

## Funding Announced for Nunavik Artists

A significant agreement for arts development in Nunavik was announced by the KRG, the Avataq Cultural Institute and the Québec government on February 12. The agreement totals \$260,000, with 42% of this funding being contributed by the KRG and the balance by the *Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec* (arts council, CALQ). The funding will be managed by the Avataq Cultural Institute to foster work initiatives for Nunavik artists as well as projects between the region's communities. There will also be an innovative North-South artist exchange program to stimulate cultural sharing.

To access this new funding, Nunavik artists must apply to Avataq. An application deadline of March 16, 2009, has already been announced. For more information, contact Katarina Soukup at Avataq's Montreal office: 1-800-361-5029, ext. 243.



*The CALQ's chairman Yvan Gauthier, Avataq president Charlie Argnak and Johnny Oovaut on behalf of the KRG [left to right] announced the creation of the Nunavik Arts and Literature Fund last month at a press conference in Montreal.*

## Trans Fat Support Resolution

Late in 2008, the Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee made a presentation to the KRG Council concerning the issue of trans fats in store-bought foods in Nunavik. Resolution No. 2009-20 adopted by the KRG Council on February 26 puts the organization squarely behind regional efforts to improve the quality of foods sold in Nunavik stores, to promote healthy food choices, and to actively reduce the trans-fat content of foods sold in the region. Concretely, in the coming months the KRG plans to update the list of items covered under its Food Program to include healthy foods that do not contain trans fats.

There is strong scientific evidence linking the consumption of foods containing trans fats to a number of harmful health effects on humans. The *Qanuippitaa? Nunavik Inuit Health Survey* carried out in 2004 showed that levels of trans fat in the blood of Nunavik Inuit were three times higher than trans-fat levels in the blood of Greenlandic Inuit. A major reason for this large difference is that foods containing trans fats are banned from stores in Greenland.

### *And Nanuk Was His Name*

Between February 23 and March 15, the new Kativik Regional Police Force mascot (Nanuk as he is now known) visited the schools in all of Nunavik's 14 communities. His tour also included a stop at the junior hockey tournament in Kangirsuk as well as at the biennial Puvirnituq Snow Festival.

# Arena Renovation Work to Go Ahead

At their most recent meeting, KRG Councillors were informed that major renovation work at the arenas in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Tasiujaq, Kangirsuk, Quaqtac, Puvirnituc and Inukjuak will go ahead this summer.

The scheduled work will include the installation of cooling systems to permit hockey seasons in these communities to start earlier in the fall and extend later in the spring. Currently in Nunavik, most ice rinks are only ready in December and melting can begin as early as March. Another important component of the renovation work will include the pouring of concrete floors to permit the arenas to be put to good use year round, winter and summer. General facelift work is also planned for the six facilities.

Nunavik and the *ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* (education, recreation and sports, MELS) will split the close to \$20-million cost of the renovation work. Nunavik's share is being drawn from the Ungaluk Safer Community Program, from the Pivaliutiit Program and other KRG sources, as well as from the Makivik Corporation. The Québec government's contribution will come from its province-wide Sports and Recreational Facilities Support Program.

The renovation projects are especially important for youth in the six concerned communities. The projects will produce quality year-round sport facilities as well as essential support infrastructure for the Nunavik Youth Hockey

Development Program. The projects are also generating important business for two regional contractors: Laval, Fortin, Adams and the construction division of the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec. Through a public tendering process, the two contractors have been awarded the contracts for the renovation projects in all six communities. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the fall of 2009, at which point the arenas in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Tasiujaq, Kangirsuk, Quaqtac, Puvirnituc and Inukjuak will be re-opened.

Sports and recreational facility renovation projects for Kuujuarapik, Umiujaq, Akulivik, Ivujivik, Aupaluk and Salluit have moreover been approved by the KRG Council for 2010. The KRG and the MELS are continuing to work hard to make sure that all the necessary planning and resources will be in place.



*The arena in Inukjuak will be one of six in Nunavik to be renovated in the summer and fall of 2009.*

# Nunavik's Select Hockey Teams

The Nunavik Youth Hockey Development Program (NYHDP) is already in its third year and proving very successful under strong leadership. The NYHDP's select component has in particular been very active at tournaments in southern Québec over the past two months:

- a bantam team travelled to L'Ancienne-Lorette in mid-January;
- an atoms team was at Lévis from February 1 to 8;
- a peewee team was at the Quebec City international tournament through the middle of February; and
- a midget team participated at the *Jeux du Québec* near Montreal at the beginning of March.

Each of these teams was made up of youth selected from many different Nunavik communities. And while some of the tournament games were broadcast live over Taqramiut Nipingat Inc.'s regional radio airwaves, all the results were eagerly followed by family, friends and all Nunavimmiut.

The KRG is an important sponsor of the hockey program through the Ungaluk Safer Community Program, not to mention the contribution of additional human and financial resources. This year, local NYHDP projects have been growing in strength in various Nunavik communities, including Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kuujjuaq and Kangirsuk.



*On February 24, David Okpik was recognized by the KRG Council for his 30-year contribution to Nunavik's political development and environmental protection, importantly, through the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission. The KRG Council and all Nunavimmiut are very proud of David's accomplishments. His hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration to the entire region.*



*Pamela Duncan was appointed Treasurer by the KRG Council on December 18, 2008, at a special annual budget sitting. This is the first time an Inuk has been selected by the Council for this important position. The KRG Treasurer is responsible for the organization's finances that, in 2008, totalled close to \$200 million.*