

Northern Barbie debuts in Iqaluit

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Looking back at 2025's biggest stories

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Aggu elects MLA Edward Attagutaluk

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Nunavut's new top cop prioritizes Inuit recruitment



RCMP officers raise their hats Dec. 10 in honour of Andrew Blackadar, who retired as Nunavut's commanding officer this year. (Photo by Jeff Pelletier)

RCMP Chief Supt. Kent Pike takes charge of V division, where only 4 of 157 officers are Inuit

Jeff Pelletier
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Transparency, Inuit recruitment and officers' well-being are some of the issues Chief Supt. Kent Pike prioritized Dec. 10 as he took command of the Nunavut RCMP.

Pike was welcomed as the 10th commanding officer of the RCMP's V Division in a ceremony held inside an Iqaluit airport hangar.

The approximately hour-long event was a sea of scarlet, with officers wearing their traditional red serge uniforms. They presented a display of RCMP traditional drills to celebrate Pike in his new role, as about 40 invited guests looked on.

"I'm committed to the territory and I'm going to do my best for everyone," Pike told reporters after the ceremony.

Of the 157 RCMP officers working in Nunavut, only four are Inuit.

Pike said he wants to improve local recruitment and representation. He plans to build on the work

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Nunavik police chief faces scrutiny over racist remarks

Jean-François Bernier vows to be accountable and lists building trust among top priorities

Dominique Gené
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With racist comments from his past resurfacing, Nunavik's newly appointed police chief says he's committed to proving himself as an accountable leader.

"I was a young constable and I made a mistake," Jean-François Bernier said in an interview Dec. 12. "I don't shy away from it. I took full responsibility."

In 2002, Bernier called a detained individual the N-word and imitated the man's accent while working as a police officer in Quebec City. Only Bernier's colleague Dominic Lambert was present when he made the comment.

The remarks were deemed unjustified, in a police ethics committee ruling from Feb. 3, 2006. The committee investigates complaints against officers. Its ruling said racist speech from police cannot be tolerated and that comments like the one Bernier made undermine public trust.

At the time, Bernier's counsel argued the comments were not evidence of racism and compared them to casual swearing or blasphemy.

Bernier also explained to the committee that he spoke out of frustration and repeated provocation by the detainee, including threats and offensive comments. The committee found the explanations credible, but not enough to justify or excuse the comments themselves.

That same man was detained naked, which the committee also found unacceptable.

Bernier and his colleague each received a four-day suspension without pay for abusing their authority. Bernier also got a reprimand for the racist comments, as a result of the 2006 ruling.

His appointment last month to head the Nunavik Police Service came after weeks of interviews and discussions about his career and leadership, said Denis Abbott, spokesperson for Kativik Regional Government.

"Mr. Bernier presented as a knowledgeable and engaging leader with considerable

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ᓴᐊᐢ ᐱᓕᑎᐃ
ᓄᓇᓕᓂᒃ ᐱᖓᓂᓕᐊᓕᓕᓴ ᐅᓂᒃᑲᖅᑐᖅ ᑕᒪᑐᖏᓐᓄ

ᐊᓗᔨᐸᑎᓕᑐᑦ, ᐃᓄᓐᓂᒃ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᓴᖅᑎᓂᒃ ᐸᓂᓗᔪᓂᓕ ᐱᓇᓗᑎᐊᑭᒪᔪᖅ ᐊᖏᕈᓕᖅᑲᖃᓂᖅ ᑭᐊᐊᓕ ᐸᐃᒃ ᔨᕐᓂᓕᖅᐸᐅᓴᑐᓂ ᑎᓗᔨᐱᓚ 10-ᒥᑦ ᑎᐃᔨᑎᓕᐃ ᐊᖏᕈᓕᖅᑲᖅᓯᓂᖏᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥ ᐸᓂᓗᔪᑯᓂᓕᒋᑦ.

ᐸᐃᒃ ᑐᓐᖓᓕᔨᑎᑎᓕᔪᖅ ᖃᑯᓕᖓᓐᓂ ᐊᖏᕈᓕᖅᑲᓚᓴᐅᓕᓕᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ ᐸᓂᓗᔪᓂᓕ ᓇᓗᓇᐃᐅᑎᓕᒥᑦ “V-ᒥᑦ” ᐸᓂᓗᔪᑯᓂᒃ ᖃᐃᐊᓕᔨᑎᑎᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ ᖃᐃᓕᓴᐅᓂᒃ ᐃᓗᐊᓂ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᓂ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ ᔨᓇᓴᐅᑦᑎᓯᓂᖅᑐᑦ.

ᑕᒪᓐᓇᖅᑐᐃ ᐃᓐᖏᕐᕕᒃᓴᓂ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᓴᖅᑎᓂᒃ ᐊᑐᓂᖅᑐᑦ ᐊᐅᐸᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ. ᓴᖅᑭᔪᖅᑎᑦᓯᓂᒃ ᐸᓂᓗᔪᑯᓂ ᖃᐃᓕᓴᐅᓂᒃ ᐊᐅᐸᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ ᐸᐃᒃ ᐃᓕᓴᐅᔨᓴᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ, 40-ᓂᒃ ᖃᐃᓐᓇᐅᔨᓪᓂᓕᒋᑦ.

“ᐱᓕᕆᔨᑦᑎᐊᖅᑐᖓᓐ ᐅᑭᐅᖅᑕᖅᑐᑐᒥ ᐊᓚᓪ ᐱᔨᓴᓂᓕᒻᒥᓂᖅ ᐱᓕᕆᔨᑦᓂᓕᒻᒥᓐᓄ ᑭᖅᑯᓂᖅ,” ᐸᐃᒃ ᐃᓕᓴᐅᓂᒃ ᖃᐃᐊᓕᔨᑎᑎᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ ᐸᓂᓗᔪᓂᓕ.

ᐸᐃᒃ ᐅᖅᖃᖅᑐᓂ ᐱᐅᔨᒪᓕᕐᓂᑦᑎᓂᓕᓴᐅᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᓴᖅᑎᓂᒃ ᑭᓪᓕᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐅᑭᐅᖅᑕᖅᑐᑐᒥ ᐊᑐᓂᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐊᑐᓂᖅᑐᑦ ᐊᐅᐸᖅᑐᖅᑐᖅ ᐸᓂᓗᔪᓂᓕ