



Press Release
For immediate release



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RÉGIE RÉGIONALE DE LA NUNAVIK REGIONAL
SANTÉ ET DES SERVICES BOARD OF HEALTH
SOCIAUX DU NUNAVIK AND SOCIAL SERVICES



Travel Ban Lifted Within Nunavik: COVID-19 Restrictions Eased

Kuujuuaq, May 29, 2020 –Travel restrictions between Nunavik communities are immediately lifted. People are now allowed to travel without restrictions from one community to another as long as they follow public health directives.

However, there is still one important exception. Travelling to the Nunavik mine sites is still restricted.

For air travel, as of Monday June 8, Nunavimmiut will be able to fly from one Nunavik community to another pending a schedule of regular flights to be announced by Air Inuit. The travel ban on regular flights arriving from outside of Nunavik remains in effect. Travel from the South will remain restricted to only essential, medical and humanitarian travelers.

Air travelers will be required to abide by certain conditions. Only passengers will be allowed in the airport and once inside they will be required to wear a mask and maintain a two-meter distance from one another. If a COVID-19 case appears in a community, a travel ban to that community could be reinstated.

On April 3, a lockdown on all 14 communities in the region was announced by the Nunavik Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (N-REPAC) under advisement from the Director of Public Health. The measure was needed to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, for more than three weeks, there have been no active COVID-19 cases in Nunavik creating an ideal opportunity to gradually re-open the region. Restrictions are now being lifted by the N-REPAC in response to the communities' eagerness to travel, see family members, work, hunt, fish and engage in traditional activities.

The lockdown has taken a toll on the mental health of many citizens. It is the season where people traditionally harvest fish and wildlife for subsistence. Families have been separated for extended periods. Being COVID case free for almost a month has opened the door to lifting several restrictions.

For instance, outdoor and indoor get-togethers are now permitted. Outdoor get-togethers should be favored over indoor get-togethers. When getting together Nunavimmiut are asked to limit the number of members from different households and

keep a distance of 2 meters with other household members. Groups of 25 people or less can hold outdoor social gatherings. Indoor get-togethers are limited to no more than five visitors. However, if an elder or a person with a chronic illness lives in the house they must be asked permission to hold the get-together and people coming from another household must wear a mask.

Other restrictions are being lifted including requests on holding local golf tournaments, which will be permitted as long as they abide by the maximum 25-person restriction on outdoor gatherings.

Further restrictions involving the holding of bingos, church activities, infrastructure priorities and workplace re-openings will be lifted in the coming weeks as the gradual re-opening process unfolds in Nunavik. The N-REPAC will inform residents on the lifting of the restrictions as soon as they are adopted.

Though restrictions may be eased, they could be restored again at any time if the transmission of COVID-19 cases reappear in Nunavik.

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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

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Quebec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.