



Blown Away! Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship a Big Success!

Press Release

Kangiqsujaq, Québec, April 23, 2012 – Between April 18-22, 2012, the Northern Village of Kangiqsujaq and the Recreation Department of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) hosted the Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship. Twenty-one participants between the ages of 14 and 55 came from seven Nunavik communities (Kuujuaq, Quaqaq, Aupaluk, Salluit, Kangirsuk, Puvirnituk and Kangiqsujaq) and one Nunavut community (Pangnirtung) to compete in three different styles of racing and to attend workshops in kite-ski safety and riding techniques, kite-ski club operations and leadership, equipment maintenance and a downhill-ski clinic.

Sunny weather graced the entire five-day event, but only three days had enough wind for racing and other competitions on the bay. Over 30 spectators attended the events every day. The event champions are: 1st place Sandy Haukai from Puvirnituk, 2nd place Ahuya May from Kuujuaq, and 3rd place Joanasi Sivuarapik from Puvirnituk. All winners received new kite-ski equipment and an inukshuk carving by Elijah Angnatuk. There were two draws for a Paraflex kite and Oakley sunglasses, won by Charlie Qinuajuak from Puvirnituk and Mark Adams from Kangiqsujaq respectively.

Eric McNair-Landry of Iqaluit, Nunavut, gave a presentation at Arsaniq School on Saturday, April 21. Over 55 people came to hear stories of his 3300-km, 85-day kite-ski trip with his sister Sarah through the Northwest Passage, from Tuktoyaktuk to Pond Inlet, in spring 2011.

Check out photos of the Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship on *Facebook* using the search words: [Nunavik kite ski](#).

The KRG Recreation Department would like to expand the Nunavik Kite-Ski Program next winter to other communities that wish to develop and support local kite-skiing clubs. Observers from two communities attended the championship to see what the sport is all about. Kite-skiing is a wind-powered sport where an individual rider on skis uses a large, colourful kite as a sail to travel across ice and snow. It is a relatively new sport and is well suited to the Arctic.

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. The KRG Recreation Department is dedicated to the delivery of recreational activities for all Nunavimmiut, promoting healthy and active living, as well as encouraging participation in many different sports and recreation opportunities.

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Results of the Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship – Top Ten

Note: The second last column shows participant scores; kite-ski placements are based on low scores. The last column indicates overall placement in the competition.

#	Name	Age	Community	Total	Rank
16	Sandy Haukai	20	Puvirnitug	12	1
23	Ahuya May	17	Kuujuaq	28	2
18	Joanasie Sivuarapik	28	Puvirnitug	35	3
3c	Peter Arngak	45	Kangijsujuaq	40	4
9	Peter Qissiq	37	Kangijsujuaq	49	5
10	François Carrier	31	Kuujuaq	51	6
12	Silas Nauyuk	27	Pangnirtung	53	7
17	Jamie Eetook	18	Kangirsuk	59	8
20	Charlie Qinuajuak	23	Puvirnitug	63	9
6	Tommy Tuniq	18	Kangijsujuaq	69	10