



# COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

## Highlights from the last Council of Commissioners meeting

The Council of Commissioners met in Kuujuaq from April 5 to 7, 2016. You will find below a summary of some key points discussed during this meeting.

### Update on Nunavik Sivunitsavut

The Nunavik Sivunitsavut project started in October 2015. Its goal is to create a one-year accredited college program, fully compliant with Quebec's college education requirements. The project is steered by an advisory committee composed of representatives from the school board, KRG, Makivik, the Avataq Cultural Institute, and John Abbott College.

In February 2016, funding requests were submitted to Canadian government agencies. Depending on the approval of these requests, the Nunavik Sivunitsavut program could be offered for the 2017–2018 school year.

The program will offer quality education to Inuit youth, centred on their own culture, identity, language, land, and people. It will include tools to successfully live and study in a non-Inuit, urban environment. The program will support students as they also explore other post-secondary programs they could pursue after completing Nunavik Sivunitsavut.

### Procedure that students and their parents can use to submit complaints to the school board's Student Ombudsperson

In December 2015, the Council of Commissioners approved changes to the job description of the school board's Student Ombudsperson. These changes emphasize the role of the Student Ombudsperson as the protector of students.

At their April meeting, the commissioners approved a procedure to be used by students or their parents to submit complaints related to

*(continued...)*

The Nunavik  
Sivunitsavut  
program could be  
offered for the  
2017-2018 school  
year

(...continued)

dissatisfaction with services offered by or received from the Kativik School Board. This procedure is important, as it will support Nunavimmiut's access to the Student Ombudsperson.

The school board hopes to have identified two suitable candidates for the positions of Student Ombudsperson and Student Ombudsperson's Substitute as early as possible during the next school year. Recruitment was initiated earlier this year. However, the school board was unable to fill these two positions. More information on the complaint procedure will be provided to parents once the Ombudsperson and his or her substitute have been recruited. In the meantime, the complaint procedure can be accessed on our website ([KBS-06](#)).

### **Relocation of the Montreal head office to Nunavik**

The Council of Commissioners expressed its commitment to relocating the Montreal head office to Nunavik. They requested that progress be made on this file. Concrete options on the way forward will be discussed at the next commissioners' meeting in June.

In March 2015, the Council of Commissioners adopted a resolution requiring that future plans on the relocation of the Montreal head office be developed on the basis of resolutions CC449-97/98-18 and 19. These two resolutions identify Kuujuaq and Kuujuarapik as host communities for the relocation of the school board.

### **Garages for school buses**

The commissioners requested garages for school buses so that buses do not remain outside during the winter. In November 2015, the Quebec Ministry of Education agreed to reimburse expenses incurred by the school board when renting garages in the communities that do not have a school bus garage.

Following two public requests for quotes for garage space rental (December and February), the school board was able to rent garage space in Kuujuaq only. Currently, there is no garage space available for rent in the other Nunavik communities.

### **The school board's response to social issues affecting our schools**

The commissioners were briefed on the school board's response to the tragic events that have affected Nunavik communities and youth since December 2015. Following the suicides that occurred in Kuujuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Salluit, and more recently in Tasiujaq, the school board mobilized resources rapidly to meet the counselling and support needs of students.

Through close collaboration with the Board of Health, local CLSCs, and other Nunavik organizations, the school board was able to secure the funding for seven new positions of school counsellors, therapists, and psychologists. These professionals will be recruited in the coming weeks. They will provide services to schools in all Nunavik communities and will work directly with our students and student counsellors.

The school board was able to secure the funding for 7 new positions of school counsellors, therapists and psychologists