

## Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement

Covering the marine region around Nunavik, the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (NILCA) has been in effect since 2008.

Importantly, the NILCA establishes three management regimes for wildlife protection, land use planning and the impact review of development projects in the Nunavik marine region. While different from the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee and the land management regimes under the JBNQA for the territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel, the NILCA regimes also provide unique environmental protection measures for the region's residents. The regional and local Anguvigaks (hunting, fishing and trapping associations) are important voices for Inuit concerns under the NILCA.

The NILCA presentation made by Sam Silverstone of the Makivik Corporation to KRG Councillors in Puvirnituq also drew attention to certain improvements under the NILCA compared with the JBNQA, such as land ownership that includes

subsurface rights and a clear mechanism for dealing with the impacts of future development on wildlife and their habitats. Henry Alayco, Mishal Naseer and Johnny Oovaut were also present to discuss in more detail the current activities of the wildlife board, planning commission and impact review board for the Nunavik marine region.

## Anti-Poverty Strategy

The KRG and *Université Laval* with funding it receives from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council are working to fight poverty. The goals of this work include increased levels of education and, more urgently, improved economic conditions for low-income households, including lower prices for food.

At the May–June KRG Council sitting, Gérard Duhaime presented up-to-date statistics on poverty in Nunavik. Duhaime explained that poverty is much higher in the region, affecting roughly 37% of households. Elsewhere in Québec and Canada, poverty levels are between 10 and 15%. The data presented takes into account Nunavik's high cost of living and the revised Northern Food Basket defined by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

The research team has also calculated poverty rates for other Inuit regions in Canada. Though the Nunavik rate is slightly lower than the average, the differences between Inuit regions are much less pronounced than the difference between the North and the South.

## Cirqiniq Summer Camp



Seventy-one Nunavik youth participated at the third annual Cirqiniq Summer Camp organized in Kuujjuaq from June 29 to July 5. Coordinated by the KRG Recreation Department, the Cirqiniq Program is implemented in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil.

## Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship



For several days in April, the Northern Village of Kangiqsuaq and the KRG Recreation Department hosted the Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship. Twenty-one competitors travelled to the event from seven Nunavik communities and one Nunavut community.

# More Highlights of the May–June Council Sitting

## Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

*If we don't take care of ourselves, we're jeopardizing our long-term health as a people.* This was the message delivered by Annie P. Tulugak of the Nunalituqait Ikajuqatigiitut Inuit Association to KRG Councillors. With graphic illustrations, Tulugak's presentation detailed the threats posed by alcohol consumption on developing fetuses and the permanent conditions of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Pregnant women have to make their own decisions about drinking, but husbands, families and communities all have a support role to play by creating environments that promote healthy behaviour. A vibrant Inuit society depends on this.



Annie P. Tulugak, Nunalituqait Ikajuqatigiitut.

## Transition Allowance

Further to changes made by the Québec government to the *Act respecting the Remuneration of Elected Municipal Officers*, the KRG Council approved updated criteria for the calculation of transition allowances. Three months of remuneration multiplied by the number of years of service (up to a maximum of 12 months) will now be paid. A transition allowance for councillors was originally adopted in 2009 pursuant to the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government*, which provides that regional councillors may receive an allowance after having held office during not less than 24 months preceding the end of their term. Remunerations for regional councillors are determined and indexed annually by governmental decree.

## Information on Offender Services

Various stakeholders presented information on the process faced by adult offenders under the *Criminal Code*. Different types of court sentences and probation requirements were described, with special emphasis on regional support services. These services include Inuit community reintegration officers, the Makitautik Community Residential Centre, community justice committees and local men's associations.

## Ongoing Airport Improvements



Major terminal renovations were completed in Ivujivik in 2011. This summer, improvement work will take place in Salluit (access road reconstruction), in Quaqtaq (runway resurfacing and lighting system replacement), in Inukjuak (parameter fence repairs) and in Kangirsuk (terminal and garage renovations).

## Airport Wildlife Management Program

Every year, Air Inuit and First Air aircraft report incidents involving bird strikes, often while landing. As the operator of community airports, the KRG has adopted an airport wildlife management program with a view to reducing risks to aircraft crews and passengers. Airport employees will receive training on the new management program.

## Report on Northern Village Finances

KRG Regional Financial and Administrative Advisor, Sarah Beaulne, presented up-to-date information on the financial situation of the Northern villages. Overall, increasing accumulated surpluses are proof of improved, more careful spending practices in 2011. Nonetheless, the Northern villages were also warned that a growing level of accounts payable must be kept under control. It was underlined that 21.7% of municipal revenue was generated last year through special projects, representing an interesting additional source of funding for the Northern villages.

## Appointments by the KRG Council



At their last sitting, KRG Councillors appointed Isabelle Parizeau to the position of Director General. Tommy Arnatuk was also appointed to the board of directors of the Makitautik Community Residential Centre.

## Food Coupon Program

The Food Coupon Program is a KRG initiative that has been helping individuals who receive last-resort government assistance, unemployed elders, as well as persons with diabetes since 2004. It is implemented in cooperation with the Northern villages. After Québec indicated that the Regional Development Fund could no longer be used to pay for the Program, the KRG earmarked funding from its own resources (\$1,141,400) to continue the Program until December 31, 2012. The Makivik Corporation also contributed \$191,400.

## Videoconferencing

Tamaani Internet now offers videoconferencing in all Nunavik communities. Equipment is set up at municipal offices, except in Kangiqsujaq and Tasiujaq where it is located on the premises of the landholding corporations. For more information, visit [www.tamaani.com](http://www.tamaani.com) or call 1-888-TAMAANI. Tamaani also rolled out faster residential services earlier this year.

## Parc national Tursujuq

Late in May, the *ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune* (natural resources and wildlife, MRNF) accepted regional calls voiced since 2008 to include the Nastapoka River drainage basin in the soon to be created *parc national Tursujuq*. Further to meetings organized in March in Umiujaq, Kuujjuarapik and Whapmagoostui, local park working groups, municipal councils and landholding corporations unanimously backed the MRNF's new position regarding the boundaries for the park. A further recommendation is currently awaited from the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission.

## Nunavik Childcare Week



*Kuujjuaq parade participants. Childcare centres across the region organized various activities during the week of June 4 to 8 to celebrate Nunavik Childcare Week, recognizing childcare staff for their dedicated and important work.*

## Chief of Police Appointment



*Aileen MacKinnon was sworn in as Chief of the Kativik Regional Police Force on May 17 by the Minister of Public Security, Robert Dutil, in Quebec City. At the end of May, the KRG Council also appointed MacKinnon Director of the KRG Public Security Department.*

## Nunavik Prevention Conference

Plans are underway to hold a regional prevention conference in October covering topics such as health, youth protection, education and awareness, access to justice and policing. Delegates will be drawn from every community.

## Plan Nord

On May 4, at the Plan Nord Partners' Table meeting, Jobie Tukkiapik, Maggie Emudluk and Andy Moorhouse repeated to Premier Jean Charest and the Québec government that, since its release, the Plan Nord has focused more on mining companies, and much less on northerners. Tukkiapik signalled to the Partners' Table that the Plan Nord must make sure that the Inuit way of life is not threatened by future development. At the May–June KRG Council sitting, Davidee Angutinguak and Mary Nassak pointed out that the residents of their communities need answers to questions about proposed development projects in the region and, especially, near their communities.

## Parnasimautik

Prepared by the Makivik Corporation, the KRG and other regional organizations, Parnasimautik (or Plan Nunavik) will play a central role in discussions among Nunavimmiut this fall on the orientation of future regional and community development. Parnasimautik may be downloaded from [www.krg.ca](http://www.krg.ca).

# KMHB Housing Update – June

On June 1 in Puvirnituk, the KRG Council heard from the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB) on a range of social housing issues. KMHB representatives indicated, for example, that the percentage of rent arrears generated in Nunavik in 2011 was lower compared with 2010. A variety of rent payment methods (payroll deductions, debit-card transactions, etc.) are available and different awareness initiatives are actively promoted by the KMHB.



*This summer, the Makivik Corporation is again building social housing for the KMHB: 38 two-bedroom units in Kuujjuaq, 16 two-bedroom units in Kuujjuarapik, 16 two-bedroom units in Kangiqsualujjuaq, 42 two-bedroom units in Puvirnituk, 14 two-bedroom units in Quaqtaq, and 14 two-bedroom units in Umiujaq. An intergenerational dwelling will also be constructed in Umiujaq and another in Quaqtaq.*

In 2011, some evictions were also carried out of social housing tenants with long-standing arrears. Notwithstanding, cumulative rent arrears for the region, since 2000, continue to climb.

For their part, Councillors questioned KMHB representatives about how rent is calculated for elders and low-income families, as well as about ongoing dwelling renovations. They also expressed dissatisfaction regarding the statistics available to make housing-construction allocations. In June 2011, KRG Councillors had pointed out, for example, that KMHB statistics do not take into account people living outside their communities and wanting to return home; this year, the KMHB was unable to complete an update of its housing statistics. KRG Councillors have asked to have an effective decision-making tool in place by next year.

KMHB-recommended housing-construction allocations for 2013 ratified by the KRG Council were:

- Akulivik, 16 two-bedroom and 4 four-bedroom units;
- Aupaluk, 6 two-bedroom and 2 four-bedroom units;
- Inukjuak, 30 two-bedroom and 10 four-bedroom units;
- Puvirnituk, 14 two-bedroom and 6 four-bedroom units;
- Salluit, 18 two-bedroom and 10 four-bedroom units;
- Tasiujaq, 8 two-bedroom units.

## Tuberculosis Report

As of July, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRHBSS) was still effectively dealing with a recrudescence of contagious tuberculosis. In the first six months of the year, 76 cases had been reported: 67 in Kangiqsualujjuaq, 8 in Salluit and 1 in Kangiqsujuaq. Only a total of twelve and twenty-seven cases were reported in the region in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Symptoms most indicative of the disease are a significant cough that persists for more than three weeks, often accompanied by sputum, fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, night sweats and weight loss. Nunavimmiut experiencing these symptoms are strongly advised to visit their local CLSC.

Nunavik public health officials have announced that a screening campaign for the general public will be organized in Kangiqsualujjuaq. Officials also plan to re-introduce BCG vaccinations for children in Kangiqsualujjuaq as soon as possible, and are putting together a tuberculosis prevention program for the entire region.



*Isabelle Rocher, nurse, standing next to a portable radiology device in use in Kangiqsualujjuaq to speed up diagnosis of tuberculosis.*