



News Release

Seven Nunavut Film and Television Productions To Receive Funding

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 9, 2004) – Seven Nunavut film and television production companies will receive a total of \$500,000 in contributions for major film projects, under the Government of Nunavut’s new film, television and new media development policy.

“I am pleased that this funding has been used to support a wide range of film projects that will help us build the film industry in Nunavut so that we can present our culture to the world,” said Minister of Sustainable Development Olayuk Akesuk, whose department is responsible for establishing the new film commission. “With the opening of the Nunavut Film Commission office later this year, this funding will help Nunavummiut secure jobs in this new and growing sector of our economy.”

In August 2003, the Government of Nunavut approved the new film policy, and provided funding to establish a Nunavut Film Commission. A one-time \$500,000 fund to support major film development projects was also approved.

Nunavut film makers have made an important contribution to language, cultural and economic development in the Territory since the production of the “White Dawn” in Iqaluit almost 30 years ago. The achievements of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, and of independent film makers such as Igloodik Isuma Productions Inc., have demonstrated that film, television and new media have an important role to play in the development of the Nunavut economy.

“We are extremely pleased to be receiving support from our own Government for our next film project,” said Zacharias Kunuk of Igloodik Isuma Productions Inc.

His comment was echoed by John Houston, president of the Ajjiiit Nunavut New Media Association. “With this landmark contribution, the GN is sending out a strong message of support for Nunavut’s developing film, video and new media industry, and through the many worthy proposals submitted, Nunavut filmmakers are sending the government a message of their own: ‘This is a great start and a giant step toward our common goal – a Film Commission and a fully-funded film program for Nunavut’.”

A group of three independent film professionals – Mark Hill from Whitehorse, David Craig from Toronto, and Carole Vivier from Winnipeg – was asked by the Government of Nunavut to form a panel to evaluate the proposals.

The panel's decisions on allocation of the funding are:

1. Atii-Go Media, Iqaluit. Project: "Mahaha" \$47,500
2. Drumsong Communications Inc., Iqaluit. Project: "Kiviu's Journey" \$100,000
3. Igloolik Isuma Productions, Inc. Igloolik. Project: "The Journals Of Knud Rasmussen" \$200,000
4. Inuit Communications Systems Limited, Iqaluit. Project: "Nunavut Elders Television Series" \$90,000
5. Madeleine Redfern, Iqaluit. Project: "The NLCA Project" \$10,750
6. Nuna Media Inc., Iqaluit. Project: "Inuit – The People" \$41,000
7. Uanaya Productions, Iqaluit. Project: "The Story of Kaujajuk" \$10,750

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