

FEBRUARY 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. The meeting ended with an invitation to Premier Couillard to attend the official opening of Parc national Tursujuq in Umiujaq scheduled for this coming summer.

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.

### **Input for Long-Term Solutions on the Cost of Living**

Following 16 months of intensive data collection and meticulous analysis, the Cost of Living in Nunavik Research Report was made public during the Kativik Regional Government's (KRG) November Council sitting. The study represents the result of an important collaborative effort between the Québec government, the KRG and the Makivik Corporation to evaluate the region's cost of living and, at the same time, provide input for discussions on long-term solutions.

Six Nunavik communities on the Hudson and Ungava coasts were designated based on their varying populations and, between January 2015 and April 2016, 450 randomly-selected households took part in a two-week survey led by a team from Université Laval. In total, the survey measured 3,682 consumer goods and services, which is five times higher than the number of goods and services Statistics Canada uses to calculate the Consumer Price Index.

The report concludes that the cost of living is higher in Nunavik than in other regions of Québec, low-income households face greater impacts, and social housing is a key element in lowering the cost of living. Conclusion shows also that a permanent program would have different impacts on households with different income levels.

Finally, the survey allowed the creation of a database to analyze the impacts of potential cost-of-living reduction measures or to monitor measures that are being implemented.



Gérard Duhaime (Université Laval) at the Council sitting, November 2016



## Native Para-Judicial Services

Following up on the publication of the Report on the Barreau du Québec's Mission to Aboriginal Communities in Québec's Far North: Justice in the Far North in January 2015, the Native Para-Judicial Services of Québec (NPJSQ) delivered a presentation during the Council sitting in November 2016. The Barreau's report underlined an insufficient number of interpreters or courtworkers, who act as a link between the public and the court to ensure the effective delivery of justice in Northern Québec.

The NPJSQ presented various professional services culturally adapted to facilitate access to justice and divided into three programs: the Native Courtworkers program, Gladue report writers and Support for victims of police abuse. By intervening in and out of court and informing Nunavimmiut about their rights and responsibilities, Inuit courtworkers offer legal assistance to Nunavimmiut in the criminal and penal justice systems. The NPJSQ can also help developing local initiatives to increase community involvement in peacekeeping and harmony.

## KRPF attends Conference on Aboriginal Justice and meets Elders Committee

In October and November 2016, Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPF) Chief and Director of the KRG Public Security Department Michel Martin was invited to participate at two conferences on important issues for Nunavik. First, the RCMP organized a round table conference on Aboriginal justice on October 27 in Montreal. Key provincial and federal stakeholders involved with the Canadian judicial system discussed their different roles in the overall system and how Aboriginal people of Canada experience the system. Police services, lawyers, judges, correctional services and representatives of assistance programs gained a better understanding of the difficulties faced by Aboriginal people living in suburban and remote regions when dealing with the Québec and Canadian justice systems.

Secondly, the KRPF met with the Municipalities Friends of Elders Committee on November 1 in Kuujuaq regarding the most

common crimes involving Inuit elders. Discussions covered topics such as phishing and frauds but also physical and psychological abuse. According to recent statistics, very few crimes directed at elders are reported to the KRPF. Chief Martin seized the opportunity to raise awareness concerning digital crimes in order to help elders better detect potential threats from the Internet world. Moreover, the head of civil security in Nunavik reiterated his full collaboration and availability to provide constant support.

### 2017 Regional Council Sitting Dates

The regular quarterly sittings of the KRG Council in 2017 are scheduled for February 20 to 23, May 29 to June 1, September 11 to 14 and November 27 to 30. KRG councilors have chosen Umiujaq for their May-June sitting.

The Council is composed of 17 members that are elected municipal representatives appointed by each of the northern villages and the chief of the Naskapi village of Kawawachikamach. It also includes a five-member Executive Committee to ensure that the decisions of the Council are carried out.

## Search and Rescue Operational Units in Nunavik

The establishment of search and rescue (SAR) auxiliary operations in the communities of Nunavik is progressing well. Last November, members of the KRG Council were informed of the project's new developments with a presentation given by representatives of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Canadian Coast Guard.

In July 2016, regional instructors were certified in Belleville, Ontario. Two months later, crew training took place in Nunavik leading to new operational units in Kuujuaq and Kangiqsujuaq. Following these steps, community visits are planned in 2017 in order to establish a network of operational auxiliary units in the region. In-classroom training represents the next step to allow the certification of units in Salluit, Kangirsuk and Quaqtaq, communities where operations are expected to begin by the spring of 2017. With the train-the-trainer program that is being implemented, long term success is anticipated. Sustainability will also depend on regional instructor and member commitment.



## Unifying the Inuit Language Writing System

In November 2016, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) presented to the KRG Council the national strategy to unify the Inuit language writing system. After two years of research and consultation, ITK and the National Committee on Inuit Education hosted the Inuit Language Writing System Summit in Iqaluit in August of 2015. The recommendation made at the Summit is for jurisdictions to formally explore the implementation of a unified Inuit writing system. It would be rooted in a standardized form of roman orthography that is developed by Inuit for Inuit and introduced through the education system with quality materials, publications and training resources. The ITK Board of Directors also approved in the spring of 2016 a resolution to adopt the term "Inuktitut" to refer to the Inuit language spoken across Inuit Nunangat, i.e. 12 main dialects in nine regions in Northern Canada.

The number one message of the ITK Board of Directors is no matter what writing system, communities should retain their own dialects, in both their oral and written forms. By June 2017, a task group plans to recommend draft symbols and spelling principles, a process and timeline for introducing a unified Inuktitut orthography and, finally, continued consultations across Inuit Nunangat. By 2020, the objective is to begin implementation, if the recommended unified writing system is approved by the ITK Board of Directors and those responsible for the delivery of education in Inuit Nunangat.





# HIGHLIGHTS 2016





## Nunavik Construction Workforce

Following 30 years of representations by regional stakeholders, a major announcement was made earlier in 2016 concerning a new placement region for Nunavik construction workers. Kuujuaq and Salluit also welcomed delegates from the Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ) in September 2016 as part of ongoing efforts to build a strong regional construction workforce by June 2017. The KRG, the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik School Board are collaborating closely with the CCQ toward an efficient transition to the new placement region.

It will bring construction labour hiring and mobility rules in line with paragraphs 29.0.31 and 29.0.32 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, while taking into account the region's distinct characteristics, including Inuit culture and the Inuktitut language. Based on 2016 CCQ figures, the vast majority of the current regional workforce (composed of 122 Nunavimmiut) work in the carpentry trade.



From left to right:

On first row: Randy Gordon (KRG), Lydia Tayara, Mosusie Padlayat (Makivik), Jessica Bessette (KRG).  
Second row: Andrey Murray (CCQ), Joanasie Kuniliusie (Makivik), Emilie Ruffin (CCQ), Lydia Etok (Makivik). Third row: David Larose, Stéphane Comtois, Alyre Thireau (Makivik), Jonathan Bélair (CCQ)

## Drafting the Nunavik Policy on Elders

The drafting process of the Nunavik Policy on Elders is reaching its final stages. The Policy will provide local and regional organizations with tools to guide their long-term planning concerning elders issues. The KRG Regional and Local Development Department, under the Age-Friendly Municipalities process, is collaborating with the Carrefour action municipale et famille, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau and Taqramiut Nipingat Inc. on this important project.



From left to right : Adel Yassa, Benjamin Arreak and Bobby Snowball, Quaqtat, May 2016

## Modernization of the Tasiujaq airport

On July 5, 2016, KRG delegates, Québec ministers and municipal elected representatives joined a large number of residents to inaugurate the newly renovated and expanded airport facilities in Tasiujaq. Various operational and technical upgrading works has been carried out in the past years to improve safety and infrastructure for passengers, airlines and airport staff. The work, totalling \$8.1 million, was paid for through an infrastructure modernization plan put in place by the Ministère des Transports du Québec (transportation, MTQ) and the KRG in 2012 and effective until this year.

Each community airport in Nunavik is managed, operated and maintained by the KRG Transportation Department. Thirteen of these facilities are owned by the MTQ, while the Kuujuaq airport is owned by Transport Canada.



## Nunavik Rocks Music Program

2016 saw the first introductory drum, guitar and bass guitar lessons offered by the KRG Recreation Department under the new Nunavik Rocks Music Program. Through a social music teaching approach, the Program delivers multi-day workshops that give Nunavimmiut an opportunity to learn proper music playing techniques and develop musicianship in their communities. Local musicians are being encouraged to foster independent community programs. In 2017, the KRG Arts and Culture Programs Advisor plans to conduct visits to a few Nunavik communities to assess interest in the new music program and to continue identifying talented local musicians.

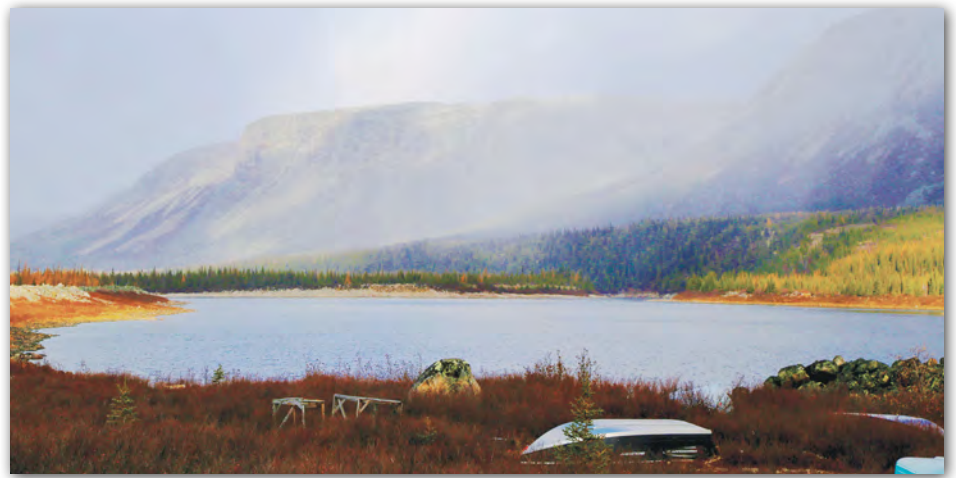




## Parc national Ulittaniujalik

The inauguration of Parc national Ulittaniujalik took place on October 14 in the presence of the KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick, the Québec Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks and Minister responsible for the Nord-du-Québec and Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions Luc Blanchette, the MNA for Ungava Jean Boucher, and the Mayoress of Kangiqsualujjuaq Hilda Snowball. Ulittaniujalik, the fourth national park created in Nunavik, is now the second largest in Québec with a territory spanning 5,293 km<sup>2</sup> of the George River Plateau, which serves as an important calving area for the region's endangered caribou herd. The George River, for its part, nurtures a population of Atlantic salmon and Arctic char, among other wildlife species.

Occupied for thousands of years by Aboriginal peoples, it is also recognized for its rich Inuit and Naskapi cultural heritage. Inuit, Naskapi and Cree maintain their right to practise subsistence harvesting activities within the park. Six years of close cooperation between the Inuit communities of Kuujuaq and Kangiqsualujjuaq, the Naskapi community of Kawawachikamach, the KRG, the Makivik Corporation, and the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks) has made the new national park a reality. For more than a decade, the KRG has been working with concerned communities and the Québec



government to develop a series of national parks in the region. Initially known as Monts-Pyramides, Ulittaniujalik is the most recent step in this process. The KRG and Nunavik Parks are also mandated to operate parks of Nunavik in cooperation with the Québec government. Nunavik Parks is dedicated to protecting exceptional features of the natural environment and representative landscapes from encroaching human activity that includes non-renewable resource exploitation. National park protection focuses on conservation through enhanced educational and recreational opportunities for Nunavimmiut and travellers from around the world.

## Community Visits

On a regular basis, the Chairperson, Director General and management representatives of the KRG travel to the communities in order to meet with community stakeholders as well as local KRG employees, and obtain their feedback on local and regional priorities. In 2016, visits took place in Inukjuak, Tasiujaq and Salluit.



## Open-House Activities

For the past three years, the KRG Communications Section has been organizing open-house events 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. In 2016, groups paid visits to local offices of the Kativik Regional Police Force, the fire hall, the airport control tower, the local employment office and various other workplaces. The Salluit event was organized in May, while the one in Kangiqsujuaq took place in November. Open-house activities also serve to recognize the essential work of KRG staff to the well-being of their communities. Kuujuaaraapik, Umiujaq, Puvionituk, Akulivik and Ivujivik will be visited in 2017.



Fire Hall, Salluit

## Katittavik Multidisciplinary Cultural Centre



On June 14, 2016, KRG senior officials, the Minister responsible for Native Affairs Geoffrey Kelley, the MNA for Ungava Jean Boucher, the Treasurer of the Makivik Corporation and municipal councillors of the Northern Village of Kuujuaaraapik participated in a ground-breaking ceremony to announce the construction of the new Katittavik Multidisciplinary Cultural Centre. Katittavik means "gathering place". The centre is a major project for the region with a total funding of nearly \$5.5 million of which about

\$1.6 million comes from the KRG through the Pivitiutit program. The KRG Municipal Public Works department also manages the project. With a capacity of up to 300 people, the new infrastructure will help boost cultural and community activities such as theater, music, dance and conferences. As well, by showcasing Inuit culture through traditional songs, performances, plays and oral history, among other forms or practices of social and collective arts, the centre will allow current and future generations to preserve and foster Inuit traditions. Furthermore, two works by Inuit artists chosen through a local competition in Kuujuaaraapik and Whapmagoostui will be integrated into the permanent architecture of the building. The Katittavik Multidisciplinary Cultural Centre will also serve as a temporary exhibition gallery featuring Inuit art. The grand opening is expected to take place in May 2017.

## Ministers' Visit in September

Following the release of a special report in February 2016 by the Québec Ombudsman on detention conditions, the administration of justice and crime prevention in Nunavik, the Québec Minister of Public Security Martin Coiteux and the Minister responsible for Native Affairs Geoffrey Kelley visited Puvirnituq in September to meet with KRG and regional stakeholders and explain measures and initiatives to be implemented in line with the report. Solutions were discussed such as improved tracking of detention conditions and more charter flights to reduce the number of detainees in community cells during sessions of the itinerant court. New funding for the Makitautik Inuit Community Residential Centre in Kangirsuk was also announced. The Centre delivers reintegration services to Inuit offenders.



On the same occasion, the KRG and the Québec government announced the renewal of the Isurruutiit Program for municipal infrastructure improvements. This fourth phase will be in effect until 2020. The announcement brings a new \$100 million funding envelope for the construction and renovation of municipal infrastructure, as well as rolling stock purchasing. Since 1999 and including phase four, the Isurruutiit Program has ensured investments worth close to \$314 million in municipal infrastructure in the northern villages.

During the meeting in Kuujuaq between leaders of the KRG, the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau on September 1, 2016, the main issues characterizing the housing crisis in Nunavik were outlined to Minister Martin Coiteux, Minister Geoffrey Kelley and the MNA for Ungava Jean Boucher. An agreement has yet to be signed.

## Qarmaapik Family House



The Qarmaapik Family House was inaugurated on March 8, 2016, in Kangiqsualujuaq by the KRG, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau. The KRG Regional and Local Development department has provided a total funding of \$611 000 (infrastructure, furnishing, equipment) through various programs and allocates about \$60 000 over two years for the community kitchen in order to support the project.

The non-profit community organization provides community support services for Kangiqsualujuaq. Its main mission is to act as a resource for children in need of a safe place and to deliver counselling through various social and cultural activities for parents, families as well as the community. The engagement and commitment of community members made this social project possible. The initiative will help the community to solve social problems through a more traditional approach and hopefully reduce the level of recourse to youth protection services. Qarmaapik is open to everyone seeking strategies to cope with substance or psychological abuse and seeks to positively influence lifestyles through various activities such as the community kitchen, sewing classes and more.



## 2016 Arctic Winter Games

Last year's Arctic Winter Games (AWG) in Nuuk, Greenland, from March 6 to 11 saw the 57 athletes of Team Nunavik-Québec (TNQ) earn a remarkable 21 Ulus (6 gold, 9 silver, 6 bronze) mostly in Arctic Sports and Dene Games. Puvirnituk's Qulliq Band, which was the TNQ cultural delegation at the AWG, also impressed spectators and received big cheers following their performances of Nunavik Inuktitut songs, as well as a mix of throat singing and hip-hop beatboxing dubbed "throatboxing" by youth. Due to poor weather en route to Nuuk, TNQ athletes and their coaches reached their destination three days behind schedule. But it did not affect the athletes' motivation, performances and smiles throughout the AWG. TNQ conducted themselves in a manner all Nunavimmiut would be proud of. Adding to the Ulus, TNQ received 11 Fair Play pins. Fair Play pins are given by other contingent coaches or mission staff to athletes who demonstrate respect and fairness in the spirit of the AWG for fellow athletes and towards the community. TNQ members were considered excellent ambassadors for their sport and contingent in Nuuk. TNQ coaches plan to keep working on increasing the size of the contingent in the future.

## HSP Community Freezers

On November 4, 2016, KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick was joined by Vice-chairperson Lucy Kumarluk, the Mayor of Salluit Paulusie Saviadjuk, Makivik Treasurer Andy Pirti, Anglican Minister Victor Johnson, and Qalingo Angutikirk for the inauguration of the new community freezer in Salluit. Over the winter, meetings also took place with representatives of Puvirnituk to assess their community needs and get more input about the project. By the end of the process, two community freezers costing \$500,000 each and funded by the KRG Hunter Support Program (HSP) in the amount of \$93,000 per unit had been installed in October 2016 in Puvirnituk and in Salluit to replace the existing older, smaller and obsolete facilities. This new model of freezer will provide the two growing communities with access to modern and vital infrastructure. The project represents a concrete example of the objectives of the Hunter Support Program (HSP) to favour Inuit harvesting traditions and activities as a way of living and ensure a supply of country food for the two communities for many years to come.



Members of the 2016 Team Nunavik-Québec





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