

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS JUNE 14-17, 2022 | KUUJJUAQ

The Council of Commissioners approved the participation of President Sarah Aloupa in an exploratory meeting with the coalition of citizens, Quebecers Against Bill 96. This organization was created by the Quebec Community Groups Network, the English Parents' Committee Association, the Quebec English School Board Association, and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations.

At the beginning of April, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq wrote to Premier Legault, expressing concerns about the proposed legislation. A follow-up open letter was sent to Premier Legault and released to the public on May 20, 2022. These two letters remained unanswered.

On May 24, the Quebec National Assembly voted to pass Bill 96. On June 1, 2022, Bill 96 received "Royal Assent," and became a new law.

The main impact of Bill 96 on college students will be that it:

- Requires anglophone students to enroll in three French classes, outside their core curriculum. These three French courses will be added to the two French second-language courses that English CEGEP students must already take. In total, 5 French courses must be completed.
- Introduces a cap on enrolment in English-language CEGEPs set at 17.5 per cent of Quebec's total CEGEP population. This cap will remain the same, regardless of the English community's growth or demographics.

The commissioners approved the award of a contract to Frontier College, to organize summer literacy camps in communities of Nunavik. This contract is funded jointly by Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, Makivik Corporation and Air Inuit.

Summer Literacy Camps aim to reach 450 children aged between 5 to 12, in 12 of the 14 Nunavik communities.

On many levels, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated a previously planned shift towards the use of new technologies and digital resources in the classroom. In the youth sector, this shift took the form of laptop distribution to Secondary III, IV and V students and their teachers, as well as training and support made available to teachers. In the adult education sector, this shift led to the launch of the Moodle platform, with offline features to work around the challenges created by poor telecommunications infrastructures. The availability of distance education resulted in a significant increase in student registration for general education courses leading to a Secondary School Diploma.

In the youth sector, the distribution of electronic materials, such as laptop computers, was part of contingency planning for school closures due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

Within the constraints of available resources and taking into consideration graduation requirements, Secondary III, IV, and V students were prioritized. These resources will remain in use in our schools, with the support of teachers who have been identified as education technology leads in each Nunavik school.

Parents are encouraged to explore educational resources available on the [Nunavik-IcE website](#). Resources featured on this web portal are culturally relevant. They feature extensive material in Inuktitut for age groups ranging from Kindergarten through Secondary V.

In the adult sector, student recruitment continues to highlight the availability of distance education for Nunavimmiut wishing to obtain missing credits towards their Secondary School Diploma.

Pedagogical support is available to students enrolled in distance education courses. Full-time distance education students can receive a laptop to use while they complete their courses.

The commissioners were briefed on the Integrated Plan for Research Management in Nunavik. In a resolution, they endorsed the creation of a new Nunavik organization, mandated to centralize the systematic review of all research projects taking place in the region.

At the moment, Nunavik is the only region in Inuit Nunangat without a centralized system or process for the review, approval and monitoring of research projects.

A centralized research management organization for Nunavik would ensure that research benefits the well-being, knowledge enhancement, and the social, political, and economic pursuits of Nunavimmiut.

In 2022-2023, curriculum development will continue for first and second language programs. This work will prioritize areas in which important gaps were identified as part of a two-year Education Research mandated by the Council to examine the school board's curriculums, programs and pathways aimed at enhancing the success of Nunavik students. In particular, the English and French programs will be revised in order to better prepare students for a transition to post-secondary education.

Under the lead of the Second Languages team, curriculum frameworks are complete for Inuit Environmental Science, Health and Wellness Inuguiniq, while work is in progress for the Nunavik history program and digital competency development.

Under the lead of the First Language team, work continues on the progression of learning for primary Cycle 1 levels, in addition to grammar, social studies and local history program development.

The Council of Commissioners expressed its congratulations to the 84 graduates who were confirmed by the Adult Education and Vocational Training Department, Post-Secondary Student Services and Teacher Training Program (McGill University and Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue—UQAT).

- **22** students graduated from five vocational training programs offered in Nunavik. More students are expected to graduate in General Education over the summer.
- **42** sponsored students graduated from various post-secondary institutions in Quebec and Canada (including 16 from Nunavik Sivunitsavut).
- **20** Inuit teachers graduated from the teacher training program (8 from McGill University) and 12 from UQAT.

In a resolution, the commissioners reiterated that graduation ceremonies should only take place in the fall once the Ministry of Education has issued the Secondary School Diplomas to students. Year-end ceremonies should be limited to celebrating the perseverance of students.

The resolution reiterates instructions provided to the youth sector school administrators in a November 2019 communication issued by the Director General.

The commissioners approved changes to the Post-Secondary Sponsorship Policy that enhances financial support for sponsored students.

In cases where the dependent of a sponsored student is a foster child (custody must be confirmed by a court order), financial support will be accessible under conditions detailed in the policy SP-01.

A 25% increase of the sponsored student's living allowances was also approved. The updated rates and amounts take into consideration inflation and the current cost of living.

Data presented to the commissioners indicates that student retention at the post-secondary level has remained above 80%. The number of post-secondary institutions that students enroll in is also increasingly diversified.

The annual retention rate among all sponsored students was estimated at 82% for the 2021-2022 school year. The retention rate for the Nunavik Sivunitsavut program is slightly lower, with a 75% average.

The number of post-secondary institutions at which students are registered has doubled over the past two years.

The Council of Commissioners was briefed on the progress of work related to a total of 46 capital investments and renovation projects in Nunavik communities.

The current status of each project varies (on-going, contract awarded, assessment of needs, plans and specifications, call for tender, etc.).

Out of the **46** capital investment and renovation projects:

- **7** are major school renovation projects: Arsaniq School (Kangiqsujaq), Innalik School (Inukjuak), Pigiurvik School (Salluit), Ajagutak School (Tasiujaq), Iguarsivik School (Puvirnituk).
- **10** are minor renovation projects of buildings in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Tasiujaq, Aupaluk, Kangirsuk, Quaqtaq, Salluit, Puvirnituk, Inukjuak, Umiujaq, Kuujjuaraapik.
- **29** are capital investment projects across Nunavik, including the construction of garage warehouse spaces, temporary classrooms, housing units, student residences, administrative office enlargement, and school and adult education centre enlargement.

The commissioners brought to the table concerns expressed by their constituencies with regards to the implementation of changes related to the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq Language of Instruction Policy.

The Director General and Assistant Director General clarified that the objective of the work being done on the review of the Language of Instruction Policy is to follow-up on the two-year Education Research conducted by researchers affiliated with the *Chaire-réseau de recherche sur la jeunesse du Québec*. The researchers were mandated by the Council of Commissioners in December 2019.

The objective of the review of the Language of Instruction Policy is to strengthen Inuktitut, while also preparing students to pursue post-secondary education.

A working group was established to examine bilingual education models based on recent research.

No changes will be implemented before options are presented to the Council of Commissioners for review and approval.

The timeline we are currently working with aims at implementing changes as of the 2024-2025 school year.

The commissioners were briefed on the launch of a new onboarding program mandatory for all new regional hires.

The 3-day program is offered online since the beginning of June 2022.

The training program is currently offered in-house, facilitated by the Human Resources team. It is mandatory for all new regional hires. The long-term goal is to extend a training invitation to local hires, in coordination with local managers.

Training includes content on integrating into a new culture, Nunavik history, Inuit culture and an introduction to Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (organizational structure and department roles and mandates, preparing for life in Nunavik, northern travel tips etc.).

The commissioners decided that for the 2022-2023 school year, only the bi-annual Education Council Meeting and the June Council of Commissioners would be broadcasted on Taqramiut Nipingat Inc. (TNI) radio.

The June Council will inform Nunavimmiut on all activities, year-end reports, and budget approvals.

The Education Council meets every two years. This consultative forum informs the Council of Commissioner on community priorities and desired regional orientations.

The Council will decide whether to continue with this practice once it's been implemented for a full year.