



## Press Release

### Enhanced Broadband Internet Access

**Kuujuuaq, Québec, May 30, 2011** – Today at its regular quarterly sitting, the Council of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) was updated on the two major funding agreements signed in March with the governments of Canada and Québec concerning broadband Internet access. The additional funding will permit Tamaani Internet to offer Industry-Canada-defined high-speed services to its clientele in Nunavik.

“These major investments are important because they will help the region’s Internet services keep up with cutting-edge technologies even as we continue to explore alternative, less expensive broadband-transmission solutions,” stated KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk. Since the KRG launched Tamaani Nunavik Internet Services in 2004, the Internet has become an indispensable communications tool in the homes, businesses, schools and organizations of the region.

The higher-speed services are expected to be implemented before the end of 2011.

In order to make the delivery of high-speed services possible, the Government of Canada will provide slightly more than \$7.4 million through Industry Canada’s Broadband Canada: Connecting Rural Canadians program. For its part, the Québec government will contribute \$3 million through the *Fonds pour la réalisation d’initiatives régionales et locales* (regional and local initiatives fund), in line with the telecommunications component of the recently announced *Plan Nord*. Telesat and the KRG have also earmarked \$2 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, towards the project.

These significant investments are expected to generate economic and social benefits for Nunavimmiut through new business opportunities, as well as better access to telehealth and distance learning.

Tamaani Internet serves over 150 businesses and organizations with more than 250 points of service, as well as over 1800 residential subscribers.

Since late in 2010, Tamaani Internet has also been responsible for operating the Nunavik portion of a new integrated multimedia telecommunications network for public-sector organizations across Québec, linking CLSCs and the health centres in Kuujuuaq and Puvirnituk with health care professionals in the South. The installation of the telecommunications equipment for this purpose was completed in all the communities in March this year.

*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. The KRG is strongly committed to ensuring that reliable Internet services are available to all Nunavimmiut.*

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