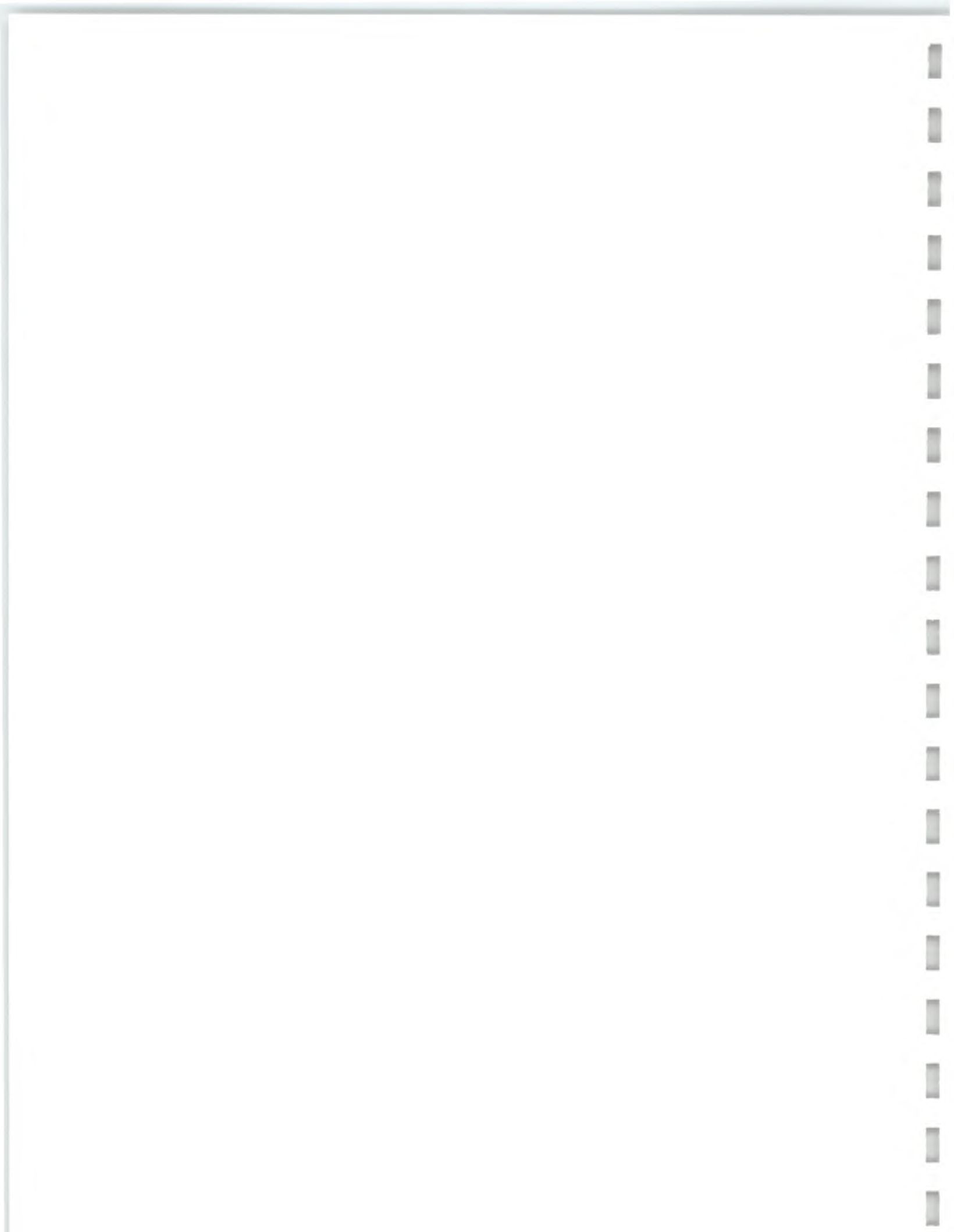
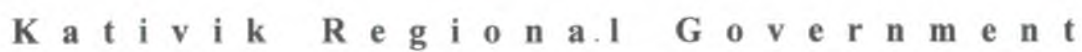




Research & Economic Development Department
Service de la Recherche et du Développement Économique

Nunavik's Regional Conference of Elected Officers





Research & Economic Development Department
Service de la Recherche et du Développement Économique

2004 Annual Report

Conférence régionale des élus du Nunavik

Nunavik's Regional Conference of Elected Officers

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The Research and Economic Development Department serves Nunavik's business community, providing both technical and financial support to existing and start-up businesses. In addition, the Department is often called on to act as a liaison between government departments and Nunavik businesses as well as to promote the economic interests of the region at both the federal and provincial levels of government.

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1. Regional Development

a) the Public Talks – Nunavik Forum, June 18, 2004



In the Spring of 2004, the Government of Quebec announced the organization of consultation forums in each of the regions of Quebec to discuss developmental priorities in specific sectors. These forums would lead to a Québec-wide meeting with the objective of situating regional issues in light of public finances and demographic changes.

Premier Jean Charest announced the "Shine Among the Best", the Government's Vision and Action Priorities during March 2004. The Premier invited a dialogue between the government and the regions through five sectoral forums: health and social services; education, training and employment; regional and sustainable economic development; family and social development.

The Nunavik Forum was held in Kuujuaq on June 17 and 18, some 110 Nunavimmiut citizens representing elders, youth and

The main issues brought forward by the Forum delegates were the increase (inclusion) of Inuit culture in the education system and the role of Inuit elders in the society. Students' drop-out issue also was in the forefront of the delegates preoccupations. The delegates affirmed the necessity for Nunavimmiut to have a higher education institution in Nunavik.

On economic development, the delegates expressed their wishes for more support to the regional economy, the need for practical know-how in today's world economy and the recognition of the impact that Southern laws have had on Inuit culture. Other economic development issues discussed were: energy production, transportation, mining, the traditional economy and the need for government support through legislation to allow Nunavimmiut to access commercial fishing licences.

Delegates discussed at length Nunavik employment issues. Nunavik municipalities being the main employers in the smaller villages, the government- as it is undertaking the modernization of the state, should keep in mind the importance of municipalities and try to minimize the negative impacts.

The impact of high taxation rates in Nunavik deter small business start-up. To improve the situation, tax breaks or lower tax rates must be considered by government.

Discussion of the Health and Social Services' issues evolved around suicide prevention, services, community emergency vehicles, social services and community infrastructure. Specialized health human resources were also discussed and the implication of youth in this sector.

Minister of Culture and Communication, Mrs. Lynn Beauchamp summarized the consultation session as follows:

o Education, Training and Employment:

The high number of school drop-outs is a problem mentioned by many participants and several explanations for this situation were given: Students lack motivation, Students must exile themselves in a foreign culture (southern Québec) in order to study at the post-secondary level, Households living in poverty, social problems caused by alcohol and drugs. Lack of parental and teacher support.

Solutions include the increase of the teaching of Inuit culture and the establishment of a college in Nunavik. Post-secondary education in the region with focus on training for those professions needed in Nunavik

o Economic, Regional and Sustainable Development

- Shortage of employment and few professional positions are held by Inuit. Training is vital. As well, job standards are too restrictive (qualification cards, fluency in two or three languages).
- The tax burden is a major obstacle to economic development
- The price of commodities in Nunavik is very high, particularly the cost of food. Solutions must be found to reduce the weight of this economic burden on residents.
- The economy and businesses in the region need to be developed (Re-start the fur trade, develop the country food market outside of Nunavik, develop the traditional economy , promote parks and tourism and the fabrication of snowmobiles in Nunavik)

With respect to sustainable development, participants expressed the need to properly measure the environmental impacts of resource development projects, such as hydro-electricity and mining. Other sources of energy should be examined.

o Health and Social Services

Nunavik's health and social service needs are enormous. It was mentioned that Québec has not respected its commitments under the JBNQA with respect to adequate funding for health care. Chronic under-funding of institutions leads in particular to shortages of Human resources (nurses, physicians and dentists), hospital beds and medical facilities, adapted health and social service programs.

Health Services main needs are: Infrastructure and equipment, programs for the physically and mentally disabled, certification of Inuit mid-wives, lack of housing for staff, which adversely affects recruitment, lack of training that prevents Inuit from filling positions at the region's health centres.

Social Services main needs are: Youth centers' improvement, adequate funding for community reintegration centres, the urgent need for a centre for children who can not be left with their parents, the urgent need for healing centres to deal with drug and alcohol addiction.

Nunavik Forum participants would like to see more preventive activities to fight alcohol and drug use among youth. To this end, more funding is required to support police and prevention activities.

o Family and Social Development

Nunavimmiut families most important issues affecting their lives are: lack of housing, drug and alcohol use, the high rate of suicide among youth, the high cost of living, elders well being, the slaughter of sled dogs negatively affected several Inuit in the past.

The following recommendations were expressed: increase the number of social workers to help families, women in Nunavik need to establish an association that can contribute to the development of families, family allowances and old age pensions should be adapted (indexed to the cost of living) in Nunavik, the justice system should be better adapted to the needs of Inuit, it is important that assistance be directed to elderly Inuit and to the development of Inuit culture in order to consolidate Inuit families and society in general. Elderly Inuit must be given opportunities to transmit their knowledge to their children in order to strengthen family units. The general poverty of residents requires urgent corrective measures (specifically as regards the heavy tax burden) because this poverty impacts on the lives of Inuit everyday.

In August, the KRG finalized and submitted the Nunavik Report to the Government. The report focused on the Social and Economic Situation of Nunavik and the Future of the State. The report key subjects were: Nunavik Economy, the Public Service sector in Nunavik and the Cost of Living

The report concludes that the rapid population growth in Nunavik suggests that the need for public services will likely increase in coming years. Public service funding should be maintained and improved.

Quebec needs to make room for Nunavimmiut at all levels of the decision-making structure: from the National Assembly to the delivery of programs and services which invest in the development of Nunavik. The following are these recommendations: a seat be created for Nunavik at the National Assembly; a Nunavik Government and Assembly be created; the provisions of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* be fully implemented; measures be implemented to reduce the difference in the cost of goods between Nunavik and other regions of Quebec, thereby improving the standard of living of Nunavimmiut; investment in infrastructure, programs and services be undertaken to stimulate the health, education, social and economic development of Nunavik; access to government assistance programs and services for the Inuit of Nunavik be improved.



courtesy: Makivik Corp. B. Mesher



courtesy: Makivik Corp. B. Mesher

b) agreement between Government and the regions, re decentralization

objective

process

schedule

application in Nunavik

Quebec regions' socioeconomic organizations and municipalities lobbied the Quebec government for many years to decentralize and regionalize most of the government services with the objective of approaching the services to the citizens and for the programs to be relevant to regional realities. On October 14, 2004, the government and municipally-elected representatives of Québec regions - including The Quebec Federation of Municipalities and the Quebec Union of Municipalities - signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a process that will lead to the implementation of the government's regionalization and decentralization policy.

The process comprises several components: the decentralization of responsibilities, the regionalization of government services, the adaptation of government standards and programs to regional realities, the urgent implementation of strategic projects (specifically the reconditioning of municipal infrastructure) and partnership initiatives.

Specific elements contributed to the decision to decentralize and or adapt government services. These are: the decentralization must bring decision-making power closer to the general public; the current Québec-municipal tax arrangement expires on December 2005; the process aimed at taking stock of the financial situation, needs and interests of the municipalities is being carried out by the Ministère des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du Loisir and the Ministère des Finances; and lastly, every municipality has important infrastructure needs and the federal government has indicated its intention to contribute funding to these needs.

The following principles guide the decentralization and regionalization process:

- strengthen local democracy by bringing decision-making power closer to the general public in the regions;
- make use of existing municipal structures to enable regional development;
- transfer to the municipalities in the fullness of time public sector responsibilities along with proper resources;
- locate the delivery of services as close as possible to the general public;
- in the framework of the current municipal funding process, take into consideration the government's decentralization project;
- ensure greater transparency and accountability with respect to decision-making and the management of public funds.

A joint decentralization committee comprised of the government, the Federation of Municipalities and the Union of Municipalities will undertake to complete a Decentralization Plan that will give the municipalities responsibilities over economic, social and cultural matters that could be transferred to the municipalities in the fullness of time with proper resources will be discussed by the Table Québec-municipalités as part of the process to develop a new tax arrangement between Québec and the municipalities. The first progress report will be tabled in March 2005.

Québec municipalities –through the Table Quebec- municipalités - will be consulted on the work carried out concerning the other components of the government's regional and municipal autonomy project. The Table Québec-municipalités will also be consulted on measures aimed at the regionalization of government services including the creation of Services Québec – a central

service for most of the government's services - the adaptation of government standards and programs, and partnership initiatives.

On the 14th of October 2004, Mr. Johnny Adams, representing the Kativik Regional Government signed the agreement during the Forum des generations in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, Quebec.



source: Government of Quebec Website



source: Government of Quebec Website

c) forum of the generations

As a follow-up to the Public Talks Forums held in every region of Quebec, starting in the spring of 2004 and ending early in the fall, the government invited elected representatives from each region of Quebec, representatives of all socioeconomic sectors, including labor unions, universities, CEGEP's, health providers to discuss the recommendations and results of the regional forums, including those of Montreal, Laval and Quebec city.

Mr. Johnny Adams, chairman of the Kativik regional Government, Mr. Pita Aatami, President of Makivik Corporation attended this important meeting. The two-day meeting concluded with three important actions:

1) Having examined the findings of the regional forums, the government announced the following Selected Initiatives to focus on specific actions on the immediate and near future actions:

In order to respond to the challenges posed by Québec's public financial and changing demographic situations, the identified initiatives were grouped under nine themes:

1. Mobilizing public health efforts;
2. Ensuring the future of our health and social services system;
3. Ensuring education services for our youth;
4. Assisting families;
5. Developing the economies of Québec and its regions;
6. Labour training and adjustment;
7. Fostering immigration;
8. Prioritizing the sustainable development of Québec;
9. Establishing a youth-action strategy.

For these, three types of action were also identified:

- Task force to further examine issues;
- Task force to prepare to a short-term action strategy;
- Immediate action.

Action Items:

1. Mobilizing public health efforts

- Beginning in September 2006: add an additional one and a half hours to elementary school education for a total of two hours of physical education – **Immediate action**.
- November 2004: public health campaign to foster wholesome lifestyles, supported by field activities – **Immediate action**.
- Cross-sector team to develop various preventive approaches for youth – Mandate assigned to the Minister Philippe Couillard – **Task force for a short-term action strategy** – Interim report due March 2005 – Final report due June 2005.

2. Ensuring the future of our health and social services system

- Multi-party team to explore solutions that will ensure the future of the health and social services network – Mandate assigned to the ministers Yves Séguin and Philippe Couillard – **Follow-up task force** – Interim report due February 2005 – Final report due June 2005.

3. Ensuring education services for our youth

- Study the development of community schools – Mandate assigned to the Minister Pierre Reid – **Follow-up task force** – Final report due June 2005.
- Develop solutions that will allow continued quality education services – Mandate assigned to the Minister Pierre Reid – **Follow-up task force** – Final report due May 2005.

4. Assisting families

- Work and family – Proposed policy to be tabled by the Minister Claude Bécharde – **Immediate action** – Parliamentary committee consultations, winter 2005 – Adoption of finalized policy, spring 2005.
- Parental insurance – Multi-party management council for the Québec parental insurance plan to be established by the Minister Claude Bécharde pursuant to the *Act respecting Parental Insurance* – **Immediate action**.
- Elders – Transfer responsibility for issues concerning Elders from the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (health and social services) to the Ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille (employment, social solidarity and family welfare) under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for Family Welfare – **Immediate action**.
- Involvement of Elders – Study measures that would permit Elders to participate more fully in development in Québec – Mandate assigned to the Minister Carole Thériault – **Follow-up task force** – Deadline: June 2005.

5. Developing the economies of Québec and its regions

Economic development is important to every sector of activity: from the resource sector including agriculture, through the processing sector, to the service sector including in particular the tourism

and cultural industries. Over the last few decades, the State has acquired a number of policy instruments that the current government is committed to modernizing. We must continue to adapt these instruments to new realities. The following priority actions were identified by participants at the Forum des générations:

- Support for regional investment – Partnership with the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec (workers solidarity fund), the CSN's Fondation and Capital Desjardins as well as mobilization of the private sector in the regions to create the Regional Economic Initiatives Fund (FIER) – Regional funds to be established with the Regional Conferences of Elected Officers (RCEO) – **Immediate action**.
- Investment support– Creation of the Strategic Support for Investment Program (PASI) – **Immediate action**.
- Regional development – Mandate given to the Table Québec-Regions and the Table Québec-Municipalities to define development tools – **Task force for a short-term action strategy**.
- Modernization of infrastructure – Preparation of an infrastructure upgrading plan in partnership with municipalities and the federal government – **Immediate action**.
- Develop our natural resources to their full potential – Support the secondary and tertiary processing sector, specifically through the FIER and the PASI – **Immediate action**.
- Develop our hydro-electric resources to their full potential – Further development of hydro-electric resources in partnership with those concerned – **Immediate action**.
- Aboriginal nations – Organization of an Aboriginal nations social and economic development forum – **Immediate action** – Deadline: 2005.

6. Labour training and adjustment

- Government employment plan to be published by the Minister Claude Béchard, including planning for labour needs and the next generation of entrepreneurs – **Immediate action** – Deadline: before the end of November 2004.
- Progressive retirement – Propose measures to adapt retirement plans and introduce progressive retirement where desired – Mandate assigned to the ministers Claude Béchard, Yves Séguin and Michel Després – **Immediate action** – Deadline: April 2005.
- Discussions with the federal government concerning the renewal of the Income Support Program for Older Workers – Mandate assigned to the Minister Claude Béchard – **Immediate action**.
- Succession strategy for health and social service workers – Mandate assigned to the Minister Claude Béchard in co-operation with the ministers Philippe Couillard and Pierre Reid – **Task force for a short-term action strategy** – Deadline: June 2005.
- Multi-party team to define action strategies that will allow businesses to increase their competitiveness and respond to the constraints of the new economic setting and the challenge posed by Québec's demographic situation; to study the impacts of new work-related realities; to explore social innovation and participative management opportunities; and to foster entrepreneurship – Mandate assigned to the ministers Claude Béchard and Michel Audet – **Task force for a short-term action strategy** – Deadline: spring 2005.

- Publication of an action plan aimed at reconciling professional training and technical training – Mandate assigned to the Minister Pierre Reid – **Immediate action** – Deadline: end of February 2005.

7. **Fostering immigration**

- Accelerate the signing of regionalization agreements – Mandate assigned to the Minister Michèle Courchesne – **Immediate action** – Deadline: December 2004 to December 2005, depending on the region.
- Cross-sector team comprising representatives from various professional corporations, from universities and from the government to study measures that would allow for the speedy recognition of diplomas and skills acquired outside of Québec – Mandate assigned to the Minister Michèle Courchesne – **Immediate action** – Deadline: spring 2005.
- Accelerate negotiations with the federal government so as to permit foreign students throughout Québec, including in Montreal and Quebec City, to work off-campus during their studies – Mandate assigned to the Minister Michèle Courchesne – **Immediate action**.

8. **Prioritizing the sustainable development of Québec**

- Table in November 2004 a consultation document on sustainable development – Mandate assigned to the Minister Thomas J. Mulcair – **Immediate action**.
- Regional input into the consultation document on sustainable development – Mandate assigned to the Minister Thomas J. Mulcair – **Immediate action** – Deadline: beginning of 2005.
- Parliamentary committee on sustainable development in Québec – Mandate assigned to the Minister Thomas J. Mulcair – **Immediate action** – Deadline: May 2005.

9. **Establishing a youth-action strategy**

- Table a youth-action strategy to help youth enter the employment market and play a role in Québec society as well as to provide support for education, problem youth, school drop-out prevention initiatives, youth migration and suicide – **Immediate action** – Deadline: spring 2005.

2) The Regional Economic Initiative Fund

The government introduced the Regional Economic Initiative Fund (FIER) to reinforce regional economic development. The development fund is worth \$300 million, comprising a \$210 million government contribution

The main purpose of the FIER is to be adaptable to the economic reality of each region and to regional priorities. The FIER is also intended to support investor initiatives in the regions. It possesses four components:

FIER-SUPPORT are intended to serve as support funds for businesses and will be established under the stewardship of the Regional Conferences of Elected Officers (RCEO). The RCEOs will choose a body to be responsible for the management of the FIER-SUPPORT, precluding any need to create new management structures. In this instance, the government's investment could reach \$42 million, which is to say \$2 million per RCEO. Since each dollar raised by the region will be matched with two government dollars, the overall resource envelope could total \$63 million. Fund participation, in the form of capital or quasi-capital, may not exceed \$250,000 per business.

FIER-REGIONS are regional investment funds that will be managed in the regions by organizations in which the private sector holds a controlling interest. This funding is intended for investment in business start-up and mezzanine activities. In this instance, the government's investment could reach \$78 million. Since each dollar raised by local partners (private investors in the region, for the most part) will be matched with two government dollars, the overall resource envelope could therefore reach \$117 million. Fund participation in the form of funding (capital or quasi-capital) may not exceed \$500,000 per business.

FIER-PARTNERS serve for investment in new sector-based funds. Eligible sectors include technological sectors, more traditional sectors and emerging sectors that fall into the fields of excellence of a region or cluster of regions. In this instance, the government's contribution will be \$40 million. Another \$40 million will be injected by the government's three partners, which is to say the FSTQ, the CRCD and Fondation. Since the FIER-PARTNERS will invest one dollar for every \$2 invested by the private sector, the overall resource envelope could reach \$240 million. This component will be managed by a private limited partnership.

FIER-PARTNERS also plan to create a financing source for strategic projects in the regions. Strategic projects include large-scale, economically viable, developer-supported (private or co-operative) projects that provide investment dollars and assume part of the project's risk. Strategic projects could also include an important regional developmental project. Participation, in the form of capital, may not be less than \$5 million. In this instance, the government and its three partners will contribute equally \$100 million to this fund which will be managed by a limited partnership.

Several needs: a single, comprehensive response

The Minister explained that various studies and analyses, including the Brunet report on venture capital, clearly demonstrate two deficiencies regarding business financing in Québec. First, businesses at start-up and mezzanine stages are unable to easily access capital, especially in the regions. Secondly, large-scale projects are also very difficult to finance. Finally, the private sector does not yet play a great enough role in venture capital investments in Québec. "The aim of the FIER is to correct these weaknesses and meet identified needs, while allowing public and private venture capital and investment corporations an opportunity to play their role. The injection of new private capital is needed to further energize our economy, especially in the regions," noted Minister Audet.

A subsidiary of Investissement Québec will be created to manage the government's contributions. The mission, financial analysis expertise and regional activities of the corporation will be harmonized with the objectives of the FIER.

In December 2004, Minister Audet described the FIER potential impact "The creation of investment funds in every region of Québec will serve as important leverage in their continuing vitality, autonomy and economic prosperity. These are flexible and responsive measures that should clearly demonstrate to the regions that our government can walk the talk," concluded.

3) The signing of the agreement of Decentralization.

d) Nunavik Food Coupon Program : A Nunavik Social Measure

During August 2004, Katujiniq Board of Directors discussed the poverty issue in Nunavik and the need to present concrete actions to alleviate poverty in all Nunavik communities. During January of 2002, the provincial Minister for the Elimination of Poverty and Exclusion, Ms Nicole Léger met with Nunavimmiut representatives and Inukjuammiut in Inukjuak to listen to their views and accounts of the depth and persistence of this issue in Nunavik.

Katujiniq Board of Directors recommended to the KRG Regional Council the commitment of an amount of one million dollars over two fiscal years, 2004-05 and 2005-06, to be used to assist Nunavimmiut in need, through a one-year Food Coupon Program starting in November 2004.

The Program was approved during the KRG council setting of September 2005 in Kuujuaq. The program objectives are :

1. To provide means for persons with low disposable income to have access to basic food items;
2. To assist in prevention of diabetes by promoting good nutritional food consumption;
3. To assist in prevention of obesity.

The Program is promoted by the Kativik Regional Government in collaboration with First Air - who invested \$ 300,000 in this social initiative- and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services. The program is administered by each Municipality of Akulivik.

e) Regional Development Projects :

During September 2004 setting, the KRG regional council approved the following projects

- Launching of the Documentary on the 1950-70 Dog Slaughter in the Inuit communities
a contribution of \$ 80,000 was approved for the launching of the 1950-70 Dog Slaughter Documentary commissioned by Makivik Corporation – and produced by TNI – to bring attention to the injustice and hardship that these events caused to the Inuit and to their livelihood;

- TNI Regional Radio Project
a contribution of \$ 75,000 was approved to co-fund the acquisition and installation of radio equipment in the communities to expand TNI regional radio services in Nunavik;

- **Nunavik Information Centre**

a contribution of \$ 72,000 was approved to fund the operations of the Nunavik Information Centre for 2005. The Kativik Regional Government in collaboration with *Katutjiniq* and Makivik Corporation has established the information centre in Quebec city to promote Nunavik's unique culture, the region's emerging young population and its aspiration and in general to increase Nunavik's visibility and place in the Quebec society and as a distinguished tourism destination;

f) Usijiit Transportation Services for Elders and persons with disabilities

Since the public local transportation for persons with disabilities in Nunavik communities is non-existent at the present time, the Nunavik population depends on private and organization vehicles for their transportation within the community. Elders and disabled persons movements are restricted by the availability of other persons with vehicles to lend a hand and drive them where they need to go.

The solution to this problem is to establish a regular local transport service for persons with disabilities to be managed and operated by the municipalities.

Makivik Corporation and the KRG - preoccupied with the wellbeing and safety of Nunavimut - have worked on a project to provide each municipality with an adequate vehicle customized to the needs of disabled persons.

A project was submitted to Transport Quebec to start this service in Nunavik's 14 municipalities, while Makivik Corporation and KRG acquired the vehicles which were delivered to the communities in the fall 2004, except for Aupaluk's vehicle that required additional adaptation.

The acquisition project costs were set at \$ 960,300 was co-funded at 50 % each by Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Local Development Center (the KLDC). Transport Quebec funding decision is expected early in 2005 and includes co-funding of the capital expenditures and the operating expenses at 75 % over a 3-year period and will continue for as long as Usijiit and the KRG will continue to offer the services. A non-profit corporation – Usijiit – was created to provide technical support to the municipalities who are providing frontline service to Nunavimut on a daily basis.



source: Jack Papak, KRG Transport Dept.

g) signing of funding agreements on Regional Development and the Local Development Center

In accordance with Quebec's Act 34, adopted during December 2003, concerning regional and economic development, the Kativik Regional Council –within the framework of the mandate given to the KRG as regional conference of elected officers – adopted resolutions in September 2004 to implement the new measures concerning regional and economic development in Nunavik.

Two funding agreements were signed by Chairman Johnny Adams. The first agreement concerning regional development to undertake the following : evaluate local and regional planning and development bodies funded in whole or in part by the Québec Government, promote concerted action among partners in the region and, where warranted, give advice to the Minister responsible for regional development, on the region's development. Submit a five-year development plan to the Minister, defining a sustainable development context, the region's general and specific development objectives, giving priority consideration to the participation of young people and, in accordance with principles of equality and parity, of women in the region's democratic life. And finally to participate in funding regional development projects. The annual total envelope for regional development is \$ 935,802

The second agreement is in support of local social and economic firms. The KRG and the KLDC undertakes to promote local development and entrepreneurial support within its territory. It entrusts the following mandates in particular to the local development centre that it designates to act as such: To offer a full range of front-line services to businesses, including by grouping them together or coordinating them; this offer of services can be made, if applicable, in partnership with other people or organizations, including from the private sector. To develop a local action plan to stimulate the economy and create employment, particularly taking into consideration the five-year development plan established by the regional conference of elected officers of its territory and to see to the implementation of that local action plan. To formulate a strategy for the development of entrepreneurship, including social economy entrepreneurship, taking into consideration national and regional orientations, strategies, and objectives.

The Kativik Local Development Center -the KLDC- regroups all parties involved in economic development and employment issues, develops and implements economic and employment strategies, manages funds provided by the Government, and acts as a single multi-service window for accessing funding for economic development and job creation projects. The annual total envelope for regional development is \$ 507,538

The two agreements will be part of the KRG block funding starting April 1, 2005

h) Quebec Association for the Defense of the Rights of Retired Persons (AQDR)

KRG Chairman Johnny Adams invited the President of the Quebec Association for the Defense of the Rights of Retired Persons (AQDR), Mr. Henri Salembier to meet with Nunavik elders' representatives to launch a process to link Nunavimmiut elders to the Association with the object to advocate Nunavik elders' issues and find solutions and assistance from the provincial government.

The AQDR mission is to defend the retired persons economic, cultural and social. The main topics that preoccupy the association are: decent revenue for the elders, affordable housing, service at home, and gender equality, free access to medical, health and social services. In Quebec, the AQDR is the only association that defends the elders' rights.

Elders from Kangirsuk and Kuujuaq along with Mrs. Maggie Emudluk, KRG Vice-Chair, Mr. Charlie Arngak, Avataq Cultural Institute President, Mrs. Ida Saunders, KRG Director General and KRG Employment and training Department personnel attended the meeting.

The AQDR stated that Nunavik elders' issue corresponded to Quebec elders' issues in general however; particular attention should be given to social, cultural realities in relation to Nunavik's geographic position. Mr. Adams acknowledged that the indexation of pensions for Nunavik elders is in the forefront of elders' issues that needs to be addressed by the government.

Mr. C. Arngak will assume the responsibility to link the association with Nunavik elders till a Nunavik chapter is created.

On November 9, 2004, Mr. Arngak, Mr. Adams accompanied by Mr. Ittoshat, Makivik Treasurer met with the AGM of the AQDR held in St-Hyacinthe, Quebec. The Nunavik representatives also met with the new provincial Minister responsible for elders, Mme. Carole Th  berge, who welcomed Nunavik's presence at the AGM and promised to visit Nunavik and meet with the elders in the near future during the provincial consultation tours scheduled early in 2005.



source: AQDR



source: AQDR



source: AQDR

i) Northern Quebec Transportation Plan

In March 2004, Transport Quebec, the KRG and Katujiniq, organized a workshop to discuss 4 main issues related to the Nunavik section of the Northern Quebec Transportation. Members representing the Inuit Advisory Committee- Katujiniq- participated in the two-day workshop held in Puvimituq. Air Inuit and the Inuulitsivik Hospital and Social Services Centre representatives also addressed Transport Quebec during the workshop discussions. Workshop discussions and analysis, evolved around the identification of priorities and assessment of the transportation situation in Nunavik in view of each of the following topics: Safety and Infrastructures, Social & Economical Development, Mobility of People and Goods and Environment and Sustainable Land Use. The Northern Quebec Transportation Plan process started in 1999 and is scheduled to be concluded by spring of 2005.

j) **National Assembly Quebec Commission of Institutions visits Kuujjuaq**

During spring of 2004, the National Assembly Quebec Commission of Institutions visited Kuujjuaq to consult with the KRG and Makivik Corporation on the application of the Northern Quebec Regional Development Strategy of 2001. Members of Makivik Board of Directors, KRG Executives and the Regional Board of Health & Social Services made presentations with regard to various issues that affect services to Nunavimmiut, especially issues related to health and social services. KRG, Nunavik's council of elected officials, reported on the impact of the Northern Quebec Regional Development Strategy of 2001 on different regional and economic sectors in Nunavik: Total projects and program funds utilized by Nunavik is \$ 11,569,128

Program / Fund	Activities / Projects		
1) Innovation Fund	Research Projects Strategic Partnerships	1) Nunavik Hydro Potential Study 2) Nunavik Telecom Study	\$ 937,095 <u>\$ 500,000</u> \$ 1,437,095
2) Support Fund for Areas of Specialty (niche)	Strategic Intelligence Studies and Analysis Pilot Projects Research & Development Activities	1) Katittavik Centre 2) Nunavik Hydro Potential Study	\$ 2,847,000 <u>\$ 2,250,000</u> \$ 5,097,000
3) Tourism Development	Development of Tourism Offer	1) Park's Development 2) Specific Agreement on Tourism (NTA)	\$ 1,843,700 <u>\$ 833,333</u> \$ 2,677,033

Program / Fund	Activities / Projects		
Northern Quebec Municipal Job Creation Fund	For municipalities and Non-profit organizations with job creation and infrastructure improvement projects	1) ICC Conference	\$ 37,500
Natural Resources		1)F.Assistance/mining exploration 2) Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund	\$ 525,000 \$ 600,000 <u>\$1,125,000</u>

<i>Program / Fund</i>	<i>Activities / Projects</i>		
1) SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES 2) Support to Organizations in Nunavik 3) Enterprise Support Program	Support measures	1) KLDC 2) Kativik Environmental Committee 3) Kuujjuaraapik Coop 4) Inukjauk Coop 5) Kangiqsualujjuaq Coop Hotel	\$ 310,000 \$ 250,000 \$ 195,000 \$ 250,000 \$ 190,500 <u>\$1,195,500</u>
3) Tourism Development	Development of Tourism Offer	3) Park's Development 4) Specific Agreement on Tourism (NTA)	\$ 1,843,700 \$ 833,333 <u>\$ 2,677,033</u>

Fiscal measures to assist the local economy small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses were not used. These Tax Measures included tax holiday on income tax, capital tax and general payroll tax.

Katujiniq recommends that the government looks into delivering services-under this policy- to Nunavimmiut Quebecers by using the Kativik Regional Government (acting as a regional conference of elected officers and the regional conference" as per section 108 of Bill 34 adopted December 2003)

Recommendations:

In as much as possible, programs for small businesses under Industry and Commerce should be contracted out to the KRG for delivery.

Fiscal measures to assist the local economy such as Enterprise Tax Holiday and Refundable Tax Credits should be promoted in Nunavik and brought closer to Nunavik enterprises.

The signing of a new 5-year Funding Agreement with the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund

3. Business Development

a) business investments and services in 2004

During 2004, the KRG financing and economic development officers supported Nunavimmiut businesses and business promoters, 49 business files were opened. Through the Makigiarutiit Fund and the Inuit Business Development Fund, commercial financing and contributions helped business promoters start 10 new businesses and financed 4 existing businesses. At the end of 2004, 22 files were in progress, 12 files remained incomplete and one file closed. Under the social economy sector, one non-profit organization file was opened for the construction of an elder's home in Puvirnituk.

Sector	Project costs (\$)	Portion of total investment (%)
Public Organizations (including KRG)	1,663,698	36.0 %
Quebec	250,000	5.4 %
Canada	325,000	7.0 %
Financial Institutions	590,000	12.8 %
Project Proponents	988,266	21.4 %
Other partners	804,613	17.4 %
	4,621,577	100.0 %

Business Advisory Services, a new and specific service that the KRG provides - thanks to funding obtained from Northern Affairs Canada - will contribute to improved business management and financial controls for Nunavik businesses that seek this kind of service. Two Business Advisory Services' Officers provide this service from Inukjauk and Salluit KRG offices. Nine operating businesses received advice on management and bookkeeping.

During the summer of 2004, the Minister of Northern Affairs visited Kuujuaq and met with Makivik Corporation and the KRG to discuss various economic development and Nunavik development files. The KRG underlined that INAC funding of the business advisory services should continue and should be included in the community economic development organization funding (the CEDO funding) in a 5 year agreement rather than the existing one year agreements. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that this item will be followed-up on.

Through an agreement with the Nunavik Tourism Association, Tourisme Québec (tourism) and the Ministère du Développement économique et régional et de la Recherche (economic and regional development and research, MDERR), the KRG worked on the analysis of 5 files for another \$243,847 in funding under the tourism agreement (7.7 % of projects' costs of \$ 3,147,573) to: 2 hotel constructions, one outfitting development and to Umiujaq Berries Festival in 2004. In addition, an amount of \$ 49,813 for the production of a tourism and regional promotional video production was approved.

b) Kuujuaaraapik business seminar and Nunavik Trade Show

- o At the end of April 2004, the department participated at the 2004 Nunavik Trade Show, held at the Kuujuaq Forum.
- o Kuujuaaraapimmiut Pivalliajut - Kuujuaaraapik Local Business Seminar

On November 23 – 24, 2004, the department held a local business seminar in Kuujuaaraapik at the Kuujuaaraapik Municipal Council Office. The Nunavik Investment Corporation was also represented at the seminar. The seminar topics were: how to start a business, market analysis, funding scenarios, promoter's contribution, business structure, business programs, loan and contribution agreements, implementation of the business plan, business management, bookkeeping procedures understanding financial statements, basic filing system, human resources, inventory, mark-up, business competition and marketing methods.

4. Objectives for 2005

- Completion of Phase I Industrial projects under the Economic Diversification Initiative "The KRG Opportunity Study and November 2003 recommendations".
- Business Development and Expansion : respond to entrepreneurs' requests (target: 36 for 2005)
- Business Advisory Services to business initiatives financed and funded through the KRG.
- Organization of the Nunavimmiut Pivallianiq 2005 Business Seminar - Puvirnituq
- Participation in the Nunavik Trade Show 2005.
- Nunavik's Comprehensive Web :Up keeping, Promotion
- Collection of Nunavik-related studies
- Delivery of Aboriginal Business Canada Program in Nunavik (an additional service under the Research & Economic Development Department).
- Quebec Aboriginal Socioeconomic Summit- November 2005 "Collaboration with Makivik Corporation ".
- Nunavik Regional Development Strategy 2004 "presentation to KRG Council and to the Quebec Government.

