

Highlighting Justice Issues in Nunavik

During a special meeting with representatives from the KRG and the Makivik Corporation in Puvirnituq last April, Quebec Justice Minister Sonia Lebel expressed her determination to resolve urgent issues plaguing the administration of justice in Nunavik.

Numerous problems were also raised during the meeting. For instance, services of the legal aid office and the Crown prosecutor are not assumed by full-time resident lawyers. Budgets for police officers traveling to hearings have been cut back and several legal services have deteriorated.

“How are we able to move forward when services are closed down on us?” KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick told the Minister during the meeting. “We have so much to improve upon. Our people deserve more”. The Justice Minister supported the KRG demand for the implementation of a video appearance system in Nunavik to expedite the administration of justice and cut down on transportation, which is costly and time-consuming.

While in Inukjuak the KRG staff highlighted for the Minister the importance of the Crime Victims Assistance Centre (Sapummijit) for those in need of support during difficult and trying times. Ms. Lebel was made aware of the pivotal role played by the KRG in creating the Crime Victims Assistance Centre in 2004. Fifteen years after its creation, Sapummijit has emerged as an essential partner in Quebec’s justice system and an essential service for Nunavimmiut.

Housing Allocation 2020-2021

At its May sitting, the KRG Council approved the following allocation of housing. A total of 64 units will be built in 2020, as well as 64 additional units in 2021.

Community	2020				2021			
	Bedrooms per Houses				Bedrooms per Houses			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Inukjuak								4
Kangiqsualujuaq	4	4						
Kangiqsujuaq	8	8						
Kuujuaq					6	6		
Kuujuaaraapik	4	4			4	4		
Puvirnituq	8	8			8	8		
Salluit			8		8	8		
Umiujaq	4	4			2	2	4	
Total (128 units)	28	28	8	0	28	28	4	4

Council Sitting in Kuujuaaraapik

The regular sitting of the KRG Council from May 27 to 30 was organized in Kuujuaaraapik. The next KRG Council will take place in Kuujuaq from September 9 to 12.

Members of the KRG Council at the Kattitavik Multipurpose Venue of Kuujuaaraapik during the sitting.



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Quarterly Update

The KRG has been successfully delivering public services and programs to Nunavimmiut since it was created by the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government* in 1978.

Important Changes Aimed at Reducing the Cost of Living in Nunavik

In April, the Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs Sylvie D'Amours announced important changes to the Agreement on the Financing of Measures to Reduce the Cost of Living in Nunavik between the Québec government, the KRG and the Makivik Corporation.

Under this agreement, the government will allocate \$115.8 million over six years to the KRG for the implementation of a series of measures to reduce the cost of living for residents in Nunavik. Changes to the program will further improve the socio-economic conditions of the most disadvantaged and promote healthy lifestyles that take into account Inuit traditions and culture by encouraging the practice of subsistence harvesting activities.

According to a study completed by Université Laval, the comparative cost-of-living index between Nunavik and Quebec City demonstrates that, overall, the cost of living is 28.7% higher in Nunavik.

“This program is critical to the well-being of Nunavimmiut who in some communities experience difficulty accessing enough food. These changes will help to further reduce the price of food and other essentials, lower transportation



Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs Sylvie D'Amours (left) and KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick (right) at the KRG headoffice in Kuujuaq.

costs, encourage the consumption of traditional foods, and decrease the financial burden on elders”, said KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick following the announcement.

Changes in the Cost-of-Living Reduction Measures



Elder's Assistance: \$2,200 per year in 2019 and 2020. Non-taxable.

Airfare Reduction Costs: 40% of airfare up to a maximum of \$1,500 per year per applicant.

Country Food: Now includes purchases of pitsik, nikkuk and berries.

Harvesting Equipment: No minimum required. 40% subsidy. Maximum of \$1,000 per item. Now includes side-by-sides (UTVs).

Household Appliances: No minimum purchase required. 40% subsidy. Maximum of \$400 per item. Maximum of \$1,750 per year per applicant.

Food and other essentials: Subsidy ranges from 15% to 35% rather than 20% to 40% (all essential food items and products are now subsidized). Please check items in stores.



Additional Funding for Nunavik Elders

In May 2019 in Kuujjuaq, the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers, Marguerite Blais, announced new funding for the KRG programs aimed at benefitting elders in our communities.

Between now and the end of 2023, the KRG will receive \$827,670 for community projects to support elders. It is part of a special five-year agreement between the Government of Québec and the KRG. Under the guidance of the KRG, Northern Villages will be able to obtain funding for several types of community projects aimed at improving the living conditions of elders.

The KRG will also receive more than \$76,000 per year over this agreement to fund the work of the Nunavik Regional Seniors Council. It seeks to identify the needs of elders in Nunavik through discussion, consultation and partnership in order to contribute to decisions that affect their daily lives.



*In the center,
Minister Blais and KRG Vice-Chair Hilda Snowball.*

A New Era for KRG Communications

Since March, the KRG has a separate Communications Department that will enhance the importance of communications throughout the organization. A new director was hired and more staff has been added to help fulfill the need to better inform Nunavimmiut about the programs and services offered by the KRG.

Through a revamped communication strategy, the KRG will build closer ties with local communities, become more proactive on the social media network and improve the way it communicates with the population to increase people's awareness and understanding of what the KRG does in the region.

Nunavik Parks Celebrates its 15th Anniversary

The date was January 2004 and the event marked the beginning of Nunavik Parks. On that date the Québec government, with the KRG, created the parc national Pinqualuit, the first national park in Nunavik. Since then KRG-Nunavik Parks has grown steadily. The national parks of Kuururjuaq, Tursujuq and Ulittaniujalik were respectively created in 2009, 2013 and 2016. The KRG is proud to mark fifteen years of one of Nunavik's most important economic and environmental achievements.

KRG-Nunavik Parks section, under the RRD department, employs over 30 full time employees and through its operating expenses it injects close to \$5-million annually in Nunavik's economy. Since its creation, Nunavik Parks has endeared hundreds of visitors who have come to discover and learn about the Inuit way of life. Thanks to several initiatives, many opportunities now exist for youth, elders and entire families to connect together to help preserve and share traditional skills and stories.

In order to highlight this special occasion, several events have been organized, including last February in Kuujjuaq where during three days conferences, training sessions and workshops were held. This was the official launching of events that will take place in other communities. In June, a new Parks Exhibit room at the Interpretation Center in Kangiqsualujjuaq was inaugurated. Other local events are being planned for instance in Kangiqsujuaq and Umiujaq as well as community feasts in the three Parks Interpretation Centres.

Water Safety in 2019

These are some simple safety minded habits that could save you and let you enjoy the water safely:

- **Wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)!** It will significantly reduce your risk of drowning.
- **Inform someone of your boating activities (where you are going, what you are bringing):** They will be able to notify rescue authorities with helpful information if necessary.
- **Bring equipment** such as extra rope, communications and signalling devices.
- **Don't drink alcohol or take drugs while boating.**

And if you fall into cold water, do not panic and remember the **1-10-1** rule:



1: For the first minute, you will experience a cold shock response: regain control of your breathing during this period;

10: After 10 minutes, you will slowly lose the use of your hands and legs: use this time to rescue yourself;

1: It takes about an hour before you fall unconscious because of hypothermia.

The KRPF and KI Sign a Cooperation Agreement

The Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPF) and Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (KI) have entered into a mutual agreement allowing for close cooperation. The agreement will enhance police community intervention, using prevention to deter cases from escalating into emergency situations. Signed by all parties, the agreement came into force on April 12, 2019.



Robert Watt, President of Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (left) and Jean-Pierre Larose, Chief of the KRPF (right).