



## **CIRQINIQ SUMMER CAMP: Nunavik Youth Shine at Community Performance**

**July 8, 2011, Kuujuaq** – Acrobatics, stilt walking and Inuit drumming were all part of the grand finale of the 2011 CIRQINIQ Summer Camp in Kuujuaq on July 7. Over 50 youth from across Nunavik put on a public show of everything they had learned during nine days of circus and other artistic workshops. Performances included a parade in full costume through the community's streets, as well as a standing-room-only show in the auditorium of the Katittavik Town Hall and Cultural Centre. On July 6, Cirqiniq youth participants also completed a smaller-scale performance for elders at the Tusaajiapik Elders' Residence with special emphasis on cultural skills like throat-singing and juggling.

"I'm so proud of all the participants," said Karin Kettler, the Recreation Advisor for Arts and Culture at the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) who is responsible for the coordination of CIRQINIQ. "Everyone worked so hard to make the camp a great success. Special thanks should be extended to the workshop instructors and the many volunteers."

The theme of the Thursday-night performance was the weather. Costumes designed by the youth participants were worn during their interpretations of fog, wind, snow, rain and sunshine. Flowing energetically from one demonstration to the next throughout the two-hour show, the youth participants showed off their skills in clowning, aerial acrobatics on trapeze and silks, tumbling, hula hoop (with hoops made earlier in the week by the participants themselves) and tight-rope walking. Other highlights were the parade of paintings (also created earlier in the week by the participants themselves), as well as the throat-singer and hip-hop beat-boxer demonstrations.

CIRQINIQ Summer Camp partners included *Cirque du Soleil*®, the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre, Jaanimmarik School and the Northern Village of Kuujuaq. Sponsors included Tamaani Internet, First Air, Air Inuit and Kuujuaamiut Inc. The next CIRQINIQ Summer Camp will be held in July 2012. Since 2009, the CIRQINIQ program has been coordinated by the KRG Recreation Department and *Cirque du Soleil*®. One of the main goals is to create a sustainable social circus run by youth. Over the past two years, teams of dedicated senior instructors have visited every community at least twice, working one-on-one with junior instructors, building their skills and teaching them how to run circus workshops.

*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.*

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