



PRESS RELEASE

Evaluation and Recognition of Dedicated Local Karate Trainers

Kuujuuaq, Québec – September 1, 2011 – The Recreation Department of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) recently coordinated a training session under its Nunavik Karate Program. It is noteworthy that, at the August 20–22 session, Nathaniel Kalai of Inukjuak and Steven Alayco of Akulivik successfully passed their first belt exams. The local trainers are well deserving of their promotion to orange belt and it is anticipated they will continue to excel in their karate studies. Advancement in rank (represented by different coloured belts) is a longstanding tradition in martial arts and a very successful motivational tool.

The Nunavik Karate Program, also known as the Sustainable Martial Arts Recreational Training (SMART) Program, was launched in 2010 further to orientations set by the KRG Council to promote varied recreational opportunities for youth in all the region's communities. Coordinated by the KRG Recreation Department, the Program provides support to local trainers, helping them to learn to teach karate and develop as role models. In this manner, local trainers in participating communities are enabled to create an environment that instils self-confidence in youth and fosters positive lifestyle choices.

Members of the communities of Akulivik, Inukjuak and Kuujuuaq have been actively involved in the SMART Program since its beginnings, excelling beyond all expectations. In the three communities combined, there are now a total of 35 committed youth participants. In Kuujuuaq, in particular, the dojo runs three classes weekly for both youth and adults. The KRG Recreation Department aims to use the model developed in these communities to expand the SMART Program to the region's other communities.

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 also delivers technical assistance to the Northern villages in many related fields.

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