

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 06-09, 2022 | MONTREAL

#### **The commissioners continued their work on the Nunavik education system.**

A comprehensive summary of current work and planned next steps were presented to the Council. The commissioners discussed how the findings of the 2019-2021 Education Research (Audit) could be used to determine priorities for the school board and resource allocation.

Moving forward, organizational goals, objectives and indicators of achievement could be incorporated into a renewed Strategic Plan, or a Commitment to Success Plan (*Plan d'engagement vers la réussite*).

The 2019-2021 Education Research (Audit) was commissioned by the Council. It examined and compared the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq curriculum to the Quebec Education Program.

While discussions on the Nunavik education system continue to progress, the 2016-2023 Strategic Plan guides all work and operations conducted by Kativik Ilisarniliriniq.

#### **As part of its work on the Nunavik education system, the Council was briefed on the progress of work undertaken to examine existing bilingual education models and findings from recent research on bilingual education.**

A comprehensive report was presented by Education Services. Research demonstrates the positive impact of learning in one's first language on validating identity, self-confidence and pride. As such, the first language must be fully incorporated throughout the child's educational experience, not only in the first years. Research shows that each language should be taught for at least 6 to 7 years (if not longer); a child learning many languages at the same time will have higher linguistic skills than a child evolving in a monolingual teaching setting; and, alignment between all language programs will facilitate the transfer of skills from one language to another, and in turn learning.

The report presented by Education Services also provided a summary of the results of past Nunavik consultations, including the Nunavik Symposium on Education (1985), the Nunavik Education Task Force (1989 to 1992), the Inuktituurniup Saturtaugasuarninga Project and its Illirijavut Report (2012) and the Parnasimautik Report (2015).

Work undertaken by Education Services to examine bilingual education models and bilingual education research stems from demands made during the 2018 Education Council, at which representatives from the education committees of all Nunavik communities had identified the bilingual education models they felt would be most suitable for Nunavik. The planned next steps for Education Services include:

- Clarification of student success pathways available at KI (regular, enriched, work-oriented, etc.) with specific expectations for first language (Inuktitut) and second languages (English and French).
- Clarification of KI's contextual and culturally relevant pedagogical approach to language teaching.

- The development of a time allocation guideline (hours, per subject, per year, per language) for each pathway based on plurilingual teaching and learning state-of-art (research).
- The presentation of progress at the upcoming Education Council (February 2023) and at the next CC (March 2023).
- An assessment of changes required to the Language of Instruction Policy (note that in all scenarios envisaged, Inuktitut remains the language of instruction), and present those to the June 2023 Council.

**The Director General informed the Council of Commissioners that if school principals and Adult Education Centre administrators receive their confirmed list of graduating students from the Administrative Services team by the end of the academic year, it would be possible to hold local graduation ceremonies at the end of the school year rather than in the fall.**

In June, the Council of Commissioners adopted a resolution reiterating that graduation ceremonies should only take place in the fall once the Ministry of Education has issued Secondary School Diplomas to students.

In this context, the Director General indicated that the internal review of student file management was progressing well. She added that it would be possible for the Administrative Services team to confirm the list of graduating students by the end of May.

This would allow schools and centres to hold graduation events at the end of the school year. Discrepancies with diplomas issued by the Ministry of Education would also be avoided. An internal communication to youth and adult sector administrators will be issued at the beginning of 2023.

**As a follow-up to a request made by the Council during its October meeting, the commissioners were briefed on the quality of existing data. A recent independent audit looked at how student files are managed at Kativik Ilisarniliriniq. Solutions are already in place to address some of the inadequacies identified. More solutions will be rolled out in the coming months, with the aim of having all corrective measures in place by the end of March 2023.**

A more comprehensive overview of data currently available will be presented to the Council in March 2023, in the context of initial steps towards a comprehensive strategic planning exercise.

**For a third consecutive year, summer courses will be offered to Nunavik high school students, from June 5 to 23, in Inukjuak and/or Kangiqsujaq. These courses will allow Secondary Cycle 2 students to get credits leading to their Secondary School Diploma (SSD).**

The final location(s) will be selected based on the confirmed number of registered students. Inukjuak and Kangiqsujaq were identified as host communities because they both have adult education centres and student residences, where room and board can be offered to participants.

Summer courses are offered to students who did not complete all mandatory courses leading to an SSD. More information on graduation requirements is available on the KI website: <https://www.kativik.qc.ca/en/graduation-requirements/>.

**On December 6, 2022, the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (KI) Council of Commissioners welcomed two new commissioners: Emma Munick (Kangirsuk) and Lukasi Pilurtuut (Kangiqsujaq). The latter was also elected as a member of the Executive Committee.**

Executive Committee members are:

- KI President and Executive Committee member: Sarah Aloupa (Quaqtaq)
- KI Vice-President and Executive Committee member: Adamie Padlayat (Inukjuak)
- Executive Committee member: Lukasi Pilurtuut (Kangiqsujaq)
- Executive Committee member: Evie Qalingo (Ivujivik)
- Kativik Regional Government representative and Executive Committee member: Jennifer Hunter (Kuujuaraapik).

**The Commissioners were updated on recent action taken in the fight against Bill 14 (formerly Bill 96) and the anticipated negative impacts of its application on the success of Nunavik students at the post-secondary level. Specifically, a joint letter from Kativik Ilisarniliriniq and Makivik Corporation leaders was sent to Premier Legault on December 6, requesting that the application of Bill 14 be suspended for Inuit students pursuing higher education in Quebec's CEGEPs.**

The letter asked that the Government of Quebec suspend the requirement for Inuit students attending English CEGEPs to take three French courses in order to graduate. They also asked for a similar suspension for Inuit students attending French CEGEPs requiring them to pass a French proficiency exam to graduate.

It also demands that Premier Legault instruct his ministers to collaborate with Kativik Ilisarniliriniq and the Makivik Corporation to find solutions that are beneficial to Inuit and their post-secondary educational success.

**The activity report presented by Education Services shed light on the continuous and dire need for expertise in Inuktitut language. This expertise is required to sustain the planned development of curriculum and on-going support demanded by teachers in the Inuktitut sector across the Nunavik region.**

Education Services continues to operate with vacancies (and high turnover) in key management and professional positions.

Over the past five years, this has particularly affected the following teams: first language curriculum development, culture and land survival and teacher training.

Staff shortage in these areas adds to an already difficult situation created by the current staff shortage affecting teaching positions. As of December 5, there were 66 vacant teaching positions at Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (42 in the French and English second language sectors, and 24 in the Inuktitut sector).

**The Tatigiilluta Working Group on Mental Health presented an overview of its work to the Council. During the ensuing open discussion, the commissioners stressed the importance of ensuring the availability of mental health services in the region. They also indicated that Kativik Ilisarniliriniq would not be coordinating the Regional Partnership Committee as of January 2023.**

The commissioners approved that the position of Regional Partnership Committee Coordinator be assigned fully to Strategic Planning.

This will allow for a greater focus of resources on mandates directly related to the delivery of educational services.

**The overall clientele of Adult Education and Vocational Training (AEVT) continues to grow, with a significant increase in the number of students registered for General Education courses (both in person and at a distance).**

An enriched service offer at federal detention centres in Quebec contributes positively to the reported growth in the AEVT student population. A 2021 agreement between KI AEVT and Correctional Services Canada provides the legal framework for programs to be offered on-site.

In addition, the AEVT is expanding its practices allowing students to complete more than one certifying program at a time (*concomitance des études*). For example, students registered in a mechanics course can simultaneously complete general education courses that would allow them to obtain a Secondary School Diploma (SSD) in addition to a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS), Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS) or Skills Training Certificate (STC).

**Work is progressing well to ensure all Kativik Ilisarniliriniq facilities have access to high-speed internet. As of December 2, a total of 13 out of the 14 communities in which Kativik Ilisarniliriniq has schools, centres and offices had full access to high-speed internet as a result of work completed by the IT team. Work continues in the remaining community of Kangirsuk.**

The high-speed internet solutions implemented by Kativik Ilisarniliriniq combine access to:

- Low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites (Star Link and One Web)
- Fiber optic network in villages where it is offered by Tamaani

**In November 2022, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq successfully prevented a cyber attack with the support of expert resources made available by the Ministry of Education.**

A ransomware threat was avoided thanks to the rapid detection of the intruder in our network.

Access to faster internet also comes with an increased risk of threats from the outside.

In this context, more security software will be acquired and installed to better control access to and usage of our network.

**An inventory of material and the clean-up of hazardous waste is on-going in Nunavik, coordinated by Material Resources. The operation includes science labs, warehouses and vehicles. As of December 2022, this operation has been completed in communities from Kuujjuaraapik to Akulivik, inclusively.**

Starting in early 2023, the new warehouses in Kuujjuaq, Salluit and Puvirnituq will be able to operate with an updated inventory.

**The Council of Commissioners was briefed on the progress of work related to capital investments and renovation projects in Nunavik communities. An overview of the construction projects submitted to the Ministry of Education (MEES) for funding approval (*Plan Québécois des Investissements (PQI) 2023-2033*) 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.

The *Plan Québécois des Investissements* (PQI) 2023-2033 prepared by Kativik Ilisarniliriniq includes the construction of a new school in Kangiqsujaq, a new adult education centre in Kuujjuaq, housing units throughout Nunavik, offices and transit housing, warehouse and bus garages and temporary classrooms.