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NUNAVIK TOUR

Creation of the Saqijjuq Nunavik–Québec Coordination Table

Kangiqsualujjuaq, September 13, 2013 – While in Nunavik on September 12 and 13, Québec Premier Pauline Marois expressed concern and worry regarding the different social issues faced in Nunavik, before announcing the creation of the Saqijjuq Nunavik–Québec Coordination Table to look into a new approach to social intervention. “Our objective is to develop concrete, effective and sustainable actions,” indicated the Premier.

The Coordination Table will oversee the implementation of the Saqijjuq Project. Saqijjuq (meaning *a change in wind direction* in Inuktitut) is a joint approach that focuses the participation of all partners and will find concrete solutions to problems identified by the region.

In this context, the Québec Premier announced a mandate for the Minister for Social Services and Youth Protection and Minister responsible for the Lanaudière region, Véronique Hivon, and Minnie Grey, the Executive Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services the President of the Regional Partnership Committee, to coordinate the work.

“I am very enthusiastic about this project developed and spearheaded by Nunavik Inuit and plan to lend my support to its success. This initiative will certainly contribute to fostering greater social cohesion. I am committed to this work to improve future prospects for hundreds of Nunavik youth, families and adults,” stated Minister Hivon.

“The Saqijjuq Nunavik–Québec Coordination Table is going to allow all stakeholders to speak in one voice about problems in Nunavik. We are all taking a step forward today and are impatient to get the job started,” indicated the Executive Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and the President of the Regional Partnership Committee, Minnie Grey.

“Our region is grappling with serious social problems that require culturally adapted solutions. The Saqijjuq Project will serve as a foundation for reconstructing the social fabric in Nunavik. The creation of the Saqijjuq Nunavik–Québec Coordination Table is an important step towards the implementation of this innovative project and we welcome Québec’s commitment to work with regional organizations to support the well-being of Nunavik Inuit,” added the President of the Makivik Corporation, Jobie Tukkiapik.

“Through the mobilization of our combined resources, this new approach will make it possible to improve how families and different public services and organizations work together. It is an innovative approach adapted to the realities of Nunavik,” concluded the Québec Premier.

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