



Press Release
For immediate release

CRTC GIVES FINAL APPROVAL FOR FIBER-OPTIC PROJECTS

Kuujuuaq, Québec, October 6, 2021 – The Kativik Regional Government successfully overcame a final hurdle that will allow it to proceed with its vital internet connectivity projects. Last Friday, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) eliminated an important barrier by giving the KRG access to the necessary funding.

In April 2020 the Kativik Regional Government submitted two fibre optic projects for consideration by the CRTC.

Last March the CRTC approved \$53.4-million in funding for two projects that involved the continuation of the underwater fiber connection from Puvirnituq to Kangiqsujuaq as well as a second connectivity for fibre from Kawawachikamach to Kuujuuaq. The CRTC invited the Kativik Regional Government to submit the necessary documents for final approval.

After careful examination of the submitted documents, the CRTC agreed that the request for funding was well supported. The CRTC not only eliminated the financial barrier but in another decision accepted the KRG's Statement of Work which lays down the timetable for the projects as well as the terms and conditions upon which the projects will be completed. The decision paves the way for the KRG to withdraw the necessary funds from the National Contribution Fund.

In a statement released last Friday, the Commission reiterated the importance in funding projects that will allow remote communities such as those in Nunavik to access a high-speed internet service that "respond to the social and economic needs of consumers."

The announcement by the CRTC gives renewed impetus to the KRG's long term objective of providing high speed internet in Nunavik. The CRTC has given the KRG access to the funds it needs to pursue the next step towards achieving this goal.

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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.