Press Release
For immediate distribution

Standoff Leads to Arrest of Suspect without Incident

Kuujjuaq, July 14, 2020 — Yesterday, police officers were searching for a 28-year-old man who was suspected of committing an aggravated assault on Saturday. When the officers went to the suspect's residence to arrest him, they received information that the man had barricaded himself inside with a knife, knowing that the police were looking for him.

The officers immediately formed a safety perimeter around the dwelling. They attempted communicating with the suspect to get him to come out and surrender. The suspect refused, saying that he would kill himself if officers entered the house.

Twenty-two hours later, on Tuesday afternoon, officers arrested the man without incident or injuries. He was brought to the Kuujjuaq police station, where he is currently detained. He will appear in court by phone tomorrow morning.

"While the officers were on the perimeter, I was asked why the officers were staying outside. In a situation like this, patience is the key," said Captain Maxime Mercier. "The man was alone, and there was no danger for anyone other than himself. Forcing ourselves inside could have resulted in unnecessary use of force towards the person in crisis. Whenever possible, we use communication as our tool. In this case, I'm happy to say that it worked."

The KRPF would like to thank the community members and partners who helped the police officers during the intervention.

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The Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPF) delivers regular policing services in the 14 northern villages of Nunavik. The headquarters of the KRPF are located in Kuujjuaq, and detachments operate in each community. The KRPF was created in 1996, with the participation of the Solicitor General of Canada and the ministère de la Sécurité publique in accordance with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the Kativik Act.