



© Jade Duchesneau Bernier

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

Key Points from the Council of Commissioners

The Council of Commissioners met in Kuujuaaraapik from October 20 to 22, 2015. Here are some of the key decisions made during this meeting.

Parnasimautilirjit

The KSB President Alicie Nalukturuk, presented an overview of the political process initiated by the Nunavik organizations after the release of the Parnasimautik consultation report.

The commissioners raised a number of questions concerning the current Plan Nord negotiation process. Given that crucial cross-cutting issues may be subject to negotiation, the commissioners stressed the importance of an inclusive and transparent process.

In order to get a clearer understanding of the negotiation process, it was decided to invite representatives of KRG and Makivik at the December meeting. They will be asked to give a presentation on the status and structure of the negotiations currently taking place with the government as part of Plan Nord. Finally, their presentation should clarify how the negotiation of all the education-related items would proceed.

Unification of the Inuit writing system

The Kativik School Board participated in the National Summit on the unification of the Inuit Writing system organized on August 25-26 in Iqaluit, by the National Centre for Inuit Education and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

The summit recommended that the implementation of an Inuit writing system rooted in a standardized form of roman orthography be formally explored. The system would be developed by Inuit for Inuit and introduced through the education system with quality material, publications and training resources. Participants acknowledged that this process would take time and should not be rushed.

(continued...)

The commissioners raised a number of questions concerning the current Plan Nord negotiation process.

(...continued)

This recommendation comes after extensive consultations were conducted across the Canadian Arctic by ITK's Inuktitut Titirausiq (AIT) Task Force. A key concern of participants concerned the loss of regional dialects. However, as the Greenland experience illustrates, regional dialects can coexist with a unified writing system based on roman orthography. Inuit linguists from Alaska and Greenland present at the meeting testified to great improvements in the writing ability of school-aged children following the reform of their writing systems.

Approval of the 2014-2015 audited financial report

The Kativik School Board 2014-2015 financial report was verified by external auditors. The audited report was approved by the Commissioners.

Approval and modification of KSB administrative directives and policies

1) Policy on Graduation (ADM-09): The amount of money available to each regular sector and adult education graduate has been increased from \$50 to \$100. As was already the case for Adult Education Centres, schools of the regular sector will now be able to access \$200 to cover expenses related to graduation ceremonies.

2) Policy on Salary Advance (ADM-17): Due to difficulties in ensuring a fair application of this policy and given that the Kativik School Board is the only Nunavik organization granting salary advances, the Council of Commissioners decided to stop this practice. Salary advances will therefore not be granted anymore and the commissioners abolished the Policy ADM-17.

3) Directive on Consulting Services (ADM-11): The directive was amended to specify that the Kativik School Board cannot offer consulting contracts to anyone who is a school board employee, unless certain exceptional circumstances and conditions are present.

4) Policy on Housing for Schools and Adult Education Centres employees (EQ-03) and Policy for Housing for Employees of the School Board's Administrative Centre in Kuujuaq (EQ-07): The policies were amended to specify that in case of an approved leave of at least 30 consecutive days, KSB employees shall allow the replacement staff to take their housing unit when no other housing is available. In such cases, the school board's obligations are also detailed (reimbursement of storage fees, etc). Amendments to the tenant's obligations were also approved. They clarify that the KSB owns the subsidized housing it provides to its eligible employees. As such, tenants cannot transfer, sublet or assign their dwelling. Hosting visitors is allowed under four conditions: a) KSB tenants can host family or friends but cannot obtain a remuneration from them; b) Non-KSB related individuals can be hosted free of charge during special events – the Centre Director must be informed; c) KSB employees or contractual workers can be hosted at the established KSB rate – here again, the Centre Director must be informed; d) KSB tenants can host non-KSB related individuals against remuneration. However, these visits

Salary advances will not be granted anymore and the Policy ADM-17 was abolished.

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

(...continued)

must be short-term and the tenants must obtain a written approval from the Director of Material Resources or his delegate.

5) Policy on the Promotion of Peaceful and Responsive Schools (ADM-16):

With the approved amendments, the policy now includes a clear anti-bullying component. The policy defines bullying and describes the bullying behaviours under four categories: verbal, social, physical and cyber-bullying. It specifies how these behaviours should be managed by the school administration.

6) Code of Conduct for Adult and Vocational Students (ADU-01) and Policy on Sponsorship for Transfer Students of the Adult Education and Vocational Training Sector (ADU-02):

The students' code of conduct was amended to include bullying and violence as acts of misconduct leading to disciplinary measures. Re-admission of students who have been requested to leave or who quit without a valid reason will only be assessed after a minimum of 4 months has passed. In addition, ADU-02 was amended to specify that a student must pay for his own ticket home if he quits the program without a valid reason within the first 2 weeks.