



PRESS RELEASE

More Funding for Nunavik's Gasoline Subsidy Program

Kuujuuaq, Québec – September 2, 2008 – Nunavik's gasoline distributors recently made it known that, effective today, the price of gasoline at their pumps will rise to between \$1.88 and \$2.00 per litre. In an effort to mitigate this sharp jump in prices, the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the Makivik Corporation late last week jointly reviewed the gasoline subsidy program and decided to inject more funding. As a result, effective September 1, the price of Nunavik's gasoline subsidy will rise from 32¢ to 48¢ per litre.

The gasoline subsidy program is made possible through a transportation cost reduction program offered by the *ministère des Transports du Québec* (transportation, MTQ) since November 2007. The program represents one of the important achievements of the Katimajit Conference held in August 2007.

"Despite our best efforts and the funding provided under the transportation cost reduction program, we will unfortunately be unable to maintain the price of gasoline at the pumps at the level achieved last year, although the additional subsidy will alleviate the impact of the new gas prices," stated KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk.

The gasoline subsidy program represents an annual \$3.2-million cost-of-living reduction measure. The KRG and the Makivik Corporation thank the gasoline distributors for their continued cooperation with the seamless implementation of this measure in every community of Nunavik. It also continues to invite all public organizations in the region to return the savings generated from the application of this measure at the region's gas pumps so that the savings can be re-invested in additional cost-of-living measures for Nunavimmiut.

The KRG is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel. The KRG administers public affairs in Nunavik in the areas of municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use management, civil security and economic development.

Makivik is the development corporation mandated to manage the heritage funds of the Inuit of Nunavik provided for in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Makivik's role includes the administration and investment of these funds, and the promotion of economic growth by providing assistance for the creation of Inuit-operated businesses in Nunavik. Makivik promotes the preservation of Inuit culture and language as well as the health, welfare, relief of poverty, and education of Inuit in the communities.

-30-

Source:
Robert Mackey, Communications Officer
Kativik Regional Government
819-964-2961, ext. 2317 / rmackey@krg.ca