



*Press Release  
For immediate release*

### **Firearms Safety Awareness Week: Are Your Firearms Safe?**

**Kuujuuaq, Québec, April 27, 2015** – The Prevention Team of the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPf) and staff of the Uumajuit Program and Inuit Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Support Program of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) are working together this week to promote firearms safety across Nunavik.

Got firearms? Lock'em! Visit your local hunter support program or KRPf detachment this week to get your free gun lock. Are your firearms safe? Listen to the safety messages being broadcast throughout the week over local FM radio airwaves.

“This campaign encourages Nunavimmiut to make sure they’re taking all the safety precautions necessary for their firearms at home, inside municipal boundaries and out on the land. The safe handling, storage and transportation of firearms is a big part of our campaign,” stated Mae Ningiuruvik, KRPf Cadet Program and Prevention Advisor.

Firearms that are unloaded, locked and stored separate from ammunition, in a cabinet away from children and household traffic, make for safer homes. Always handle every firearm as if it were loaded: this will increase safety for you and others around you.

“People can develop a false sense of security. We’ve grown up around firearms and use them regularly for harvesting. But accidents do happen. Education is the key and it’s everyone’s responsibility to teach our youth how to be safe around firearms,” explained Betsy Berthe, Coordinator for the KRG Inuit Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Support Program.

Firearms come with legal responsibilities. This message is another component of this year’s Firearms Safety Awareness Week. Under Canadian firearms legislation, any person who possesses or purchases a firearm must have a possession and acquisition license (PAL) and must register all their firearms.

“Ultimately, firearm owners are responsible and liable for what happens with their guns. When you lend or buy a firearm for someone who doesn’t have a license, you are legally responsible for what happens to that firearm,” pointed out Steven Kleist, Uumajuit Program Coordinator and certified firearms instructor.

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*The Kativik Regional Government is a 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.*