In Kangiqsualujjuaq, a Community Thrift Store Bringing Hope and New Opportunities

This "North of 60" project goes far beyond sharing essential goods: creating a place of solidarity, connection and community development in Nunavik.



From October 27 to 29, 2026, a team from the Provincial Council of Quebec of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul travelled to Kangiqsualujjuaq, in Nunavik, to advance an inspiring initiative: the establishment of a second community thrift store in the region, following the successful launch of the first in Kuujjuaq.

This field mission, carried out in collaboration with local partner organization Ippigusugiursavik, marks an important milestone in a project designed to improve access to essential goods while fostering greater independence and economic opportunities within the community.

A Project Built Together with the Community



The primary goal of the visit was to gain a better understanding of residents' needs and expectations, ensuring that the project reflects local realities and priorities.

Meetings with community partners and consultations with residents provided valuable insights into shopping habits, everyday challenges and the services people would like to see available. This information will help establish a baseline against which the project's impact can be measured over time.

The team also worked with the Kangiqsualujjuaq Inuit Landholding Corporation to assess the building being considered for the future thrift store. Technical and legal assessments are underway to determine the renovations required and develop a layout suited to the community's needs.

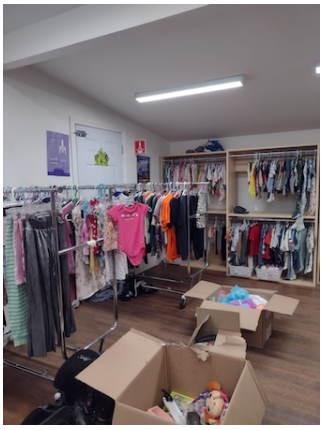
Essential Goods to Meet Immediate Needs



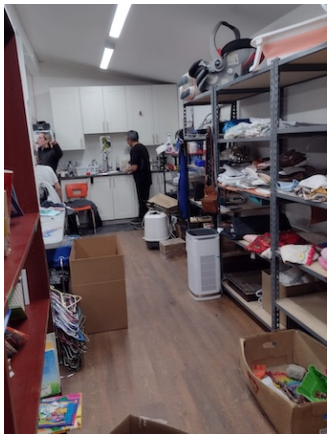
The mission also confirmed the safe arrival of the first two shipping containers of goods from Montreal. Their contents include mattresses and large household appliances intended to address essential needs in the community.

While preparations for the official opening continue, Ippigusugiursavik will coordinate the early distribution of these items to households identified by local social services. This will ensure that assistance reaches those who need it without unnecessary delay.

More Than a Thrift Store: A Place for Community Life



Discussions with the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) helped shape an even more ambitious vision for the project. Beyond offering affordable clothing and second-hand household goods, the future thrift store could become a true community gathering place.



Plans already include a small café and a safe play area for children. At the KRG's suggestion, the team is also exploring the possibility of incorporating a community kitchen where free meals could be provided to people experiencing the greatest hardship. This initiative would complement the food program already operated by Ippigusugiursavik.

The vision also includes creating opportunities for greater economic independence and employment, particularly for women and young people. Small-scale projects centred on local crafts could help showcase community talents, support entrepreneurial activities and potentially open new markets in southern Canada.

Any surplus revenue generated by the thrift store could be reinvested in other community initiatives, creating a sustainable cycle of solidarity and local development.

“North of 60” - Building Lasting Partnerships in Canada's North



A meeting with the Kativik Regional Government confirmed the strong interest and support of local partners for this initiative. Discussions focused on the project's long-term financial sustainability and its integration into a multi-year strategy to fight poverty and social exclusion.

This approach reflects a fundamental belief: lasting solutions must be developed alongside communities, considering their realities, priorities and aspirations.

For the SSVP and Ippigusugiursavik, the Kangiqsualujjuaq thrift store represents much more than another place to distribute essential goods. It is an opportunity to strengthen community connections, encourage mutual support and support initiatives that can make a lasting difference.

The next steps include completing the building assessments, finalizing the proposed layout and preparing a new multi-year project proposal during the first quarter of 2027.

Together with local partners and community members, the SSVP’s “North of 60” project continues to strengthen its commitment to Canada's North. Because behind every project is a shared desire: to meet today's needs while helping build a more caring, supportive and hopeful future.

Based on a report by Baudoin Kutuka, SSVP Coordinator, Quebec Regional Council.