



PRESS RELEASE
May 29, 2026

The play *Aukkauti* on tour in Nunavik

May 29, 2026 - Kuujjuaq – Aaqsiq, the Nunavik Inuit Theatre Company, is proud to announce the launch of the regional tour of its play *Aukkauti*. The first performance will take place on May 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Katittavik Town Hall in Kuujjuaq. The play will then be performed in June in Quaqtaq, Kangirsuk, and Tasiujaq. Further performances will take place in the fall of 2026, as well as in the winter and spring of 2027, eventually visiting all 14 villages in Nunavik. This regional tour is the result of a concerted effort among various institutions in Nunavik, in collaboration with partners across Quebec and Canada, to use theatre to showcase Inuit language and culture. Makivvik, Avataq, and Aaqsiq are joining forces to bring Inuktitut to life through theatre and to tell this Inuit story in all our villages.

Aukkauti is based on a true story well-known across Nunavik. This play, performed in Inuktitut, was written by Lisa Koperqualuk, Adamie Kalingo, and Daniel Kudluk Gadbois. The story of *Aukkauti* invites us to reflect upon choice and fate, while transmitting the history of Nunavik and sharing founding elements of Inuit culture.

TOGETHER FOR THE INUIT LANGUAGE

Since the early stages of its creation, *Aukkauti* has relied on significant support from Makivvik and Avataq, particularly through funding from the Indigenous Languages Component (ILC) program. This ongoing collaboration will enable Nunavimmiut to continue telling their stories on stage in Nunavik and around the world. Together, Makivvik, Avataq, and Aaqsiq are making the regional tour of this historic play possible in 2026 and 2027, ensuring that Aaqsiq will visit each of the 14 northern villages to perform *Aukkauti*.

Makivvik President Pita Aatami says, “Makivvik is proud to support Aaqsiq and its important work in promoting Inuit culture and language throughout Nunavik. Language revitalization is essential to preserving who we are as Inuit. By protecting and celebrating our language, we strengthen our communities and advance our shared vision of self-determination for Nunavik. This work must continue so that our children, and our children’s children, can speak their mother tongue with pride for generations to come. We thank Aaqsiq Theatre for its meaningful contribution to honouring the strength, beauty, and resilience of our language and culture across Nunavik. Nakurmiik!”

Avataq President William Tagoona stated, “For Avataq, *Aukkauti* carries a living lineage across two currents. This story has traveled orally across generations — tomorrow night, it comes alive on stage. Aaqsiq traces its own lineage to the calls of action emerging from Avataq's project, Inuktituurniup Saturtauninga. Avataq is proud to witness the ways Aaqsiq embodies self-determination with each performance across Nunavik.”

Since the foundation of Aaqsiq Theatre in 2019, theatre has been on the rise in Nunavik, helping to keep the Inuktitut language alive, support cultural expression, and promote the well-being of Inuit youth through a variety of activities. President of Aaqsiq Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk stated, "The art of Inuit storytelling, born out of Inuit experiences, sounds and relationships with the Arctic environment is unique. Tragedy unfolded in one historic event and Inuit humour and resilience brought the story through 120 years of reflection. It is with deep appreciation for the Inuit storytellers and families who, in one way or another, through song and oral storytelling, continued to pass down the story of Aukkauti; and that this story is now told through the artform of theatre." This development in the region has been made possible thanks to the strong and ongoing support of several regional partners, including Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) and FCNQ-Ilagiisaq, along with Makivvik Corporation and Avataq Cultural Institute.

Representatives from these institutions made statements at a press conference this morning in Kuujuaq : <https://youtu.be/UD22qUpLx5E>

ABOUT AUKKAUTI

In 1899, near Kuuvik, south of Ivujivik, Aukkauti accidentally kills his friend Kummainaq's son. In return, Kummainaq decimated Aukkauti's family, and Aukkauti began to kill back, with increasing violence and rage. The entire population of the region panics, and many are killed or go into exile. The exodus provoked by these events leads to population movements from the Hudson Bay coast to Kuujuaq, Salluit, Kangiqsujuaq and Kangirsuk. Aukkauti had enormous demographic consequences, and descendants of these exiles still live throughout the region.

The play made its world premiere in March 2025 at the Puvirnituk Snow Festival in front of an audience of 700 people. This success marked the fulfillment of nearly 15 years of work, as the creative journey began during a theatre workshop in Salluit in 2011. In subsequent years, interviews with relatives were conducted, versions of the story were compiled, a writing committee was formed, two expeditions to Kuuvik Bay were made, and various language and terminology consultations with elders were held. After this rigorous process of research and linguistic revision, Aukkauti took form as a feature-length play thanks to the creative work of a large team of Inuit artists.

ABOUT AAQSIIQ THEATRE COMPANY

The mission of Aaqsiq Theatre is to produce and present theatre productions that reflect and enrich the Inuit language and culture. Through its programs and activities, Aaqsiq fosters the creation and the production of professional plays, while developing its significant repertoire in Inuktitut by drawing on Inuit history, myths and legends as well as contemporary Inuit life. Along with supporting the creation of professional plays by artists from Nunavik, the organisation also offers theatre workshops in schools, summer camps and training for young Inuit artists.

For more information, please contact

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