



Press Release

For immediate release

Two significant landslides near Kuujjuaraapik pose no immediate danger to the community

Kuujuaq, Québec, April 23, 2021 – Two significant landslides occurred on Thursday near Kuujjuaraapik causing more fear than harm to a community who expressed concerns over the potential environmental impact of the unexpected event. The landslides affected a zone of thick clay soils.

A considerable amount of debris descended into the Great Whales River approximately 9 kilometres upstream from the village. The community feared that the debris could damn the river, which could easily break creating a wave that would rapidly flood the community.

The Kativik Regional Government's Civil Security Department organized a meeting with the Mayor and representatives of Kuujjuaraapik along with government officials that included Université Laval experts in order to assess the damage and ensure proper monitoring of the situation. Experts noted that because the community was located on a sandy plateau about 10 metres above water level that it was highly unlikely any major flooding would occur. However, secondary landslides remained a real possibility as the land in the surrounding area of the event remained unstable.

The Mayor of Kuujjuaraapik Anthony Ittoshat urged Quebec government's Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Public Security to send at least one expert to the community next week to evaluate the situation. Mr. Ittoshat was relieved to hear that the landslides posed no immediate danger to his village and that of the neighbouring Cree community of Whapmagoostui.

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Information:

Communication Department
Kativik Regional Government
Tel. 819-964-2961, ext. 2358
media@krq.ca
www.krq.ca

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.