

## Ensuring Protection for Inuit Land Use

In November, the KRG will begin consultations in every community in order to discuss proposed biodiversity reserves and identify other areas that need to be protected from future industrial development. The aim of the consultations is to ensure that Inuit land use and concerns are incorporated into the Québec government's environmental conservation actions and its *Plan Nord* project.

Over the course of 2008 and 2009, the Québec government designated a total of 14 areas in Nunavik for different levels of protected area status. A few of the areas under consideration are Baie-aux-Feuilles and Monts-Pyramides, as well as smaller areas such as Rivière-Marralik and Drumlins-du-Lac-Vienaux.

As well, in 2010 under the *Plan Nord* project, the Québec government has made an ambitious commitment to protect 50% of the territory north of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel from future industrial activities. With participating Aboriginal and municipal groups, including the Makivik Corporation and the KRG, a mechanism is

under negotiation that will exempt areas from development each time an industrial project is implemented in the territory covered under the *Plan Nord*.



*To date, biodiversity has been the main reason for designating protected areas; however, greater emphasis needs to be put on the protection of areas used by Inuit for their subsistence harvesting activities.*



*KRG community consultations will let Nunavimmiut say which areas of the region most need to be protected from future development.*

## Plan Nord Project

Regional organizations have been participating closely in *Plan Nord* working-group activities over the summer and fall, stimulating reflection on many of the region's problems and priorities. The sectors under study include health and housing, transportation, wildlife, education, community development, tourism, and others. In order to review working-group activities, Maggie Emudluk and Pita Aatami attended a Partners' Discussion Table meeting on September 24. The next Table meeting is scheduled to take place on October 22 in Kujjuag.

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# Off-Highway Vehicle Use and Safety

At its most recent sitting, the KRG Council was updated on the work of the Nunavik Round Table on Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs). Specifically, public consultations on OHV use and safety were carried out in every community in April and May.

The FM-radio consultations involved two components. First, pertinent information was presented regarding OHV use in harvesting activities and daily local transportation, as well as certain accident statistics. Secondly, listeners were given an opportunity to call in and voice their concerns on important issues. Some of the issues covered by callers touched on noise levels, knowledge of traffic rules, the use of helmets and minimum driving age.

The Nunavik Round Table on OHVs is made up of representatives of the Makivik Corporation, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the Kativik Regional Police Force, the Nunavik Landholding Corporations Association, the Association of

Secretary-Treasurers of Nunavik, the *ministère des Transports du Québec* (transportation, MTQ) and the KRG.



*A final report that follows up on recent public consultations will be submitted to the MTQ in November. Among other elements, the report will include proposed amendments to legislation to better reflect the reality of OHV use in Nunavik.*

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# Improving Understanding of Justice Services

Adult criminal justice service actors were on hand at the KRG Council's September sitting to discuss their inter-related activities. The regional actors included the Kativik Regional Police Force, Inuit community reintegration officers, the Sapumijiit crime victims assistance

centre, the Makitautik community residential centre, the Qajak Network, community justice committees and the KRG.

Through a series of presentations, the representatives of these organizations described their specific activities. The topics of justice services (i.e. the itinerant court and judicial proceedings), correctional services and citizens' rights were also discussed.

It should also be noted that the KRG and the Makivik Corporation have been participating with the *ministère de la Justice du Québec* (justice) and the *ministère de la Sécurité publique* (public security) since 2008 to coordinate solutions to various justice-related issues, such as access to legal services and judicial proceedings adapted to the region's geographic context, among others.



*Adult criminal justice services can be confusing. Presentations by various regional actors were broadcast on TNI regional radio to increase understanding among the general public.*

Source: Éducatioi

# Inspiring Nunavik Youth through Circus Art

From August 16 to 21, the KRG Recreation Department organized a youth camp in Kuujjuaq under its Cirqiniq social circus Program. Participants included 51 youth from across the region plus eight youth instructors, eight circus instructors, and roughly 15 local volunteers and support staff.

The Cirqiniq Program camp involved youth participants in many exciting activities and was a great success. Some of the activities organized were:

- circus training such as juggling, costume-making, aerials, music and throat-singing;
- a visit by Susan Aglukark that allowed the renowned singer-star and youth participants to reflect on their personal motivation and life goals;



*Youth participants showed off their circus talents at a closing public performance in Kuujjuaq.*

- a widely acclaimed closing public performance where youth participants put on show their acquired skills.

The five-year Cirqiniq Program promotes education and employment among Nunavik youth and encourages them to make positive lifestyle choices by reducing alcohol and drug abuse and discouraging violence. Funding for the Cirqiniq Program is largely drawn from the Ungaluk Program for safer communities.



*The KRG Cirqiniq Program promotes self-esteem, artistic and creative expression, not to mention perseverance and discipline.*

## New Telecommunications Supply Agreement

The KRG and Tamaani Nunavik Wireless Internet are close to concluding a major telecommunications supply agreement with the *Centre de services partagés du Québec* (shared services).

Tamaani support will allow the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the Inuulitsivik and Ungava Tulattavik health centres, and the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* (health and social services) to improve their tele-health services through-

out the region. Phase 1 will introduce improved connectivity in Kuujjuaq and Puvirnituaq, and a planned phase 2 will extend the service to all local CLSCs.

This telecommunications supply agreement underlines, again, how the internet and the KRG's Tamaani Nunavik Wireless Internet have become vital tools in the region's homes, businesses, schools, organizations, and now health institutions.

# Civil Security Consultations in the Communities

Community consultations regarding the *Nunavik Fire Safety Cover Plan (FSCP)* got under way at the end of August. Kuujjuarapik, Umiujaq, Inukjuak, Akulivik, Kangiqsualujjuaq and Tasiujaq were all visited prior to the KRG Council sitting in September.

So far, consultations have involved information sessions for the general public and meetings with each municipal council. Generally, the communities have indicated that they are anxious to see the FSCP finally implemented. Feedback has also stressed the need for more fire prevention awareness activities.

Community consultations in the remaining eight communities will take place in October. All municipal councils are expected to have completed their examination of the FSCP by the end of November.

As regards the Québec government, the KRG is hopeful that ongoing negotiations will secure the funding necessary to coordinate and implement the FSCP. A second funding agreement concerning fire fighter training also remains to be hammered out. Finally, it may be



*Improved fire prevention and training for local volunteer fire fighters are two important objectives of the Nunavik Fire Safety Cover Plan.*

recalled that earlier this year, the Québec government approved the funding needed for civil security infrastructure development.

KRG ratification and then implementation of the FSCP now hinge on the formal support of the Northern villages, approval by the Minister of Public Security, and the conclusion of agreements with the Québec government covering all the necessary funding.

## Current Local Infrastructure Development

As announced at the end of June, the KRG is currently implementing a number of major infrastructure development projects. Important ongoing projects include:

- arena renovations in Akulivik, Ivujivik and Umiujaq;
- gymnasium renovations in Kuujjuarapik;
- pool construction in Kangiqsualujjuaq;

- water plant upgrading work in Quaqtac;
- visitor pavilion construction for *parc national Kuururjuaq*.

All these projects are being carried out in close cooperation with the concerned Northern villages so that jobs are generated for local workers and other local spinoffs can be maximized.