

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF JUNE 11 - 13, 2024 | KUUJJUAQ

Recognizing the need for broader consultations both within and outside the organization to examine how we go about ensuring student success, the Commissioners identified key questions that will guide the “Listening” phase of Sivumuattiit, a four-phase strategic planning consultation process.

Sivumuattiit is a one-year consultation process that re-imagines ways to support Nunavik students on their paths to success. Consultations will be held both onsite in Nunavik and online, with the participation of students, community members and school staff members.

As of October 15, 2024, six consultation meetings have taken place, including a community consultation in Kuujjuaq. A total of 13 additional consultations are planned between now and June 3, 2025.

Consultation updates and calendar are available on a dedicated webpage: <https://www.kativik.qc.ca/sivumuattiit/>

Following her election on April 3, 2024, Teresa Etok was sworn in as Commissioner for the community of Puvirnituk. Teresa Etok replaces Paulusi Beaulne, who resigned.

The Council was briefed on the data project, including the finalization of youth sector dashboards. The dashboards that were presented feature live data on: student enrolment, student attendance as recorded by teachers, student school attendance and the school closure report. As the last step of PHASE 1, staff access to these dashboards will be rolled out during the 2024-2025 school year.

Initial analysis of the youth sector data shows that additional work will be required to ensure data consistency. For example, although teachers are taking student attendance regularly, data on reasons for absences is not systematically available. A similar situation can be observed in the case of school closures—these occurrences appear not to be reported in a consistent manner.

The project’s PHASE 2 will focus on recruitment and retention data, in collaboration with the Human Resources department. Data from other sectors of the school board will also be explored and assessed for incorporation into the project.

Once again this year, summer courses were offered from June 3 to 19, 2024, to youth sector students requiring mandatory Secondary level credits to obtain their Secondary School Diploma. To extend access, the deployment of in-community teaching resources was prioritized. The courses offered include mathematics, science, social sciences and Inuktitut.

The courses offered include mathematics, science, social sciences and Inuktitut. Participating host communities include: Kuujjuaq (which served as a hub for students from multiple communities), Inukjuak (in-community students), Umiujaq (in-community students) and Kuujjuaraapik (in-community students).

As part of the activity report presented by the Education Services' School Operations team, the Council was briefed on projects that support student perseverance and academic success. Implemented by partner organizations in various schools throughout Nunavik, these projects complement extra-curricular activities led by teachers.

An agreement with United for Literacy (formerly Frontier College) allows high school students to benefit from the support of mathematics and literacy tutors. In 2023-2024, 10 tutors were present in eight Nunavik communities (Inukjuak, Umiujaq, Kuujjuaraapik, Kangirsuk, Kangiqsujaq, Aupaluk, Quaqtac and Kuujuaq). As always, the full deployment of these professional resources depends on the availability of local KI housing, as well as on the ability of our implementing partner to recruit suitable candidates.

In 2023-2024, Youth Fusion implemented six other projects in four Nunavik communities (Kuujuaq, Tasiujaq, Quaqtac and Umiujaq). The projects focussed on creating links between the schools and the communities, while allowing participating youth to explore new interests.

Nurrait – Jeunes Karibus also has a strong presence in our schools. In 2023-2024, its nature and adventure-based intervention program was offered to secondary students in 12 participating Nunavik communities (i.e. all villages except Kuujuaq and Tasiujaq).

The Council was briefed by multiple departments on the graduation rates of students in the youth, adult and post-secondary sectors. Across all sectors, a total of 150 Nunavimmiut completed a program of study offered either by Kativik Ilisarniliriniq or a partner university, or with the support of the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq sponsorship program.

A total of **67 Nunavimmiut obtained their Secondary School Diploma** this year (63 in the youth sector and four in the adult sector). In addition, **10 students** from the youth sector completed programs under the **Work-Oriented Training Path** and obtained **certification from the Quebec Ministry of Education.**

In the adult sector, **13 Nunavimmiut obtained a Diploma of Vocational Studies** in the following trades: accounting, automobile mechanics, cooking and northern heavy equipment operation.

Through the **Recognition of Acquired Competencies** in the adult sector, **one** person also obtained a **Diploma of Vocational Studies** in accounting.

Inuit teachers remain invested in pursuing their university education by participating in **teacher training** programs offered by partner universities McGill and UQAT. This year, **11 of our Inuit teachers completed a university program.** Out of these, three teachers received certificates (60 credits) from McGill University, while eight teachers received certificates (14 credits, 24 credits and 28 credits) from UQAT.

At the post-secondary level, **48 students sponsored by Kativik Ilisarniliriniq completed their program of studies outside of Nunavik, at the vocational, college and university levels.** Of these, 13 graduated from vocational training programs, 17 completed college programs, 15 graduated from Nunavik Sivunitsavut, and three obtained university diplomas (including one Masters degree).

From October 2023 to March 2024, all 14 Nunavik communities were visited and took part in consultations on their vision of a post-secondary institute based in Nunavik, its mission, how it would function, the type of programs it could offer, where it would be located, etc. The consultation report will be finalized during the fall and is expected to be presented to the Council in December 2024.

In each community, the consultation team held in-person sessions with secondary level cycle 2 students and community members. Residents were also consulted through call-in radio shows over the local FM radio.

Regardless of which model of post-secondary institute Nunavimmiut choose, it is likely that changes to the current legal framework surrounding post-secondary education in Nunavik will be required. As such, the Commissioners stated that Makivvik should be kept informed, as support from its leadership will be essential as we move forward.

Following a briefing on how the implementation of Law 14 is expected to negatively impact Nunavik students at the college level, Commissioners requested that a letter be sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, requesting the Canadian government's support in exempting Inuit students from Law 14.

The letter states that the Council is concerned about the negative impact that Law 14 may have on Nunavik students by creating further obstacles to those who wish to undertake post-secondary education in English but risk failing the mandatory college French courses. The letter also reiterates the Council's view that Law 14 ignores the opportunity to strengthen Indigenous languages while perpetuating linguistic colonialism.

The Council expressed support for the steps taken by the First Nations Education Council and stressed that it stands by the Indigenous peoples of Quebec in their vision of self-determination and Indigenous control of Indigenous language and education.

As part of the Human Resources department activity report, the Commissioners were informed that 70% of new manager hires are internal candidates. Great efforts were also put into the recruitment of external candidates, through advertisement and marketing, as well as by means of active participation in recruitment fairs across Canada.

An important proportion of teachers hired locally and regionally are non-legally qualified. This remains a challenge and has important repercussions at all levels of the organization. The situation must be understood within the broader context of a shortage of Canadian teachers in both the French and English sectors.

Within the next school year, the Human Resources department intends to allocate resources in order to better understanding why some employees are leaving while others are choosing to stay (retention and turnover factors).

The Council of Commissioners approved changes to the Directive on supply, services and construction contracts (MR-01). The amendments are aligned with comments from last year's report from the financial auditors.

Among other things, the amendments introduced ensure that the directive's public tender threshold is in compliance with the provincial legal framework.

As part of the activity report presented for first language curriculum, the Commissioners learned about the Aarsiiq Theatre project. The innovative story-telling initiative builds on Inuit heritage to reinforce the learning of the Inuktitut language in entertaining ways.

The project visited the communities of Puvirnituk and Tasiujaq, where it worked with youth and elders to develop a story rooted in local heritage. In both communities, the narrative was presented to the public in the form of a theatre play.