

Inauguration of new airport infrastructures in Tasiujaq

Tasiujaq, July 5, 2016 – On behalf of Jacques Daoust, Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Transport Electrification, Luc Blanchette, Minister for Mines and Minister responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region and the Nord-du-Québec region today inaugurates new airport infrastructures in Tasiujaq, Nunavik. On that occasion, he is accompanied by Jean Boucher, Member for Ungava, and Jennifer Munick, Chairperson of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG). The ceremony marks the completion of a series of important work carried out at the airport over the past few years.

The upgrades required investments of almost \$8.1 million. Major work was carried out at the Tasiujaq airport to renovate and extend the airport terminal, build a power gate to control access to the runway and retrofit the hangar. The lighting and drainage systems were also upgraded.

"Air transport is vital for the Nord-du-Québec region; it is the only link that can provide the surrounding communities with essential services all year long. Investing and ensuring the durability of these infrastructures is crucial for all the Nunavik communities", said Minister Jacques Daoust.

"Québec's vast territory offers an abundance of wealth, but also brings its share of constraints. I am thrilled to see that the northern community of Tasiujaq benefits from a new, modern airport whose architecture is representative of the culture of its residents. Today's announcement shows once again our government's willingness to support Natives in their living environment", added Minister Luc Blanchette.

"The members of the Tasiujaq community, as well as all the residents of Nunavik, can rejoice in the improvements accomplished at the airport. These new installations will facilitate travel between the different northern communities and the south of the Québec province, all while offering a more accommodating and pleasant reunion space for travellers, their family and friends. This announcement is a great example of the attention our government is putting on Nunavik's particular needs", added the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, Geoffrey Kelley.

"Improving Tasiujaq's airport infrastructures will improve the quality of life of all Tasiujaq residents. These investments are also part of the implementation of the Plan Nord, in which the northern communities will have a role to play", indicated the member for Ungava.

"Given the Nunavik's remoteness and the considerable distances between communities, the development of our airport infrastructure is vital for the well-being and growth of our region. The new terminal in Tasiujaq is the fifth to be inaugurated since the Nunavik Airports Infrastructure Improvement Plan was launched. It's the result of a successful collaboration between the KRG and the Ministère, and particularly its staff. Airports are the doorway of Nunavik and I'm proud to see that Tasiujamiut have a beautiful place to welcome family, friends and visitors", concluded Jennifer Munick.

Note that the Ministère owns 13 airports operated by the KRG, including the one in Tasiujaq, which is located some 1900 km north of Montréal. The Ministère's objective is to upgrade its northern airports to ensure their durability for future generations.

Sources:

Melissa Turgeon
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility
and Transportation Electrification
Tel.: 418 643-6980

Gabrielle Fallu
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister for Mines and Minister responsible for the
Abitibi-Témiscamingue region and the Nord-du-Québec region
Tel.: 418 643-7295

Frédérique Brais-Chaput
Political advisor
M.N.A for Ungava office
Tel.: 418 748-6046

Jean-Philippe Dubois
Communications Coordinator
Kativik Regional Government
Tel.: 819 964-2961 ext. 2219

For information:

Media Relations
Ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de
l'Électrification des transports du Québec
Québec: 418 644-4444
Montréal: 514 873-5600
Toll-free: 1-866-341-5724