

## Social Housing Constuction Efforts

At their sitting held between February 22 and 26, Councillors were informed that the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB) and the KRG had concluded negotiations of a renewed social housing construction agreement. Signing of the agreement with the governments of Canada and Québec was expected to take place by mid-March.

The agreement will ensure the investment of more than \$17 million annually (plus indexing) in social housing construction, making it possible to build roughly 340 two-bedroom units over the next five years.

Makivik's construction division will be given the mandate to build these new homes while, for its part, the KMHB is currently updating its housing survey in order to identify which communities have the greatest needs.

Makivik, the KMHB and the KRG have also made it clear to the provincial and federal governments that the renewed social housing construction agreement does not go far enough to alleviate Nunavik's housing crisis. The KRG, Makivik and the KMHB estimate that 1000 additional units are still needed. This number is on top of the units to be built under the renewed agreement.

Other solutions therefore continue to be explored, including joint special projects involving regional public institutions and discussions with the governments



*Another 340 two-bedroom housing units will be built in the region over the next five years.*

of Québec and Canada to design a catch-up program. In the latter case, many details remain to be clarified:

- How many more units can Makivik's construction division build every year?
- What related public infrastructure, such as roads and basic municipal services, will need to be expanded and how will this expansion be paid for?
- Is it possible for the Makivik Corporation to directly inject money into the catch-up program?
- What precisely does the Québec government's commitment to Inuit housing under the Northern Plan mean?

In the summer of 2010, 39 duplexes will be built in Akulivik, Aupaluk, Inukjuak, Kangiqsujuaq, Puvirnituk and Salluit.

# Let's Talk, Learn and Act

Lizzie A. Ningiuruvik, Timothy Sangoya and Mary Kaye May followed up with the KRG Council on the Substance Abuse Awareness Tour organized by Nunalituqait Ikajuqatigiitut (NI in April and May 2009). The Tour visited all 14 communities and presentations were made to both adult and youth audiences.

The feedback provided by residents during the presentations poignantly underlines the urgency for action. Drug use and alcohol abuse have become all too common and these problems are destroying the Inuit way of life.

Many examples of sincere and desperate pleas for change made by Nunavimmiut over the two-month Tour were shared with the KRG Councillors.

While they indicated that regional organizations have a role to play in correcting the current situation, the three NI representatives stressed that communities too must be active in helping their residents to take control of their lives and create a nurturing environment for their children.



Mary Kaye, Lizzie and Timothy of Nunalituqait Ikajuqatigiitut.



At least three KRP constables are now assigned to every community.

## Funding for Policing

Negotiations between the KRG, the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRP) and the governments of Canada and Québec have produced two funding breakthroughs. In just two years, the KRP's operating budget has increased by \$4,129,899, allowing the KRP to expand its workforce from 54 to 66 constables. The additional funding in particular allows at least three constables to be assigned to every community.

As well, this past year the KRP received more than \$2 million in government subsidies to carry out important police station upgrading work in all the communities. The goals of the work are to improve safety for users, ensure that cells meet current standards, and correct structural problems in some cases.

## KRET Training Priorities for 2010-2011

The KRG Council reviewed training requests prioritized by the Kativik Regional Employment and Training Committee (KRET) for Nunavimmiut in 2010-2011. The requests are worth \$9,401,627. The KRET is formed of representatives from all of the region's major organi-

zations and employers. This year's training projects for Inuit are in many strategic fields, such as fire fighting, building maintenance, management, childcare, financial services and tourism.

# Subsidies Help Reduce Food Costs

Between September and December 2009, the KRG studied the impacts of the Food Mail Program delivered by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The goal was to measure the cost of a standard food basket purchased in different communities with the cost of the same food basket purchased in Montreal and transported north via air cargo. Among the study's different findings, it was shown that the Food Mail

Program and the KRG–Makivik Food Program allow local retailers to offer lower prices to Nunavimmiut. It should be noted that an answer is still awaited from the Québec government concerning the one-year renewal of the transportation-costs reduction agreement. The agreement funds the KRG and Makivik's six cost-of-living measures. Current funding is due to expire on March 31, 2010.

Community	Food basket purchased locally		Food basket purchased at Montreal and transported by air cargo			
	Basket	Monthly cost	Basket	Air cargo	Subtotal	Monthly cost
Inukjuak	\$368	\$1,595	\$268	\$306	\$574	\$2,487
Kangiqsujuaq	\$361	\$1,564	\$268	\$510	\$778	\$3,371
Salluit	\$373	\$1,616	\$268	\$536	\$804	\$3,484
Kuujuaq	\$355	\$1,538	\$268	\$292	\$560	\$2,427

## Public Infrastructure Development Projects

KRG Councillors were updated at their recent sitting on the second phase of the Sports and Recreational Facilities Support Program. In the summer of 2010, the KRG hopes to go ahead with five more projects, namely:

- arena renovations in Ivujivik, Akulivik and Umiujaq;
- a gymnasium extension in Kuujjuarapik;
- a pool project in Salluit.

Arena renovation work that included the installation of eco-ice systems was completed in 2009 in Kangiqsualujuaq, Tasiujaq, Kangirsuk, Quaqaq, Inukjuak and Puvirnituaq. Regarding other public infrastructure development, it was also noted that the KRG is awaiting a response from the *ministère des Transports du Québec* (transportation) concerning the five-year renewal of the KRG Road Paving Project.



Arena renovations were carried out in Kangiqsualujuaq, Tasiujaq, Kangirsuk, Quaqaq, Inukjuak and Puvirnituaq in 2009.

# Northern Plan Working Groups

As reported in the December issue of the *Quarterly Update*, Inuit will be important players, along with all Québécois living north of the 49th parallel, in developing the government's ambitious Northern Plan.

Most recently, the Québec government has been busy preparing for the creation of working groups in sectors that include energy, mining, tourism, transportation and wildlife. Made up of government, business, Aboriginal and regional representatives, the working groups will identify and evaluate long-term development potential and prospects. For their part, the KRG and Makivik see the working groups as forums for Inuit and other Aboriginal communities to ensure protection for their traditional values, to express their needs, and to demand action targeting their social problems.

The Northern Plan represents a structured process to reconcile concerns and needs with development. By way of example, the area between Kuujuaq and Schefferville has strong hydroelectric power, national park, mining and tourism development potential. For local residents, the realization of this potential will generate many spinoffs, including:

- job and business opportunities;
- the linking of some Nunavik communities to Hydro-Québec's power grid;
- a reduction in transportation costs (and therefore the cost of living) following the construction of roads.



The KRG Council ratified the appointment of Tunu Napartuk as Director of the Recreation Department. It was noted that Mr. Napartuk's appointment to this position should have a positive impact on the organization of sports and recreation throughout the region.



At the closing of its latest sitting, Councillors thanked Andy Moorhouse (Speaker) and Eli Aullaluk (Executive Committee member) for their earnest contributions to the KRG over the past few years. Both Mr. Moorhouse and Mr. Aullaluk have announced their intentions to move on to other challenges. The municipal councils of Inukjuak and Akulivik are expected to appoint new regional representatives in the coming weeks.