

# COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS HIGHLIGHTS



## Highlights from the Council of Commissioners

The Council of Commissioners met in Montreal, from June 19 to 22, 2017. Among the agenda items discussed during that meeting, the following points are of interest to school board employees.

Appointment of a new Kativik Regional Government (KRG) representative.

Elena Berthe was sworn in on June 20, 2017, as KRG representative. She holds a seat at the Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee. Elena is replacing Mary Pilurtoot who resigned in March 2017.

Relocation of the Montreal offices to Nunavik

In October 2016, the Council of Commissioners (Puvirnituaq) agreed that a relocation plan would be developed internally by the Human Resources, Material Resources and Finance departments. The plan was finalized and the Commissioners approved it during their June meeting.

The relocation plan is based on a resolution adopted by the Council of Commissioners in March 2015, which identifies Kuujjuaq and Kuujjuaraapik as host communities for the relocation of the Montreal offices. Both communities were consulted by the school board in April 2017 and they expressed their interest in hosting the school board's offices.

A request for funding was submitted to the Quebec Ministry of Education in August, aiming at a ministerial approval for the fall of 2019.

According to the preliminary plan, the relocation of the Montreal offices to Nunavik could be completed by November 2022. The plan foresees the relocation of Human Resources, Finances and Material Resources to Kuujjuaraapik. The community of Kuujjuaq would host the General Administration, Adult Education and Vocational Training services, Education Services and School Operations.

Post-Secondary Student Services, Transport and the school board's printing services would remain in Montreal.

New sponsorship policy for post-secondary students

The Council of Commissioners approved amendments to the post-secondary student sponsorship policy. Key changes concern the eligibility

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The relocation plan identifies Kuujjuaq and Kuujjuaraapik as host communities.

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of applicants and lodging. They seek to ensure maximum eligibility to all JBNQA beneficiaries interested in post-secondary studies. A Code of Conduct for students of the post-secondary sponsorship program was also reviewed and approved by the commissioners.

#### Appointment of an Ombudsman for the school board

The Council of Commissioners appointed an Ombudsman for the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, with a designated substitute. The Ombudsman acts as the independent protector of students.

Their mandate is to address in an impartial way any situation where a student, or their parents are dissatisfied with the services offered by or received from the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq.

In such situations, there are 4 steps to be followed:

1. The student or the student's parents must first talk to the person whom they feel is at fault.
2. Secondly, they must address the situation with the employee's supervisor.
3. If the student or the student's parents are still unsatisfied, they can contact the Associate Secretary General who will work to find a solution to the issues.
4. If all fails, the Associate Secretary General will transfer the issue to the Student Ombudsman.

The student Ombudsman will help to find a solution or make a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners.

The Ombudsman can also review and investigate in an impartial way allegations about employees whose behaviour derogate from the school board's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, or whose behaviour causes psychological harassment, or any abuse of power or misuse of the school board's funds.

The same 4 steps must be followed for cases related to school board employees:

1. The plaintiff must first talk to the person whom they feel is at fault.
2. Secondly, they must address the situation with the employee's supervisor.
3. If the plaintiff is still unsatisfied, they can contact the Associate Secretary General who will work to find a solution to the issue.
4. If all fails or if there is a need for an independent perspective, the Associate Secretary General will transfer the issue to the Ombudsman.

No anonymous complaints will be received. However, if an important issue arises, it is possible for the student, the student's parents or the plaintiff to contact anonymously, at the provincial level, the Ombudsman of the province of Quebec.

National Aboriginal Day will now be an official holiday at the school board, as approved by the Commissioners on June 20, 2017.

Key changes seek to ensure maximum eligibility to all JBNQA beneficiaries interested in post-secondary studies.