



## News Release

### Elders, youth working together to name the past

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 22, 2002)** — New technology is making it possible for Elders and Youth in Nunavut to work together to identify people in photos that have been stored for decades in Ottawa.

The National Archives of Canada holds thousands of images of the North. Few of the Inuit that appear in these photographs are named. Now, digitization and a laptop computer have allowed Nunavummiut to begin to identify these individuals. Called Project Naming, the activity is being undertaken because today's Elders may be the last people able to identify the people in these photos.

The National Archives recently digitized 73 images from the Igloolik area that were taken by professional photographer Richard Harrington in 1951-52. These photos were put on a CD, and a young woman from Igloolik, Sheba Awa, went door-to-door visiting Elders and showing them the photos using a laptop computer.

Of the 73 photos from Igloolik, Elders were able to identify people in 58 of them (78%). This information has been relayed back to the National Archives where it will be available online along with the photos.

The results of the demonstration phase of Project Naming will be unveiled in the Library of the Nunavut Legislature on Monday, April 22, 2002, at 3:00 p.m.

“This project will provide us with the tools required to literally put names to the faces of our Inuit past,” said Jack Anawak, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. “Preserving our past requires us to know who came before. Using the knowledge of people who are still with us will ensure this is done before today's Elders are gone. I am proud that the Department has been able to contribute to such a worthy project.”

The project is a partnership between the Department of Culture, Languages, Elders and Youth (CLEY) in the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut training program in Ottawa, and the National Archives of Canada. CLEY provided the funding for a pilot project which was conducted in Igloolik from October 2001 to March 2002. Nunavut Sivuniksavut acted as project manager.

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