

Marois Makes First Visit to Nunavik as Premier



(From left to right) Makivik President Jobie Tukkiapik, Québec Premier Pauline Marois, KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk and Québec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks Yves-François Blanchet.

On September 12 and 13, Québec Premier Pauline Marois travelled to Kuujuaq and Kangiqsualujuaq to meet regional leaders and announce several new measures. The Premier was accompanied by her Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks, her Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, the Canadian Francophonie and Sovereignist Governance, and the MNA for Ungava.

The visit permitted Premier Marois to gain a better understanding of Nunavimmiut. Regional issues related to housing, the cost of living, employment, municipal infrastructure and social empowerment were in particular discussed with Marois by the leaders of the KRG and the Makivik Corporation. The Premier also dined with KRG Councillors and representatives of regional organizations, as well as visiting Kangiqsualujuaq for the official opening of Parc national Kuururjuaq.

In her welcoming remarks, KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk stressed to the Premier that “Our communities are faced with difficult challenges that cannot be resolved overnight. Some are being dealt with by residents, but most will require more resources from Québec.”

Saqijjuq Nunavik–Québec Coordination Table

Steered by Minnie Grey, the chair of the Regional Partnership Committee, and Québec Minister Véronique Hivon, this new table will oversee the Saqijjuq Project. Saqijjuq aims to reconstruct social regulation in Nunavik through support programs combined with rapid access to adapted justice and health services delivered by all government and community organizations.

Nunavik Cooperative Development Fund

Québec, the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec, the Makivik Corporation and the KRG confirmed the creation of a \$15 million fund for projects to expand Nunavik’s cooperative sector. The Fund will generate more than \$60 million in investments over ten years and contribute to existing and new jobs in the region.

Sustainable Telecommunications Solutions

Premier Marois mandated her government to undertake a review of the broadband Internet solutions presented by the KRG in September and launch discussions with the federal government.

Other Funding

Funding was announced by Québec for community marine infrastructure maintenance and tourism development.

Parc national Kuururjuaq



In the presence of provincial and regional leaders as well as Kangiqsualujuaqmiut, Willie Etok and Sarah Pasba Annanack marked the official opening of Kuururjuaq by lighting a ceremonial qulliq. With funding paid by Québec to the KRG, the park is generating seven permanent positions in Kangiqsualujuaq.

Five-Year Review of the KRPF Cadet Program

In 2009, the Kativik Regional Police Force launched its Cadet Program to involve youth in community activities and encourage them to consider careers in regional policing. Fifty cadets from ten communities are currently enrolled in the Program and a number have indicated interest in continuing their education in the field of policing after graduating from high school in 2014.

The presentation delivered to KRG Councillors explained that the Cadet Program places emphasis on discipline, respect and integrity through community service, classroom lessons, outdoor training and traditional activities. In the past, cadets have been called on to assist at regional events, such as the Ivakkak dog-sled race, deliver public safety information in their communities with KRPF officers on proper firearm storage and summer boating practices, and have prepared baked goods for distribution to elders. The Program aims to motivate cadets to stay in school and provides information about post-secondary education in police technology at the École nationale de police du Québec (police academy) and John Abbott College.

The Cadet Program is largely funded through the Ungaluk Program for safer communities. Some additional funding is also received from the KRG Sustainable Employment Department.



The Cadet Program promotes outdoor activities that build self-esteem and pride in Inuit culture.

Managing Community Landfills in Nunavik

The KRG Municipal Public Works Department provided important information on how the northern villages can improve landfills, and promote sustainable waste management. It was recommended that landfills be organized into different sections for domestic waste and bulky waste (i.e. construction materials, vehicles, scrap metal and household appliances). Proper management increases the service life of landfills, is better for the environment, and reduces unseemly litter that attracts wildlife.



The Northern Village of Salluit has improved local landfill management with a designated site operator.

The presentation also pointed out that ideally domestic waste should be compacted and covered with soil, not burned as is the

current practice. Compacting and covering prevent the leaching of contamination and pose a lower risk to public health. Vehicles and household appliances should have all hazardous materials removed (i.e. coolants, batteries, fluids and tires) since these materials pose a serious risk of contamination and fire.

The northern villages are being encouraged to designate a municipal site operator and control access to their landfills (including perimeter fencing, drainage ditches, regular operating hours and signage to help users). It was also suggested that municipal fees levied for bulky construction waste from contractors and businesses be used to fund landfill operations.

Despite improved management, landfills opened in the 1980s in some northern villages are filling up. The KRG Municipal Public Works Department will be working with these communities in the coming years to build new or expand existing sites.

KRG Council Sitting

Eli Aullaluk of Akulivik was appointed Deputy-Speaker of the Council. A verbal report was delivered by the appointee to the Kativik Local Development Centre. The next KRG Council will take place from November 25 to 28. Be sure to follow the discussions on TNI regional radio.

Building Strong and Healthy Communities

In June 2010, the KRG Council made a commitment to follow up on major recreation and sport infrastructure improvements in the communities with enhanced support for local organizers, coaches and municipal recreation staff. An update provided by the KRG Recreation Department in September 2013 underscored that, four years later, solid and regular technical assistance is now being delivered for activities in every community.

Recreation and sports contribute to building empowered and active communities. They promote fitness, foster healthy and traditional lifestyles, and build a sense of togetherness. Today's Inuit youth reflect the world around them and recreation activities can help them reflect a world that includes both an exciting future and a rich heritage.

Team Nunavik–Québec Update – The Kangiqsujuaq Brazilian drummers have been selected as the Team's cultural contingent for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. The final selection of athletes will be made during the regional trials planned for the end of November.

Kite-Ski Program Update – Kite-skiing has expanded to seven communities. An article about the program was recently published in *Above & Beyond*.



Cirqiniq Program Update – During the annual Cirqiniq summer camp, participants and Iqaluit graffiti artist Jonathan Cruze painted the Uvikkait Dome in Kuujjuaq.

Broadband Internet Developments

A prefeasibility study commissioned by the KRG early in 2013 on high-capacity Internet solutions has concluded that an enhanced network in Nunavik is not only feasible with up to 30 times more capacity, but could allow greater annual operating cost efficiencies and solve Nunavik's telecommunications challenge for at least 15 years. The study also shows that, while a fibre-optic network is superior to a next-generation satellite network for some applications, satellite will remain more economical for at least 15 more years. Capital costs for the different broadband Internet options studied were all significant.

A second study being sponsored by the KRG is looking at the economic and social value of broadband Internet in relation to essen-

tial public security, health and education services which depend on this technology. The results of the study are expected before the end of 2013.

Whereas Internet infrastructure and services in southern Canada are delivered entirely by the private sector, in remote regions high infrastructure construction and operating costs mean that government participation is mandatory. Government support for current Internet technology is scheduled to expire in 2016.

The KRG high-capacity Internet prefeasibility study is available at www.krg.ca under the News tab.



Photo: Nastapoka River

Parc national Tursujuq

In July, the creation of the third national park in Nunavik was announced by the Québec government. Covering 26,106 km², Tursujuq protects the rich biodiversity of the Richmond Gulf cuestas, the Clearwater Lake double-impact meteorite craters and almost the entire Nastapoka River drainage basin. Strong community support was key to the creation of this park. A newly created harmonization committee will ensure the continued involvement of nearby Inuit and Cree communities in the park's management.

The KRG Renewable Resources, Environment, Lands and Parks Department is responsible for operations at all national parks in Nunavik, including Tursujuq.

Bill 43 concerning the Québec Mining Act

On September 30, KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk travelled to Quebec City to address the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources regarding proposed amendments to the *Mining Act*.

Emudluk explained to Québec legislators that the *Mining Act* requires still more improvements. Protection must be ensured for important Inuit subsistence harvesting areas, archaeological and burial sites, and essential wildlife habitats. More specifically, the KRG would like to receive the power to designate areas that are incompatible with mining activities while, outside of these areas, industrial development must continue to be examined with a view to environmental conservation, community involvement, as well as local and regional economies.

Housing for Elders

The President of the Nunavik Elders' Committee, Bobby Snowball, presented the benefits of intergenerational housing at the 2nd International Conference on Age-Friendly Cities held in Quebec City from September 9 to 11. Snowball's remarks to the conference touched on the important role played by elders in connecting families to Inuit traditions and culture. However due to the region's housing crisis, elders often lack quality space close to their families to share their knowledge.

As intergenerational homes allow elders to remain independent and close to their families, the Nunavik Elders' Committee and the KRG Regional and Local Development Department are continuing to engage in dialogue with stakeholders for the construction of more intergenerational homes.



Between 2009 and 2013, five intergenerational homes were constructed in Nunavik, specifically in Kuujjuarapik, Salluit, Umiujaq, Quaqtaq and Inukjuak.

Currently, the roles of the KRG in the mining sector include:

- conducting inspections of mineral exploration activities;
- assisting the northern villages with technical analysis of proposed developments;
- promoting job training and business opportunities;
- ensuring consistent land use planning.

The complete brief submitted by the KRG on Bill 43 concerning the *Mining Act* may be consulted on the KRG website at www.krg.ca under the heading Publications. [Note: On October 30, the National Assembly rejected Bill 43.]

Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Kitchen Fires



From October 6 to 12, the KRG Civil Security Section spearheaded region-wide fire prevention activities. Posters and an informative colouring book for elementary students were distributed, and school visits were carried out.

Of 41 fires in Nunavik in 2012, 70% occurred in residential buildings. Because stove-ovens and other cooking equipment are potential sources of fire, never leave cooking unattended and keep cooking areas tidy. Safe behaviour in kitchens was the main message of the 2013 Fire Prevention Week.

Parnasimautik

By the end of the year, all Nunavik communities as well as Inuit living in Chisasibi and Montreal will have had a chance to participate in Parnasimautik workshops to define a vision for the future development of the region. Nunavimmiut are stating clearly that, together, we can make our communities even better places to live. Communities are being encouraged to organize their own local workshops on community issues to continue the Parnasimautik process.