

## Youth Issues Top the KRG Council Agenda

Throughout the KRG Council's last sitting, from May 31 to June 2, many discussions touched on youth issues.

For its part, the KRG Recreation Department reported on the Cirqiniq Program. Two-week-long activities were delivered in eight communities between January and April. In its third-year of operation, the Cirqiniq Program uses circus arts to reach out to youth and encourage them to make positive lifestyle choices.



*One highlight of the spring activities of the Cirqiniq Program was the youth performance at the Puvirnituk Snow Festival.*

The KRG Recreation Department also reported that a second annual summer camp under the Cirqiniq Program is being organized in Kuujuaq from July 3 to 10. The camp will bring together from around the region 60 youth between the ages of 13 and 17.

Regarding 2012 Arctic Winter Games preparations, coastal trials were carried out for various sports in Kuujuaq and Kangiqsualujuaq in March and in Inukjuak in April. Ninety-four athletes from 10 communities participated. A regional Arctic Winter Games trial is being planned for October.

A presentation delivered on the poor condition of youth centres elicited concerned reactions on the part of KRG councillors. The councillors want the KRG to sit down with the Nunavik Youth Houses Association, the Saputiit Youth Association and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services as soon as possible to decide on a concrete plan of action to upgrade youth centres and identify the expected roles of each organization in this process.

## Employment Training Programs for Nunavimmiut

Refresher information was given to KRG councillors on the 13 employment and training programs delivered by the Employment, Training, Income Support and Childcare Department. These programs are intended to stimulate labour training and full-time job creation, develop employability skills, and deliver activities that encourage youth to finish school. Participants are eligible for wage, living and travel allowances. For more information on employment training opportunities, Nunavimmiut are encouraged to contact their KRG local employment officer or visit [www.krg.ca](http://www.krg.ca).



*Truck-driver training at Kangirsuk.*

# Annual Review of Social Housing Issues

On June 2, the KRG Council carried out its annual review of the social housing situation in Nunavik. Representatives of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB) and the Makivik Corporation's Construction Division were present to provide up-to-date information.



*Construction of 84 two-bedroom and 8 four-bedroom units is proceeding in Akulivik, Aupaluk, Inukjuak, Kuujjuaq and Tasiujaq this summer. Over 107 units will also be renovated in nine communities.*

## Rent Arrears

The KMHB described the different tools in place that make it easier for tenants to pay their rent, including payroll deductions, weekly or bi-weekly payment plans, as well as upcoming online and telephone banking services.

In 2010, a discouraging increase in unpaid rent was nonetheless recorded. When rent is not paid, the KMHB is forced to cut the level of tenant services. Some KRG councillors linked the increase in unpaid rent to increased prices for essential food and household items in the region's stores.

## Social Housing Evictions

In 2010, five social housing tenants were evicted from social housing for long-standing rent arrears. In 2011, the KMHB reported that 16 more evictions are expected to be carried out in seven or eight communities.

## Additional Housing Construction

Under the Plan Nord, Québec announced funding for the construction of an additional 75 dwellings annually in Nunavik communities between 2012 and 2015. These dwellings are in addition to the 60 to 70 dwellings already planned for annual construction in 2012, 2013 and 2014

under the Canada–Québec–Nunavik housing agreement signed in 2010. Housing construction for the next three years is now forecast at 141 units in 2012, 146 units in 2013, and 135 units in 2014.

Following concerns raised by KRG councillors on June 2, the *Société d'habitation du Québec* (housing corporation) informed the KRG, the KMHB and the Makivik Corporation that all the administrative arrangements are in place to permit the immediate purchase of building materials for the recently announced additional dwellings and ensure their shipment on this summer's sealift, so that construction can go ahead as planned in 2012.

## 2012 Housing Construction Allocations

After discussion, councillors approved the construction in 2012 of 140 two-bedroom units as follows:

- Kuujjuaq, 38 units
- Kuujjuarapik, 16 units
- Kangiqsualujjuaq, 16 units
- Puvirnituq, 42 units
- Quaqaq, 14 units
- Umiujaq, 14 units

KRG councillors also raised a number of dwelling design and construction issues. They in particular reminded the KMHB and the Makivik Construction Division to continue consulting with the municipalities about specific local considerations as new dwellings are built. Finally, KRG councillors asked the KMHB to fine tune its statistics on demand for social housing. Complete statistics are essential to make informed decisions about housing allocations.

## Plan Nord Announcement

On May 9, Québec released the Plan Nord. Along with other major regional organizations, the KRG played an active role in the process leading up to the announcement. The regional goal was to make sure that Nunavik's real community and economic needs were made known. The Plan Nord represents a new tool to improve essential municipal, education and health services for Nunavimmiut.

# Other Highlights of the June KRG-Council Sitting



- expenditures were \$50,616,680 for municipal activities and \$25,840,610 for special projects.

It was also noted that the four largest sources of revenue for the Northern villages were municipal taxes (30.9%), special projects (25.2%), Québec municipal affairs (16.1%) and Québec Aboriginal affairs (13.4%). The four largest areas of municipal activities were identified as special projects (33.2%), council and administration (13.3%), road maintenance (8.5%) and drinking water delivery (8.4%).

## Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund

The Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund (NMEF) reported that Nunavik's mineral potential is generating a good deal of interest in the mining industry. Forty-three exploration companies are active in the region. Currently, the Raglan Mine is the only project in operation, and production is planned to begin at the Nunavik Nickel project in 2012. A number of other projects are also progressing steadily from exploration to operational stages.

The NMEF coordinates with the communities on mineral exploration projects and delivers prospector training and job opportunities for Nunavimmiut.

## Broadband Internet Access

The KRG signed two major funding agreements in March with the governments of Canada and Québec concerning broadband Internet access. The new funding will permit Tamaani Internet to implement higher-speed services before the end of 2011.

## Report on 2010 Municipal Finances

The KRG Legal and Municipal Management Department reported on the state of the finances of the Northern villages as of December 31, 2010. Overall, it was noted that:

- accumulated surpluses stood at \$5,451,836, compared with \$2,169,600 in 2009;

## OHV Safety

A prevention committee is developing an information campaign on the proper use of off-highway vehicles (OHV). The goal is to improve awareness of the dangers associated with OHVs.

In Nunavik, 43.8% of OHV accidents involve youth aged 15 to 24. Certain behaviours increase the risk of accidents: impaired driving, speeding, as well as limited or no knowledge of safety rules. KRG councillors noted that residents need to play an active role in the OHV information campaign for the sake of building healthier communities.



*Work on OHV safety began with community consultations in the spring of last year. Photo: Consultations in Puvirnituq, March 2010.*

# Summer 2011 Public Works Projects

The implementation of a third phase of the Isurruutiit Program is scheduled to move ahead this summer. A few of the 2011 municipal infrastructure improvement projects will be:

- improvements to drinking water plants in five villages (including major work at Akulivik) to ensure good water quality;
- continuation of wastewater-lagoon construction in Salluit and Puvirnituk;
- construction of roadways in five villages for residential development, as well as the bituminous surface treatment of roads in Puvirnituk;
- construction of municipal offices in Tasiujaq, Aupaluk and Puvirnituk, as well as municipal garages in Quaqaq, Puvirnituk and Kangiqsujaq;

- improvements to solid waste disposal sites in four villages;
- purchase of heavy equipment as well as drinking water delivery and wastewater collection vehicles for various villages.



*Water treatment plants in every community are being upgraded under the Isurruutiit Program to meet Québec standards.*

## Council Sitting in Kangirsuk



Every year the KRG holds its regular spring sitting in a community other than Kuujuaq. The 2011 spring sitting was held in Kangirsuk. Councillors were warmly welcomed by the community and a community feast was organized in their honour on June 2. Also of note, Tommy Arnatuk was newly appointed to represent the KRG on the board of directors of the KMHB, along with Michael Cameron and Peter Angnatuk.

## Fire Safety Cover Plan

In cooperation with the Northern villages, a few projects under the *Nunavik Fire Safety Cover Plan* will be implemented this summer. These projects include the construction of fire halls in Puvirnituk, Inukjuak and Kangiqsujaq, as well as the purchase of fire trucks in Kuujjuarapik, Inukjuak, Puvirnituk, Kangiqsualujuaq and Salluit.

## Nunavik Policing Update

At the last KRG Council sitting, the Kativik Regional Police Force presented information on police seizures and crime statistics in Nunavik between January and March 2011. On the one hand, several police operations netted \$75,130 in bootleg alcohol and 14,922 grams of marijuana, representing a total street value of \$914,460. In comparison, the value of police seizures during the first quarter of 2010 was \$367,415.

As well, crimes reported to the KRPF between January and March 2011 were a little less than 10% lower compared with the first quarter of 2010. For their part, assaults and sexual assaults, respectively, were reported to be 15% and 23% lower.