



PRESS RELEASE

Makivik and the KRG Renew the Gasoline Subsidy Program

Kuujuuaq, Québec – September 1, 2009 – Nunavik’s gasoline distributors have announced that the new price of gasoline at their pumps for the next year will be between \$1.55 and \$1.65 per litre depending on the community. Following up on this announcement, the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the Makivik Corporation made a decision to continue the Gasoline Subsidy Program. Effective today, therefore, the price of the region’s gasoline subsidy will be 21¢ per litre.

“I am pleased with our decision to keep the price of gasoline as low as possible. Since its creation close to two years ago, the subsidy program has played a meaningful role in the lives of Nunavimmiut and it will continue to do so throughout the coming year,” stated KRG Chairperson Maggie Emudluk.

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

For 2009, the Gasoline Subsidy Program is expected to total close to \$3 million, making it the largest current cost-of-living reduction measure. The KRG and the Makivik Corporation would like to take this opportunity to thank the gasoline distributors for their continued cooperation with the seamless implementation of this measure in every community of Nunavik.

“For Inuit, it is important to us that we keep our traditional activities alive. This gasoline subsidy plays an important role in alleviating the high cost-of-living related to these important activities. Being one of the highest taxpayers, we need all the assistance we can get,” added Makivik President Pita Aatami.

The KRG continues to urge all public organizations in the region to return the savings generated by this measure in order to allow them to be re-invested for Nunavimmiut. The KRG for example has been setting aside its gasoline savings since 2007 for the purpose of transferring them back to this and other cost-of-living measures.

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.

Makivik is the development corporation mandated to manage the heritage funds of the Inuit of Nunavik provided for in the James Bay and Northern Québec 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-

Sources:

Julie Grenier,
Communications Coordinator
Kativik Regional Government
Tel. 819-964-2961, ext. 2317
jgrenier@krq.ca

Kitty Gordon
Communications Agent
Makivik Corporation
514-745-8880, ext. 215
k_gordon@makivik.org