



Press Release  
For immediate release

## On the Water this Summer, Think Safety First!

**Kuujuuaq, Québec, June 8, 2015** – Every summer, Nunavimmiut take to the region's lakes, rivers and coastal areas for hunting and fishing activities. The region's waterways are a part of the northern way of life. The Civil Security Section of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the Nunavik Hunting Fishing and Trapping Association (Anguviaq) are proud to kick off the summer season with a boat safety campaign. This week, various initiatives are planned to raise awareness and promote safe behaviour on and around the water. Listen to your local and regional FM radio stations for safety tips and other information to be well-prepared for boating.

"Be sure to always wear a PFD when on the water and even while fishing from the shore," recommends Craig Lingard, Coordinator of the KRG Civil Security Section. "If you fall in the water, your lifejacket ensures you will stay afloat, be able to continue breathing and be rescued faster." Not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) is the number one cause of recreational boating deaths in Canada!

"Before you leave, inform a reliable relative or friend of your float plan. They will be able to notify rescue authorities should you not return or check-in as planned," points out Anguviaq Executive Secretary Jimmy Johannes. "Just a few safety precautions can increase boaters' enjoyment on the water."

It is also essential to check and remain aware of weather and tidal forecasts. For short or long excursions, essential equipment includes: a compass and charts, extra rope and a functioning communications device (HF radio, satellite telephone or SPOT) to signal your location in case of emergency. Finally, always keep in mind that consuming alcohol or drugs while boating significantly increases the risk of accidents and tragedies on and around the water.

Think safety first!

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*The Kativik Regional Government is a 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 in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development.*

*Anguviaq has a mandate to formally represent the interests of Inuit hunters, fishermen and trappers in Nunavik. The organization, which is made up of locally elected representatives, derives its authority directly from the Inuit of Nunavik.*