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Société Makivik
Makivik Corporation



Press Release

For immediate release

Improved Measures to Reduce the Cost of Living

Kuujuuaq, Québec, April 1, 2015 – The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the Makivik Corporation announce improvements to four regional cost-of-living programs to better target support for the region’s most disadvantaged and to foster healthy lifestyles which take into consideration Inuit traditional activities and culture. Among the important improvements are a new 30% subsidy for clothing and footwear purchased from participating local stores under the Food and Other Essentials Program, as well as a new transportation subsidy for major harvesting equipment requiring repairs.

“Subsistence harvesting continues to provide an essential source of food to Inuit households,” stated Makivik President Jobie Tukkiapik. “This new transportation subsidy for repairs will help harvesters keep their complex, modern equipment in safe working order.”

KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk for her part pointed out that “While the KRG and Makivik continue to work hard to collect the data needed to negotiate with Québec on effective and long-term solutions to the region’s high cost of living, the new subsidy for clothing and footwear will provide real and meaningful support to Nunavik families.”

Summary of Improvements Effective April 1, 2015

Household Appliance and Harvesting Equipment Program

Component: Harvesting Vehicles and Equipment – Costs incurred to ship snowmobiles, outboard motors and all-terrain vehicles south for repairs and return shipping north will be subsidized under this component of the Program, for up to one return shipment annually. As well, snowmobile trailers and ice augers now appear on the revised list of equipment eligible for a purchase subsidy.

Component: Household Appliances and Furniture – The annual maximum amount under this component of the Program has been increased from \$1,050 to \$1,750. Moreover, sewing machines now appear on the list of eligible items.

Country Food Community Support Program

Another \$250,000 has been added to the resource envelope for this program. The additional funding will allow calculations for each community’s allocation to include a \$10,000 base amount plus an additional amount set according to the size of the local Inuit population.

Food and Other Essentials Program

The Food and Other Essentials Program, which already included discounts of between 20 and 40% for over 1500 commonly purchased food, personal care and household products, has been modified to include clothing and footwear. A 30% discount will be applied to these new items. Participating stores under this program are cooperative stores and Northern Stores in every community, plus Newviq'vi in Kuujuaq.

Complete descriptions of the Elders Assistance Program, the Airfare Reduction Program, the Country Food Community Support Program, the Household Appliance and Harvesting Equipment Program, the Food and Other Essentials Program, and the Gasoline Program may be consulted at www.krg.ca/en/cost-of-living-program.

Background Information

The funding for the Nunavik Cost-of-Living Measures is provided by the Québec government pursuant to the *Agreement on the Financing of Measures to Reduce the Cost of Living in Nunavik* signed with the Makivik Corporation and the KRG on December 9, 2013. Under the agreement, Québec committed to pay \$33 million for the measures over three years.

Also under the agreement, an in-depth study of the consumer patterns of Nunavimmiut is being conducted by Université Laval with a view to developing a comparative cost of living index. The results of the two-year study will be used to define effective and long-lasting solutions to the cost-of-living in Nunavik.

The Nunavik Cost-of-Living Measures are determined jointly by the Makivik Corporation and the KRG. The criteria applicable to all the measures are subject to modification or cancellation at any time. The KRG is responsible for administering the implementation of the measures.

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The KRG 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.

Makivik is the development corporation mandated to manage the heritage funds of the Inuit of Nunavik provided for under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. Makivik's role includes the administration and investment of these funds and the promotion of economic growth by providing assistance for the creation of Inuit-operated businesses in Nunavik. Makivik promotes the preservation of Inuit culture and language as well as the health, welfare, relief of poverty, and education of Inuit in the communities.