

Renewal of the agreement for Nunavik and 2011-2012 results: the Fonds du Nunavik pour les arts et les lettres supports 19 artists' and writers' projects

Montréal, June 22, 2012 – The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ), the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the Avataq Cultural Institute are very pleased to announce the renewal for three years of the partnership agreement for Nunavik and \$90 000 in financial support for artists and writers under the 2011-2012 Fonds du Nunavik pour les arts et les lettres.

The Fonds du Nunavik pour les arts et les lettres stems from a specific agreement aimed at enhancing the conditions under which artists and writers work in the Kativik sector of the Nord-du-Québec region signed in 2011 by the Kativik Regional Government, the Avataq Cultural Institute, the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, the CALQ and the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire.

The *Entente spécifique sur l'amélioration des conditions de pratique des artistes et des écrivains de la région du Nord-du-Québec, secteur Kativik* seeks to foster the rapid development of the arts and literature in Nunavik, increase the sources of income of Nunavimmiuts professional artists and writers and encourage the emergence of an up-and-coming generation of artists in Nunavik. The agreement seeks to establish the conditions necessary for the artistic renewal of Nunavik artists and writers through reciprocal arrangements with artists and writers from other regions of Québec. It is intended to foster artistic and cultural initiatives elaborated in partnership and to enhance the development of markets and audiences for professional artists and writers.

Section 1: Support for Nunavimmiuts professional artists and writers

The projects supported under this section involve, in particular, the collaboration of artists, writers and community interveners in order to bolster solidarity in the community. Each of the following artists is receiving a research and creation grant:

Grant recipient	Artistic discipline	Amount
Diane Gadbois , born in Kuujuaq	Visual arts	\$4 300
Daniel Gordon , born in Kuujuarapik	Visual arts	\$2 000
Shaomik Inukpuk , born in Inukjuak	Visual arts	\$6 000
Mattiusi Iyaituq , born in Ivujivik	Visual arts	\$5 000
Tanya Mesher , born in Kuujuaq	Visual arts	\$5 000
Willie Watt , born in Kuujuaq	Visual arts	\$2 000
Annie Weetaluktuk , born in Umiujaq	Visual arts	\$500
Janice Grey , born in Aupaluk	Literature	\$5 000
Raingi Uqaituk , born in Puvimituq	Literature	\$2 200

Anna Ohaituk , born in Inukjuak	Arts and crafts	\$5 000
Sylvia Cloutier , born in Kuujuaq	Music	\$5 000
Beatrice Deer , born in Quaqtaq	Music	\$5 000
Putulik Illisituk , born in Salluit	Music	\$3 000
George Okpik , born in Quaqtaq	Music	\$2 500
Ittuvik Saviadjuk , born in Salluit	Music	\$5 000
Charlie Tarkirk , born in Salluit	Music	\$2 500

Section 2: Research and artistic creation residencies

This section, centred on exchanges of artists, facilitates research and creation residencies for two months in Montréal and in Nunavik.

The visual artist Mary Alaku Paningajak, who was born in Ivujivik, obtained a \$10 000 grant to engage in a residency in Montréal.

Moreover, \$20 000 has been granted to Robin Aubert, a Montréal director, and Juan Manuel Vasquez, a visual artist also from Montréal, for artistic creation residencies in Kangiqsujuaq and Inukjuak, respectively.

A selection committee comprising three members from the arts and literature sectors, including two Inuit artists, who were chosen for their areas of competence and professional experience, analyzed all of the applications.

Partners

The CALQ supports in all regions of Québec creation, experimentation and production in the realms of the arts and literature and enhances their profile in Québec, in Canada and abroad. To find out more about the CALQ, please visit its website (www.calq.gouv.qc.ca).

The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) was established in 1978, following the signing of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*, to offer public services to the Nunavimmiuts. The KRG acts as a regional conference of elected officers (RCEO). In addition to providing technical assistance to the 14 Northern villages, the KRG offers services in public sectors including local and regional economic development and business development.

Established in 1980 in the wake of the first Nunavik Inuit Elders' Conference, the Avataq Cultural Institute is a non-profit organization responsible for protecting and promoting the language and culture of the Nunavik Inuit. It is the forum for consultation in the arts and cultural community in Nunavik. Aumaaggiivik, the Nunavik Arts Secretariat, is the department of the Avataq Cultural Institute that supports the enhancement of conditions in which artists work while encouraging the professionalization of Nunavik artists and writers.

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