

The Sámediggi's administrative office is in Karasjok. The new building was opened in 2000. PHOTO: JOHN T. SOLBAKK.



# The Sámediggi

## (The Sámi Parliament) in Norway as an administrative body

AT THE TIME of its establishment in 1989, the extent of the responsibility that was transferred and assigned to the Sámediggi was modest. The Norwegian Sámi Council of 1964, which was a body appointed by State authorities to address specific Sámi matters, was brought to an end with the establishment of the Sámediggi, and the tasks were transferred to the Sámediggi. One of these tasks was the management of the Sámi Development Fund, which at that time had an annual allocation of approximately 8 million Norwegian Kroner. This fund was used for grants to Sámi organisations, Sámi arts and crafts and handicrafts in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Ministry of Local Government.

Since its establishment, the Sámediggi has gradually assumed the administrative responsibilities for Sámi issues. Since 1992, the Sámediggi has had the formal responsibility for the development of the Sámi language in Norway, including a fund for annual allocations for this purpose to municipalities and county council districts with Sámi populations. In 1993, the Sámediggi assumed the responsibility for Sámi culture with a Sámi culture fund from the Norwegian Council for Cultural Affairs. Since 1994, the Sámediggi is responsible for the protection of Sámi cultural heritage sites from the Ministry of the Environment, the Directorate of Cultural Heritage and the Tromsø Museum. In 2000, the Sámediggi took over the Sámi Educational Council's functions from the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs. The Sámediggi has the responsibility for the development of Sámi teaching aids with the allocation of an annual permanent grant for this purpose.

The main administrative office of the Sámediggi is located in Karasjok. The Sámediggi also has offices in Kautokeino, Nesseby, Kåfjord in Troms County, Tysfjord and Snåsa. There are approximately 115 employees in the Sámediggi (2006). The Sámediggi's total budget for 2006 was about 260 million Norwegian Kroner.

[www.samediggi.no](http://www.samediggi.no); [www.galdu.org](http://www.galdu.org)

The Sámi People – a Handbook, Karasjok 2006.