



Press Release

For immediate release

Recent Meeting with the Québec Premier in Nunavik

Kuujuaq, Québec, November 1, 2017 – On October 26 and 27, Québec Premier Philippe Couillard visited Nunavik during a tour of Northern Québec. He was accompanied by his Minister responsible for Native Affairs, Geoffrey Kelley, by his Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks and Minister responsible for the Abitibi–Témiscamingue Region and the Nord-du-Québec Region, Luc Blanchette, and by the MNA for Ungava, Jean Boucher.

While he was in Nunavik, the Premier met with the Chairperson of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Jennifer Munick, the KRG Director General, Michael Gordon, the Mayor of the Northern Village of Kuujuaq and KRG Executive Committee member, Tunu Napartuk, as well as the President of the Nunavik Elders' Committee, Bobby Snowball. The meeting was useful to update the Premier on several important KRG files, including justice and public security, the Internet, electricity rates, the high cost of living, and the Québec government's new action plan for the social and cultural development of First Nations and Inuit.

As well, Mr. Snowball spoke of language difficulties in communications between the Québec government and elders, and requested funding for the hiring of coordinators in each community to provide assistance to elders in this respect.

“We took advantage of this great opportunity to explain the difficulties faced by Nunavimmiut in different aspects of their day-to-day lives. And we thanked the Premier for the good collaboration between his government and the KRG,” stated Ms. Munick. “Our discussions were constructive. We made it clear we will keep working hard and making representations to the Québec government to continue improving the living conditions of our people.”

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Contact

Jean-Philippe Dubois

Communications Coordinator

Kativik Regional Government

Tel. 819-964-2961, ext. 2219

media@krg.ca | www.krg.ca

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.