



## RECENT MEETING BETWEEN THE KRG CHAIRPERSON AND THE QUÉBEC PREMIER

**Kuujuuaq, Québec, February 20, 2017** — The Chairperson of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Jennifer Munick, met in Quebec City on February 15 with Québec Premier Philippe Couillard. It was the first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders since Jennifer Munick was elected KRG Chairperson a little over a year ago.

“The meeting was very constructive,” explained KRG Chairperson Jennifer Munick. “It was an excellent opportunity for me to talk frankly about a number of KRG and regional priority issues. The Premier and I were also able to confirm our commitment to the close working relationship that has developed over the years between the KRG and successive Québec governments.”

Other participants at the meeting included the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, Geoffrey Kelley, the MNA for Ungava, Jean Boucher, the KRG Vice-Chairperson, Lucy Kumarluk, the KRG Director General, Michael Gordon, and the President of the Nunavik Elders’ Committee, Bobby Snowball.

The KRG representatives delivered important messages on key issues such as justice, policing and government follow-up to the special report by the Québec Ombudsman on detention conditions in Nunavik that was released a year ago. Updates were also provided on the undersea fibre optic Internet feasibility study, which has been financed by the Quebec government through the Société du Plan Nord. The promotion of greener energy solutions was also discussed. This presented an opportunity for the KRG to raise concerns related to Hydro-Québec changing rate structure, which may negatively impact Nunavik. The meeting ended with an invitation to Premier Couillard to attend the official opening of Parc national Tursujuq in Umiujaq scheduled for this coming summer.

“Premier Couillard demonstrated a strong awareness of northern development issues,” stated Jennifer Munick following the meeting.

The President of the Nunavik Elders’ Committee Bobby Snowball for his part concluded, “We live together, Native and non-Native, and it is important to continue supporting one another.”

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*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 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.*