



Press Release

For immediate release

The Kativik Regional Government Council reiterates its mandate to implement Civil Security in Nunavik and strongly supports efforts by the N-REPAC to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kuujuaq, Québec, April 29 2020 – During a special council meeting Tuesday of the Kativik Regional Government, elected representatives of all communities took care of regular business items and specifically gave their unconditional support to the KRG crisis management team that is handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since mid-March when the Nunavik Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (N-REPAC) was activated, several measures were adopted to contain the pandemic. Regular passenger flights are cancelled, a curfew in all 14 communities is in effect, the sale of alcohol is controlled and food programs for the elderly and the needy are some of the swift and decisive actions taken by the N-REPAC and its partners.

The KRG council created the N-REPAC in November 2019 in compliance with the Quebec Civil Protection Act. The law grants the KRG specific powers to deal with emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our emergency response team has worked hard to contain this pandemic and the council is proud of the way the N-REPAC has handled its mandate,” said KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick. “This is just the beginning. We still have a long way to go. We will continue to support whatever is needed to keep Nunavimmiut safe.”

During the council meeting, several items related to the COVID-19 were discussed including a special report from the Chief of the Kativik Regional Police Force and Director of Public Security Jean-Pierre Larose who revealed statistics showing that the number of major incidents and criminal files opened by the KRPF dropped considerably in April. This may be partially due to a number of factors including the new controls imposed on the sale of alcohol, the enforcement of a curfew and the general good behaviour of Nunavimmiut. The main objective of these measures was to reduce incidents and health issues during these difficult times.

The number of the files opened by the KRPF declined by 54% in Kuujuaq and by as much as 88% in Puvirnituq from March 2020 to April 2020. The number of people held in custody in larger Northern Villages also followed a similar trend over the same period resulting in a 90% decrease in Puvirnituq.

“This significant decrease does not only result from the restrictions on alcohol and the lockdown. It is due to a combination of measures,” explained Jean-Pierre Larose. “We had a lot of important

seizures in the last weeks and months, especially with the Plutonium Project, which took out of the market hundreds of bottles of alcohol as well as drugs. It also put an end to an important illegal bootlegging operation.”

Council members appreciated the way the KRG crisis management team acted promptly to ensure that Nunavimmiut stay safe during this public health crisis.

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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