



Information Release
For immediate release

Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship: Riding the Winds in Kangiqsujaq!

Kuujuaq, Québec, May 8, 2015 – Nunavik kite-skiers took over Kangiqsujaq from April 29 to May 3 as the Recreation Department of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), in collaboration with the Northern Village of Kangiqsujaq, hosted the fourth annual Nunavik Kite-Ski Championship. This year, Michael Petagumskum from Kuujuaq won the title of Nunavik Kite-Ski champion. He was followed by Tommy Tuniq from Kangirsujaq in second place and Quppa Pinguartuq from Salluit in third place.

A total of 20 kite-ski competitors from Kangiqsujaq, Kuujuaq, Kangirsuk, Quaqtaq, Kangiqsujaq, Ivujivik, Inukjuak, Kuujuaapik and Kawawachikamach participated in various events, such as the triangle race, the long-distance race, speed runs and freestyle demonstrations. In addition to competitions, the participants had the chance to attend workshops on tune-up, maintenance and gear repair, jumps and kite loops, and paraski instructions.

Nancianne Grey, Director of KRG Recreation Department which runs the Nunavik Kite-Ski Program, is very satisfied of the great week of competition and workshops. “We are really glad about this year’s event and we hope Kangiqsujaqmiut appreciated the activities during the Kite-Ski Championship. We had competitors from so many communities and all this wouldn’t have been possible without the generous support of the Northern Village of Kangiqsujaq and Air Inuit. We would like to especially thank Elijah Ningiuruvik and Aparta Saviadjuk who worked very hard to welcome the participants and make this annual event a success once again!” declared Ms. Grey.

KRG’s Nunavik Kite-Ski Program Advisor and coordinator of the Championship, David Lane, thinks the competition was intense with some serious challengers. The kite-skiers also had fun getting to know each other and the community, sharing kite-ski stories and tips together. “The competition level was very high and the competitors pushed themselves to their limits. But in the end, we hope everyone enjoyed the activities and was able to develop their kite-skiing skills as much as possible!” concluded Mr. Lane.

For more information on the Championship results and kite-skiing in Nunavik, visit the Nunavik Kite-Ski Facebook page.

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Contact:
Jean-Philippe Dubois
Communications Officer
Kativik Regional Government

media@krq.ca ; www.krq.ca

Introduced in November 2011 by the KRG as a pilot project, kite-skiing is one of the fastest growing sports in the region. In this individual sport, the wind is harnessed with large, colourful kites to propel riders across snow and ice. The sport is well suited to the north. Over the last few years, the Nunavik Kite-Ski Program has been delivered in Kuujjuaq, Puvirnituq, Kangirsuk, Quaataq, Kangiqsujuaq, Ivujivik, Kangiqsualujjuaq and Inukjuak. The KRG Recreation Department's role is to encourage consistent kite-ski training in the communities and deliver club management training to local instructors, as well as offer a variety of support.

The Kativik Regional Government is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development. The KRG Recreation Department is dedicated to the delivery of recreational activities for all Nunavimmiut, promoting healthy and active living, as well as encouraging participation in many different sports and recreation opportunities.