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AROUND Kivalliq

with Darrell Greer



Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre opens

Nunavut Premier Joe Savikataaq helped cut the ribbon to officially open the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre in Rankin Inlet on June 16.

The \$3.8-million centre will provide a vital link between outfitters, tourist establishments, guides and tourists, he said.

He said the Government of Nunavut is committed to supporting the tourism industry and ensuring Nunavummiut benefit from this growing sector of the territory's economy.

"Unnganarniq (fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming and inclusive) is one of the guiding principles of Turaaqtavut," said Savikataaq.

"The visitor centre will give those who reside in the Kivalliq an

the gathering at the official opening of the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre in Rankin Inlet on June 16.

Nunavut Premier Joe

Savikataag addresses

opportunity to showcase their art and culture and provide visitors with a welcoming experience." The centre will employ three staff members to welcome

visitors and showcase taxidermic wildlife. They will also encourage visitors to tour other Kivalliq communities, will advertise Kivalliq tourism outfitters and provide an avenue for regional businesses to promote their services.

In addition, the Nunavut Development Corp. will sell Nunavut artwork at the centre in partnership with Nunavut's Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Artificial turf install

Folks were excited in Baker Lake to hear the community's artificial turf will be put in place in early July. Agnico Eagle Mines chipped in to assist with material and help with preparation of the turf's foundation this past week.

New judges appointed to Nunavut Court of Justice

Nunavut

Two judges were appointed to the Nunavut Court of Justice in Igaluit earlier this month.

Federal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould made the announcement on June 22. Queen's University Legal Aid senior review counsel Susan Charlesworth of Kingston, Ont., will replace Justice E.D. Johnson, who resigned effective Sept. 30, 2015. Public Prosecution Service of Canada general counsel Christian Lyons will replace Justice R.G. Kilpatrick, who resigned effective Sept. 30, 2016.

Qulliq Energy Corp. issues call for directors

Kivalliq/Nunavut

The Qulliq Energy Corp. (QEC) is accepting applications from Inuit interested in serving on the corporation's board of directors for a three-year term. Residents of Nunavut are strongly encouraged to apply.

The QEC is a territorial corporation of the Government of Nunavut and is responsible for the generation and distribution of electricity in the territory. Applicants are requested to email a cover letter and resume to Shelly McLeod at smcleod@qec.nu.ca by July 13.



GOOD YEAR FOR TOP SHOOTERS

The 3019 RCACC cadet marksmanship team of Cpl. Eden Sammurtok-Kolola, left, Lance Cpl. Logan Siksik, Sgt. Clifford Tatty, Master Cpl. Sakkataaq Zawadski, Sgt. Marikah Sanguin and Lieut. Dorothy Tootoo (coach) had a strong year with a number of personal bests being fired at the regional competition, despite losing a shot at the national championship to 3045 RCACC Arctic Bay at the Gimli, Man. event on April 14.

Education is key to progress says premier

Savikataaq lists housing, elder care, mental health and addiction treatment centres as top priorities

> by Darrell Greer Northern News Services **Rankin Inlet**

Premier Joe Savikataaq, the first from the Kivalliq region, this past week made his first stop in Rankin Inlet since assuming the territory's top position.

Savikataaq officially opened the Kivalliq Regional Visitor's Centre and addressed the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce during his brief but busy stop.

Savikataaq tossed his prepared speech aside and spoke from the heart.

"I'm so proud that I was elected premier and I'm extra proud that I'm the first Kivalliq premier," he said. "I will do my best to make sure that Nunavut prospers.

"I have a different style than the previous premier - that's neither good nor bad, just a fact – a different perspective on stuff and a different way of doing

The Government of Nunavut (GN) will continue with its mandate, he said.

"It just wouldn't make any sense to viate from it," he said. "Even though four years can seem like a long time, at times, in the world of government it's not. It's a snap of a finger. By the time you plan stuff and then want to do stuff, you're almost at the end already, so we're going to go with that (mandate)."

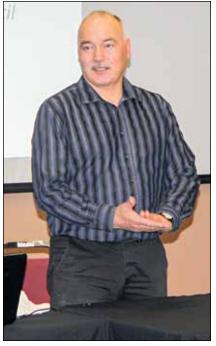
Savikataaq told the chamber the government is here to support them and that chamber members play a vital role in employment and economics in the various communities. He spoke about the need to train citizens to take advantage of opportunities in the mining industry.

We have to train people to be ready for them," he said. "If we wait, we'll miss the boat and our opportunities to get employment will be gone, or dramatically lessened."

After his address, Savikataaq gave his first personal print interview as premier in his home region with Kivalliq News.

Savikataaq said it had only been a relatively short period of time since the chaos of the previous week that saw

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Premier Joe Savikataaq, the first from the Kivalliq region, makes a point while addressing the Kivallig Chamber of Commerce in Rankin.

former premier Paul Quassa lose a nonconfidence vote, which allowed him to become Nunavut's first Kivalliq premier – but from this point on, he said, things can only get better with both cabinet and

"We haven't had much time to talk because they all left the very next day," said Savikataaq. "But I did tell them that I'm a team player and I'll be working with them in what I believe will be a good working relationship."

Savikataaq declined to discuss one of his first official acts as premier, which was the removal of Paul Okalik as Nunavut's chief negotiator of devolution and restoring Simon Awa back to the position he had held for four years before being removed by Quassa just a week earlier.

His top priorities are to bring elder care, mental health and trauma and addictions centres into the territory.

"Another of my priorities is to get more housing, which has been an issue since the creation of Nunavut," he said. "We just don't have enough housing and it's very stressful for so many people in small areas."

Savikataaq said he's confident the majority of Nunavummiut will have confidence in the government following the vote on Quassa.

"Everyone saw the numbers in the vote and it was pretty decisive in the assembly itself with the MLAs," he said.

When asked if he had one message ove all for Nunavummiut as he begins his term as premier, Savikataaq said, "Help us in the government to get Nunavummiut employable."

"Go to school, stay in school, get training - get yourself educated so you can come to work for the government, or anyone else you want to work for. The key is to get yourself educated so you can get the good jobs that are there. And when I say education I don't mean just Grade 12, which is just a stepping stone to becoming a nurse, a doctor, a carpenter, an accountant, any of the trades.

"Education truly is the key to forward progress for Nunavut to gain good self-reliance and for many more Nunavummiut to feel good because they support themselves and their families and when you feel good, your outlook on life is much better."

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