



## News Release

### Correctional Healing Centre Opens In Kugluktuk

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 4, 2005)** – A culturally based approach to healing low risk offenders has been launched in the Kitikmeot. This past weekend Premier and Justice Minister Paul Okalik joined with Kugluktuk MLA Joe Allen Evyagotailak and the community of Kugluktuk in opening the Ilavut Centre.

“Community elders will play a significant role in teaching and reconnecting the centre’s inmates with Inuit traditions and societal values. This approach to healing anti-social behaviour is an important step in building a Nunavut based and culturally appropriate corrections system,” said Okalik.

Following the principles of Pinasuaqtavut up to 16 low risk offenders will be housed closer to home and provided with family and community support as well as Inuit cultural activities in their rehabilitation process.

“The community of Kugluktuk has long sought this facility and the opportunity to participate in the healing process of the young men who have become disconnected from our society. The government of Nunavut has worked with our community and been sensitive to both our needs and our concerns,” said Evyagotailak.

The facility was created through a partnership between the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Justice and the Hamlet of Kugluktuk. The Hamlet transferred ownership of the building to the territorial government which was responsible for ensuring the new facility would meet the required building code for a corrections facility. Community organizations also participated in the building’s upgrading and renovation.

The facility offers the added benefit of increasing economic activity in Kugluktuk with the creation of 12 new Justice Department positions, all of which have been staffed by Kugluktukmiut. The centre is also committed to partnering with local organizations to provide programming for offenders and their families.

The first five inmates, currently incarcerated at institutions in Yellowknife and Fort Smith, NWT, are expected to arrive by week’s end.

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For more information and official opening photos contact:

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