



**Press Release**

***For immediate release***

## **The KRG has high expectations for the Viens Commission Report following a meeting with Ministers**

**Kuuujuaq, October 21, 2019** – The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) is calling on the Québec government to effect positive changes to the way it deals with Nunavimmiut following discussions held last week regarding the calls for action contained in the Viens Commission Report.

The KRG participated in a one-day meeting last Thursday at which the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs Sylvie D'Amours along with some MNAs and other ministers met with Indigenous organizations and leaders to discuss the Viens Commission Report.

Following the tabling of the report, it was encouraging to hear Premier François Legault apologize to Québec's First Nations and the Inuit of Nunavik for the harm caused by some laws, policies, standards and practices of public services providers. These words, however, must bring about a change in attitudes and culture within the government structures responsible for providing services to our people.

Last week's meeting was a first attempt to set up a plan that will eventually allow these words to become reality. It is clear that other meetings will be needed before tangible results will be seen and experienced, as envisioned by the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services in Québec, headed by former justice Jacques Viens.

"The KRG would like to start working with the Québec government and organizations in the region on the calls for action contained in the Report, taking into account the distinct realities of our region," said KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick.

Ms. Munick added that the KRG provides many services to Nunavimmiut and looks forward to the challenge of effecting positive change based on the Viens Commission Report in collaboration with the Québec government.

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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.*