



## PRESS RELEASE

### Creation of Parc national Kuururjuaq, near Kangiqsualujjuaq

**Tasiujaq, Québec, May 27, 2009** – At this week’s sitting of the Council of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Chairperson Maggie Emudluk announced that the legislative requirements for the creation of Parc national Kuururjuaq have been met by the National Assembly, following the publication of information concerning the park in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. Kuururjuaq is the second park to be created in Nunavik, after Parc national des Pingualuit.

“A number of Kangiqsualujjuamiut were born and lived in the park area. The creation of this park is therefore of great significance for them,” underlined Emudluk. “This national park, the park at Pingualuit and recently announced protected areas serve to protect the natural environment and, importantly, they do not interfere with the right of Inuit to exercise their traditional harvesting and gathering rights throughout the region as guaranteed under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*.”

Kuururjuaq is situated northeast of Kangiqsualujjuaq. Covering 4461 km<sup>2</sup>, it becomes the largest park in Québec. The centrepiece of this magnificent region is the 160-km Koroc River, which flows from the precipitous Torngat Mountains through a broad valley to Ungava Bay. The downstream section of the Koroc River valley is, in particular, an oasis of boreal forest in an otherwise rugged arctic zone. Moreover, the towering 1646-m Mount D’Iberville dominates the park, the Québec–Labrador Peninsula and all of eastern continental Canada.

The new park is the product of hard work, resulting from close collaboration over the last seven years between the KRG, the Makivik Corporation, the Québec government, and especially the village of Kangiqsualujjuaq. It has been developed entirely in the spirit of the *Agreement concerning Block Funding for the Kativik Regional Government* (Sivunirmut Agreement) that was signed in 2004 to consolidate the Québec-government responsibilities delivered by the KRG.

Under the Sivunirmut Agreement, the KRG has a mandate to develop and manage a network of parks in Nunavik in cooperation with the Québec government. For Kuururjuaq, the KRG will receive a budget of \$1.1 million annually to operate the new park, as well as a capital assets budget of \$6 million for the construction of a visitors pavilion and maintenance warehouse in Kangiqsualujjuaq, plus camp and safety infrastructure in the park. A number of local jobs will be created to complete this work.

*The KRG 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. 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.*

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