supporting one another.

New Initiative from Nunavik Parks

The new Nunavik Parks Beneficiary Access Initiative (NPBAI) was launched in March 2017 to encourage and facilitate access to the national parks in Nunavik by beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA). It represents an opportunity to keep increasing the number of park visitors, which doubled from 2014 to 2016. Nunavik Parks hopes to reach this objective by providing financial support to JBNQA beneficiaries, regardless of their home community in Nunavik.

Funded through revenue generated by Nunavik Parks, the NPBAI helps to reduce fees and transportation costs for school groups, youth, elders and any JBNQA beneficiary. Preferential prices can be applied to the services and activities offered in the parks. Beneficiaries could also receive travel incentives on flights from any Nunavik community to the park gateway communities of Kangiqsujuaq (Parc national des Pingaluit), Kangiqsualujuaq (Parc national Kuururjuaq and Ulittaniujalik) and Umiujaq (Parc national Tursujuq) on regular scheduled flights, and to the parks on charter flights.

For more information on the Nunavik Parks Beneficiary Access Initiative, contact the visitor experience officer of the park you wish to visit, write to info@nunavikparks.ca or visit <http://www.nunavikparks.ca>.



Charlie Tooktoo (director), Parc national Tursujuq, 2016.

Extension of Funding for Regional Cost-of-Living Measures

The Agreement on the Financing of Measures to Reduce the Cost of Living in Nunavik has been extended until March 2018. The one-year extension will allow the KRG, the Makivik Corporation and the Québec government to pursue negotiations to define effective and long-lasting solutions to the cost-of-living in Nunavik, based on the conclusions of the two-year research report completed by Université Laval in November 2016.

Locally built qajaq have been added to the harvesting vehicles and equipment component of the Household Appliance and Harvesting Equipment Program, one of the current Nunavik Cost-of-Living Measures. This component targets vehicles and equipment intended for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities. Locally built qajaq purchased through local hunter support programs will receive

a 30% rebate up to a maximum of \$500, as is the case for qamutiik, boggans and ice augers.

The KRG administers the six measures to reduce the cost-of-living in Nunavik. Funding is paid by the Québec government pursuant to the agreement signed with the KRG and the Makivik Corporation. The involved parties are targeting April 2018 for the start of a new long-term funding agreement. For more information on all Nunavik Cost-of-Living Measures, consult <http://www.krg.ca/quick-links/nunavik-cost-of-living-reduction-measures>.

Tamaani Developments

The Tamaani Internet phase 4 project has been underway since January 2015 and an agreement was signed with the Société du Plan Nord (SPN) in July 2015 concerning capital expenditures and support for Tamaani operating expenses. An amendment to the agreement should be approved in May. Altogether, it is worth \$11.5 million.

With equipment and antennas now installed and the switch to the network to be carried out in spring, transfer to the new and faster region-wide LTE network is nearing completion. LTE modems will make connection to the Internet more efficient and reliable. The transfer of customers to local fibre optic networks in Kuujuaq, Inukjuak, Puvirnituk and Salluit is continuing. This spring, Tamaani plans to implement Internet speed increases from 1.5 to 3 megabits per second (Mbps) for home users on the new fibre optic networks.

On the long term, the installation of an undersea fibre optic cable to connect Nunavik to the Internet is being studied. Currently, Tamaani depends on a satellite technology to connect the region. Tamaani has also applied for funding under new programs developed by the federal and provincial governments. Their total funding envelopes are \$500 and \$100 million, respectively. In addition, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has created a new fund to upgrade Internet speeds and data options in rural regions of Canada. Tamaani intends to participate in the public hearings.

2017 Sealift Financing for Businesses

Through its Regional and Local Development Department, the KRG is offering again this year to help businesses and business promoters across Nunavik in need of financial support for sealift financing for the 2017 summer and fall seasons. Applications may be submitted until May 5, 2017.

Financing is available for both business start-up and expansion projects and applies to the shipping of equipment and construction materials. Applications must be accompanied by a complete business plan and be submitted to the KRG Regional and Local Development Department in Kuujuaq as early as possible, and no later than May 5, 2017, for the last fall sealift.



Tamaani technicians in Kuujuaq.

YES Nunavik Staff Attend Training Activities

Employees of Youth Employment Services (YES) Nunavik attended training delivered by the Canadian Career Development Foundation in November 2016 in Kuujuaq. YES Nunavik promotes education among youth, in addition to offering services and advice related to employment.



From left to right:
Elsie Kasudluak, Rebeka Migneault, Suzanne Klinga (trainer), Geeta Echallook, Olivia Ikey, Sylvia Jonas.

The training activities helped YES Nunavik employment officers to improve their services, such as support for job searching, for CV writing and for job interviews. YES Nunavik has been attending these training activities for many years. Each edition addresses a variety of subjects. This year, three different courses were given, all related to employment and career development. Participants learned theories and models that can be adapted to their own approach. Specialized techniques and skills were practiced in a context of employment counselling services. The training activities also allowed an opportunity to look into different tools and instruments which could help YES Nunavik officers in their day-to-day work.

Shortly after the training, YES Nunavik staff in Kuujuaq were asked to help prepare for an interview. Using the tools and counselling strategies developed during the three days of courses, the officers organized a mock interview and practised interview skills with the job applicant, which earned him a full time job after the real interview.

2017 Cannexus Conference

In January, employees of the KRG Sustainable Employment Department attended the 2017 Cannexus Conference in Ottawa. The two-day event offered an opportunity to talk with other workers of the employment sector from around the world, to network with them, and to participate in various presentations and workshops related to employment. Many conference participants work in Aboriginal communities, which allowed discussions on specific challenges, situations and ideas. The Sanajit Project coordinator, Jessica Bessette, made a presentation during the conference, describing the situation of the construction industry and the workforce in Nunavik. She talked about training activities offered by the Sanajit Project, and how the program helps Nunavik construction workers find work with contractors. Local employment officers and Youth Employment Services (YES) Nunavik representatives also attended the conference. Employees from the KRG Sustainable Employment Department have participated in numerous Cannexus Conferences over the years to collaborate with other organizations and individuals for the purpose of providing efficient and adapted tools for employment.

CRTC Internet Fund

On December 21, 2016, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) announced a fund to expand broadband services to remote regions. The CRTC ruled the same day that “broadband Internet is now considered a basic telecommunications service for all Canadians”.

In the next ten years, the CRTC wants to upgrade Internet speeds to at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 10 Mbps upload. Another goal is to have an unlimited data option offered for Canadians with broadband services. In order to help service providers meet these targets, the CRTC's new fund will invest \$750 million over the next five years, and \$200 million per year thereafter. The mechanism to access these funds has not yet been determined but will likely be the topic of a public hearing later this year, in which the KRG intends to participate.

Next Regional Council Sitting

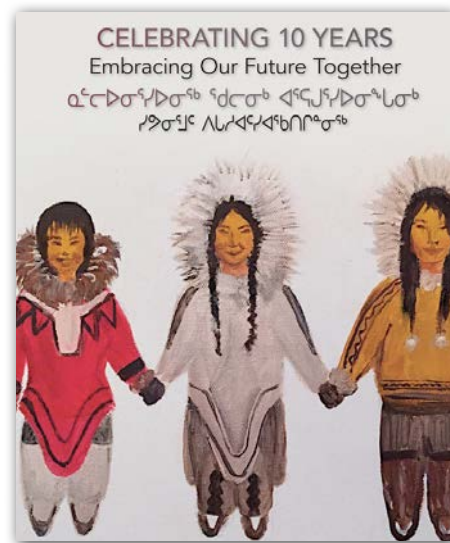
The next quarterly sitting of the KRG Council in 2017 is scheduled for May 29 to June 1 in Umiujaq.

Saturviit's 10th Anniversary

The KRG is pleased to mark in 2017 an important milestone for women in Nunavik. The Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik is celebrating 10 years of successful advocacy on the status of women and family issues. Over the past decade, Saturviit has promoted initiatives fostering the well-being of women and girls in every Nunavik community, as well as ensuring their voices are heard at the regional, provincial and national levels.

The Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik was established following up on a successful meeting of Inuit women from each Nunavik community and from the south organized the preceding year at the Qilalugaq Camp near Puvirnituk. Saturviit receives support for its activities from the KRG and the Secrétariat à la condition féminine (status of women).

Arnalat Nipingit 2017, the third regional women's conference, was organized by the Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik in Kangirsuk from March 27 to 31. The conference theme was "Embracing Our Future Together".



KRG Staff Appointments

Since February, the KRG Executive Committee appointed Stephen MacDonald to the position of Assistant Treasurer, Mary A. Pilurttut as Director for Parc national des Pingualuit and Benoit Plante as the Deputy Chief of Administration, Civil Security and Support for the Kativik Regional Police Force under the Public Security Department.

Canadian Rangers Celebrate Aqikgik



On February 23, during the regular quarterly sitting of the KRG Council in Kuujuaq, Major Benoit Mainville was invited to present the 2nd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (2 CRPG), which has 659 members in Nunavik. The Group has the mission to support the tasks of the Canadian Armed Forces and to protect Canada's sovereignty by ensuring a military presence in the north of Québec. The 2CRPG is also composed of Canadian Junior Rangers, who are trained in traditional, ranger and life skills through a structured program. On February 24, the 2CRPG celebrated the mid-point of the Aqikgik Exercise, a snowmobile expedition of about 4,000 km with stops planned in 35 communities. Both the Mayor of Kuujuaq, Tunu Napartuk, and the KRG Chairperson, Jennifer Munick, attended the event, in the company of Brigadier-General Hercules Gosselin.



KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick and Brigadier-General Hercules Gosselin cut a cake to celebrate the mid-point of the Aqikgik Exercise.

Open-Houses Activities

In order to showcase the work of KRG employees while offering youth an opportunity to visit KRG workplaces and learn about the requirements and training needed to join the organization's different departments, the KRG Communications Section has been organizing open-house events for the past three years. Youth groups visit local police stations of the Kativik Regional Police Force, fire halls, airport facilities, local employment offices and other workplaces. The most recent open-house activities were organized in Kuujuaaraapik (March 14-16). Open-house activities also serve to recognize the essential work of KRG staff to the well-being of their communities. In 2017, open-houses activities will take place in Umiujaq, Puvirnituq, Akulivik and Ivujivik.



Students and two KRG Transportation staff Brian J. Jones (L) and Lucassie Kudlu (R), Kuujuaaraapik, March 2017.

A Solid Start for Nunavik Rocks Music Program

It has been a busy period for the Nunavik Rocks Music program since late 2016. A guitar workshop was organized from December 12 to 17 in Kuujuaq with five participants learning proper warm-up, picking and timing techniques, as well as basic guitar tuning and maintenance. The motivated participants came from Aupaluk, Tasiujaq, Kuujuaaraapik, Kangiqsujuaq and Kuujuaq.

For the second time over the last few months, a multi-day drum workshop was also organized in Kuujuaq. Young drummers gathered on the stage at the Katittavik Centre from February 19 to 25, 2017. Under the guidance of the instructor Tyson Schallmann, they learned various rhythm techniques and musical score reading, among other skills.

The Nunavik Rocks Music program held its third music camp during the Puvirnituq Snow Festival from March 20 to 25. Throughout the week, Nunavimmiut had a chance to participate in guitar or drum workshops delivered by experienced music instructors.

Since January 2017, Facebook users can now visit the Nunavik Rocks Music program page to learn more about the program's activities. The page provides information about upcoming events and how to register, as well as surf photo albums from past workshops. Later in 2017, short music-related articles and advice will also be published on the page.



Left to right:
Caroline Weeltuk, Elsie Sivuaapik, Neeve Simigak, Tyson Schallmann (instructor), Simiunie Kanajuk, Jaco Crow, Willis Tagoona (Regional Recreation Advisor – Arts and Culture), Tiivimasu Qisiq, Willie Stone (sitting).
Absent: Timothy Oovaut, Jeremy Weeltuk, Aupaluk Qumaaluk – Drum Workshop, Kuujuaq, February 2017.

Cirqiniq Exchange in Igloolik and Winter Tour in Nunavik

Five instructors of the KRG Cirqiniq Program travelled to Igloolik, Nunavut, from February 8 to 20, 2017, where they participated in their third exchange with their Artcirc counterparts. Over the ten days, the two circus troupes shared their passion with young circus enthusiasts, and mostly collaborated to develop a variety of skills and create a public grand finale performance. The exchange represented a great opportunity for Cirqiniq performers to gain valuable experience in specialized facilities. They moreover had a chance to see what it is like to be in a professional performance group like Artcirc.



Grand finale performance, Igloolik, February 2017.

The Cirqiniq Winter Tour is being organized in five Nunavik communities from February to May 2017, specifically in Kangiqsualujuaq (from February 21 to March 6), Ivujivik (from February 22 to March 7), Puvirnituq (from March 14 to 27), Akulivik (from March 19 to April 1) and Salluit (from April 18 to May 1). Activities are planned at local gyms after school for youth aged 13 and older so they can continue to discover the world of circus arts.

2017 Team Nunavik–Québec Coastal Tryouts

Team Nunavik–Québec (TNQ) coastal tryouts were hosted in Kangiqsualujuaq for the Ungava coast from March 10 to 12 and in Inukjuak for the Hudson coast from March 31 to April 2. Around 140 participants divided into four categories per gender competed in five disciplines in the hope of earning an invitation to the regional trials scheduled for early November 2017 in Kuujuaq.

Local tryouts organized in several communities around Nunavik between October 2016 and January 2017 helped determine which athletes were invited to the coastal tryouts. Due to poor weather conditions, all athletes from Tasiujaq and Aupaluk could not make it to the Ungava coastal trials. They will be invited to qualify for TNQ in November in Kuujuaq.



From left to right: Adamie Alaku, Putulik Kulula, Philippe Chiasson (referee).

TNQ organizers are now preparing for the regional trials leading up to the Arctic Winter Games scheduled to start in less than a year on March 18, 2018.



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