



Press Release
For immediate release

KRG COMMENDS CRTC DECISION FOR IMPROVED INTERNET ACCESS IN NUNAVIK

Kuujuaq, Québec, March 19, 2021 – The Kativik Regional Government embraces the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission's approval of \$53.4-million funding towards the building of 1,310 km of fibre transport network in Nunavik.

The KRG views this important decision as a crucial step towards making the necessary improvements to an internet service in dire need of greater capacity. The CRTC's approval of a KRG longstanding demand will serve to facilitate a high capacity internet network in Nunavik, while greatly improving health services, the justice system, and educational services not to mention job skills and opportunities.

"This decision shows the confidence the CRTC has in the KRG's ability to deliver high-speed broadband internet service to Nunavik's remote communities and it will go a long way towards reducing the digital divide between Nunavik and the rest of Canada," said KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick.

The KRG noted that it would continue to pursue several other requests for funding that are still needed to bring Nunavik on par with other communities in the rest of Canada with regards to high-speed internet services. In fact, it will continue to pressure the Quebec government to approve a funding request that will allow the KRG to meet the funding needs of the project approved today by the CRTC.

A major portion of the funds announced on Friday -\$36.3-million- from the CRTC Broadband Fund will benefit four Nunavik communities: Akulivik, Ivujivik, Salluit and Kangiqsujuaq. It will help extend the underwater fibre optic project currently being deployed in the other communities along the Hudson Coast up to Puvirnituq. The remaining portion of the funds-\$17.1-million-will serve to build the terrestrial fibre-optic connection from Kawawachikamach to Kuujuaq. The funds announced Friday cover 50-per cent of the building costs of the project from Puvirnituq to Kangiqsujuaq and 66% of the costs of the Kawawachikamach-Kuujuaq project.

The KRG remains confident the Quebec government will commit the necessary funds to complete these major projects. So far, the province has contributed generously towards improving the telecommunication infrastructure in Nunavik and the KRG remains hopeful it will continue to do so in the future.

Kativik Regional Government
Communication Department
Tel: (819) 964-2961 ext. 2358
media@krg.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.