



## News Release



### Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks signed

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 13, 2002)** – Premier Paul Okalik, accompanied by Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) President Cathy Towtongie, announce approval of an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for Territorial Parks.

“This marks another significant step in a productive working relationship for Nunavut,” Premier Okalik said.

Minister Akesuk added, “I am pleased with the work accomplished by the negotiating teams. The IIBA will play an important role in ensuring that Inuit have significant input into the planning and development of Nunavut’s territorial parks.”

“This IIBA is a strong and important agreement,” NTI President Towtongie said. “It will not only protect Inuit rights in the development and management of territorial parks, but also presents significant opportunities for promoting tourism and developing Inuit business and employment capabilities at the community level.”

The IIBA was negotiated by representatives of the Government of Nunavut, NTI, and the Qikiqtani, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Inuit Associations. It was signed by Premier Okalik and Minister Akesuk, on behalf of the government, and Presidents Cathy Towtongie for NTI, Thomasie Alikatuktuk for QIA, Tongola Sandy for KivIA and Charlie Evalik for KitIA.,

Participants at the signing ceremony heard the agreement meets an obligation under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. It will formalize the role of Inuit in joint park management and planning at a territorial and community level. It will also ensure a partnership between the government and Inuit for the development and implementation of a new parks program for Nunavut.

Highlights of the agreement include:

- The development of Inuit tourism strategies and the creation of training programs and funding initiatives targeted to build Inuit tourism expertise and capacity.
- Protection of Inuit rights to continued land use for harvesting, outpost camps, carving stone and other purposes.
- Ensuring that Inuit within communities throughout Nunavut are involved in the selection, establishment and management of territorial parks.

- Ensuring the protection and greater appreciation of the archaeological, cultural and natural heritage of the territory.
- Ensuring the involvement of youth and the incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and oral history along with conventional knowledge into park management.
- Promoting greater Inuit involvement in the delivery of goods and services needed for the establishment and operation of Nunavut's park program

With the IIBA in place, work will begin on the development of an implementation plan.

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