

Information Technology Training and Business Development

At their mid-September sitting, KRG Councillors heard about a training and business success story. Pirnoma Technologies Inc. is a fledgling computer-support and graphic-design firm. Based in Nunavik, it is successfully competing against southern companies, delivering its services to residents as well as regional and local organizations. Pirnoma's greatest assets are its Inuit owners and employees.

In 2005, the KRG targeted information technology as an important sector for human resource development and, with the Kativik School Board, designed an itinerant computer repair and troubleshooting lab. Pirnoma Technologies Inc. was founded to help deliver the lab and more advanced computer training. The training is divided into several stages that allow the most competent students to progressively expand their skills.

Today Pirnoma employs technician-instructors in Ivujivik, Kangiqsualujuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Quaqtaq, Umiujaq and Salluit. Other training graduates are also working for regional and local organizations in the field of information technology.

Thomassie Mangiok, one of Pirnoma's three Inuit founders, told KRG Councillors that his company is striving to establish resources in every community. For their part, KRG



Pirnoma transfers hands-on computer repair skills to Nunavimmiut.

Councillors voiced their satisfaction with the initiative, noting that when young people work hard, Pirnoma is an excellent example of what they can achieve.



Computer training is very popular among young people. In 2008, over 110 participants took part in various workshops.

Police Tackle Drug Trafficking and Bootlegging

On July 28, a new joint unit formed by the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPf) and the *Sûreté du Québec* (provincial police, SQ) conducted its first seizure of illegal substances. One kilogram of marijuana and hashish with a street value of \$81,000 was seized in Kangiqsua-lujuaq along with \$34,000 in cash. Since then numerous other seizures have been successfully carried out.

Joint units between local police forces and the SQ are common in many other parts of Québec. Problems like drug trafficking and bootlegging, for example, must be dealt with simultaneously in the North where the illegal substances are being sold and in the South at their source. The KRPf–SQ joint unit will make this possible in Nunavik.



Seized drugs and money from trafficking.

Recent Drug and Alcohol Seizures		
Date	Community	Items seized
September 2	Kuujuaq	2 ounces of marijuana \$12,000 in cash
September 7	Puvirnituk	26 x 375 mL bottles of liquor
September 8	Quaqtaq	48 x 375 mL bottles of liquor
September 9	Inukjuak	24 x 375 mL bottles of liquor 36 grams of marijuana
September 10	Inukjuak	44 grams of cannabis 24 x 375 mL bottles of liquor
September 10	Kangirsuk	72 x 375 mL bottles of liquor
September 12	Kangirsuk	24 cans of beers 48 x 375 mL bottles of liquor 4 x 750 mL bottles of wine 5.2 grams of cocaine
September 14	Salluit	147 x 375 mL bottles of liquor 9 x 66 ounce bottles of liquor
	Ivujivik	48 x 375 mL bottles of liquor
	Umiujaq	15 x 375 mL bottles of liquor

The KRPf and the SQ set up their new joint investigation unit this past summer. The unit's main roles are to:

- fight crime against persons (sexual interference and assault);
- investigate drug trafficking and bootlegging.

Two KRPf investigators and the SQ unit leader are already at work in the region. And four SQ investigators are expected to join the team before the end of the year.

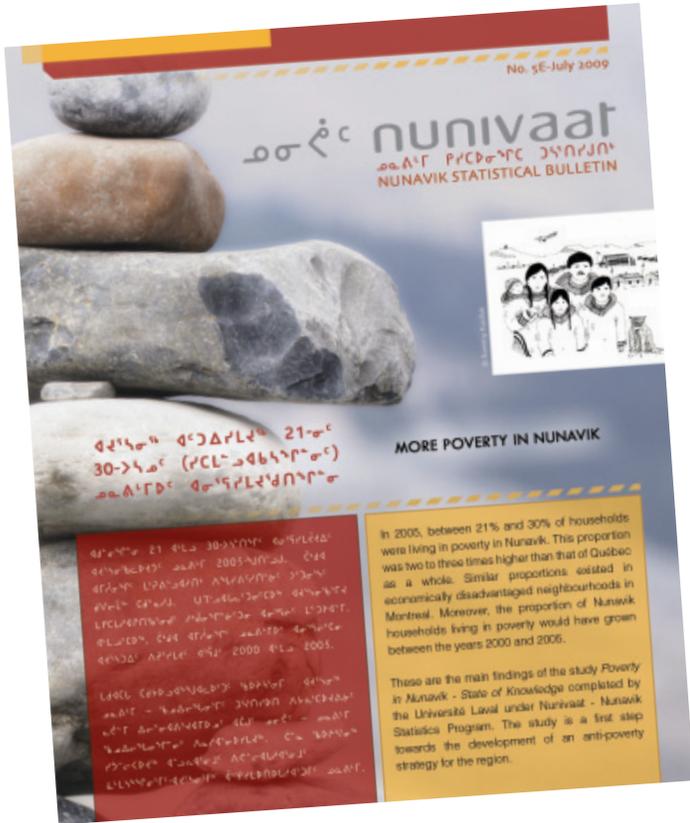
Enforcement and Prevention Activities

With Nunavik being hit particularly hard by drugs and alcohol abuse, more and more municipal and regional elected officials are speaking out. The problems generated by the abuse are contributing to the deterioration of the region's social fabric.

Further to the concerns voiced at an all-mayors meeting last spring, the KRPf has drawn up an action plan that proposes coordinated enforcement and prevention ini-

tiatives. The plan was recently presented to some members of a mayoral follow-up committee, consisting of two mayors, as well as representatives from the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec, Canada Post, the SQ and the KRPf. The follow-up committee will report back to a second all-mayors meeting planned for later this fall. As well, consultations with regional organizations such as the KRG and the Makivik Corporation are expected to take place in the coming weeks.

Status Report on Poverty in Nunavik



A status report on poverty in Nunavik was tabled before the KRG Council by Gérard Duhaime of the *Université Laval*. The report shows that 1680 Nunavimmiut have low incomes and that, according to the most severe indicators, poverty currently affects between 21 and 30% of all households. These proportions are up to three times greater than those observed elsewhere in Québec. Single-parent families and elders are among the most affected. It was also noted that the proportion of households living in poverty grew between the years 2000 and 2005.

The status report represents an initial research stage. With input from residents and the participation of other regional organizations, the KRG next plans to design an anti-poverty strategy. The strategy will aim to improve basic living conditions for those in need.

A summary bulletin in Inuktitut will be mailed shortly to all households. This bulletin and the status report on poverty were prepared under Nunivaat – the Nunavik Statistics Program.

Cost of Living Measures — Update

At its recent sitting, the KRG Council was informed that government funding for the region's cost-of-living measures will expire on March 31, 2010. These measures are the Food Program, Support for Inuit Activities, the Gasoline Subsidy Program, the Airfare Reduction Program, the Transportation Subsidy Program and Elders' Assistance.

A KRG, Makivik and Québec-government working group is currently assessing the measures and is expected shortly to make certain long-term recommendations. While awaiting the recommendations and to allow time for them to be adequately reviewed and set up, the KRG and the Makivik Corporation recently requested a one-year renewal of the cost-of-living funding. A Québec-government's response to this request is pending.

The KRG and the Makivik Corporation have progressively implemented their six cost-of-living reduction measures since the fall of 2007.

Upcoming KRG Council Meetings

The mid-September KRG Council sitting was the last face-to-face meeting of the regional councillors elected in November 2007. The Councillors' two-year term was very productive and their efforts ensured that KRG programs and services continue to be effectively geared to all Nunavimmiut.

A final tele-conference meeting is planned for October 27 with several different subjects to be discussed. Municipal elections will take place in every community on November 4. Of special note, the new term of office for those elected in November will be three years. The longer mandate will give new municipal and regional councillors more time to forge an effective agenda.

Kuujuuaq Airport Emergency Training

On Wednesday, September 16, the KRG Transportation Department organized an airport emergency exercise. All major stakeholders were involved: the local flight service station, Air Inuit, the Kativik Regional Police Force, the local fire brigade, local Canadian Rangers and the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre. Local secondary 4 and 5 students also supported the exercise by play-acting as victims.

Every year, the KRG Transportation Department organizes emergency exercises at airports in different communities. The goal is to test and improve the

preparedness of local emergency response resources. The exercise in Kuujuuaq ran smoothly and will help responders to be prepared in the event of an actual emergency.



Seniors' Parliament

Four elders participated at the Seniors' Parliament held in Quebec City between September 9 and 11. In particular, Eli Aullaluk was selected to act as the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. The annual parliament highlights the concerns and views of seniors from across the province.

All four Nunavik representatives did an excellent job. They were able to inform seniors from around Québec of the health and home care conditions faced in the region. The KRG Research and Economic Development Department, for its part, provides administrative support for the Nunavik Elders' Committee.



Johnny Epoo from Inukjuak, Eli Aullaluk from Akulivik, Minnie Etidloie from Kangiqsujuaq, and Johnny Munick from Kuujuuaq, with translators Annie Baron, Martha Annanack and Lisa Koperqualuk.