

CNW: CODE 44
 PLUS SERVICE TO WEEKLIES
 FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016, AT 2 P.M.

**\$100 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENT
 OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NORTHERN VILLAGES OF NUNAVIK**

Kuujuuaq, September 1, 2016. – While visiting the Nord-du-Québec region, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy, Minister of Public Security and Minister responsible for the Montréal region, Martin Coiteux, the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, Geoffrey Kelley, and the Member of the National Assembly for Ungava, Jean Boucher, took the opportunity to announce the agreement concerning the management of the Isurruutiit Program with the Kativik Regional Government (KRG). This is the fourth phase of this program, which includes additional financial assistance of \$100 million for the improvement of municipal infrastructure in northern villages.

“Thanks to the renewal of the agreement concerning management of the Isurruutiit Program, the Gouvernement du Québec is deploying tools so that the northern villages have modern infrastructure and facilities, allowing them to offer quality public services to their residents.

I am especially pleased at the conclusion of this agreement, because this program contributes to the creation of new job opportunities in northern communities, while favouring the pooling of knowledge between the northern villages and the KRG,” declared Minister Martin Coiteux.

“We are satisfied with this new agreement with the Québec government and will continue to work with Nunavik’s 14 villages to improve the level of public services and the quality of life of Nunavimmiut. The Isurruutiit Program is a true lever for regional development. Not only have the investments since 1999 fostered the transfer of knowledge to the northern villages, but they have permitted the creation of many jobs at the local and regional levels,” stated KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick.

Under the Plan québécois des infrastructures 2016-2026 (*2016-2026 Québec Infrastructure Plan*), the Isurruutiit Program is renewed for a five-year term and will be endowed with a total envelope of \$100 million. This program allows the funding of components related to municipal infrastructure and facilities, namely Infrastructures (volet 1) (*Infrastructure*) for an amount of \$58 million, Bâtiments ou autres installations fixes (volet 2) (*Buildings or Other Fixed Facilities*) for an amount of \$21 million, and Matériel roulant (volet 3) (*Vehicles*) for an amount of \$21 million. Investments are forecast, in particular, for water main and sewer systems.

“This government assistance is crucial for the region and its effects could not be the same without the essential cooperation of the people of the Kativik Regional Government and the other community players, whom I wish to thank. Thanks to this concerted effort, residents of northern villages benefit from a better quality of life, because the funds invested give them access to safe infrastructure,” explained the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks and Minister responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec regions, Luc Blanchette.

“The Isurruutiit Program is a positive response by the Gouvernement du Québec to the essential needs of northern villages for municipal infrastructure. The renewal of the agreement and the addition of \$100 million to this program will allow the implementation of many projects conducive to the quality of life of the population of the 14 villages of Nunavik.

It is crucial to continue working in this direction and to maintain cooperation with our partners on the ground,” pointed out Minister Geoffrey Kelley.

Remember that the financial assistance of the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l’Occupation du territoire was the subject of a five-year agreement between the Government and the KRG in 1999 (Isurruutinik) for an amount of over \$46 million. This agreement was renewed in 2005 with an envelope of over \$63 million, and in 2011 for an amount of nearly \$101 million. The present agreement is therefore the fourth phase of the program. Thus, more than \$310 million has been granted to date under the Isurruutiit Program.

“I am delighted this agreement has been made. The Gouvernement du Québec is sensitive to the reality of northern villages, which is why it is intervening to improve the communities’ living conditions. The renewal of this program will make it possible to maintain investments in municipal services in Nunavik,” concluded the Member of the National Assembly, Jean Boucher.

– 30 –

Sources: Marie-Ève Pelletier
Attachée de presse
Cabinet du ministre des
Affaires municipales et de
l’Occupation du territoire,
ministre de la Sécurité
publique et ministre
responsable de la région de
Montréal
418 691-2050

Chantal Gauvin
Attachée de presse
Cabinet du ministre
responsable des Affaires
autochtones
418 643-3166

Gabrielle Fallu
Attachée de presse
Cabinet du ministre des
Forêts, de la Faune
et des parcs, ministre
responsable de la région du
Nord-du-Québec et de
l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue
418 649-7295

Frédérique Brais-Chaput
Attachée politique du bureau
de circonscription du député
d’Ungava et adjoint
parlementaire du ministre
des Forêts, de la Faune et
des Parcs
418 748-6046

Jean-Philippe Dubois

Information: Caroline St-Pierre
Direction des communications du
ministère des Affaires municipales
et de l’Occupation du territoire et
du ministère de la Sécurité publique
418 691-2015, poste 3746

Coordonnateur
Service des communications
Administration régionale
Kativik
819 964-2961, poste 2219