



PRESS RELEASE

Tourism Award for Parc national des Pingualuit

Tasiujaq, Québec, May 27, 2009 – The permanent exhibit at Parc national des Pingualuit recently received special recognition from Tourisme Québec for its superior design. The permanent exhibit was awarded bronze prize in the category of *Tourism Attraction: fewer than 100,000 visitors*. Markusie Qissiq, the park's director, was on-hand in Quebec City at a gala event on May 15 to receive the prestigious award.

Situated in the heart of Kangiqsujaq, the park's permanent exhibit serves as a showcase of Inuit heritage and it stands out in several respects from other national park exhibits in Québec. The exhibit prepares visitors for a stay in the park, while at the same time increasing their awareness of the community. It highlights the impressive history of the village of Kangiqsujaq and the surrounding region, from geomorphology to Inuit culture. Several Kangiqsujuamiut are also honoured for the important role that they have played in the region. As well, the interpretation centre that houses the exhibit has become an important gathering place for members of the community.

The centrepiece of Parc national des Pingualuit is a circular meteorite crater with a diameter of 3.5 km. The steep walls of the crater descend 100 m to the crystal clear waters of Lake Pingualuk. The first park national park in Nunavik, Pingualuit was officially opened by the Québec government, the community of Kangiqsujaq, the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) in November 2007. For more information on the park, visit: www.nunavikparks.ca.

Tourisme Québec's annual awards event showcases the efforts and vitality of the province's tourism industry. It helps disseminate information about the quality of tourism products and draws attention to hotels, restaurants, events, attractions, the great outdoors and adventure.

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. Through its Renewable Resources, Environmental and Land Use Planning Department, the KRG is responsible for the operation and management of Parc national des Pingualuit.

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