

News Release

Students Build House for Education

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 14, 2005) – Housing Minister Olayuk Akesuk joined Minister of Education Ed Picco today to officially open the “Student Built House”, a project that is increasing training and learning opportunities in Sanikiluaq.

“Sanikiluaq has shown us what can be done by working together to meet the needs of the community,” said Picco. “Congratulations to the students, teachers and the community for pulling together. They have created an inspirational project that could be used by any high school in Canada.”

Premier Paul Okalik and Nunavut Commissioner Ann Meekitjuk-Hanson also attended the official opening.

“The Student Built House is a great success because so many people, government and non-government organizations supplied materials and resources,” said Akesuk. “The skills these students have learned will improve their employment opportunities as Sanikiluaq prepares to build 10 residential units beginning this summer.”

Each day 11 students from Nuiyak High School worked with a journeyman/teacher to build a three bedroom house. The students worked half day on construction and half day on academic skills leading to pre-trade exams.

“This project brought vocational and apprenticeship training to Sanikiluaq,” said Okalik. “It is an excellent example of how Qanuqtuurniq - being innovative and resourceful in seeking solutions – can be used. The students gained the confidence and self esteem needed to assume employment or write pre-trade exams to enter an apprenticeship program.”

The project was a co-operative effort between the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Department of Education, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Najuqsivik Society, and the Qammaq Housing Association. When the house is completed, the building will become the property of the local housing association and will house a journeyman.

For more information contact:

Oo Aqpik, Communications Officer

☎ (867) 975-5631