



PRESS RELEASE

The new Kuujjuaq airport terminal is now officially open

Kuujjuaq, Québec – March 28 2008 – The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) Chairperson Maggie Emudluk welcomed Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Lawrence Cannon to Kuujjuaq today during the official opening of the new airport terminal building. The ceremony took place this afternoon, as a conclusion to Prime Minister Harper's visit to Kuujjuaq. Among the dignitaries were also present Kuujjuaq Mayor Larry Watt, Anglican Bishop Benjamin Arreak, and Mary Duncan a retired airport employee of over 30 years. Many special guests were also present, including Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Chuck Strahl and President of Makivik Corporation Pita Aatami.

The new airport terminal is located 1.5 km from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq. Work on the new building and on the expansion of the apron began in 2006. The new terminal building is now 1225 square meters and the apron work is 90% complete. The remainder of the work is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2008 at which time it will have been expanded from 15230 square meters to 32537 square meters. The building was designed by architects Fournier Gersovitz Moss and Associates and built to meet "green" building criteria. It is now awaiting certification from the Canadian LEED system (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Also, the modern and traditionally inspired artwork integrated on the floor was designed by a very well known local artist Victoria Grey. The contracts were awarded to Laval Fortin-Adams for a total value of \$14.9 million dollars. The new terminal has been awarded an award of excellence under the Green Building category, by the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction for 2007.

The terminal building is the first "green" building in Nunavik. It was designed in the form of a kayak and it is equipped with some of the most modern materials, making it energy efficient and well adaptable to the northern environment and Inuit context. Some of its main features are the following:

- It is equipped with a solar wall which allows for solar power use and therefore reduces energy consumption.
- It has a highly reflective white color in the roof cladding, to reflect light and heat during the summer months, therefore eliminating needs for air conditioning which is damaging to the environment.

- It relies on natural lighting which reaches the center of the building thanks to its open concept, which reduces power consumption.
- It was built using highly energy efficient recycled materials.
- It is equipped with a radiant floor.

The KRG has been mandated, since September 1, 1996 to handle the management and operations of the Kuujjuaq airport through an agreement with Transport Canada. The Kuujjuaq airport, owned by Transport Canada is considered a remote airport under the National Airport Policy. However, it is the main gateway to isolated communities in Nunavik. The Kuujjuaq airport is also an essential air link for emergency air evacuations, personal and business travel, essential commodities and freight to the communities along the Ungava coast, Hudson straight and Hudson coast.

The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, whose jurisdiction covers nearly the entire territory of Quebec north of the 55th parallel. The KRG administers the affairs of Nunavik in the areas of municipal affairs, transportation, environment, police, employment, manpower training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use management, civil security and economic development.

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