

Creation of a new National Park, Kuururjuaq



On May 21, the legislative requirements for the creation of Parc national Kuururjuaq were met by the Québec National Assembly, following the official publication of information concerning the park. Kuururjuaq is the second park to be created in Nunavik and becomes the largest in all of Québec.

Parc national Kuururjuaq is situated north-east of Kangiqsualujjuaq, covering 4461 km². The centrepiece of this magnificent region is the 160-km Koroc River, which flows from the precipitous Torngat Mountains through a broad valley to Ungava Bay. The downstream section of the valley is noteworthy as an oasis of boreal forest in an otherwise rugged arctic zone.



The Koroc River valley in Parc national Kuururjuaq.

The new park is the product of hard work over the last seven years by the KRG, the Makivik Corporation, the Québec government, and especially the village of Kangiqsualujjuaq. “A number of Kangiqsualujjamiut were born and lived in the park area. The creation of this park is therefore of great significance for them,” KRG Chairperson and local resident Maggie Emudluk noted.

As is the case at Parc national des Pingualuit near Kangiqsujuaq, this newest park will not interfere with the right of Inuit to carry out traditional harvesting and gathering activities in the park and throughout the region. Moreover, a number of local jobs will be created to build and operate Kuururjuaq. For more information on Nunavik’s parks and park projects visit: www.nunavikparks.ca.



Two Inuit Constables Take Oath of Office

At a special ceremony organized during the KRG Council’s recent sitting, Timothy Sangoya of Tasiujaq and Sammy Snowball of Kuujjuaq were sworn in as permanent constables of the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPf). In this picture, KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk administers the oath of office to Timothy, in the presence of Lisa Epoo, the KRPf’s Assistant Director of Administration.

Social Housing Construction and Update

At their May sitting, KRG Councillors reviewed updated information on social housing needs and annual construction progress. Watson Fournier of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau and Eileen Klinkig of the Makivik Corporation were on hand to present this information. Further to their deliberations, the Councillors approved the construction of 41 duplexes (for a total of 82 two-bedroom units) in the following communities in 2010:

- Akulivik, 4 duplexes
- Aupaluk, 2 duplexes
- Inukjuak, 8 duplexes
- Kangiqsualujjuaq, 2 duplexes
- Kangiqsujaq, 8 duplexes
- Puvirnituk, 12 duplexes
- Salluit, 5 duplexes

The Council was also reminded that the construction of 49 duplexes is planned this coming summer in Inukjuak, Ivujivik, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kuujjuarapik, Puvirnituk, and Salluit. A prefabricated three-bedroom single-family unit will be set up in Umiujaq.

The KMHB emphasized that, despite this regular annual construction, social housing continues to be inadequate to meet the growing needs of Nunavimmiut. A partial solution was proposed that would involve the relocation of tenants in under-crowded homes to smaller dwellings in their community. This exercise would effectively free up a certain number of multi-bedroom dwellings for large families, but will require the cooperation of tenants.

Also as reported, 2008 was a good year for rent collection with most tenants conscientiously making their payments. Notwithstanding, the arrears being generated are still very high, hovering around 18% annually. The KMHB noted that it is developing an eviction procedure to deal with ongoing rent arrears. The procedure will be compassionate as well as fair and reasonable for all social housing tenants.

In the coming months, the KRG will continue working with the Makivik Corporation as well as the governments of Québec and Canada to secure the funding necessary for additional housing construction. Early in 2008, the KMHB determined that close to 1000 new social housing units are required to meet current demand.



KRG Councillor Lucassie Inukpuk and Eileen Klinkig of Makivik's Construction Division discuss housing needs.

Projects Ained at Helping Elders

Airport Mobility-Assistance

The KRG decided to move ahead with the purchase of mobility-assistance equipment for elders when they travel by air between communities. Automatic lifts to be installed on the tailgates of airport pick-up trucks will serve to help elders board and deplane aircraft. This project was initiated by the Nunavik Elders' Committee and has come to fruition with the meaningful cooperation of Air Inuit and the KRG. The project will be implemented this summer at every community airport, except the airports in Kuujjuaq and

Kuujjuarapik where mobility-assistance equipment is already available.

Intergenerational Home (Kuujjuarapik)

Along with the KRG and the Makivik Corporation's Construction Division, the Nunavik Elders' Committee has succeeded in taking the idea of an intergenerational dwelling and moving it to the drawing board. Construction of a first unit is planned for this summer in Kuujjuarapik. The estimated cost to design and construct the dwelling is \$135,000.

Summer 2009 Municipal Construction Projects

With the 2009 summer construction season fast approaching, the KRG and the Northern villages are gearing up for a number of important infrastructure improvement projects.

Under the KRG's Isurruutiit Program, these projects include:

Drinking water		
Kangiqsualujjuaq	Major improvements	\$1,200,000
Puvimituq	Major improvements	\$2,000,000
Inukjuak	Major improvements	\$2,000,000
Municipal repair garages		
Quaqtaq	Extension	Amount to be determined
Salluit	Construction	\$3,500,000
Cold-storage garages		
Aupaluk	Construction	\$250,000
Kangiqsualujjuaq	Construction	\$250,000
Kangirsuk	Construction	\$250,000
Quaqtaq	Construction	\$250,000
Kangiqsujuaq	Construction	\$250,000
Akulivik	Construction	\$250,000
Puvimituq	Construction	\$250,000
Umiujaq	Construction	\$250,000
Kuujuarapik	Construction	\$250,000
Wastewater lagoons		
Puvimituq	Construction	\$1,800,000
Salluit	Construction	\$2,700,000
Solid waste sites		
Aupaluk	Cleaning / sorting	\$200,000
Kangiqsualujjuaq	Cleaning / sorting	\$200,000
Kuujuuaq	Cleaning / sorting	\$300,000
Kangiqsujuaq	Cleaning / sorting	\$200,000
Akulivik	Cleaning / sorting	\$200,000
Inukjuak	Cleaning / sorting	\$200,000
Tasiujaq	Cleaning / sorting	\$200,000

Other projects under the KRG's Road Paving Program and Gasoline Excise Tax Transfer Program are:

Umiujaq	Road paving	Amount to be determined
Kangiqsujuaq	Road paving	Amount to be determined
Kuujuuaq	Road improvements	\$250,000

The KRG has been paving public roads in every community since 2002 and will complete its program this summer in Umiujaq and Kangiqsujuaq. In the meantime, negotiations are being planned with the Québec government to create a second phase under the Road Paving Program. Every year, KRG road paving projects create seasonal employment for 15 to 20 local workers.



Fighting Drugs and Alcohol Abuse

Siasi Smiler Irqumia, Iola Meetuq and Timothy Sangoya reported to the KRG Council on the Substance Abuse Awareness Tour currently making its way to every community in the region. This Nunalituquait Ikajuqatigiit initiative is mobilizing Nunavimmiut to brainstorm solutions aimed at helping Nunavimmiut escape the ugly reality of drug and alcohol abuse and related problems. Sponsored under the Ungaluk Safer Community Program, the Tour visited many communities in April and May and the response by residents has been very encouraging.



Nunavik is being hit particularly hard by drugs and alcohol abuse. These problems impact not only on individuals' health, but on social well-being and public safety. They contribute to child neglect, spousal violence, suicide, school drop-out, unemployment as well as the isolation of elders. Moreover, it has been noted that crime in every community is steadily on the rise.



The issue of drugs and alcohol abuse was also brought up at an all-mayors' meeting held at the end of March. In particular, the mayors demanded a more "immediate" response to the problem and formed a follow-up committee to ensure that actions are taken. The actions proposed to date include more effective policing against bootleggers and traffickers, and prevention initiatives in cooperation with community organizations.

The KRG is closely monitoring the work of the follow-up committee, which consists of two mayor representatives, as well as representatives from the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec, Canada Post, the Sûreté du Québec and the Kativik Regional Police Force. KRG Vice-Chairperson Aisara Kenuajuak made the point at the KRG sitting in Tasiujaq that all Nunavimmiut must step up and assume their responsibilities so that our families and children can have healthy communities in which to live and grow.

Council Sitting Held in Tasiujaq

From May 26 to 28, Tasiujammiut warmly welcomed KRG Councillors and staff in their community. Once a year, the KRG holds a regular sitting in a community other than Kuujjuaq.



Peter Angnatuk of Tasiujaq.



Robbie Tookalook, Peter Morgan and Larry Watt, from Umiujaq, Kangiqsualujjuaq and Kuujjuaq respectively.