



News Release



Manitoba, Nunavut to examine recycling program

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 18, 2002) -- Manitoba and Nunavut today announced they are funding a feasibility study into recovering scrap metal and other materials from three Northern Manitoba communities and Rankin Inlet in Nunavut.

The initiative is a direct result of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Manitoba and Nunavut and the recent trade mission to Iqaluit by Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jean Friesen and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister Eric Robinson.

"In many instances, isolated northern communities do not have access or the means to recycle materials that communities in urban settings do," Minister Robinson said. "This project is designed to act as a model for the communities involved as well as for other communities in Nunavut and Northern Manitoba."

"I am excited about our participation in this project," Nunavut Minister for Sustainable Development Olayuk Akesuk said. "We need a cost-effective, sustainable solution to the recovery of scrap metal and other materials with recycling potential in our communities, and I am delighted that this important issue will be addressed in our partnership with Manitoba."

The purpose of the study is to conduct an inventory to identify what recyclable materials, particularly scrap metal, exist in the Manitoba communities of Churchill, Gillam and Garden Hill and to determine what materials could potentially be shipped out for recycling purposes. The feasibility study will examine the amount of materials at each site along with how such materials can be collected and potential shipping arrangements for the materials.

Currently, Rankin Inlet receives the majority of its goods and materials, including vehicles and heavy equipment by barge from Churchill while the majority of goods that arrive in Garden Hill come via the winter road. In both cases, few materials are shipped back for recycling either on barge or on the winter road. The rail line to Gillam and Churchill is used for shipping goods to those communities and from Churchill the goods go to Rankin Inlet by barge.

"We welcome the support for this project by the Government of Nunavut and are very pleased to have an opportunity to participate in this important initiative," Minister Friesen said. "We look forward to moving ahead on this innovative initiative."

Chief Darcy Wood of the Garden Hill First Nation praised the announcement and said that "this initiative will go a long way to promote recycling and encourage the sustainable use of resources in our community. I am pleased to see that the Province is partnering with our community and Nunavut on this important project."

Earthbound Environment of Winnipeg has been hired to conduct the study in the four communities and will begin its field work early this month.

-30-

Kowesa Etitiq
Government of Nunavut
Communications
☎ (867) 975-6003
☎ (867) 975-6099

Ronuk Modha
Cabinet Communications
Manitoba Government
☎ (204) 945-1494
☎ (204) 948-2069