



News Release

Government of Nunavut moves to protect archaeological and palaeontological heritage

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 25, 2001) – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Minister Peter Kattuk announced that the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, established under the Nunavut Act, came into effect June 15, 2001.

The protection of Nunavut's archaeological and palaeontological heritage is an important priority and shared responsibility of the Governments of Nunavut and of Canada. Through a joint federal-territorial initiative begun in 1999 the regulations have been modernized to meet the needs of Nunavut.

“The old regulations did not reflect modern standards and practices of professional archaeology,” Minister Kattuk said. “The new regulations not only address current archaeology practices but also reflect the increased role of the Nunavut Government in heritage resource management. This new legislation will help ensure conditions of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreements are met.”

The new regulations contain stringent requirements for obtaining research permits and prohibit the sale or possession of artifacts or specimens.

“Prohibiting the sale or possession of archaeological artifacts will go a long way towards curbing illegal marketing of artifacts,” Minister Kattuk said. “I am pleased protection is now also in place for Nunavut's palaeontological sites.”

The Governments of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon worked with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to update the regulations applicable to the three jurisdictions.

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