



Nunavut fur designers have successful showing at international fur exposition

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 8, 2001) – Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk is encouraged by the international interest shown in Nunavut fur products during the North American Fur & Fashion Exposition in Montreal recently.

“I think the audience saw that the 2001 Nunavut Inuit Collection is competitive at a international level,” Minister Akesuk said.

The Nunavut Inuit Collection was shown at the exposition’s main event and featured three models from Nunavut: Jean Simpson, Sarah Dunford and Kendra Tagoona.

During the past two years, the Department has been assisting the Nunavut fur industry in organizing its participation in the international marketplace. Earlier this year a furrier course was held at Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit. This course was developed and instructed by well known Montreal designers Ingo Moshner and Veronique Miljkovich.

Course participants worked on the design and production of the 2001 Nunavut Inuit Collection and included: Aaju Peter, Elisapi Davidee, Elisapee Kilabuk, Monica Ell, Rannva Simonsen, Sarah Philip (all from Iqaluit), Bessie Sitatik (Kugluktuk), Bernadette Illungiyok (Arviat) and Attainaq (Qikiqtarjuaq).

“Our fur design industry in Nunavut is a great example of how our cultural heritage can become part of a modern economic strategy for Nunavut,” Minister Akesuk said. “We can lead in this field and judging by the reaction I saw to our collection, the future of sealskin design and production in Nunavut looks very promising.”

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