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Lynne Robson  
reports for CBC TV  
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## Town grieves for nine killed in avalanche

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KANGIQSUALUJJAQ, QUEBEC - Grief counsellors have arrived in this remote Inuit town in northern Quebec to help people deal with a New Year's Eve tragedy.

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Nine people died when tonnes of snow swept down a mountain and crashed into a school where hundreds of people were celebrating. Five of those killed were children. Twenty-five others were injured. Two remain in critical condition.

Quebec's Public Securities Minister Serge Menard visited the town on Saturday. He ordered ten more buildings evacuated until avalanche experts can assure people the threat of more slides has passed.

Speculation  
ceremonial  
gun salute  
may have  
triggered slide

The principal of the school says it will likely be months before it can re-open. "We should not ever go back in this building again unless something major is done about the avalanche risk," said Jean Leduc.

Speculation has also surfaced about the cause of the avalanche. Some believe a ceremonial gun salute at midnight may have loosened the snow. Others say the dancing by about 500 people might have contributed to the slide.



Rescuers look for survivors

Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard is expected to visit the community on Sunday.



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