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UNGAVA TULATTAVIK HEALTH CENTER
CENTRE DE SANTÉ TULATTAVIK DE L'UNGAVA

FACT SHEET 2 – NUNAVIK'S INSTITUTIONS: WHO DOES WHAT?

Cultural Safety Team

Reference Guide on Nunavik and Cultural Safety

Fact sheet 2 of 16





WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND NUNAVIK'S INSTITUTIONS?

Why is this important?

When you arrive in Nunavik, you'll quickly hear several acronyms:

- UTHC/CSTU
- IHC/CSI
- NRBHSS/RRSSSN
- Makivvik
- KRG/ARK
- KI
- NHB/OHN
- NPS/SPN

Behind each of these institutions is an organization that plays an essential role in the daily lives of the Nunavimmiut.

Understanding who does what helps to:

- better guide users;
- collaborate more effectively with partners;
- better understand how Nunavik operates;
- better understand the UTHC's role within this framework.

Why so many organizations?

Nunavik has a unique governance structure, established under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975). Many responsibilities normally handled elsewhere by municipalities or the government are carried out here by regional Inuit institutions.



UNDERSTANDING NUNAVIK'S GOVERNANCE

Unlike most regions in Quebec, Nunavik has several institutions that were created or recognized following the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (CBNJQ), signed in 1975.

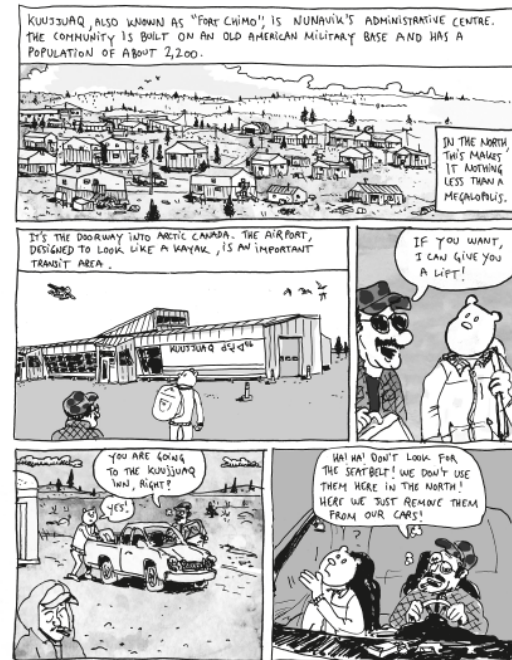
These institutions enable the Inuit to actively participate in decisions regarding:

- education;
- health;
- housing;
- economic development;
- infrastructure;
- community development.

This regional governance reflects the Inuit's desire to actively participate in decisions affecting their territory and their future.

Note

The JBNQA will be discussed in greater detail in Fact Sheet 5.



Nunavik by Michel Hellman, published by Pow Pow.



MAKIVVIK CORPORATION

Who does it represent?

Makivvik represents the Inuit beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

What it does

- Advocating for Inuit rights;
- Promotes economic development;
- Managing regional investments;
- Participating in negotiations with governments;
- Supporting social and cultural initiatives.

Makivvik plays a central role in the development of modern Nunavik.

 <https://www.makivvik.ca>

Why should UTHC employees know about Makivvik?

Among the companies and sectors it is associated with:

-  Air Inuit – Air transportation
-  NEAS – Maritime transport and community supply
-  Nunavik Fisheries – Marine resource development
-  Construction and Infrastructure – Kautaq Construction Inc.
-  Geomatics and territorial development – Nunavik Geomatics

Why is this important?

Makivvik's investments help to:

- create jobs for Nunavimmiut;
- maintaining essential services;
- support regional economic development;
- strengthen Inuit economic self-determination.



KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (KRG/ARK)

The KRG acts as the regional government for several areas:

- Municipal infrastructure;
- Transportation;
- Civil protection;
- Environment;
- Regional development;
- Support for municipalities.

Why It Matters

Many social determinants of health fall under the KRG's responsibilities, either directly or indirectly:

- ✓ civil protection
- ✓ infrastructure
- ✓ environment

 <https://www.krg.ca>



Nunavik Police Service (NSP/SPN)

The SPN provides police services in the 14 communities of Nunavik and operates under the Kativik Regional Government.

Its responsibilities include:

-  Public Safety
-  Emergency response
-  Law enforcement
-  Prevention and community outreach
-  Collaboration with health and social services.

Why is this important for UTHC employees?

- Crisis situations;
- mental health interventions;
- domestic violence;
- child protection;
- safety of clients and staff.



NORTHERN VILLAGES (NV)

Every community in Nunavik has a northern village. The NVs play a role comparable to that of municipalities elsewhere in Quebec, but within the specific context of the North.

They are responsible for many essential services that directly impact the quality of life of the Nunavimmiut.

In particular, they are responsible for:

- local municipal services;
- local roads and snow removal;
- waste collection;
- drinking water supply;
- sewage collection;
- certain municipal buildings and facilities.

**The logo for the NV was created by AI to represent all Northern Village.*

GOOD TO KNOW

A Unique Situation in Nunavik

Unlike most municipalities in Quebec:

There is no recycling in the communities

 **There is generally no water supply system.**

Drinking water is delivered to homes, schools, and other facilities by tanker trucks.

 **There is generally no underground sewer system.**

Wastewater is also collected by truck.

This reality directly affects:

- ✓ public health;
- ✓ infection prevention;
- ✓ emergency response;
- ✓ the organization of municipal services.



**NUNAVIK REGIONAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
(NRBHSS/NRHBSS)**

What it does:

The NRBHSS coordinates the regional organization of health and social services.

Its responsibilities include:

- Regional planning;
- Public health;
- Network coordination;
- Service development;
- Representation before the MSSS.

Why It's Important

The NRBHSS supports and coordinates several projects that directly affect the UTHC and the IHC.



 <https://nrbhss.ca>



GOOD TO KNOW

The NRBHSS and the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

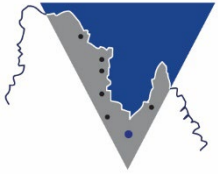
The Nunavik Regional Health and Social Services Board (NRBHSS) administers several aspects of the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program for Inuit beneficiaries in Nunavik.

In this capacity, it coordinates, among other things:

- medical travel;
- accommodations during certain specialized treatments;
- certain medical equipment and supplies;
- various supplementary services provided under the program.

Why is this important?

UTHC employees are regularly called upon to assist clients with procedures related to medical travel or services covered by the NIH. Understanding the role of the NRBHSS facilitates client guidance and collaboration among partners.



UNGAVA TULATTAVIK HEALTH CENTER (UTHC)

Mainly serves:

- Kuujjuaq
- Kangiqsualujjuaq
- Tasiujaq
- Aupaluk
- Kangirsuk
- Quaqaq
- Kangiqsujaq

Special Feature

The UTHC also provides certain services with a regional scope, including some youth rehabilitation services and group homes.

The UTHC is the main health center in Ungava Bay and collaborates daily with numerous regional partners.

 <https://www.tulattavik.com>



IN PRACTICE AT THE UTHC

The IQI Model: An Approach Developed with the Inuit

The UTHC is gradually rolling out the IQI model (Ilusirsusiarniq, Qanuinnngisiarniq, Inuuqatigiitsiani) to integrate the principles of cultural safety into all of its care, services, and organizational practices.

This initiative aims in particular to:

- strengthen partnerships with communities;
- foster respectful and trusting relationships;
- support a positive experience for patients, their loved ones, and employees;
- continuously improve the quality of care and services.

The implementation of IQI is carried out in collaboration with employees, managers, regional partners, and Inuit representatives.



INUULITSIVIK HEALTH CENTER (IHC/CSI)

Mainly serves:

- Kuujjuaraapik
- Umiujaq
- Inukjuak
- Puvirnituq
- Akulivik
- Ivujivik
- Salluit

Special Feature

The IHC is Nunavik's other healthcare facility and a key partner of the UTHC.

Why It Matters

Many regional projects are carried out jointly by the UTHC and the IHC.

 <https://www.inuulitsivik.ca>



GOOD TO KNOW

Ullivik: A Welcome Environment for Patients in Montreal

The Ullivik Center, administered by the IHC, provides a home away from home for Inuit patients from Nunavik who must stay in Montreal to receive specialized care.

Services include:

- accommodations before, during, or after medical appointments;
- daily meals;
- interpretation services;
- cultural and psychosocial support;
- support with coordinating medical travel.

Why is this important?

For many patients, Ullivik is their first point of contact in southern Quebec. This facility aims to provide a safe environment that respects the language, culture, and realities of the Inuit during their care.



KATIVIK ILISARNILIRINIQ (KI)

What it does

KI is the Nunavik school board.

It is responsible for:

- preschool education;
- elementary education;
- secondary education;
- adult education;
- vocational training.

It also contributes to the preservation and transmission of the Inuit language and culture.

Why KI Is an Important Partner

Collaborations between KI and the UTHC focus in particular on:

- child development;
- mental health;
- student success;
- family support;
- the promotion of the Inuit language and culture.

 <https://www.kativik.qc.ca>



GOOD TO KNOW

Supporting Postsecondary Education

In addition to its responsibilities for preschool, elementary, secondary, adult, and vocational education, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (KI) supports Nunavimmiut who choose to pursue college, university, or vocational studies outside Nunavik.

Depending on the program, this support may include::

- pre-departure guidance;
- financial assistance;
- ongoing support throughout their studies;
- services that promote student success and help maintain connections with Nunavik.

Why is this important?

Each year, many Inuit students leave their communities to pursue postsecondary education in southern Quebec. This transition can be both exciting and challenging, and the support provided by KI helps foster their academic success, well-being, and connection to their home communities..



NUNAVIK HOUSING BUREAU (NHB/OHN)

What it does

The NHB is responsible for social housing in Nunavik.

Its responsibilities include:

- managing the social housing stock;
- maintaining the housing units;
- assigning housing units;
- certain homeownership programs.

Why It Matters

Housing directly influences several social determinants of health.

 <https://nunavikhb.ca>



Why the NHB is important for UTHC employees

Housing-related issues can impact:

- physical health;
- infection prevention;
- mental health;
- academic success;
- the safety of older adults;
- domestic violence;
- home care.

Housing-related issues directly influence several social determinants of health and can impact the UTHC's interventions.



A FEW WORDS IN INUKTITUT

Makiwwik

Can be translated as:

“To rise” or “to stand up”

Kativik

Means:

“Meeting place”

Avataq

A traditional balloon made from an inflated sealskin used to hold a harpoon during the hunt.

Today, Avataq is also the name of Nunavik’s cultural institute.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that every community in Nunavik has its own Landholding Corporation?

These organizations play an important role in managing Category I lands under the CBNJQ.

Did you know that Nunavik has two separate health centres?

The UTHC and the IHC collaborate regularly to provide services throughout the territory.

Did you know that in Nunavik, drinking water delivered to your home or workplace is generally transported by truck, just as wastewater is collected by truck?

This reality is very different from that of most municipalities in the South and is one of the key characteristics of life in the North.



IN MY WORK AT THE UTHC

Understanding Nunavik's institutions can help me:

- better guide users;
- understand the roles of regional partners;
- identify the right resources;
- collaborate more effectively with local and regional organizations;
- better understand the context in which service users live.
- Understanding these institutions facilitates collaboration and helps provide culturally safe care and services.



KEY POINTS

- ✓ Nunavik has a governance structure that is unique in Quebec.
- ✓ Several institutions were created or consolidated following the CBNJQ.
- ✓ Each organization has a complementary mandate.
- ✓ The UTHC collaborates with these partners on a daily basis.
- ✓ Understanding their roles facilitates the delivery of care and services.



REFLECTING ON OUR PRACTICE

1. How does my knowledge of Nunavik influence my professional practice?
2. How can I better recognize the importance of language, family, and territory in my work?
3. In my current role, which regional organization am I most likely to collaborate with?



UTHC RECOMMENDATION

KUUIJUAQ – The Unsung Arctic Capital

Geospective – Cédric Gallant ([YouTube](#))

Through a sensitive and well-researched journalistic lens, Cédric Gallant takes viewers to Kuujuaq, Nunavik's main administrative, economic and service hub. This report highlights the community's daily reality, its landscapes, its challenges, its strengths, and the institutions that contribute to its development.

Why this recommendation?

Because it offers an excellent introduction to contemporary Nunavik and provides a better understanding of the context in which UTHC's regional partners and employees operate. This video is the first in a series dedicated to different aspects of Nunavik.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Makivvik Publications

<https://www.makivvik.ca>

Kativik Regional Government Publications

<https://www.krg.ca>

NRBHSS Annual Report

<https://nrbhss.ca>

KI Institutional Documentation

<https://www.kativik.qc.ca>



GO FURTHER

Explore the websites of Nunavik's institutions

Take a few minutes to browse the websites of Makivvik, the Kativik Regional Government, the NRBHSS, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, and the Nunavik Housing Authority.

Why take this approach?

Understanding the role of each of these partners facilitates collaboration and helps better direct users to the right resources.

Discovering Nunavik also means discovering the women, men, and institutions that contribute every day to the development and well-being of the communities. Getting to know them better helps us better understand the environment in which we provide care and services.

