



Press Release
For immediate release

The Kativik Regional Government to receive \$670,000 in Québec government funding to support waste management efforts in Nunavik

Kuujuuaq, February 13, 2020 – The Québec Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change Benoit Charette announced on Monday that the Kativik Regional Government will receive \$670,000 in financial assistance under the Program to manage residual materials in the Northern Territory.

A maximum of \$150,000 will be allocated to each of the three projects that qualified under the program. These include the construction of a recovery centre in Kuujuuaq, the construction of an ecocentre in Kuujuuaq and a composting system for recycling organic matter in Inukjuak. An additional \$220,000 will go towards the funding for training, information, awareness building and education in the 14 Nunavik communities.

The KRG adopted a five-year residual material management plan in 2015. The plan is now being revised with a view on having all 14 Nunavik communities participate in waste management initiatives that may eventually require additional funding.

The provincial program, which totals \$1-million and is financed by the Green Fund, was designed to help indigenous communities in Northern Quebec without road access to implement projects aimed at reducing waste and managing quantities for disposal.

“I am confident that the implementation of these projects will help improve residual materials in the targeted territories, particularly by reducing the volume of materials for disposal and greenhouse gas emissions with a view to sustainable development,” Mr. Charette stated in a letter to KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick.

Mr. Charette was in Kuujuuaq to participate in a meeting on Monday with KRG representatives and those of other Nunavik organizations to discuss the challenges created by climate change.

Participants explained how the changing environment caused by climate change was affecting the daily lives of Inuit in Nunavik. For instance, changes in the ice conditions and unpredictable weather patterns increased the risks of travelling on the land for Inuit hunters. Others argued that hunting has become more costly due to climate change, which has reduced access to country food. Participants also noted that the thawing of permafrost was having a significant and costly impact on houses, infrastructure and buildings.

“We hope that this meeting will mark the beginning of a constructive relationship with the Ministère de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques to work together on the

impact climate change is having on our communities. We encourage you to promote community-led research and actions suited to the specific problems climate change is having on Inuit way of life,” said KRG Vice-Chairperson Hilda Snowball who presided over Monday’s meeting.

The KRG proposed that a working group be set up to collaborate with the government so as to ensure that Inuit solutions and responses to climate change are taken into account in implementing the Government of Québec Electrification and Climate Change Plan. As Minister Charette put it: “We now have an clear operational dialogue process. This visit reflects our obvious will to include Nunavik participation in the discussions leading to the next Government of Quebec Electrification and Climate Change Plan, particularly with respect to adapting to climate change.”

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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.