

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 7-8, 2021 | VIDEOCONFERENCE

The Council of Commissioners was briefed on the final report of a two-year Education Research that examined the school board's curriculums, programs and pathways aimed at enhancing the success of Nunavik students. The conclusions of the report, and discussions that ensued highlighted the need for an immediate review of the Language of Instruction Policy as well as the bilingual education model currently implemented by the school board. In addition, the Commissioners asked to be briefed on graduation requirements at their March meeting.

Compared to the QEP, the report found globally, similar competency expectations for Mathematics and Social Sciences in KI evaluations. For English as a Second Language and Science, some KI evaluations showed partial differences in competency expectations compared to the QEP. When compared to the QEP, the most important differences in competency expectations were found in KI evaluations for French as a Second Language.

The final conclusions of the report highlight the path for actions towards improving the formal curriculum, enhancing student attendance, and implementing initiatives that take into consideration high staff turn-over as well as the limited number of available qualified Inuit educators. Finally, it recommends implementing changes that set a limited number of clear goals over a long period of time.

The research team received its mandate on December 13, 2019, from the KI Executive Committee. The mandated researchers are affiliated with the *Chaire-réseau de recherche sur la jeunesse du Québec*.

The Council of Commissioners welcomed Samantha Doig in her new role of Director of Human Resources. The Commissioners were informed that improving Human Resources services to Nunavik-based employees would be the immediate priority of her department as of January 2022.

Challenges related to lack of support for students experiencing learning or behavioural difficulties were brought forward for discussion by Commissioners from many communities.

Difficulties with recruitment for positions based in schools were acknowledged, in particular for the following: behaviour technicians, special education teachers, student counsellors and student support professionals.

The Human Resources Director indicated that work to develop recruitment strategies targeting Nunavik residents would be undertaken in collaboration with the Public Relations team, and that the Council would be kept abreast of actions planned in this regard.

The Council of Commissioners was briefed on the results of a review of the Nunavik Sivunitsavut (NS) program, which is reaching its 5-year milestone in 2022. The analysis gathered feedback from current students, program graduates and staff. The results will be used to guide decisions on the program's curriculum, its location and long-term goals for the development and strengthening of NS as an institution.

Key findings of the review include:

- What attracts students to NS is cultural content. Obtaining college credits is a plus, but not the main motivation of program applicants.
- There's a high level of interest in exploring hybrid classes (in-person and online).
- Montreal is perceived as a suitable location for the program by students and staff alike. For students, downtown Montreal offers advantages that outweigh the challenges identified should the program be offered in Nunavik.
- The recruitment of additional Inuit educators would strengthen the program and cultural transmission.

As part of the Post-Secondary Student Services Report presented to the Council, the Commissioners reviewed data highlighting the potential for enriched support services to positively impact student retention at the post-secondary level.

Data presented showed that early intervention is helping students to exit studies without compromising their student file once they seek admission into a different program, or simply return to school after taking a break for various personal reasons.

The post-secondary institutions that students select and the programs they are successfully admitted to are much more diverse than they were in the past. A large proportion of sponsored students are adults between the ages of 25 and 55 years old, who have dependants under their care or who are single parents. Changes approved by the Council of Commissioners in June 2021 have allowed these students to access benefits that are having a huge impact on their ability to continue their studies.

Adult Education and Vocational Training (AEVT) continues to expand its service offering with a new partnership agreement with Correction Service Canada, and brand-new programs are in the works under the vocational training and continuing education service offer.

For the current school year, as of November 12, 2021, a total of 280 students were registered in vocational training programs and general education courses. In addition, 357 individuals had attended trainings developed under continuing education services.

The partnership agreement with Correction Service Canada will allow AEVT to offer Inuit detainees the opportunity to continue their education with Certification of Studies to support their social reintegration.

As of early 2022 and for the 2022-2023 school year, the following new vocational training programs will be rolled-out: Diamond Drilling (DVS), Hairdressing (DVS) and Administrative Support to Clinical Sectors (STC).

The Council of Commissioners was briefed on the progress of work related to a total of 38 capital investment and renovation projects in Nunavik communities. An overview of the 124 construction projects submitted to the Ministry of Education (MEES) for funding approval (*Plan Québécois des Investissements (PQI) 2022-2032*) was also presented to the Council.

New construction projects submitted to the MEES follow the 2021-2031 Investment Plan approved by the Council of Commissioners in June 2021. Out of the 124 projects submitted to the MEES this year, 31 are projects that were not approved for funding last year (PQI 2021-2031).

Out of the **38** capital investment and renovation projects currently in progress:

- **4** are major school renovation projects: Arsaniq School (Kangiqsujuaq), Isummasaqvik School (Quaqtaq), Pigiurvik School (Salluit) and Innalik School (Inukjuak).
- **7** are minor renovation projects of buildings in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kuujjuaq, Tasiujaq, Aupaluk, Kangirsuk, Quaqtaq, and Kangiqsujuaq.
- **27** are capital investment projects across Nunavik, including the construction of garage warehouse spaces, temporary classrooms, housing units, student residences, enlargement of administrative offices, school and adult education centre enlargement.