



Press Release

For immediate release



Cirqiniq Summer Camp: Success in Puvirnituaq!

Kuujuuaq, Québec, July 10, 2014 – Limitless creativity, amazing experience and incredibly talented young artists are the appropriate words to describe the fifth annual Cirqiniq summer camp organized by the Recreation Department of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) in Puvirnituaq from July 1 to 8, 2014. Over 25 youth from across Nunavik, aged between 13 and 17 years old, attended the training week and astonished the crowd with their acrobatics during the Final Show on July 7.

Throughout the week, many interesting workshops and activities were offered to participants such as various circus lessons, hip-hop dancing, throat singing, mask making, theatre clinics by the Avataq Cultural Institute, and many more. Coordinated by the KRG Recreation Department since 2009, the Cirqiniq Program is implemented in close collaboration with Cirque du Monde, the social outreach division of Cirque du Soleil. The Program's main goals are to build self-esteem and trust through safe, collaborative and creative activities, while promoting healthy lifestyles through nutrition, physical activity and mental well-being.

"We really enjoyed seeing young talented Nunavimmiut gather in Puvirnituaq, as each of them brought their own artistic abilities and ideas," said Karin Kettler, the Regional Recreation Development Coordinator at the KRG. For Larry Thomassiah, a participant from Salluit, it is always a great week-long experience: "I'm glad to be back here. I've been waiting all year for this!"

The success of this year's Cirqiniq summer camp has been made possible with the generous contribution of many sponsors and partners, including the Northern Village of Puvirnituaq, the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik School Board and Air Inuit. The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services also provided support by sending a staff member to help with the artistic social aspect during the week. The Cirqiniq Program is funded in large part through the Ungaluk Program for safer communities under the *Partnership Agreement on Economic and Community Development in Nunavik* (Sanarrutik Agreement).

In the coming months, fall and winter tours will take place in several communities where dynamic and experienced social circus instructors will initiate youth to circus arts and help them to discover new artistic perspectives. The tours will give Nunavimmiut the opportunity to access

local circus programming while building new friendships and surpassing their limits. Cirqiniq will be revisiting all the communities in 2015.

For more information about Cirqiniq activities, visit the Facebook page!

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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.