

Report on Developments at Nunavik Airports

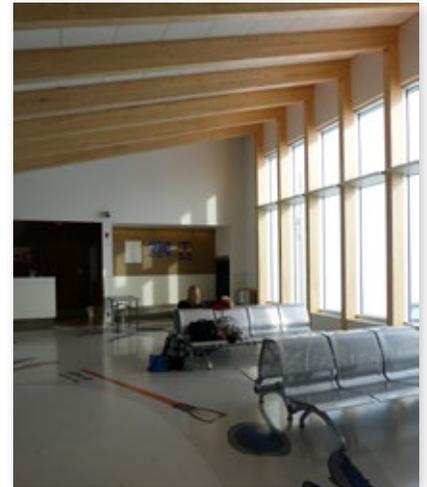
Safety Management Systems

Since safety management systems were made mandatory by Transport Canada, efforts have steadily been devoted to developing comprehensive programs for each regional airport. The systems will provide an extra layer of protection, helping KRG airport staff and users identify safety risks before they become bigger issues.



Renovations at the airport terminal in Kangirsuk were completed in February.

Airport staff are being trained not only to complete reports on incidents but to submit pro-active reports to draw attention to potential hazards and suggest safety improvements. This year, Transport Canada is set to verify the implementation of airport safety management systems at all of the region's aerodromes.



Community Airport Improvements

While airline services have expanded considerably over the last two decades to meet the region's growing needs, airport infrastructure has remained little changed. Under pressure from regional stakeholders, airport reconditioning has become a priority.

Recent airport improvement work includes terminal construction and renovations in Puvirnituk, Ivujivik and Kangirsuk, as well as runway resurfacing and lighting replacement work in Quaqtaq, Salluit and Kuujuarapik, and airport access road upgrades in Salluit. Among work planned for the coming year are air terminal renovations in Quaqtaq, runway resurfacing and lighting upgrades in Ivujivik and perimeter fencing repairs in Aupaluk.

Cost of Living Measures

Because Québec-government funding no longer covers the costs being generated by the six cost-of-living reduction measures delivered in Nunavik, the Makivik Corporation and the KRG were recently forced to make changes to some of the measures. As of April 1, reimbursements were reduced under the Airfare Reduction Program from 50 to 30% per ticket, up to a reduced annual maximum of \$1050 for compassionate and regular travel combined. As well, the Transportation Subsidy Program for vehicles and equipment was cancelled.

The measures known as the Food Program, the Gasoline Subsidy Program, the Transportation Subsidy Program for household furniture and appliances, and Support for Inuit Harvesting Activities remain fully in effect. As well, payments under the

Elders Assistance measure will be increased from \$500 to \$750 annually with eligibility restricted to JBNQA beneficiaries. For more information on the measures, visit www.krg.ca/en/cost-of-living-program.

Makivik and the KRG transmitted a letter to Premier Pauline Marois in January concerning the urgent need to address the high cost of living in Nunavik. The regional organizations asked that a facilitator be appointed to propose a strategy.

Major regional organizations are now reimbursing to the Gasoline Subsidy Program the 21¢ per litre subsidy they receive when gassing up, contributing to the maintenance of the subsidy for individual Nunavimmiut at least until August 31, 2013.

More Highlights of the February KRG Council Sitting

Northern Village Finances

In a report presented by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton on municipal funding, it is noted that, while the northern villages have sufficient moneys to cover the delivery of essential services, the improved management of special projects could further contribute to revenues. The report also suggests that it may be appropriate to adapt the municipal taxation system and funding formula to the changing needs of the northern villages. Recommendations to this end are to be prepared. Finally, the report indicated that some northern villages may be in a position to introduce certain staff benefits to help with employee retention. The Association of Secretary-Treasurers of Nunavik will be involved with the follow-up to this report.

KRG Budget

During her presentation to the KRG Council, the Treasurer reiterated that global economic uncertainty in recent years has led the federal and provincial governments to cut back on spending in many areas. Because 90% of its revenues are drawn from government, the KRG has been directly affected by this situation. In the fall of 2011, a long-term financial planning approach was adopted and an action plan was prepared to ensure financial stability for the organization until 2014.

High-Capacity Internet Network Study

The KRG is funding a pre-feasibility study to examine the cost and technological implications of creating a high-capacity Internet network for Nunavik. The study is necessary for two reasons. First, the government program that supports current broadband satellite infrastructure and services is scheduled to end in 2016, and no program renewal has yet been announced. In addition, based on continued population growth, increased computer use and enhanced technologies, the Internet needs of Nunavimmiut are projected to continue to grow exponentially.

Several avenues are to be explored through the prefeasibility study, including undersea and over-land fibre optics, microwave technology and high-speed satellite. The study will evaluate these technologies as well as installation and operating costs, and propose an implementation time frame for each. Since Internet infrastructure can take several years to implement, it is important to pinpoint an effective solution now.



A large portion of municipal expenditures are incurred for the delivery of essential community services.



Established by the KRG in 2004, Tamaani Internet is having a huge impact on the lives of Nunavimmiut: Still remote but no longer isolated.

Parnasimautik

Parnasimautik community workshops were held in Kangiqsualujjuaq in February, in Akulivik in March and in Ivujivik at the start of April. Organized by the northern villages in cooperation with regional organizations, the workshops are giving local participants an opportunity to examine many sectors ranging from culture and identity to industrial development. Objectives include defining a comprehensive vision for the development of Nunavik. Workshops are planned in every Nunavik community in 2013. For more information, visit www.krg.ca/en/parnasimautik or www.parnasimautik.com.

Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region

The Renewable Resources, Environment, Lands and Parks Department is currently working to create by-laws to implement the *Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region*. The Master Plan was adopted in 1998 following extensive consultations throughout Nunavik. It identifies three main types of land use: essential and important subsistence activities, multiple uses, and urban. For its part, the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government* empowers the KRG to regulate trades, businesses and industries of all kinds in its territory. The KRG is set to begin work to draft by-laws that will identify the types of development activities suitable for various zones, set standards, and establish mechanisms for evaluating whether or not proposed activities are compatible with acceptable uses.



An all-community meeting was organized in Kuujjuaq in early February to discuss protected areas in the region.

Integrated Development of Lands and Resources

The preparation of a regional plan for the integrated development of lands and resources is another process being carried out to complement the *Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region*. This mandate was received by the KRG from the Ministère des Ressources naturelles (natural resources) in 2012. The objective of the plan is to define Nunavik's vision, strategy and orientations specifically for natural resource development. Consultations have started with stakeholders and will continue through the coming year in parallel with Parnasimautik community workshops.

Protected Areas Consultations

An all-community meeting organized in Kuujjuaq in early February examined the results of region-wide consultations carried out in 2011 and 2012 on protected areas. Meeting participants indicated clear support for expanding the protected area network in Nunavik to include important wildlife harvesting and cultural areas, while recognizing that a balance must be found with industrial development. As well, feedback on biodiversity reserves proposed by Québec in 2008 and 2009 was finalized, along with community priorities for new biodiversity reserves and parks. In the coming few months, executive members of the KRG and the Makivik Corporation will review all the work carried out to date, before a final report is presented to Québec. The outcome of these consultations is an important element of the Parnasimautik community workshops.

2013–2014 Training Priorities

The Kativik Regional Employment and Training Committee (KRETC) tabled information to the KRG Council on job creation and training initiatives proposed for the coming year by regional organizations and employers. Overall, the KRETC has recommended \$5 418 892 in support for the initiatives. Project proponents include several northern villages, the Nunavik Youth Houses Association, the Nunavik Landholding Corporations Association, the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec, the Makivik Corporation, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the Saturviit Inuit Women's Association and the Avataq Cultural Institute.



On-the-job training is helping sanajit find work in Nunavik's construction industry.

Together On the Right Path – OHV Safety

Awareness

Since the end of January, off-highway vehicle (OHV) safety prevention activities have been organized in Kangiqsujuaq, Quaqtaq, Tasiujaq, Kangirsuk and Puvirnituq. Using various interactive educational tools, the activities delivered by the KRG in cooperation with local volunteers aim to raise awareness among students and teach that it's cool to be safe and smart when operating a four-wheeler or snowmobile. Among the tools being employed are a pedal go-kart workshop, screen printing on t-shirts, as well as classroom presentations about injuries, impaired driving and safety equipment. Secondary and, if time permits, elementary students are being targeted through these prevention activities. Visits to other communities are planned through the rest of the year.

This prevention and awareness campaign is an initiative of the KRG, the Kativik Regional Police Force, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, and the Kativik School Board. It targets reckless behaviours (such as impaired driving, speeding, excessive numbers of passengers and underage drivers) and promotes the use of safety equipment.



Aboriginal Head Start

During the week of February 24, more than 60 participants took part in training delivered in Kuujuaq by the KRG Childcare Section. The training was funded by the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Program. Participants came from all 14 communities as well as Montreal, Val d'Or, La Tuque, Chicoutimi, St-Fulgence and Missinak. Workshops focused on the topic of learning stories (a new approach to early childhood education being adopted in Nunavik childcare centres), language and culture, nutrition and the importance of outdoor play (aningngualaurtaa).



A pedal go-kart workshop organized for students includes mini-road signs and goggles that visually simulate the effects of alcohol on driving abilities.

KRG Appointments

At their last sitting, KRG councillors made the following representative appointments: Tommy Arnatuk and Joanasie Owpaluk to the Makitautik Community Residential Centre, Betsy Palliser to the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee, Sarah Beaulne to the joint coordinating committee for the *Agreement concerning Block Funding for the Northern Villages of the Kativik Region*, and Mary Nassak to the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau joining Michael Cameron and Jennifer Watkins.

As well, verbal reports were delivered to councillors by the KRG representative appointees to the Kativik School Board, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau. The reports gave councillors an opportunity to ask questions about the activities of these organizations.

Next KRG Council Sitting

Every year, the KRG Council holds its regular May sitting in a community other than Kuujuaq. This year's spring sitting will be held in Kangiqsujuaq.