



**Press Release**

***For immediate release***

**Quebec Justice Minister Sonia LeBel visits the Inukjuak office of the Crime Victims Assistance Centre in Nunavik (Sapummijiit)**

**Puvirnituk (Québec), April 24, 2019** – During her first visit to Nunavik as Quebec Justice Minister, Sonia LeBel highlighted the importance of the Crime Victims Assistance Centre (Sapummijiit) for those in need of support during difficult and trying times.

The Justice Minister's visit in Inukjuak was marked by a tour of the Sapummijiit office. Ms. LeBel was made aware of the pivotal role played by the KRG in 2004 in creating the Crime Victims Assistance Centre through funding provided by the ministère de la Justice du Québec. Fifteen years after its creation, Sapummijiit has emerged as an essential partner in Quebec's justice system.

Ms. LeBel was accompanied by government officials as well as representatives from Makivik Corporation and the Community Justice Centre. The delegation met with the KRG's Director of Legal, Socio-Judicial and Municipal Management Department Johanne Fortin as well as Victims Support Agent Ida Nayoumealuk. Ms. Nayoumealuk explained the need to intervene quickly on behalf of the victims of crime, and how victims support agents can accompany the victims through the judicial process and help them overcome the challenges they face in the wake of their ordeal.

Dedicated Inuit Sapummijiit agents are there to support the victims, explain them their rights and the legal remedies, and refer them to specialized resources.

Sapummijiit has offices in Kuujuaq, Salluit, Kuujuaaraapik, Inukjuak and Puvirnituk, where six Inuit victims support agents offer their services. Sapummijiit services are confidential, free, and available in English and in Inuktitut. Victims can request assistance even if the crime happened many years ago.

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**Contact:**

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*The Kativik Regional Government is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development.*